

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:39:00AM EEST

**Job Number:** 223498831

## Documents (100)

1. [\*British recruiters seek female spies\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

2. [\*News digest\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

3. [\*ISRAEL AGREES TO PRISONER SWAP\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

4. [\*Residents of Ras An-Nabaa put on brave face following clashes\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

5. [\*Residents of Ras An-Nabaa put on brave face following clashes\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

6. [\*World Digest\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

7. [\*Israel 's unwanted open door\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

8. [\*The first thing leaders need to do\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

9. [\*Lebanon must assert its authority\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

10. [\*In Lebanon , soldiers win new respect\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

11. [\*Islam's unholy alliance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

12. [\*Off with Barbie's head\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

13. [\*International briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

14. [\*ANGLICANS APPROVE WOMEN BISHOPS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

15. [\*The moderate MUFTI\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

16. [RIGHTS GROUP FAULTS ISRAEL](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

17. [GAZA RESIDENTS HUDDLE INDOORS AS FIGHTING ENTERS FOURTH DAY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

18. [As OC Chaplaincy deliberates Goldwasser, Regev ruling. The rabbis' role in determining death](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

19. [Lebanon](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

20. [Wine in Lebanon - the art of improvisation](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

21. [Is Israel justified in attacking Gaza? LETTERS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

22. [Israel closely watching India 's investigation of Mumbai attacks. Defense industries concerned that Israeli criticism of India may jeopardize contracts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

23. [Shalev aims to expand UN portfolio. First woman envoy wants to take on 'wide range of issues'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

24. [Israel Is Training for the Wrong War](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

25. [Letters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

26. [Iran 's proxy war; Gaza's militant Palestinians marching to orders from their Middle Eastern masters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

27. [\*In Israel , a nation mourns with the families of slain soldiers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

28. [\*Quebec 's double standard\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

29. [\*'It's 1938 and Iran is Germany '\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

30. [\*Cycle of death continues amid demands for a fresh intifada\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

31. [\*Lebanese factions are still pitted against each other LEBANON : Hopes of Peace from Lords of War\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

32. [Reporters on the Job](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

33. [No 10 rejects call for ban on radical Islam group](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

34. [Peace, violence do not go together](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

35. [Israel to free prisoners to Abbas](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

36. [PRIMARY CONCERNS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

37. [Captured Israelis listed as dead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

38. [DIGEST](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

39. [International briefs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

40. [All out: Lebanese village empties after rocket attack from nearby](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

41. [Israel 's indicted minister steps down](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009



42. [Closing the curtain on war MEANWHILE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

43. [News in brief](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

44. [Defying Hamas, Abbas swears in new cabinet; Move opens up new paths for peace, Israeli leader says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

45. [Politics in America 's Arab capital Welcome to Dearborn , Mich. , where politicians come to take the pulse of U.S. Muslim voters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

46. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

47. [War on the Corner](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

48. [\*In short Non Fiction\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

49. [\*Hamas hopes for prisoner exchange\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

50. [\*Body of female fighter returned\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

51. [\*Forsaking both soldiers and the downtrodden\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

52. [\*Israel must fight its battles alone\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

53. [\*National briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

54. [\*Lebanese rockets fire on Israel\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

55. [\*Lebanese rockets fire on Israel\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

56. [\*Hamas vows more attacks Palestinians fire in air in celebration while U.S. , Abbas condemn massacre at Jerusalem seminary\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

57. [\*Lebanese rockets fire on Israel\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

58. [\*Peace is the last thing Hamas want\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

59. [\*On Israel 's political battlefield, a female contender rises\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

60. [\*Show some backbone, EU\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

61. [\*DIGEST\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

62. [\*A tragedy unfolds in Turkey\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

63. [\*Displaced refugees take shelter in Bedawi\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

64. [\*World\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

65. [\*Christians in Jerusalem observe Easter despite threat of violence\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

66. [\*Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

67. [\*Another Israeli minister faces criminal investigation\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

68. [Attack on Israel from Lebanon threatens to open new front](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

69. [Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

70. [Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Ground war to be intensified 'as much as necessary'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

71. [Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

72. [Lebanese rockets fire on Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

73. [Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary' -- Israeli tanks roll into Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

74. [Top guns](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

75. [As conflict expands, U.N. halts Gaza aid](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

76. [Taking stock of Lebanon 's good, bad and ugly](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

77. [News Summary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

78. [Unfriendly Views on U.S. -Backed Arabic TV](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

79. [Israel chooses 450 prisoners to exchange for Gilad Schalit. Hamas rejects list without even seeing it](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

80. [Review: Paperbacks: Non-fiction: Daughter of the Desert: The Remarkable Life of Gertrude Bell , by Georgina Howell \(Pan, £7.99\): The Tribes Triumphant: Return Journey to the Middle East , by Charles Glass \(Harper Perennial, £9.99\)](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

81. [A deadly cat-and-mouse game along the fence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

82. [Year of living dangerously](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

83. [Israeli strikes on Gaza: What are the motives?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors



**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

84. [Hamas wants dead civilians on both sides; Rockets fired into Israel invite retaliation against Palestinians set up as human shields](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

85. [Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti- Israeli tone at Durban 2](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

86. [Defence minister raises 'Cain'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

87. [A funny kind of peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

88. [News in brief](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

89. [Rockets from Lebanon bring fear of escalation GAZA CRISIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

90. [News in brief](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

91. [Rockets from Lebanon renew threat of escalation GAZA CRISIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

92. [UN halts Gaza aid shipments, cites Israeli attacks](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

93. [DIGEST](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

94. [\*The Mideast's ground zero\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

95. [\*The Mideast's Ground Zero\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

96. [\*The Mideast's Ground Zero\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

97. [\*What has to happen to end the battle over Gaza\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

98. [\*Guardian Weekly: Leading article: Gaza Punishing the people\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

99. [\*GROUND ZERO THE MIDDLE EAST'S TROUBLES ARE BOILING OVER IN GAZA\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to  
Jan 31, 2009

100. [Olmert to face calls to resign as Israel descends into crisis Report to pin Lebanon war failure on ailing government](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to  
Jan 31, 2009

## *British recruiters seek female spies*

The Bismarck Tribune

July 15, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A-7A

**Length:** 378 words

### **Body**

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ABEY, Lebanon (AP) - The last time Samir Kantar's mother saw her son, he said goodbye and told her he would be back in two days.

Three decades later, the perpetrator of one of the most notorious attacks in Israeli history is set to return home this week as part of a prisoner swap between Israel and the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah.

He is Lebanon's longest held prisoner in Israel.

Israel plans to free Kantar and four other prisoners Wednesday. In exchange, Hezbollah says it will return two soldiers it captured in 2006 that set off a monthlong war between Israel and the militant group. Israel believes the soldiers are dead.

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israelis pored Monday over every detail of 20-year-old pictures just received of their most famous missing soldier - his injured arm held close, the length of his beard and the Arabic writing on a wall in the background.

Israeli airman Ron Arad was captured in Lebanon in 1986, and his unknown fate has since gripped the nation and become one of the great mysteries of the past generation. Over the weekend, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah transferred photographs, diary excerpts and an 80-page report to Israel as part of a prisoner swap planned for Wednesday.

Hezbollah claims in the report Arad is dead, but gives only a partial explanation of the circumstances surrounding his death, according to Israeli officials.

LONDON (AP) - Bond. Jane Bond.

Britain's secret spy agency, home to the very white and very male 007, is hunting for women and minorities to tackle global terrorism. More than 20,000 people have applied since MI6 began its open recruiting campaign about a year ago, in a drive that has all but replaced the famous shoulder tap used to recruit author Graham Greene and others in World War II.

MI6's Web site encourages mothers to apply and assures women they won't be used as "honey pots," or seductresses. Disabled applicants are welcome. And a special search is directed at minorities who speak Mandarin, Arabic, Persian and the Afghan languages of Dari and Pashto.

Could the future James Bond be a woman or a dark-skinned Urdu speaker?

## British recruiters seek female spies

"The key challenge is the terrorist threat," MI6's head of human resources told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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

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End of Document

## News digest

The Daily Gleaner (New Brunswick)

February 23, 2008 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A11

**Length:** 506 words

### **Body**

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Seven girls in Ontario charged in swarming

LONDON, Ont. -- Seven girls in London, Ont., have been charged with assault following an attack on a 19-year-old woman.

Police say the woman was walking with her 15-year-old brother and another male on the night of Feb. 2 when they were approached by a group of male and female youths.

The male teens then attacked the brother, who suffered a stab wound in the back.

After the boy ran away to call police, the woman was repeatedly punched by a group of girls aged 12 to 16.

The woman was not seriously injured, and her brother's wounds weren't considered life-threatening.

Police have not yet indicated a possible motive for the alleged assaults and say further charges are expected.

Gov. urges deal on use of Great Lakes' water

MILWAUKEE -- Gov. Jim Doyle urged the Wisconsin legislature Friday to approve the Great Lakes Compact that is designed to prevent thirsty regions from tapping the area's valuable water supply.

Doyle says the Great Lakes provide a great economic opportunity for Wisconsin.

The pact was intended largely to address fears that states in the booming but arid U.S. southwest will try tapping into the lakes, which hold 90 per cent of the fresh surface water available to the U.S.

Great Lakes governors signed the pact in 2005, but it needs approval from all eight of the region's legislatures and Congress to take effect.

The pact has received legislative approval in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and New York.

Rice says she has no interest in VP position

WASHINGTON -- Condoleezza Rice's name on the Republican ticket is a dream to some, but not a reality she can see happening.

The secretary of state told reporters Friday she won't be a vice presidential candidate in the upcoming election.

## News digest

"I have always said that the one thing that I have not seen myself doing is running for elected office in the United States," she said at a news conference to discuss her recent trip to Africa.

Rice has said she plans to return to Stanford University, where she was a professor.

Israel trying to start new war -- **Hezbollah**

BEIRUT, Lebanon -- **Hezbollah** accused Israel on Friday of trying to start a new war with the militant Islamic group by assassinating a top commander, and warned it would be a battle the Jewish state would lose.

**Hezbollah** leader Hassan Nasrallah said last week's killing of Imad Mughniyeh in a car bombing in Syria was a pre-emptive strike meant to set the stage for more assassinations of the Lebanon-based group's top officials.

"The Israelis are definitely threatening a war," Nasrallah told tens of thousands gathered in southern Beirut for a memorial for Mughniyeh and two other **Hezbollah** leaders killed in the 1980s and 1990s.

"We consider Hajj Imad's assassination as a pre-emptive operation, not merely an act of revenge," the Shiite cleric said.

Israel has denied involvement in the Feb. 12 car bombing. But Nasrallah said **Hezbollah**'s investigation into the killing has "increased our conviction of Israeli responsibility."

Sources: The Canadian Press, The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2008

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## **ISRAEL AGREES TO PRISONER SWAP**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 14, 2008 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 540 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- The Israeli government said it will swap prisoners with the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah on Wednesday, two years after they fought an inconclusive war.

The prison service said yesterday Israel would free five Lebanese, including the perpetrator of one of the most notorious attacks in Israeli history. In exchange, Hezbollah will return two soldiers it captured in a raid that sparked the 2006 war. Israel believes the soldiers are dead.

Israel said it would also release four Hezbollah prisoners captured in the 2006 war. Israel also is expected to turn over the bodies of some 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters. Military crews dug up the bodies from an Israeli cemetery last week in preparation for the exchange. In return, Israel is to receive the two soldiers captured by Hezbollah in a cross-border raid on July 12, 2006, that set off a fierce 34-day war.

Hezbollah has confirmed the planned swap, but it declined comment on Israel's announcement.

### **ATTACK AT SOCCER GAME**

BAGHDAD -- Gunmen attacked a soccer game north of Baghdad yesterday, killing a policeman and a Sunni Muslim allied with the U.S. against al-Qaida, the U.S. military said.

The attack near Duluyiah, 45 miles north of Baghdad, also wounded three others, including a 9-year-old and a second member of the local U.S.-backed awakening council, the military said.

Violence in Iraq is at its lowest level in four years, but frequent attacks continue throughout the country.

### **BERTHA NOW TROPICAL STORM**

HAMILTON, Bermuda -- Bertha weakened to a tropical storm yesterday but could still deal a blow to this British territory in the Atlantic, forecasters said.

Bertha's outer bands were expected to brush the island in the coming days. Several business owners expected to send workers home by noon today as a preventive measure, while residents began taping windows and securing boats.

## ISRAEL AGREES TO PRISONER SWAP

Bertha was expected to start moving northwest at about 2 mph by last night, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The center's projections show Bertha hitting Bermuda today, a day later than earlier forecasts, and dumping 2 to 4 inches of rain. Bertha became the Atlantic season's first hurricane on July 7.

## DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

MEXICO CITY -- Local news media say gunmen opened fire on four cars on a busy street in the Mexican city of Guamuchil, killing eight people.

The government news agency Notimex reports that Sinaloa state officials say three teenagers are among those killed in the early morning attack. No one answered the phone at Sinaloa police headquarters yesterday. The local newspaper El Debate said police found about 300 shells at the scene.

Several major drug trafficking groups have their roots in the Pacific coast state, which has seen a wave of drug-related violence.

## MISS UNIVERSE CROWNED

NHA TRANG, Vietnam -- Dayana Mendoza of Venezuela has been crowned Miss Universe 2008.

Ms. Mendoza and three other Latin American women made the final five at yesterday's contest.

The four other finalists were Miss Colombia Tailana Vargas, Miss Dominican Republic Marianne Cruz Gonzalez, Miss Mexico Elisa Najera, and Miss Russia Vera Krasova.

Miss USA Crystle Stewart of Texas was in the top 10 but tripped on the train of her bejeweled evening gown as she made her entrance.

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

## *Residents of Ras An-Nabaa put on brave face following clashes*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

February 25, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 628 words

**Byline:** Nicholas Kimbrell

## **Body**

---

At night young Shiite supporters of Nahib Berri's Amal movement plaster posters of the Parliament speaker and Imam Moussa Sadr on the walls of the neighborhood's buildings. Sunni supporters of Saad Hariri respond by tearing down the portraits and gluing pictures of the parliamentary majority leader and his slain father Premier Rafik Hariri.

BEIRUT: At night young Shiite supporters of Nahib Berri's Amal movement plaster posters of the Parliament speaker and Imam Moussa Sadr on the walls of the neighborhood's buildings. Sunni supporters of Saad Hariri respond by tearing down the portraits and gluing pictures of the parliamentary majority leader and his slain father Premier Rafik Hariri.

This is no rare phenomenon in politically and religiously divided Beirut - much of the city is decorated with stoic portraits of politicians and clerics, martyrs and successors. But in so-called "mixed" neighborhoods where different religious groups and supporters of Lebanon's rival political movements share apartment buildings and corner stores, the tit-for-tat poster provocations are far from playful. In the first weeks of February, disputes over posters gave way to fights with fists and sticks, and then Kalashnikov assault rifles.

"It started Friday [February 15] after the sheikh led Friday prayers," a resident of Ras An-Nabaa said. "Sunni and Shiite supporters of Future and Amal began fighting in the street."

"My shop was open," another man said, "when I heard the violence just up the street I closed immediately."

By Saturday, the army had deployed heavily in Ras An-Nabaa, placing a tank at the entrance to Mohammad al-Hout street and several checkpoints along the road. A week later the street scuffles have abated but the army remains.

"All Hariri, Amal and Hizbullah families live together here," said a middle-aged woman who lives and works in Ras An-Nabaa. "But the army is here and the people are [more] relaxed. Slowly, slowly there are [fewer] problems."

Several people echoed this sentiment. "I am afraid for Lebanon, but not for here," an elderly proprietor of a produce stand on Mohammad al-Hout street said. "This was small trouble [last week]. We have the army."

## Residents of Ras An-Nabaa put on brave face following clashes

Mahmoud, the owner of the convenience store next door was unfazed: "The problem was between a few young people. I'm not scared," he said.

But others were less calm, saying they stayed in doors all last weekend.

Either way, the tensions are clear. When asked if he thought the violence would continue, one man said: "Ask God ... No, ask [opposition leaders MP Michel] Aoun and [Sayyed Hassan] Nasrallah."

Arab League head Amr Moussa has returned to Beirut to garner support for his beleaguered initiative aimed at filling the three-month presidential void, but the effect of the renewed mediation effort remains to be seen, particularly in Beirut's mixed communities.

Two young women shopping at the produce stand on Mohammad al-Hout street - one with a young daughter - expressed confidence that neighbors, regardless of religious faith and political persuasion, would not foment civil strife. "She's Shiite," one said smiling. "I'm Sunni."

The community spirit of some Ras An-Nabaa residents was reassuring, but a few things belied their confidence. Only a few people would speak with this reporter, all those who did refused to have their pictures taken, and several women, after pauses, asked to be identified only as "Fatimeh." The army strictly forbid any pictures of Mohammad al-Hout street to be taken.

Following the clashes a week ago, officials in Amal, Future and Hizbullah were reluctant to admit their supporters had taken part. But on a side street in Ras An-Nabaa, beneath portraits of Berri and Hariri, a single bullet casing stood upright on the curb - as if waiting to be claimed.

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

## *Residents of Ras An-Nabaa put on brave face following clashes*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

February 25, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 628 words

**Byline:** Nicholas Kimbrell

## **Body**

---

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**Load-Date:** October 22, 2008

## World Digest

The Toronto Star  
July 24, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA04

**Length:** 462 words

### **Body**

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Lebanon

**Hezbollah** boasts rockets

able to reach Tel Aviv

**Hezbollah** leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said yesterday his group possesses an arsenal of rockets that can reach all of Israel, including Tel Aviv.

"We could absolutely reach any corner and any point in occupied Palestine," Nasrallah said in an interview aired by Arab broadcaster Al-Jazeera and **Hezbollah**'s Al-Manar television.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev said the rearmament "is a direct and grave violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701," which ended last year's Israel-**Hezbollah** war.

India

Tiny body parts found

in bags thrown into well

Thirty plastic bags stuffed with tiny skulls and other body parts have been found in an abandoned well in Nayagarh, officials said yesterday. Police believe they may be aborted **female** fetuses or newborn girls killed because their families wanted boys.

Investigators suspect a nearby medical clinic performed the abortions and possibly killed infants at the parents' request because they were **female**, although authorities had yet to conclusively determine the sex of the babies, police said. The clinic's owner and manager have been held for questioning.

China

Spy agencies target foreign activists

Intelligence services are gearing up for next year's Beijing Olympics, gathering information on foreigners who might mount protests and spoil the nation's moment in the spotlight.

## World Digest

Targets include evangelical Christians eager to end China's religious restrictions, activists wanting Beijing to use its oil-buying leverage with Sudan to end the strife in Darfur and environmentalists angry about global warming.

## Honduras

## Ex-immigration chief jailed over drug lord link

Former federal immigration director Ramon Romero was sentenced yesterday to nine years in prison for letting 14 Colombian friends of a notorious drug trafficker enter the country.

Romero was found guilty of abusing his authority by allowing the May 2004 entry of a plane carrying 14 Colombian friends and relatives of Juan Ramon Matta or his Colombian wife. Romero still faces charges he helped sell Honduran passports to hundreds of Chinese, Cubans and Lebanese. When he was fired in April 2005, officials found \$15,000 (U.S.) in his desk.

## Germany

## Staff accused of killing zoo animals to sell meat

Officials in Erfurt called for stronger laws yesterday to protect the rights of animals amid allegations that workers at the city's zoo killed some goats, sheep, pigs and other beasts to sell them for their meat.

Erfurt state prosecutors launched an investigation last week after Mayor Andreas Bausewein alerted them to problems at the Thueringer Zoopark, which is home to giraffes, monkeys and elephants, as well as domestic animals such as donkeys, goats and pigs.

From the Star's wire services

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2007



## *Israel's unwanted open door*

The Jerusalem Post

July 18, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 24

**Length:** 1869 words

**Byline:** CAROLINE B. GLICK

**Highlight:** COLUMN ONE

### **Body**

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Any residual doubt that Washington has decided to take no action to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons dissipated Wednesday with the news that Undersecretary of State William Burns will be participating in EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana's negotiations with Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in Geneva on Saturday.

That those negotiations will fail to end or even slow Iran's progress toward nuclear weapons capabilities is a certainty. Ahead of the talks, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reiterated for the umpteenth time that Teheran will make no compromises on its uranium enrichment activities. And so far, Iran - as opposed to Washington - has been true to its word.

Given Iran's forthrightness, there is only one reasonable explanation for the administration's decision to send Burns to meet with Jalili: The US wants it to be absolutely clear to Teheran and everyone else that it has no intention whatsoever of attacking Iran's nuclear installations.

It makes sense that Washington considers it necessary to make this point clearly. In light of the threat that a nuclear-armed Iran would constitute to US national security interests, it would have been more reasonable to assume that America would attack the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities preemptively than to assume it would allow Iran to go forward with its goal to acquire nuclear weapons.

A nuclear-armed Iran would place the US military's hard-won victories against Iranian surrogates in Iraq and its tentative success in separating Iraq's Shi'ite leaders from Teheran in jeopardy. So, too, given Iran's increasingly active support for the Taliban, an Iranian acquisition of nuclear capabilities would cast doubt on America's ability to defeat the resurgent Taliban.

The US's economic well-being would also be endangered by a nuclear-armed Iran. Teheran has repeatedly threatened to attack Saudi oil platforms and endanger the oil shipping lanes in the Straits of Hormuz. And a nuclear arsenal would give Iran unprecedented power to dictate price-setting policies for the OPEC oil cartel.

Beyond all that, a nuclear-armed Iran would directly threaten US territory in two ways. First, there is no reason not to think that Teheran would use Hizbullah cells in the US to detonate nuclear devices in US cities. Iran has already shown a willingness to use Hizbullah to carry out terror attacks in the West - most spectacularly in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

## Israel 's unwanted open door

Second, it is widely feared that Iran is developing the capacity to launch an electromagnetic pulse (or EMP) attack against the US mainland. An EMP attack is conducted by launching a nuclear bomb into the atmosphere above a country. It needn't actually hit the country. Simply by detonating a nuclear device at sufficiently high altitude, an EMP attack can destroy the electrical grids, communications systems and military-industrial foundations of a society. Such an attack would set the US back a hundred years.

Fears of an EMP attack against the US were sparked last week by Iran's test of an advanced version of its Shihab-3 ballistic missile. The day of the missile test, William Graham, who heads a congressionally mandated commission on the EMP threat to the US, gave testimony on the issue to the House's Armed Services Committee. Graham explained that Iran has already conducted missile test from ships in the Caspian Sea. If it acquires nuclear weapons, it will apparently have the capacity to launch a nuclear warhead capable of carrying out an EMP attack against the US from a freighter in international waters off the US coast.

While any of these threats would be sufficient to justify a preemptive attack against Iran's nuclear installations, the US still has a reasonable excuse for not conducting such an attack: Iran has made clear that if it acquires nuclear weapons, the US will not be Teheran's first target. Israel enjoys that distinction.

And since the US is Iran's second target, the Bush administration has made clear that if Iran attacks Israel, the US will launch an attack against Iran. That is, the US will fight to ensure that Iran won't be able to attack it if America moves to the head of Iran's target list. But as long as it's only No. 2, it will take no action.

The US cannot be accused of being unfair to Israel by deciding not to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. After all, defending Israel is Israel's responsibility, not America's. And on this point, news reports in recent weeks have made it clear that while the US will not attack Iran, it has given Israel a "green light" for a preemptive strike on the Islamic Republic's nuclear installations. And this is no small thing.

THE BUSH administration's willingness to stand back and allow Israel to attack Iran's nuclear installations to prevent a nuclear holocaust of the Jewish state compares well with how the administration of the president's father treated Israel in the 1991 Gulf War. At that time, Israel was under threat of Scud missile borne chemical weapons attack. Although Saddam Hussein ended up not attacking Israel with chemical weapons, the threat that he would was credible. He attacked Israel with Scud missiles almost every night for the duration of the war.

Despite this obvious casus belli, the first Bush administration not only refused to politically support Israel's right to defend itself against Iraqi aggression, it took active steps to prevent Israel from attacking Iraq's Scud missile installations. Then-president George H.W. Bush refused to provide Israel with the electronic codes that would allow Israeli and US jets to identify one another as friendly aircraft. In so doing, he left open the prospect that the US would shoot down IAF jets over Iraqi airspace if Israel dared to defend itself.

So, mindful of the precedent set by his father, President George W. Bush's decision to leave the door wide open for an Israeli preemptive strike on Iran is a positive development. But an open door is only significant if someone is willing to walk through it. And it is far from clear that the Olmert-Livni-Barak-Yishai government has any intention of doing so.

For an Israeli government to walk through that door, its leaders would have to be vested with a sense of national destiny and a modicum of responsibility and competence. But as Wednesday's bodies-for-murderers deal with **Hizbullah** demonstrated, the Olmert-Livni-Barak-Yishai government has no sense of national destiny and no competence to lead the country. What Wednesday's spectacle showed is that Israel's leaders' horizons are limited to the space between yesterday's news and tomorrow's headlines.

On Wednesday, Israel received the corpses of IDF hostages Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser in exchange for baby-murderer Samir Kuntar, four **Hizbullah** terrorists and 200 bodies of Palestinian and Lebanese murderers. Ahead of the swap, the Almagor terror victims' advocacy group published the names of 180 Israelis who were murdered by terrorists Israel released in recent years.

## Israel 's unwanted open door

As the Almagor report showed, many of the terrorists Israel released - including Saleh Shehadeh, Nasser Abu Hmeid and Abdullah Kawasmeh - became senior terror commanders, responsible for building the terror infrastructure that caused the death of hundreds of Israelis. Others, such as Matzab Hashalmon, who was released in the 2004 terrorists-for-drug dealer-and- ***Hizbullah***-spy Elhanan Tenenbaum, were quickly recruited as suicide bombers. Hashalmon murdered 16 Israelis when he detonated on a bus in Beersheva a couple of months after he was released.

The government knows for a fact that Wednesday's deal will lead directly to the murder of more Israelis and to the abduction and murder of more IDF soldiers. It simply doesn't care. The Olmert-Livni-Barak-Yishai government doesn't care about protecting the public. It only cares about tomorrow's headlines. And Wednesday's deal allowed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Eli Yishai to give speeches where they waxed poetic about Israel's loyalty to its dead soldiers and to have their pictures taken as they leaned somberly over Regev's and Goldwasser's flag-draped coffins.

They looked so impressive in those photos that it was easy for the public to miss what they had just done. The public could have easily missed the fact that in their "deeply moral, and patriotic" decision to trade Samir Kuntar - who murdered four-year-old Einat Haran by crushing her skull on a rock after he executed her father Danny in front of her - for Regev's and Goldwasser's body parts, these politicians signed the death warrants of untold numbers of Israelis. And if they go forward with their pledge to release a thousand terrorists for IDF hostage Gilad Schalit, they will sign the death warrants of still more Israeli men, ***women*** and children.

THE GOVERNMENT'S devotion to its yesterday-to- tomorrow's-headlines policy horizon is fed by the local media. Disgracefully, the Israeli media's coverage of events is so mindlessly shallow that senior journalists simply refuse to make any connection between tomorrow's threats and today's decisions. That this is the case was born out in the media's grotesque treatment of Wednesday's corpses-for-murderers swap.

In the weeks leading up to the government's decision to accept this Faustian bargain, the media cast the issue as the personal affair of the Regev and Goldwasser families and ignored completely the ramifications of the deal for the Israeli people as a whole. In their puerile depiction of the story as a personal story, the media stooped to treating Kuntar as the personal enemy of the Haran family, instead of as the enemy of the Jewish people as a whole. Refusing to note the national repercussions of the deal, the media acted as though the entire story was a struggle between opposing families: the Regevs and Goldwasser on one side and the Harans on the other. Israel as a nation was nothing but an abstract, unimportant bystander.

Given the media's refusal to cover anything that they can't personalize and trivialize, the media are incapable of adequately reporting the danger that Iran's nuclear program constitutes to Israel as a whole. And since they will not concentrate on this basic reality, the Olmert- Livni-Barak-Yishai government feels no pressure to contend with the danger. It is a non-story. And non-stories produce no policies.

Aside from that, although a successful strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would win them considerable clout with the public, an unsuccessful attack would end their political careers. And their careers are the only thing Israel's leaders are concerned with.

This being the state of affairs in Israel today, all the open doors in all the world won't help Israel in its moment of crisis. Only two things can guarantee that Israel's leaders will act against Iran. Either someone will come up with a way to guarantee success - and this is not likely; or the government will fall and the nation will elect new leaders who understand their responsibility for Israel's national destiny and are capable of walking the nation through that open door.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *The first thing leaders need to do*

The Jerusalem Post

January 22, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 15

**Length:** 1137 words

**Byline:** ISI LEIBLER

**Highlight:** The inclination to avoid IDF casualties and resist preemptive military action has become institutionalized. This needs to change

### **Body**

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The preliminary Winograd Report failed to review the increasing reluctance of IDF commanders and political leaders to embark on military initiatives out of fear of incurring casualties. It is, of course, mandatory for military leaders to take all possible measures to minimize losses, especially today, when the potential for this is much greater than it was 20 years ago. However, taking this to an extreme could become the IDF's Achilles heel.

It's a heart-breaking issue. All the more so because, aside from haredim, the IDF is truly a people's army, with hardly a family in Israel remaining untouched by casualties of war. Each loss impacts not only on the immediate family but on the entire nation. The pain and fatigue is augmented by the media, which displays no restraint and zooms in, brutally exposing the bitter agony of bereaved families in a manner inconceivable elsewhere.

The subject is insightfully analyzed in an essay by Assaf Sagiv, in the current (Winter 2008) issue of Azure. Sagiv concludes that despite the principal obligation of the IDF to defend civilians, Israeli leaders today appear to be more concerned about the public fallout from IDF casualties than about civilian losses. He attributes this largely to a natural inclination to idolize youngsters serving in the IDF as the cream of our society. Yet he warns that if such a trend becomes ingrained, it could have devastating repercussions on the security of the state and society as a whole.

A BY-PRODUCT of this has been a less than robust response to terrorist incursions from our neighbors, severely eroding our deterrent ability. Until recently, Israel was renowned for responding vigorously to all acts of aggression. Interpreting our apparent overriding concern with avoiding casualties as a weakening of resolve, our enemies have become emboldened.

Today, despite possessing the most powerful military force in the region, Israel has increasingly developed a reputation as a nation that repeatedly responds to aggression with empty threats. In fact, over the past decade, with the exception of the disastrous Second Lebanon War, terrorists have become reassured that beyond limited targeted assassinations, subject to review by the High Court, broader Israeli reprisals will no longer be implemented.

The mood has also been absorbed by the Israeli public. It was primarily the impact of agitation by the Four Mothers that led to the precipitate withdrawal from Lebanon, providing an enormous boost to Hizbullah and undermining security on our northern border. The inclination to resist preemptive actions or reprisals has become institutionalized beyond the IDF to the political leadership.

### The first thing leaders need to do

It included even prime minister Ariel Sharon, who sat with folded arms as Hizbullah built up an infrastructure and missile capacity which paved the way for the debacle of the Lebanon War.

It is also clear that a principal factor inhibiting a more concerted military effort on the ground at the outset of the Second Lebanon War was fear of a public backlash in the wake of casualties.

NOR DO we seem to have learned the lesson. Hamas is currently constructing an offensive infrastructure in Gaza that is virtually certain to culminate in a war. The concern for casualties is apparently once again a major factor dissuading us from taking the necessary preemptive military action to stop the current build-up, despite the realization that the inevitable confrontation at a later date will, in all likelihood, exact a far greater toll in lives.

Of course, this is compounded today by the fact that our premier has become traumatized by the calamity he inflicted upon the nation when he impulsively launched the Second Lebanon War without foresight.

Israel was created as a haven for Jews in distress and as a means to overcome 2,000 years of Jewish powerlessness. Yet, paradoxically, today, despite having one of the most formidable armies in the world, the Jewish state has become transformed into one of the most dangerous locations in the world for Jews.

Israel is unique in being the only country in the world in which a neighboring entity openly launches missiles against its citizens. Our abysmal failure to defend our civilians descended to a level of madness when, immediately following a 72-hour period during which 200 missiles and mortars were launched at us, our government, on "humanitarian" grounds, resumed servicing the electricity and water requirements of Gaza's inhabitants. It is inconceivable that any other country would behave in such a manner and fail to take more drastic military action to bring an end to such outrageous attacks.

THIS PROBLEM extends to kidnapped soldiers. Our doing the utmost to rescue any Israeli in captivity is a commendable extension of a long-standing Jewish tradition. The Entebbe rescue was an uplifting example of this. But as with military casualties, there is an obligation to rationally weigh the long-term repercussions of such a policy.

No one would dispute that even one Israeli soldier is worth infinitely more than all the imprisoned terrorists combined. However, the issue to be considered is: How many Israelis are likely to die as a consequence of a prisoner exchange? Many of the terrorists released return to their vocation, emboldened in the knowledge that after killing Israeli women and children, even if captured, they will not be executed, but will in all likelihood be released in an exchange.

The most disconcerting aspect of mass prisoner releases is that they create enormous incentives for future kidnapping efforts.

THE BOTTOM line is that the prime responsibility of leadership is to defend the state and safeguard civilian life and limb. Our political and military leadership must avoid policies based on short-term gut reactions; they must avoid becoming unduly influenced by public opinion. Despite the agony, they must assume the obligation of determining how the long-term strategic requirements and national interest can best be served. Once such a policy has been determined, it must be explained and promoted to the public.

The adoption of such strategies will have immediate implications for Sderot, where Israelis forced to endure unbearable ongoing missile attacks have become transformed into refugees in their own land. Once the final Winograd Report is been released, we must bite the bullet. The nation cannot afford to delay until missiles penetrate deeper into Israel, ultimately even reaching Tel Aviv.

The longer we postpone confronting the issue, the more damage Hamas and Hizbullah, supported by the Iranians and Syrians, will be able to inflict on us when we ultimately have to take decisive action.

A nation under threat must rationally confront such challenges, or the fanatical resolve of our enemies will bring about greater disasters.

The first thing leaders need to do

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## Graphic

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Photo: IDF TANKS on the northern border. Does public opinion influence policymakers to make short-sighted decisions? (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Lebanon must assert its authority*

The Gazette (Montreal)

May 23, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A24

**Length:** 321 words

**Byline:** The Gazette

### **Body**

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Fatah Islam is the last thing poor battered Lebanon needs: yet another factional player, at once military and political, in a country already far too fragile.

Ruthless and uncompromising extremists, sometimes bankrolled and inspired by Syria, Iran and/or transnational Islamicist movements, have long been a curse to Lebanon. A long civil war, by turns desultory and savage, lasted until 1990. Then last summer, fighting between **Hezbollah** and Israel flattened the south of the country.

Now comes Fatah Islam, previously little noticed as it grew in the 40-year-old "refugee camps" housing tens of thousands of Palestinians within Lebanon.

Fatah Islam, apparently consisting mainly of "foreign fighters" rather than residents of the camps, killed 29 Lebanese soldiers in attacks Sunday and Monday. Lebanon's army, notable only for staying out of the way during last year's fighting in the country's south, has now carried the fight to this new enemy. Deliberately, Fatah Islam seeks refuge among civilians. Like Israeli armed forces last year, Lebanese government forces now must choose between allowing their opponents impunity or endangering **women**, children and peaceable men in the refugee centres.

As if Lebanon's blood-stained politics were not sufficiently confusing already, **Hezbollah** now reportedly backs the government against Fatah Islam, perhaps because **Hezbollah**, like its Iranian patrons, is Shiite, while Fatah Islam is Sunni. And at least some Palestinians in Lebanon are said to be fighting with the army against the trouble-makers.

"Non-state actors" afflict many countries in the region, and by their nature such groups, serving foreign masters or chilling ideologies, care little for the civilians among whom they hide. This new group is only one of Lebanon's torments. But if Fatah Islam can be neutralized, the Lebanese state will have taken a step toward enduring and peaceful national unity under one government.

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2007

## *In Lebanon, soldiers win new respect*

Christian Science Monitor

August 28, 2007, Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1088 words

**Byline:** Nicholas Blanford Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** Bibnine, Lebanon

### **Body**

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Mustafa Borghol stares solemnly out from one of dozens of "martyr" portraits stuck to walls in this village in northern Lebanon. The 24-year-old Lebanese Special Forces soldier is the 10th resident of Bibnine to die in three months of bitter fighting between the Lebanese Army and the Al Qaeda-inspired militants of Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp, just three miles from here.

"This village used to be famous for fishing and carpentry," says Mohammed Borghol, Mustafa's father, while sitting in his butcher shop. "Now it is famous for its martyrs, and we are very proud of them."

With almost 150 soldiers having died in the worst internal violence since the end of the 1975-90 civil war, the Lebanese Army is being widely hailed as a unifying force in a country mired in deep political turmoil. Despite the high casualty count for the overstretched and underequipped Army, the imminent triumph against the militants has lifted the morale of a force that since 1990 has been overshadowed in military affairs by the Shiite militant group **Hizbullah**.

"The fighting has definitely increased the credibility of the Lebanese Army in the eyes of the public," says Timur Goksel, who lectures in Beirut on conflict resolution and is a former long-serving United Nations official in southern Lebanon.

New moves to promote the Army

That public sentiment is being backed by a carefully choreographed promotional campaign of television ads and billboards boosting the profile of the Army. In one television spot, a Lebanese soldier walks down a main street in Beirut as passersby stop and salute him. Banks are offering credit cards with a military camouflage design. Billboards show heroic pictures of soldiers in action and praise the sacrifices of the Army.

Last week, more than 60 **women** and children were evacuated from Nahr al-Bared, mostly families of the Fatah al-Islam militants, the last noncombatants to leave the war-ravaged camp, previously home to a mainly Palestinian population of 40,000. Their departure heralds a final offensive against the surviving militants who are thought to number under 100.

Weeks of intense artillery shelling has reduced most of the camp to rubble. Bullet and shell holes pockmark the skeletal remains of buildings. The floors of other houses lie pancaked on top of one another. Lebanese flags flutter



## In Lebanon , soldiers win new respect

from the ruins, planted by soldiers as they inched through the warren-like passageways of the camp, battling the militants.

"They are good fighters; I'll give them that. Most of them have fought in Iraq," says Ahmad, a burly Special Forces soldier eating a falafel sandwich in a cafe on the edge of the camp. Ahmad said he had just returned to the front line after being treated for a gun shot wound in the thigh.

"The snipers and the hand grenades are the biggest problem," he says. "You just can't see them."

Although morale clearly remains high among the soldiers, Army officers say they lack the appropriate weapons and equipment to tackle the militants, the last of whom are holed up in well-constructed bunkers and tunnels built during the 1970s to protect against Israeli air raids. Much of the Army's hardware is an eclectic mix of outdated Soviet and NATO weapons, unsuitable for urban combat in Nahr al-Bared.

Instead, the troops have been forced to improvise. Army engineers have jury-rigged cabins of soldered steel plates and sandbags onto civilian bulldozers to protect drivers from snipers and bombs as they clear rubble inside the camp.

### Soldiers say they lack equipment

Recently, in an attempt to winkle out the militants from their bunkers, the Army has made use of 1,000-pound aerial bombs from the 1960s, when Lebanon maintained a small air force. Each bomb is slung beneath a Vietnam war-era "Huey" helicopter and flown over the camp, then dropped manually and unguided onto the bunkers. The bombing runs tend to occur before dawn when the darkness masks the helicopters from groundfire.

"This is the technology of World War I, but we have no choice," says a senior Army general who requested anonymity as he is not authorized to talk to the press.

The United States is giving \$270 million in military financial assistance to Lebanon for 2007, a 550 percent increase from 2006. Most of the assistance is allocated to nonlethal equipment and training. Only a fraction is committed to emergency ammunition, such as artillery shells for the Army's 155-mm guns. But the Army says that it could have crushed Fatah al-Islam by now if it had received appropriate weapons such as antitank missiles for helicopters.

"We need weapons, conventional and advanced ammunition," Gen. Michel Suleiman, commander of the Lebanese Army, said recently. "We didn't get anything but promises and best wishes and some ammunition, but no equipment. It's as though they are telling us, 'die first and assistance will follow.' "

The US views the Lebanese Army as key to stabilizing Lebanon and providing a counterweight to the military might of Hizbullah, which Washington classifies as a terrorist organization. But the US traditionally has been reluctant to provide weapons to the Army in case they end up being used against Israel.

"The Americans say they want to help us, but we have one big problem in the US, and that's their Congress," the anonymous general says. "They won't even let us have a handgun."

### Army general for president?

Still, the Army's high profile and the praise for General Suleiman's leadership has marked him as a potential presidential candidate when elections are held next month.

Lebanon's feuding politicians so far have failed to reach consensus on the choice of the next president - who must be drawn from the Maronite community - and some Lebanese believe that the Army commander is the best choice to bridge the political divide.

Suleiman has played down the press speculation, but he has issued some carefully worded statements designed to appease both factions and he has paid a visit to the influential Maronite patriarch who has a powerful say in the choice of president.

In Lebanon , soldiers win new respect

Although he has a reputation as a capable Army commander, Suleiman was appointed to the post in 1998 when neighboring Syria dominated Lebanon and he enjoys close relations with the Iran-backed **Hizbullah**, which makes him suspect in the eyes of Lebanon's anti-Syrian parliamentary majority.

Other Lebanese oppose Suleiman's candidacy because it risks politicizing the Army, turning it into another faction in the quagmire of Lebanese politics.

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## *Islam's unholy alliance*

The Australian (Australia)  
August 22, 2007 Wednesday  
All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 11

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**Byline:** Cameron Stewart, Richard Kerbaj

### **Body**

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Peace has broken out between Australia's Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims who don't want the violence of foreign conflicts erupting on home soil, write Cameron Stewart and Richard Kerbaj

ON a hot summer's night two years ago, a carload of Islamic gunmen drove along Auburn Road in Sydney's west and sprayed bullets into a row of shops owned by Iraqi Australians.

This was no run-of-the-mill crime. On this night in January 2005, the gunshots echoed far beyond western Sydney and into the Canberra offices of ASIO, the domestic spy agency. The attack seemed to confirm what ASIO and other law enforcement agencies had long feared: that tensions between rival Sunni and Shia Muslim communities had spilled into violence.

It occurred only a week before the landmark free elections in Iraq, where Sunnis and Shi'ites were locked in a bitter and bloody power struggle.

The Sydney shooting of Shi'ite-owned shops followed the harassment of Shi'ite voters in Auburn the previous day as they lined up to cast their postal vote for Iraq.

A group of Sunni protesters had disrupted the voting, holding up a sign in Arabic saying "vote and die" and chanting anti-Shia slogans. So bad was the harassment that local sheik Haydar Naji advised his fellow voters for their own safety to scrub the blue fingerprint ink off their fingers, ink that was proud proof of their democratic vote.

In the eyes of the authorities, the clashes and the shooting in Auburn were a grim portent for the future. The last thing the nation's counter-terrorism agencies needed was a mini Australian version of the bloody feud between the Sunnis and Shi'ites in Iraq.

So far, their worst fears have proved unfounded. The global divide between Islam's two main groups, Sunnis and Shi'ites, has not become a flashpoint in Australia's Muslim community. On the contrary, as was revealed by The Australian, the nation's Shi'ite and Sunni leaders have formed a united front against Israel, declaring their support for the Iranian-backed terrorist network **Hezbollah**.

Yesterday Muslim leaders from both sects attacked the Howard Government and the Opposition for meeting a controversial US-based Muslim thinker, Wafa Sultan, who considers the prophet Mohammed evil and who says there is no difference between moderate and radical Islam.

## Islam's unholy alliance

The Australian yesterday revealed that Sultan, a psychiatrist who shot to fame last year following an interview on the Arabic news and current affairs television channel Al Jazeera in which she attacked Islam, met Attorney-General Philip Ruddock, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Opposition Deputy Leader Julia Gillard while in Australia on an "under the radar" visit to talk about Islam.

Sydney-based Shi'ite leader Salah Qurnawy yesterday joined Sunni leader Keysar Trad warning against anti-Islamic Muslims, saying they were as dangerous as radical clerics who wanted to destroy the West.

Qurnawy, president of the Al Sajjad Association, believes Sultan's views and outlook on Islam threaten to undermine the relationships formed between Muslims and wider Australia. He says Sultan -- who last year featured in Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people in the world -- should not have been allowed into Australia.

"She will create disharmony for the community," Qurnawy says.

Trad, president of the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia, has called on Ruddock to investigate Sultan's views under sedition laws. "These politicians are free to go to bed with whom they choose," he says of the ministers who met Sultan. "But if they allow people like Wafa Sultan to colour their views about the Australian Muslims with her crusade of misinformation, then they will not be serving the interest of Australian society. Her views are divisive to Australian society.

"I would expect (Ruddock) to search through the sedition provisions that he introduced (to see if) the views she has already stated would create division or hatred within Australian society."

The unholy alliance of Shi'ites and Sunnis follows comments by Australia's top Shi'ite spiritual leader Kamal Mousselmani in The Australian in which he labelled Israel a terrorist state and expressed his allegiance to Hezbollah militants. Trad says his sect largely supported Sheikh Mousselmani's comments. "Sunnis outside of Lebanon, they still have a great deal of respect for Hezbollah," he says.

Trad is not alone in his thinking. Last year during an anti-war rally in Melbourne, Australia's new mufti, Fehmi Naji el-Imam, called Hezbollah militants freedom fighters.

It remains to be seen how permanent this new-found unity is between Australia's 270,000-strong Sunni community and the much smaller 30,000 Shi'ite population.

The tensions that erupted in Auburn in 2005 suggest it is, at best, an uneasy peace between the two sects that is being watched by ASIO.

"The ongoing violence in Iraq continues to have an impact on the Middle East community in Australia," ASIO wrote in its most recent annual report. "During 2005, in the lead-up to elections in Iraq, tensions increased between members of the Sunni and Shia communities in Sydney, particularly in the Auburn area."

State and federal police are also keeping a close eye on relations between the two sects. Victorian police recently visited the Victorian town of Shepparton, which has a large Iraqi community, and met leaders from both sects.

Optimists argue that the recent display of unity between the Sunni and Shia factions may signal a lasting peace, another successful fruit of multicultural assimilation where ethnic and religious grudges overseas are not played out in Australian society.

"There really is no hostility between the two groups in Australia although they obviously disagree on some fairly fundamental aspects of the religion and there has been a lot of conflict between the two groups in Iraq," says prominent Melbourne Muslim Amir Butler. "The Shia have their mosques, leaders and representative organisations, and the Sunnis have theirs. They just exist in parallel in much the same way as the Catholic Church exists in parallel with the Anglicans."

Prominent Sydney-based Sunni cleric Khalil Shami says tensions within Australia's Muslim community are largely a result of factional fighting within the Sunni and Shia sects rather than between the two sects.

### Islam's unholy alliance

He says Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims in Australia are united, rather than divided, by their cultural values and beliefs. "I attend many of the Shia places and functions and I never ever had any problems with them," says the imam of Penshurst Mosque in Sydney's southwest. "We're used to doing that, it's part of our way of life. We're both Muslims. We may be a little bit different in terms of our religious customs, but that doesn't make us enemies."

A Shi'ite cleric who wants to remain anonymous says it is the politicisation of ideological and religious differences that is fuelling conflict between Shi'ites and Sunnis in the Middle East. But he is optimistic escalating sectarian tensions overseas will not translate into similar community divisions in Australia.

Senior Sunni **female** spiritual leader Aziza Abdel-Halim agrees, saying there is no reason overseas conflicts between the two sects should play out in Australia.

But she says hardliners in both the Sunni and Shia sects in Australia try to undermine relations between their respective mainstream communities. So far they have been largely unsuccessful.

Abdel-Halim, a former member of John Howard's Muslim Community Reference Group, says Sunnis who espouse the fundamentalist Wahhabi ideology -- practised by the likes of Osama bin Laden -- do not consider Shi'ites to be Muslims and thus treats them as non-believers.

"In groups where people are influenced by Wahhabi thinking, you may hear condemnation of Shia," she says. "Because they are very narrow in their (religious) interpretation of everything."

Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mohammed Taha Al-Salami lost three members of his extended family in Iraq during the past 18 months as a result of the sectarian feuding in the region. But he remains optimistic about the relationship between the two sects.

"Division exists in every corner of every religion," the Iraqi Islamic Council of Australia president says. "But I'm not justifying any of those things. Some people are self-righteous and think they are right and everyone else is wrong ... what can you do with those people?"

Al-Salami says Islamists from both sides of the religious divide continue to hamper chances of peaceful resolutions in war-torn regions such as Iraq and are also willing to turn their guns against their own people.

"It's a global problem. Al-Qa'ida is now operating in Lebanon, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, everywhere," he says. "And they're killing both Shia and Sunnis."

Abdel-Halim, a respected proponent of inter-faith dialogue, says the Koran specifically states that a difference of religious opinion is a rahma, a mercy. "And as long as you believe in the one God and have the same Koran, any minor difference should be overlooked," she says. "And we should come together as people of the same religion or the same country. But of course in countries where there's struggle for control of power or there is occupation, and other things interfere, then people play games ... and politicise religious differences."

The internal political dynamics of Sunnis and Shi'ites differ considerably. Infighting among Sunnis in Australia has frequently made headlines, while Shi'ites tend to be more discreet, knotting out most of their personal differences behind closed doors. National security authorities say the local Shi'ite leadership is more united.

The most common bond between Australia's Sunnis and Shi'ites is proving to be their shared dislike of Israel.

Anti-Israeli sentiment among Australia's Muslims has flourished since Israel's aggressive military campaign against **Hezbollah** in Lebanon last year.

Although **Hezbollah** is a hardline Iranian-backed Shi'ite terrorist group committed to the destruction of Israel, the scale of the Israeli attacks angered many Australian Sunnis who sympathised with **Hezbollah**. "There are some Sunni Muslims who are opposed to Israel and so they are willing to put the ideological differences aside because **Hezbollah** (is) seen to be 'standing up' to the Israelis and doing what, in their view, Arab and Muslim armies and governments have been unable or unwilling to do," says Butler.

## Islam's unholy alliance

When Israel's offensive in Lebanon was at its peak last July, several moderate Australian Muslim leaders who had backed John Howard on the war against al-Qa'ida called on the Prime Minister to rethink Australia's branding of **Hezbollah** as a terrorist organisation.

Ameer Ali, the then head of the Government's Muslim advisory body, said **Hezbollah** was wrongly classified as a terrorist group because, unlike al-Qa'ida, it was "not creating violence at random" but merely protecting the state of Lebanon.

Howard was unmoved. "Rethink our proscription of it as a terrorist organisation? No chance, full stop. No chance at all," Howard said.

Butler points out that not all Sunnis and Shi'ites are united on **Hezbollah**.

"There are many Sunnis who are opposed to **Hezbollah**," he says. "For some, this is because they are Shia and seen as proxies for Iran and an Iranian attempt to establish itself as the dominant power in the Muslim world; and for others it is because they disagree with what **Hezbollah** have done within Lebanon. For example, many Sunni Lebanese blame **Hezbollah** for having provoked the Israeli attack on the country."

Another bond between Sunnis and Shi'ites in Australia is their widely held belief that the Australian Government is persecuting Muslims in general and that the tough new terror laws are aimed at people of Islamic faith.

This perception of a common enemy so close to home is further helping to unite these traditional Muslim rivals.

## A SCHISM 14 CENTURIES IN THE MAKING

THE schism between Sunnis and Shi'ites dates back to the seventh century, when a dispute broke out over who would succeed the prophet Mohammed.

Through the centuries, differences in rituals and theology have evolved and sectarian conflict has flared regularly, although not on the scale of the present fighting in the Middle East.

Globally about 85 per cent of all

Muslims are Sunni, compared with

about 15 per cent Shi'ite.

Sunnis are a majority in most Muslim countries, including Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Pakistan and the Palestinian territories. Shi'ites are a majority in Iraq, Iran and Lebanon.

The struggle in Iraq is between the majority Shi'ites and the minority Sunnis. The Sunnis are trying to regain the influence they lost when Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, was deposed. The Shi'ites are trying to control the country in accordance with their majority democratic mandate.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2007

## *Off with Barbie's head*

The Times (London)

November 12, 2008 Wednesday

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# THE TIMES

**Section:** FEATURES; Times2; Pg.15

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** Alice Fordham

## Body

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In Beirut, an exhibition mixing images of Barbie with those of Christ and the leader of **Hezbollah** has fallen foul of the culture police, reports Alice Fordham.

Beirut does not feel like a conservative place. The girls wear shorts up to here and hair down to there. Cocktails are consumed by the gallon, and there is a rumbustious, if incestuous, arts scene. But this week, the limits of Lebanon's liberal attitude to art were tested by images of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the militant Shia group **Hezbollah**, and a smiling Barbie doll.

Some photographs, featuring Barbie dolls and a garish Middle Eastern mishmash of political and religious iconography, were removed from a high-profile exhibition of work by the Lebanese artist Jocelyne Saab by the gallery over fears that they could "create sectarian strife", according to Nasri N. Sayegh, the artist's spokesperson. The Sense, Icons and Sensitivity show is about what Saab calls "the other side of Orientalism", exploring the way that the East views Western **women**. Saab says she sought to do this with populism and humour, with "neo pop art" images of Barbie representing the Western woman, all uncovered hair and matching accessories.

But for the Planet Discovery gallery in Beirut, pictures of Barbie cavorting wearing only Iraqi bank notes, with a crucified Ken doll, and with Christ and Nasrallah memorabilia, were too much. The gallery is part of the huge project to rebuild Beirut after the civil war. It is run by Solidere, the huge regeneration company founded by Rafik Hariri, the Prime Minister, who was assassinated in 2005. "Politics and religion are two very sensitive issues that we don't want to undermine," a gallery representative said.

Saab, a former war reporter, who has spent the past 40 years making feature films, documentaries and images focusing on human rights, is angry. "I was offered the exhibition after the gallery had seen all the photographs," she explains. "I said: 'This is a mistake; if you see the other photos they are in the same vein'," she says. "But they came and violently took [the pictures] off in front of me."

Particularly galling for the artist - and particularly telling about Lebanon - is that the show had already opened with all the photographs in place, and no one had made any complaints. There had even been representatives of the Ministry of Culture at the launch party, who had spoken approvingly of the pictures and suggested a tour to Europe.

## Off with Barbie's head

Hezbollah, too, was sanguine about the images of its leader in the company of the plastic princess. It had made no complaint. Kitsch images of Nasrallah in unexpected contexts are by no means rare in Lebanon. In any market one can easily pick up a Nasrallah paperweight, bracelet or cigarette lighter.

But in Lebanon, the state is weak and Hezbollah, which is part of the opposition coalition in government, is strong. So, for an artist, official approval by the Ministry of Culture is no guarantee that pictures will stay on display. Even the possibility that Hezbollah might take issue with the pictures is enough to scare gallery owners into self-censorship.

At a concurrent exhibition, another gallerist also refused to show the banned images. "It is too serious that we are dealing with the conflict between the East and the West," he says. While lamenting such self-censorship, he says that this is "a country that has a lot of fear and this is how fundamentalist groups make people afraid".

Saab, showing the remaining pictures in Planet Discovery, gesticulates at the empty spaces. "Look," she says, "this is an installation in itself." The sad thing, she says, is that the censors missed the point of The American-Israeli Playground, the picture with Christ, Nasrallah and Barbie. "It was meant to show a graveyard," she said, "to show the way the Americans and Israelis use Lebanon," leaving many dead in the country's conflicts.

She believes that such images can be cathartic for a society. "The woman who came and moved the picture was so angry, and by taking the image away she has trapped that anger. It could have helped Lebanon to move on."

**Load-Date:** November 12, 2008

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End of Document



## International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

June 17, 2008 Tuesday

Copyright 2008 Woodward Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**Section:** A; Pg. 5

**Length:** 506 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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Rescuers recover 10th body in Japan KURIHARA, Japan - Soldiers pulled the body of a 58-year-old man Monday from a hot spring inn knocked down by a landslide in northern Japan, bringing the death toll in a weekend earthquake to 10. Authorities said 12 people were still missing from Saturday's 7.2-magnitude quake, which tore across the rural area, triggering a series of deadly landslides that barreled into homes and swept away roads. Bomb kills 4 outside Pakistan mosque DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan - A bomb exploded outside a Shiite mosque in northwest Pakistan on Monday, killing at least four people and wounding five others, police said. The bomb exploded near the outer wall of the mosque in downtown Dera Ismail Khan as worshippers were leaving after evening prayers, said Abdul Ghafoor, a local police officer.

Police cordoned off the area as people sifted debris looking for survivors. An Associated Press reporter saw a crater near the shattered wall where the bomb went off. The blast shattered the mosque's front wall and damaged its dome. Twisted fans hung from the ceiling inside the mosque and prayer mats were scattered across the bloodstained floor. Ghafoor said four people had died in the bombing and five were wounded, three seriously. Charges dropped in same-sex wedding ASUNCION, Paraguay - A couple jailed on suspicion of having a same-sex wedding was freed Monday after a doctor determined that the groom is a hermaphrodite. Prosecutor Jose Planas ordered the couple jailed after their civil wedding Friday, when the priest scheduled to perform the religious ceremony the following day said he received a call saying the groom, Jesus Alejandro Martinez, was actually a woman. Same-sex marriages are illegal in Paraguay, and news of the arrest became the talk of the nation. Planas had threatened Martinez with five years in prison for falsification of documents, and said he could charge the bride, Blanca Estigarribia, with complicity. But the couple was released Monday. A doctor who inspected Martinez in jail ruled that he is a hermaphrodite, with atrophied female genitals and well-developed male genitals, according to the couple's lawyer, Jorge Cantero. Rice gives blessings to Hezbollah BEIRUT, Lebanon - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday she welcomes a new power-sharing arrangement in Lebanon even though it increased the power of Hezbollah militants at the expense of U.S.-backed moderates. Hezbollah's ascendancy is a bitter pill for the U.S., which is worried that Iran's influence is spreading in the Middle East and had spent millions backing the Lebanese government for three years. Rice's blessing is a sign that the Bush administration has accepted that Western-backed democratic leaders who helped Lebanon throw off three decades of Syrian domination could not govern the country alone. Lebanese politics operate on ambiguity and consensus, and in this case that meant giving veto power to Hezbollah, a militia and political force that the United States lists as a terrorist group.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2008

International briefs

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End of Document

## ANGLICANS APPROVE WOMEN BISHOPS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 8, 2008 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co.

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

**Length:** 565 words

### **Body**

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LONDON -- The governing body of the Anglican Church in Britain voted yesterday to approve the appointment of women bishops. The step appeared to risk a schism in the church in its historic homeland at a time as the Anglican Church worldwide faces one of the most serious threats to its unity in its history, over the ordination of gay clergy.

The vote came 16 years after the synod voted, after similarly fractious debate, to approve the ordination of women as ministers within the British church. But traditionalists unreconciled to the end of the male monopoly within the clergy revived the battle over the issue of approving women bishops, warning that it could lead to a breakup of the church in Britain.

The move to approve women bishops in Britain followed the lead taken by Anglican churches elsewhere; in the United States, Australia and Canada, women have been appointed as bishops for some years. Opponents of women bishops argue that Jesus, in choosing only men for his 12 disciples, intended that men alone should have the responsibility of ministering to his followers.

Prisoner swap signed

JERUSALEM -- Israel's military said it began digging up the bodies of Lebanese fighters yesterday after the government struck a deal with Hezbollah guerrillas to swap five living prisoners and dozens of bodies for two Israeli soldiers captured in 2006.

Israel said in a statement that the swap agreement was signed "in the presence of a U.N. representative." Implementation of the deal depends on carrying out further steps, the statement said without providing specifics.

Hezbollah officials refused to comment.

Israel approved the swap June 29. It will hand over Samir Kantar, serving multiple life terms for a 1979 attack in Israel's north, as well as four Hezbollah prisoners and dozens of bodies of fighters. In return, Israel is to receive two soldiers captured by Hezbollah in a 2006 cross-border raid that set off a fierce 34-day war.

Assad: U.S. help needed

PARIS -- Syrian President Bachar Assad says he is counting on the next American president to help support efforts to negotiate peace between his country and Israel.

## ANGLICANS APPROVE WOMEN BISHOPS

In an interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro to be published today, Mr. Assad called his planned visit this weekend to Paris "historic" because "it opens a large door (for Syria) to the international scene."

Mr. Assad would not commit to meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert during the visit -- but did not rule it out. Both will be among some 40 leaders in Paris to launch the Mediterranean Union, France's prized initiative during its European Union presidency which began July 1.

Serbia OKs new government

BELGRADE, Serbia -- Serbia's parliament approved a new government yesterday that includes a pro-Western group and the political party of the late strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

Leaders of the coalition have pledged to speed up the Balkan country's integration into the European Union but also to continue fighting Kosovo's statehood.

The new government includes the Democratic Party of President Boris Tadic and the Socialist Party of Serbia, which was formed by Milosevic in the 1990s. Under Milosevic the Socialists were accused of inciting the Balkan wars and ruining Serbia's economy, but the party has sought to shake off that image by embracing pro-Western reforms.

The new prime minister is Mirko Cvetkovic of Mr. Tadic's Democratic Party.

**Load-Date:** July 8, 2008

## *The moderate MUFTI*

Herald Sun (Australia)

June 16, 2007 Saturday

FIRST Edition

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**Section:** SATURDAY; Pg. 29

**Length:** 1062 words

**Byline:** MARK DUNN

### **Body**

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Melbourne's Sheik Fehmi is seen as a new voice of reason for Australia's Muslims, but MARK DUNN raises doubts that he will openly speak his mind

HE'S been called the "Dalai Lama for Muslims," a man whose gentle personality and moderate statements will help build bridges between Islamic and non-Islamic communities.

Sheik Fehmi Naji el-Imam is Australia's new mufti, appointed last week to replace the ever-controversial, foot-in-mouth Sheik Taj el-Din al-Hilaly.

Sheik Fehmi's first task will be to mend the relationship with wider Australia that was damaged by the disastrous Sheik Hilaly with his "scantly clad women are uncovered meat" sermon -- and countless other blunders.

Sheik Fehmi, 79, has the credentials to be a genuine builder of inter-faith and cross-cultural relations.

He was awarded an Order of Australia for services to multiculturalism in 2001, the same year he and Christian and Jewish leaders signed a public declaration denouncing terrorism.

The respected imam and father of four can also claim an affinity with the average ocker. He's a passionate Carlton supporter -- his love of the game reaching to 1951 when he migrated from Lebanon as a 24-year-old.

After arriving in Melbourne, he married an Anglo-Saxon woman who converted to Islam.

As a qualified electrician, he built a small business servicing Melbourne's northern suburbs. One of his early jobs was to help with electrical wiring at the MCG in preparation for the 1956 Olympics.

As a senior cleric, Sheik Fehmi has a smiling, polite and grandfatherly nature which invites respect.

Unlike some of his contemporaries, his sermons are delivered in quiet tones, designed to cultivate and convince rather than demand and damn.

He was among the first to organise Melbourne's Islamic community in the 1950s and '60s. He helped found the Carlton mosque and then Preston's Omar Bin Khattab mosque, a Sunni mosque that has become Victoria's largest.

## The moderate MUFTI

He defeated an attempt by fundamentalists who attempted to wrest control of the mosque in the 1990s -- something which no doubt helped avoid the spread of more extreme interpretations of Islam in Melbourne.

"I think he will be a stabilising influence," an expert in security assessments familiar with Sheik Fehmi and the Preston mosque told the Herald Sun.

"He is not a guy who is going to be shooting his mouth off saying the things which Hilaly said. For one thing he doesn't have the ego that Hilaly had."

But there is a concern that Sheik Fehmi may not publicly say what he actually thinks. He declined this week to respond to a range of written questions put to him by the Herald Sun on topics ranging from the Iraq war to Hezbollah and Osama bin Laden.

"With Hilaly you knew where he stood, even if he was saying ridiculous things. That is not going to be the case with Fehmi," the security source said.

A Jewish leader, who asked not to be named, said Sheik Fehmi's appointment was welcome, but not his statement that Hezbollah are "freedom fighters".

"The fact is he has a track record as a reasonable person and someone who would talk to others.

"It was a bit disappointing his stance on Hezbollah last year, but I think people are looking on the positive side."

Sheik Fehmi's stance on Hezbollah is one that resonates within Australia's Lebanese-Muslim community. Many believe Hezbollah provides social support that should come from the Lebanese government. But they fail to make a distinction between the political, military and external arms of the organisation.

Sheik Fehmi's wife died two years ago and he suffered a stroke last year. His health is not great -- he sometimes appears out of breath when speaking, he uses a walking stick and assistants help him move around the Preston mosque.

Melbourne University's Professor Abdullah Saeed, selected to head the new National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies -- a facility to produce Australian-trained clerics -- believes Sheik Fehmi will build bridges.

"He has been a moderate voice among the Muslim religious leadership and a strong believer in inter-faith activities," Prof Saeed said.

"I hope we can leave behind the controversies that were associated, rightly or wrongly, with Sheik Hilaly."

Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant, who stood alongside Sheik Fehmi on the Flinders St station steps in 2005 to sign a declaration against terrorism, hopes the new mufti can help strengthen Jewish-Muslim relations.

"A number of members of the Muslim community have told me how they like and respect Sheik Fehmi and that in their opinion he is a good and wise man with solid values." But Rabbi Kluwgant said Sheik Fehmi's comments on Hezbollah were a concern.

It is unclear whether it was Sheik Fehmi's health that kept him from speaking at length during his first week as mufti.

His minders insisted he needed a rest after his Monday press conference and would not be able to conduct further interviews later in the week. Those hoping for strong statements to mark a new chapter in Islamic leadership in Australia were left disappointed.

Sheik Fehmi will need to clearly state his views on Hilaly, on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, on clearing up his own position on who was responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks, on Hezbollah and on elements of extremism within Australia's Muslim community.

## The moderate MUFTI

But it's likely he will avoid clear statements on contentious issues because he fears alienating sections of his own community or because he knows the rest of Australia will not like some of what he might say.

Some believe Sheik Fehmi will be a mouthpiece for the Australian National Imams Council which appointed him and allowed Hilaly to save face by "declining" to continue as mufti, rather than being sacked.

Sheik Fehmi has been appointed for a two-year term -- Hilaly was 18 years in the job.

On Monday, Sheik Fehmi declared the imams' council would speak with one voice. Issues will be considered collectively and consensus statements made.

This gives Sheik Fehmi the ability to avoid expressing his personal view on hot topics.

Maybe it has been set up that way precisely to stop Hilaly-style comments being made.

But crafted responses are not the frank, personal and clear views Australians will be looking for to re-establish trust in Australia's Islamic leadership.

"With Hilaly you knew where he stood, even if he was saying ridiculous things. That is not going to be the case with Fehmi."

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

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End of Document

## **RIGHTS GROUP FAULTS ISRAEL**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 6, 2007 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-6

**Length:** 546 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- In its harshest condemnation of Israel since last summer's war, Human Rights Watch charged that most of the Lebanese civilian casualties came from "indiscriminate Israeli airstrikes," according to a report to be released today.

In a statement issued before the report's release, the human rights organization said there was no basis to the Israeli claim that civilian casualties resulted from Hezbollah guerrillas using civilians as shields. Israel has said it attacked civilian areas because Hezbollah set up rocket launchers in villages and towns.

More than 1,000 Lebanese were killed in the 34-day conflict last summer, which began after Hezbollah staged a cross-border raid, killing three Israeli soldiers and capturing two others. They are still being held.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev rejected the report's findings. "Hezbollah adopted a deliberate strategy of shielding itself behind the civilian population and turning the civilians in Lebanon into a human shield," he said.

Toll from Felix rises

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua -- Doctors threw together a makeshift clinic yesterday to tend to the injured after powerful Hurricane Felix flooded their hospital and wrecked villages on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast. Remnants of the storm drenched Central America in rain and the death toll rose to nine, with at least 11 people missing.

Far to the northwest, Hurricane Henriette took aim at Mexico for the second time in two days, moving toward the port city of Guaymas with top sustained winds of 75 mph. Seven deaths were reported from the Pacific storm, which hit Baja California on Tuesday.

Nicaragua was flying food and other emergency supplies to the regional capital of Puerto Cabezas, but said help had not yet reached villages cut off when Felix roared ashore Tuesday as a Category 5 hurricane with winds of 160 mph.

Jamaica elects new leader

KINGSTON, Jamaica -- A veteran lawmaker who wants to provide free education and health care readied himself yesterday to take over leadership of this Caribbean nation, returning his party in power after 18 years in opposition.



## RIGHTS GROUP FAULTS ISRAEL

Bruce Golding, head of the Jamaica Labor Party, said he will also seek to heal political divisions underscored by a fiercely contested election Monday that spelled the ouster of the country's first **female** prime minister, Portia Simpson Miller.

A final vote count is expected by tomorrow, but preliminary results give Golding's party a 32-28 lead in seats in the House of Representatives.

U.N. chief 'shocked'

EL FASHER, Sudan -- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said yesterday he was "shocked and humbled" by a visit to a Darfur refugee camp where thousands cheered him as he pledged to step up efforts to bring peace to the war-torn region.

Thousands of refugees at Al Salaam camp in North Darfur chanted "Welcome! Welcome Ban Ki-Moon!" when the U.N. chief entered the camp, home to 46,000 refugees.

Pavarotti seriously ill

ROME -- Luciano Pavarotti's health has deteriorated and he's in serious condition, the Italian news agencies ANSA and AGI reported yesterday.

Citing medical sources, ANSA said the 71-year-old tenor, who has pancreatic cancer, was believed to have lost consciousness for brief moments in recent days. The singer has been at home in Modena, under doctors' care.

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

## **GAZA RESIDENTS HUDDLE INDOORS AS FIGHTING ENTERS FOURTH DAY**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 17, 2007 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 347 words

**Byline:** STEVEN ERLANGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Gaza City was shuttered yesterday as gunmen took over rooftops and top-floor apartments with most everyone else huddled fearfully indoors on the fourth day of factional Palestinian fighting that is drawing in the Israeli military.

At least 19 Palestinians were killed yesterday -- more than 40 have been killed over the past four days -- in fighting between Fatah and Hamas, as their unity government fractures and rage rises on both sides.

"We want this to end, because what's happening endangers not just the unity government but the Palestinian nation and cause," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian negotiator and aide to President Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas attacked symbols of Fatah power in Gaza, including the home of the chief security commander. He was not there, but six bodyguards were killed.

Israel carried out a helicopter assault on a Hamas command center in the southern Gazan town of Rafah, killing at least four Hamas men and wounding at least 30, five of them seriously. It was retaliation for dozens of rockets launched from Gaza by Hamas militants at the Israeli town of Sderot, where two women were wounded, one seriously.

The increase in Hamas attacks, perhaps intended to prompt Israeli retaliation that could reunify Palestinians, presented a political problem for Israel, under pressure to respond but conscious of the limited efficiency of military force to stop rocket fire.

Last summer, facing a similar situation with the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, Israel retaliated with weeks of heavy air raids, artillery and thousands of troops. But rocket fire from Hezbollah did not stop, and Israel's attacks ended up strengthening Hezbollah and weakening the Lebanese government that it hoped to strengthen. The same could happen in Gaza, where Israel hopes that Fatah will prevail.

Late yesterday, the Israeli government announced an end to its moratorium on assassinations of Palestinian guerrilla leaders in Gaza, as part of what it called a "severe and harsh" response to the rockets. But it said it would not let the Hamas militants who were launching rockets set the agenda.

## GAZA RESIDENTS HUDDLE INDOORS AS FIGHTING ENTERS FOURTH DAY

### Graphic

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PHOTO: Saif Dahlah/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images: A mother grabs her child to stop him from going into the streets as the Israeli soldiers carry out a search operation in the village of Atell near the West Bank city of Tulkarem yesterday.

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2007

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## *As OC Chaplaincy deliberates Goldwasser, Regev ruling. The rabbis' role in determining death*

The Jerusalem Post  
June 29, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** MATTHEW WAGNER

**Highlight:** BACKGROUND

### **Body**

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The Jewish people have a long history of tragedies.

Starting with the expulsion from the Land of Israel by the Romans, through the Crusades, the Chmielnicki massacre of the 17th century, the Russian pogroms and the Holocaust, Jews have traveled a vale of tears and persecution.

With the establishment of the State of Israel the nature of the tragedies has changed. No longer are Jews powerless wanderers, dependent on the kindness of others. Nevertheless, the Jewish people continues to deal with constant warfare and turmoil.

Throughout this long history of suffering the Jewish people's spiritual leaders - the rabbis - have had to cope with one of the most emotionally and religiously difficult situations possible: permitting the remarriage of a Jewish woman whose husband has disappeared.

In Jewish law a woman is not permitted to embark on a new nuptial arrangement until her previous one is resolved by divorce or death.

Rabbis have written hundreds, perhaps thousands, of decisions involving women whose husbands disappeared during a war, a pogrom or some other tragedy.

These decisions, known as "responsa" because they answered specific questions, help contemporary rabbis tackle present day cases.

For instance, Rabbi Moshe Sofer (1762-1839), known as the Hatam Sofer, ruled that notices of death issued by states to the families of soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars were valid and could be relied upon to permit women to remarry.

Determining the death of a man who has disappeared is critical. Until the death of the husband is verified the woman remains in limbo.

Technically, she is still wed to her husband, which means she cannot remarry. But her "marriage" is to an absentee husband, a nonentity who is nothing more than a memory.

As OC Chaplaincy deliberates Goldwasser, Regev ruling. The rabbis' role in determining death

This is precisely the situation of Karnit Goldwasser, wife of Ehud, who has been living in uncertainty since her husband was kidnapped by Hizbullah almost two years ago.

OC Chaplaincy Corps Rabbi Avichai Ronsky is responsible for deciding whether or not Goldwasser should be declared "a deceased soldier whose place of burial is unknown."

Rabbi Yisrael Weiss, former OC Chaplaincy Corps, who in 2001 declared deceased three soldiers a year after they were kidnapped from an IDF base on the Golan Heights, said that various types of evidence were acceptable according to Jewish law.

For instance, statements regarding Goldwasser's fate made by political leaders such as Hizbullah head Hassan Nasrallah either publicly or in private conversations that were picked up by Israeli intelligence agencies could be used to shed light on whether or not he was still alive.

Off-the-cuff comments by individuals who might have inside information on what happened to Goldwasser are also acceptable. But this is only on condition that the person making the comments does not know that what he said had the power to remove the restrictions preventing Karnit Goldwasser from remarrying.

Another source of evidence is forensic and ballistic information from the scene of the kidnapping that sheds light on the probability that Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were either killed or mortally wounded by the missile that hit their armored car.

Nevertheless, every rabbi asked to declare the death of a husband so that his wife can remarry is wary of the consequences of a mistake.

According to Jewish law, a woman who remarries on the mistaken premise that her husband is dead is severely penalized. If the first husband reappears after the woman bears children to her new husband, all the children from the second marriage are considered mamzerim. Mamzerim, roughly translated as "bastards," are forbidden to marry. If they do marry, their children are also mamzerim.

In addition, the law dictates that the woman must divorce both husbands.

Despite the dangers, rabbis throughout the ages have taken upon themselves the responsibility for determining the death of husbands to allow women to move on with their lives.

A rabbi who lived through the Holocaust and reportedly helped free some 50,000 women by declaring their husbands dead was once asked if he was concerned that he made a mistake in at least one of the cases.

"If I made a mistake it would make me happy," said the rabbi, "because it would mean that there is one more Jew alive in the world."

## Graphic

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2 photos: Eldad Regev. Ehud Goldwasser

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## Lebanon

The Toronto Star

August 15, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA04

**Length:** 368 words

### **Body**

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**Hezbollah** leader hails 'divine victory' in war

**Hezbollah** leader Hassan Nasrallah marked the first anniversary of the war with Israel by reiterating to a mass rally broadcast live on television that his Shiite group had won a divine victory.

"Today is the anniversary of the divine victory," Nasrallah told the thousands of men, **women** and children who had gathered in an empty lot of Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh controlled by **Hezbollah**. His address marked the third of a series of speeches he has made in recent weeks to mark the Aug. 14 anniversary of the ceasefire that ended the devastating 34-day war with Israel.

China

29 workers killed in collapse of bridge facade

A bridge under construction in the ancient city of Fenghuang collapsed as workers removed scaffolding from its facade, killing at least 29 people, the government said yesterday.

Rescuers managed to save 86 people - including 22 who were injured - many from the 123 workers on the site at the time of Monday's collapse, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The 42-metre-high bridge spanning the Tuo River was intended for both pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

North Korea

Foreign aid sought in wake of massive flooding

The government is seeking foreign help after massive flooding left hundreds dead or missing and swept away many buildings, the UN World Food Program said yesterday.

North Korea, which has struggled with chronic food shortages for years, said yesterday that floodwaters caused "tens of thousands of hectares of farmland (to be) inundated, buried under silt and washed away."

Tunisia

Ex-Palestinian leader's widow loses citizenship

The widow of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has been stripped of Tunisian citizenship, officials said yesterday.

## Lebanon

A formal decree published Aug. 2 in Tunisia's official register indicated Suha Arafat, 44, who was born in Jerusalem and became a naturalized Tunisian last year, had lost her citizenship. No explanation was provided. The decree made no reference to the Arafats' 12-year-old daughter Zahwa, who became a Tunisian citizen on the same day as her mother.

Suha Arafat was believed to have left Tunisia, and news reports suggested she was in Malta.

From the Star's wire services

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

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## *Wine in Lebanon - the art of improvisation*

The Jerusalem Post

March 18, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 715 words

**Byline:** Roman Lederer, The Media Line News Agency, Special to the Jerusalem Post

### **Body**

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KEFRAYA, Lebanon - Fabrice Guibertau holds a handful of fresh soil to his nose and takes a deep breath. "The ground here is just fantastic," he says, as the soil glides through his fingers.

Guibertau is an enologist (someone who studies wine and the making of wine) at Ch%oteau Kefraya, one of Lebanon's largest wineries. Behind the Frenchman's back the slopes of the Lebanon mountain range rise up to the sky; in front of him some 100 cultivated acres stretch into the distance.

The crop area lies in the southern part of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the breadbasket of the country since Roman times. At the same time, it's the stronghold of Hizbullah, the Shi'ite "Party of God," led by general secretary Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, whose followers strictly abstain from drinking alcohol.

But from Baalbek north of the Bekaa, where most of Hizbullah's followers live, to Kefraya, it's around 60 kilometers, and the workers in the vineyards are Muslim as well as Christian.

The cypresses on top of the hill, on which the little castle of Ch%oteau Kefraya's founder Michel de Bustros sits, give the area a sense of Tuscany.

De Bustros started selling wine here in 1979, in the middle of the civil war.

"I fulfilled a dream for myself," the 79-year-old businessman says.

The castle's salons are covered with awards for the best Kefraya wines. Just last year, the "Ch%oteau Kefraya 2002" won the gold medal at the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles. Years ago, wine-pope Robert Parker in The Advocate rated Kefraya's Cuvee Prestige "Comte de M," 91 out of 100 points.

"We only produce mixtures of different grape varieties," de Bustros says about his wines, which always sport labels showing paintings by female Lebanese artists.

Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, Chardonnay and Muscat Petit Grains are just a few of the grape varieties imported from France.

"Just as artists compose their pictures, we compose our wines, since its production is an art as well," de Bustros says proudly.



## Wine in Lebanon - the art of improvisation

Winemaking is an art with a long tradition in Lebanon. Already in the second century CE, the Romans erected a temple in Baalbek to honor the wine god Bacchus. But the history of winemaking is even older.

Five thousand year old grapes were discovered at excavations in the port town of Byblos, brought to the Levant by Phoenician merchants who exported them from the Caucasus and Anatolia. In the Middle Ages, Venetian merchants exported wines from Tyre and Saida to Europe.

Following the Islamic conquests, though, vineyard cultivation changed in the land of the cedars. Monks in Christian monasteries on the western fringes of the Bekaa Valley continued the Roman tradition. The best known of these wines is Ksara, named after a crusader castle, and bought in 1857 from a handful of Jesuits. Last summer, its 150th anniversary was celebrated.

Kefraya and Ksara together share about 70 percent of the Lebanese market. Exports are rising, and in countries such as France, Lebanese wines have a long tradition.

Thus, even in times of internal crisis, winemaking in Lebanon has stayed true to its history of success and turmoil, just like the history of the country itself.

A quarter century ago, in June 1982, IDF troops moved into the Bekaa Valley just after Syrian positions north of Kefraya had been bombed. De Bustros remembers those stormy days well.

"The Israeli soldiers erected four camps on our vineyards, and the battles against the Syrians took place just around it," he recalls.

The quality of the wines apparently didn't suffer: the vintage of 1982 won the silver medal at the competition of Blaye-Bourg in Bordeaux - the first of 200 awards over the decades to follow.

"Nothing can stop the Lebanese," de Bustros says with a smile, as we sit in the restaurant Dionysos, which belongs to the property.

In 1987, only eight years after having founded the estate, he started exporting, despite all the difficulties of a land at war.

During Israel's siege on Beirut in 1982, for example, when transport from the capital to the Bekaa Valley was not possible, he shipped corks and bottles via boat from Jounieh to Saida, from where they could be brought over the Shouf Mountains to Kefraya. This was an art of improvisation, making the export of 15,000 bottles possible.

Today, it's one million bottles a year to 35 countries worldwide.

## Graphic

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Photo

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *Is Israel justified in attacking Gaza?; LETTERS*

Daily Mail (London)

January 13, 2009 Tuesday

1<sup>ST</sup> Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 61

**Length:** 376 words

### **Body**

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ONE bleak January day, a few years after World War II, I first put my boots to the ice-cold parade ground at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, for my Army training.

At 5am, we paraded with cold, dripping noses — and if we as much as moved a finger to swipe away the discharge, the sergeant major reprimanded: 'Stop waving at me, you silly great excuse for a man!' That clinched it: I'd do my best to show my mettle — as did the whole squad. Times were hard thereafter, but we survived the drill and pressed on.

In all my time in the Army, I never heard mention of being told to view women or young children as our enemies, as has happened recently in Gaza. For that I'm glad, because if such an order had been issued, I hope I would have had the guts to go absent without leave because I believe this is no part of our writ on this earth.

The artificial state of Israel seems to have become a fanatical, bombastic entity, so embittered by past tragedies and ridden with deep introspective obsessions that it can't see its way in that divided part of the world. It has so ruminated on its past sense of injustice that it has brought it to the forefront of its corporate mind in dealing with the modern world.

MICHAEL McENHILL, Radlett, Herts.

I'M SICK of all the biased reporting about Israel. Of course I'm sorry that so many Palestinians are being killed in Gaza, but anyone with any intelligence knows that Hamas and Hezbollah are supported, armed and financed by Iran. Hamas has learned from Hezbollah that outrages such as the bombing of the UN school by Israel get Hamas the best possible publicity. Hamas has also learned that positioning its gunmen and missiles in civilian areas achieves the best public relations they can get. Do they care if a few hundred innocent civilians get caught in the cross-fire? Not one bit.

Hamas has been firing missiles into southern Israel during the whole of the so-called ceasefire. Israel has restrained itself for months, but when the one-sided ceasefire ended and Hamas declared it would intensify its aggression towards Israel, enough was enough. Israel doesn't target civilians on purpose. Can Hamas or Hezbollah say the same? One thing I can promise you: you'll never find an Israeli suicide bomber.

MARK CAPLAN, Bushey, Herts.

## Is Israel justified in attacking Gaza? LETTERS

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2009

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End of Document

**Israel closely watching India's investigation of Mumbai attacks. Defense industries concerned that Israeli criticism of India may jeopardize contracts**

The Jerusalem Post

December 1, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 17

**Length:** 732 words

**Byline:** YAAKOV KATZ

**Highlight:** ANALYSIS

## **Body**

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The attack in India last week was not the first time in recent history that Israelis or Jews were targeted abroad, and it will likely not be the last.

The attacks themselves did not come as a surprise for Israel, which in the past 16 years has seen its citizens targeted in bombings in Argentina, Kenya and Egypt. What caught the Israeli defense echelon's attention, though, was not the attack itself, but the inventiveness of the operation, the fact that 10 targets were struck simultaneously, and the attackers' ability to hold out for over 60 hours.

Since Wednesday, Israeli defense officials have been carefully monitoring media reports emerging from India, with an emphasis on the attackers' identity, methodology and tactics.

On Sunday, Israel dispatched two high-ranking defense officials to participate in the investigation being conducted by Indian intelligence, and to serve as intermediaries between the two countries. According to reports in the Indian media, Israel, the US, the UK and India have all dispatched investigators, forensics experts and intelligence officials to Mumbai and New Delhi.

Israeli officials told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday that at the moment, Israel was not altering security arrangements abroad, nor was it updating the numerous travel advisories issued since the assassination of **Hizbullah** arch-terrorist Imad Mughniyeh in Damascus last February. These security levels were the highest in Israel's history, with **Hizbullah** having vowed to strike its institutions anywhere in the world to avenge the assassination.

Officially, Israel is not responsible for security at Chabad facilities abroad, although the Mossad and Shin Bet do provide advice to various Jewish groups in the Diaspora on security-related issues.

While not connected to Mughniyeh - India has yet to identify those who planned the carnage in Mumbai - the attack on the Chabad House demonstrates the relative ease of targeting Jews or Israelis overseas.

"There is a reason why the terrorists decided to attack the Chabad House, and not the Israeli consulate in Mumbai," one official explained. "They wouldn't have had much of a chance infiltrating the consulate, but the Chabad House turned out to be a piece of cake."

Israel closely watching India 's investigation of Mumbai attacks. Defense industries concerned that Israeli criticism of India may jeopardize contracts

According to the official, once preliminary findings are presented to Israel, the defense establishment will make the necessary changes to its deployment abroad.

"We will need to adapt to the way these attacks were carried out," the official said. "If, for example, we discover that all the terrorists were disguised as women before the attacks, then that is something we will need to prepare for in the future."

Future attacks are not all that defense officials have on their minds, however, and there is concern that Israeli criticism of India and its performance during the crisis will impair the two countries' defense relationship.

Together with other reports, an article that appeared in the Post on Friday in which Israeli officials were quoted as having criticized the way India handled the rescue operation has caused a certain amount of diplomatic tension. One official who criticized India was Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who said Friday night that Indian forces were not on par with elite Israeli units.

Both Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the Foreign Ministry tried to ease tensions on Sunday with praise for Indian security forces.

Israeli defense industry officials are concerned that the criticism will sour defense ties and spur India to suspend or even cancel multimillion-dollar deals.

India is one of Israel's biggest customers when it comes to military platforms. In 2006, it purchased more than \$1.5 billion worth of weapons, an unprecedented amount. According to Israeli defense officials, it has signed contracts valued at over \$1b. since the beginning of 2008, comprising almost one-quarter of the \$4.1b. in foreign contracts signed with Israeli defense industries this year.

There are two schools of thought in Israel's defense industries. One believes that India will want to speed up delivery of the platforms it has purchased - missiles, drones and AWACS - in the wake of the attacks, while the other asserts that India will want to freeze the deals due to the Israeli criticism.

"Barak's comments are not helpful, and the Indians are very sensitive," one senior industry official explained. "Our relations with them are also a matter of national security."

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

**Shalev aims to expand UN portfolio. First woman envoy wants to take on 'wide range of issues'**

The Jerusalem Post

September 10, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 259 words

**Byline:** ALLISON HOFFMAN, Jerusalem Post correspondent

## **Body**

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NEW YORK - Internationally renowned law professor Gabriela Shalev, widely seen as a political outsider, formally assumed her role as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations on Monday.

Now officially an insider, Shalev, the first woman to hold the job, will immediately face the task of promoting Israeli interests at the UN General Assembly, which opens later this month. She said in a statement that her two top priorities are the Iranian nuclear program and the disarmament of **Hizbullah** under the terms of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Yet, in a protocol meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Shalev added that she hoped to expand her portfolio beyond those immediate concerns.

"While our priority remains the security of Israel and addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I intend to engage Israel on a wide range of other issues such as scientific and technological initiatives, and children and **women's** rights," she said.

The 67-year-old met with President Shimon Peres before her departure from Israel last month to discuss a range of issues, including tactics for containing any threat from Iran.

Shalev has been widely acclaimed as a cool head despite her lack of previous foreign-affairs experience. She served as rector of Ono Academic College prior to her appointment, and previously was a professor of contract law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

She has also served as a board member of Israeli corporations including Teva Pharmaceuticals, Delek and Bank Hapoalim.

She replaces Dan Gillerman, who held the post for five years.

## **Graphic**

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Shalev aims to expand UN portfolio. First woman envoy wants to take on 'wide range of issues'

Photo: GABRIELA Shalev, Israel's new ambassador to the United Nations, presents her credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon late Monday. (Credit: Allan Tannenbaum)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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End of Document

## *Israel Is Training for the Wrong War*

The Forward

July 27, 2007

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**Section:** Forward Forum; Pg. A9

**Length:** 967 words

**Byline:**

Martin van Creveld, a professor of military history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is the author of the forthcoming *The Changing Face of War: Lessons of Combat, From the Marne to Iraq* (Presidio Press).

### **Body**

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In the year since last summer's war with *Hezbollah*, the Israeli military has been busy preparing for the next round of violence. A number of commanders who proved to be incompetent, the chief of staff among them, have been fired. The military's budget has been increased by \$2 billion, with the extra money going toward refilling emergency depots with equipment and ammunition, as well as refurbishing logistics and medical systems. Above all, after years of neglect, units especially large units of reservists have started training again.

The man in charge of this huge effort is Lieutenant General Gabi Ashkenazi, the new chief of staff. He does not have the panache of his predecessor and, on the whole, has avoided the media. On the other hand, as a former director general of the defense ministry, he knows how to operate at the elevated levels where war, economics and politics meet.

Furthermore, as an infantryman he brings many qualifications to the job. More than most, he understands that commanders should spend most of their time in the field with their units rather than pushing paperwork in air-conditioned offices or putting on powerpoint displays for visitors. More than most, he also knows that those commanders are evaluated not in their ability to keep things neat and tidy but in making their units practice and practice again until they are well-oiled machines that can swing into action at a moment's notice.

All these changes are encouraging, and Ashkenazi deserves credit for bringing them about. At the same time, it is not at all certain that the measures now being taken are indeed the right ones.

For one thing, little if anything has been done to fix Israel's toplevel decision-making machinery, which the Winograd commission determined to be neither well constructed nor capable of providing proper support to the prime minister.

It is true that in the year since the war with *Hezbollah*, Ehud Olmert has made a point of consulting with his foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, on all important politicalmilitary matters. Far be it from me to question Livni's very great wisdom; still, simply adding her to the group that makes the key decisions hardly addresses the criticisms raised by the Winograd commission. Suffice it to say, an Israeli equivalent to America's National Security Council does not appear be on the horizon.



## Israel Is Training for the Wrong War

In its preparations and exercises, the Israeli military seems to be focusing heavily on fighting the Syrian army. Units as large as brigades are being put through their paces. Infantrymen using paintball, with similarly-equipped female soldiers playing the enemy, are taught how to fight in built-up areas. Tanks and armored personnel carriers drive about, raising clouds of dust.

It is as if Israel, instead of preparing for the future, is determined to fight the 1973 Yom Kippur War all over again. Indeed, the spectacle of anti-tank ditches being dug in the Golan Heights reinforces the sense of déjà vu.

While such preparations are going on, there still does not appear to be a solution to the problem of short-range unguided missiles. In 2006, Hezbollah fired several thousand of them; it was those missiles that caused the greatest damage among the population in Israel's north. About 50 people were killed, hundreds were wounded and thousands had to be treated for shock. The day-to-day lives of perhaps a million people were disrupted. Economic activity in the region targeted by the rockets almost came to a halt, and one of Israel's two main ports had to be shut down.

Regarding the longer-range missiles, opinions among Israeli experts are divided. Some see the operations of the Israeli air force against these rockets as the one bright spot in the military's otherwise dismal performance last summer. Others dispute this, claiming that the air force's much-touted performance was largely irrelevant and that Hezbollah succeeded in keeping up the same rate of fire from the war's first day to its last.

Some of the debate is semantic, centering as it does on the definition of short and long range. Yet clearly nothing would be a greater mistake than to assume that just because it may have dealt with the threat in 2006, the air force will do so again in the future.

What makes the problem worse is the demonstrated weakness of Israel's civil defense, a weakness first revealed in 1991. When Saddam Hussein launched his Scud missiles at Israel, responsibility for the field was shifted to the military. It set up a special division, known as Pikud Ha Oref or the Home Command, for the purpose. One need only hear the disparaging nickname it has earned, Pikud Ha Odef, or the Useless Command to gauge its effectiveness.

In other words, a year after the war with Hezbollah, there is no indication that the Israeli military or anybody else in the country for that matter knows how to ensure that the Israeli home front does not collapse under the hail of rockets that may soon rain down on it. And let's not forget that Syria, unlike Hezbollah, has missiles capable of hitting just about anywhere in Israel, and some of those missiles are armed with chemical warheads.

Armies, like football teams, can only be as good as their opponents, especially in the long run. Perhaps the main lesson of last summer's war was neither tactical nor strategic.

The conflict provided all too clear proof of what 20 years of fighting the Palestinians has done to the Israeli people namely, weaken their once celebrated fighting spirit to the point where not a single unit that came under fire in Lebanon last year continued on its mission and where much of the military's order of battle only existed on paper.

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

## Letters

The Jerusalem Post  
March 25, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

**Length:** 1109 words

**Byline:** Shlomo Manns, Meira Schwartz, Reida Mishory-Isseroff, Lilly Manheim, Rabbi Asher Resnick, Lorell Blass, D. Meyer, Ian R.A. Macmillan, Nelson Marans, Yonatan Silver, Gloria Deutsch

**Highlight:** Readers' Letters

## **Body**

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Fine solution...

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

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

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

SHLOMO MANNS

Givatyaim

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

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

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

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

MEIRA SCHWARTZ

Jerusalem

...to our water problem

## Letters

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

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

REIDA MISHORY-ISSEROFF

Moshav Olesh

Shining example

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

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

LILLY MANHEIM

Jerusalem

Disappointing

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

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

RABBI ASHER RESNICK

Ramat Beit Shemesh

Disingenuous

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

LORELL BLASS

Jerusalem

## Letters

Out of place

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

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

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

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

D. MEYER

Haifa

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

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

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

IAN. R.A. MACMILLAN

Toronto

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

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

NELSON MARANS

Silver Spring, Maryland

Going cheap

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

YONATAN SILVER

Jerusalem

Letters

It's Spring!

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

GLORIA DEUTSCH , Kfar Saba

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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**Iran's proxy war; Gaza's militant Palestinians marching to orders from their Middle Eastern masters**

therecord.com

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. A9

**Length:** 1102 words

**Byline:** Yossi Klein Halevi and Michael B. Oren, Los Angeles Times

## **Body**

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The images from the fighting in Gaza are harrowing but ultimately deceptive. They portray a mighty invading army, one equipped with F-16 jets that have bombed a civilian population defended by a few thousand fighters armed with primitive rockets.

But widen the lens and the true nature of this conflict emerges. Hamas, like Hezbollah in Lebanon, is a proxy for the real enemy Israel is confronting: Iran. And Israel's current operation against Hamas represents a unique chance to deal a strategic blow to Iranian expansionism.

Until now, the Iranian revolution has appeared unstoppable. The Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s ended with Iranian troops occupying Iraqi territory. Iranian influence then spread to Saudi Arabia's heavily Shiite and oil-rich eastern province, and to Lebanon through Hezbollah.

Since the fall of their long-standing enemy, Saddam Hussein, Iranians have deeply infiltrated Iraq. Syria has been drawn into Iran's sphere, and even the Sunni sheikdoms of the gulf now defer to Iran, dispatching foreign ministers to Tehran and defying international sanctions against it. Iran has co-opted Hamas, a Sunni organization closely linked to the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, transforming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a jihad against the Jewish state. But Iran's boldest achievement has been to thwart world pressure and approach the nuclear threshold. Once fortified with nuclear weapons, Iranian hegemony in the Middle East would be complete.

All of which helps explain the public statements from moderate Arab leaders, such as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Authority head Mahmoud Abbas, who have blamed the end of the tenuous Israel-Hamas ceasefire on Hamas. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit has even called on the Arab world to stop using the United Nations as a forum for blaming Israel alone for the fighting, surely a first. Those leaders understand what many in the West have yet to grasp: The Middle East conflict is no longer just about creating a Palestinian state but about preventing the region's takeover by radical Islam. Indeed, Palestinian statehood is impossible without neutralizing the extremists who oppose any negotiated solution.

If Israel successfully overthrows Hamas in Gaza, it would strengthen anti-Iranian forces throughout the Mideast and signal to the region that Iranian momentum can be reversed. The Israeli military operation could begin the process that topples a terrorist regime that seized power in the Gaza Strip in 2007 and has fired thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israeli neighbourhoods.

Iran 's proxy war; Gaza's militant Palestinians marching to orders from their Middle Eastern masters

And whether or not Hamas is ultimately overthrown, Israel can achieve substantial goals. The first is an absolute ceasefire. Previous ceasefires allowed Hamas to launch two or three rockets a week into Israel and to smuggle weapons into Gaza through tunnels.

To obtain a ceasefire now, the international community should recognize Israel's right to respond to any aggression over its international border and monitor the closure of Hamas' weapons-smuggling tunnels.

Above all, the goal is to ensure that Hamas is unable to proclaim victory and thereby enhance Iranian prestige in the Arab world.

Yet even those limited goals are far from guaranteed. An earlier opportunity to check Iran -- during Israel's war against Hezbollah in 2006 -- was squandered through a combination of Israeli incompetence and international pressure. Hezbollah manipulated the Western media by grossly inflating the number of civilian casualties and even "recycling" corpses from one bombed site to another.

The international community responded by imposing a ceasefire before Israel could achieve its goals and installing a peacekeeping force that has since allowed Hezbollah to more than double its pre-war arsenal. Although the Israeli army killed one-quarter of Hezbollah's troops and destroyed its headquarters, Israel was widely perceived as the loser. The winner was Iran.

Israel learned the bitter lesson of Lebanon. For the last two years, the Israeli army has gone back to basics, rigorously training and restoring its fighting spirit. Israeli leaders drew on that spirit to attack Hamas bases in one of the most impressive airstrikes since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Yet the question remains whether the international community has learned its Lebanon lesson, or will once again allow the jihadists to win.

Hamas is attempting to portray the Israeli invasion as a war against the Palestinian people. Television viewers are being presented with heartbreaking images of dead and injured children and supposedly indiscriminate devastation. Palestinian doctors claim that Israel has blocked the supply of vital medicines, and humanitarian organizations warn of imminent starvation. In fact, many of those claims are exaggerated.

Although civilians have, tragically, been hurt, about three-quarters of the Palestinians killed so far have been gunmen -- an impressive achievement given that Hamas fires rockets from apartments, mosques and schools and uses hospitals as hideouts.

Israel recently has allowed nearly 200 truckloads of food and medicine to enter Gaza, even under shellfire. It is in Israel's urgent interest to minimize civilian suffering and forestall international criticism. For that same reason, Hamas welcomes the suffering of Palestinian civilians. According to a BBC report on Dec. 30, dozens of ambulances were dispatched by Egypt to its border with Gaza, only to remain empty because, according to Egyptian authorities, Hamas wasn't allowing wounded Palestinians to leave.

The international community must not be duped again. If Hamas is successful in manipulating world opinion into the imposition of a premature ceasefire, it will proclaim victory and continue to stockpile long-range missiles for the next round of fighting. That would mean another triumph for Iran.

No less crucially, the international community must not allow the Gaza crisis to divert its attention from the imminent -- and ultimate -- threat of a nuclear Iran. Intelligence sources now measure that threat in months rather than years.

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama has declared his intention to confront Iran through diplomacy. Ideally, that process should begin in the aftermath of an Iranian defeat. If Israel is allowed to achieve its goals in Gaza, the Obama administration will be better poised to achieve its goals in Iran.

Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem; Oren is a distinguished fellow at the Shalem Center and a professor at the foreign service school of Georgetown University.

Iran 's proxy war; Gaza's militant Palestinians marching to orders from their Middle Eastern masters

## Graphic

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Photo: Associated Press , Palestinian women react outside the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City after learning a family member has been killed in the conflict with the Israelis.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

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## *In Israel, a nation mourns with the families of slain soldiers*

Christian Science Monitor

July 18, 2008, Friday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1052 words

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

**Dateline:** Nahariya, Israel

### **Body**

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For Israelis, their Second Lebanon War, fought in summer 2006, came to a close only on Thursday, when the two soldiers whose capture became the cause for launching the conflict were laid to rest before their families and the eyes of a solemn nation.

But even in their return - which transpired a day earlier as part of a swap with Hezbollah, who traded the men's bodies for the remains of some 200 Lebanese plus five Lebanese prisoners - there is still unease about the lopsided trade-off and questions about balancing the interests of affected families against those of the state.

Under a sweltering July sky at the Nahariya military cemetery, which overlooks the same Mediterranean that hugs the Beirut coastline where Hezbollah continued victory celebrations Thursday, many family members and friends who eulogized "Udi" - Ehud Goldwasser - seemed to want to shift the sentiment that Israel had somehow lost to Hezbollah.

"I stand at attention before you with my eyes lifted toward my people with the request: Stand tall, lift your heads in national pride," mother Miki Goldwasser said at her son's graveside.

"They say because of you, a war broke out. I hope we can see this war as a victory. Through this, we have discovered that we are a strong people. We have discovered bereaved families with an undefeatable, powerful spirit. We have discovered kindness."

The most powerful words to the gathering of a few thousand came from widow Karnit Goldwasser, who has been the spokeswoman of an international campaign to release her husband and Eldad Regev, then believed to be alive.

"They say time heals all wounds," she said. "But is this really so? Two years have passed since that debilitating moment that cut through our life's thread, the moment in which the worst scenario became a threatening reality that forced us to dive into a dark and convoluted world. I believed and hoped that the moment would come where I would wake up and say it was all just a bad dream."

But Israelis have been waking up to find that many of their goals have gone unrealized. The prisoner exchange has Israel feeling like it was "played." Some wondered why Israel agreed to the swap, if Hezbollah wasn't straight with Israel about whether the two were alive and whether they had information about Ron Arad, who was captured in Lebanon in 1986 and is considered missing in action.

In Israel , a nation mourns with the families of slain soldiers

### Groundswell of public pressure

Part of the answer, analysts say, is that the families succeeded in creating a groundswell of public pressure to bring their sons home, dead or alive, even at the cost of releasing Lebanon's Samir Kuntar, convicted of killing four Israelis in a 1979 raid here.

"What we witnessed in the last two years and more is that the families of those soldiers and the involvement of the Israeli media and public opinion is very strong in affecting the decisionmakers," says Yitzhak Reiter, a professor of political science and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"It affects the ability to negotiate on a fair bargain," he says. "This is something that Israel should handle differently. Perhaps the government in the near future will make an official decision that dead bodies will be exchanged only for dead bodies, and live soldiers for live soldiers.

"If the other side doesn't give you complete information about your soldiers, such as whether they are dead or alive, then you just don't do it. The government could put this criteria in place, and then if a situation occurs in the future, the enemy knows our principles and won't expect otherwise," Mr. Reiter says.

Israel's principle is that it is immoral to leave any soldier or citizen on foreign soil. It has, as a result, sometimes traded hundreds of prisoners for the release of one man. This ethos has come under some criticism in recent days. But Defense Minister Ehud Barak, speaking at Goldwasser's funeral, defended it vehemently.

"We were prepared to pay a high price, even higher than what seemed logical, in order to see our sons sent home," Mr. Barak said. "If any of you, God forbid, should be captured, or should anything worse happen in the fight against the terror, Israel, its government, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will do everything just and possible to bring you home."

But Aviva Cavaille, a young woman who came to the funeral, said most Israelis could not understand how their government had agreed to a swap that didn't include Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was abducted by Hamas more than two years ago while on duty close to the Gaza Strip.

"From the ethical point of view, it's not acceptable that we got the bodies of two men, and for that we released a murderer who is alive and celebrating in Lebanon," says Ms. Cavaille. "It creates a greater danger for kidnappings in the future. It shows the weakness of our leadership."

### Family persistence

At the same time, many others give Karnit Goldwasser credit for keeping the case of the abducted soldiers on the agenda, traveling globally and trying to force leaders to push for progress on an issue that could have easily have disappeared from the headlines. Among the partners in this were leaders in the American Jewish community, who had made dog tags with the names of the soldiers on them and asked people to wear them in solidarity.

"Karnit singlehandedly raised this level of awareness through her own public presence, and I think that's what got us to this point," says Lori Klinghoffer, the chairwoman of National Women's Philanthropy in the United Jewish Communities, a US umbrella group. "There have been other missing soldiers, and they usually stay in the news for a week or two."

Some Israelis bristled at the public's questioning over the way the swap tallied up.

Columnist Yair Lapid wrote in the Yediot Ahronoth newspaper that even in Israel's "hyperactive democracy" people should occasionally assume that the right decision was made.

"The deal that ended yesterday wasn't good or bad, only necessary. Anyone who thinks there were other options, deludes himself," Mr. Lapid wrote. "While it's true that Hezbollah is more calculated in its attitude toward the fate of its people, who would want to be Hezbollah today? The clamorous debate over the question of 'Did we get a good price or not,' should be kept for buying cars."

In Israel , a nation mourns with the families of slain soldiers

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**Load-Date:** July 20, 2008

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## Quebec's double standard

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

September 12, 2008 Friday

National Edition

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

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Barbara Kay, National Post

### **Body**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not true.

## Quebec 's double standard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Load-Date:** September 12, 2008

## 'It's 1938 and Iran is Germany'

University Wire

September 26, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Michigan Daily via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 742 words

**Byline:** By Israel Idea, Michigan Daily; **SOURCE:** U. Michigan

**Dateline:** ANN ARBOR, Mich.

### **Body**

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Columbia University's decision to invite Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak was disgusting and contradictory to our nation's beliefs, values and principles. While free speech is an essential foundation of America and our academic institutions, it has conditions and constraints.

Presenting Ahmadinejad in a university setting insinuates that the dictator holds an opinion that is one side of a legitimate debate. The trouble is, there is no such debate. There is nothing to debate about murder, oppression, violence, destruction, manipulation and lies. Ahmadinejad does not hold a legitimate perspective. There is no relativism here: Such debate should not be tolerated, especially at a prestigious university. Columbia did not create a forum for stimulating intellectual discourse, but rather gave a murderer a legitimate vehicle to further spread his propaganda.

Ahmadinejad time and time again has delivered vulgar and hostile comments, calling the Holocaust a myth, calling for the destruction of the Jewish state of Israel and pleading for additional insurgent operations in Iraq. Unfortunately, this vehement rhetoric has been backed with action -- Ahmadinejad's regime directly perpetuates the growth of terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, as well as continuously propelling violent unrest in Iraq.

Our nation's soldiers die in the line of duty, fighting to instill basic human rights in a place which has only known oppression and fear for many years. Meanwhile, Ahmadinejad and his tyrannical government deploy revolutionary guard troops and supply IEDs to al Qaeda factions, wreaking havoc in Baghdad and around Iraq. Not only are his policies a threat to Iraq, but his unfettered support for Hezbollah, calls to wipe Israel off the map and continued nuclear ambitions are at the very least unnerving.

Ahmadinejad's regime is clearly a state sponsor of terrorism. This should not come as a surprise to us. Hezbollah has always seized opportunities to strike American interests -- one need only look back to the Beirut Marine barrack bombings of 1983, which accounted for 241 American deaths. Before Sept. 11, Hezbollah proudly claimed the title of being the terrorist organization responsible for the most American casualties. Ahmadinejad funds and supports terrorism while walking freely on American soil.

There is immense irony in allowing him to speak at a university -- a place where students thrive in effecting positive change. Under Ahmadinejad's watch, Iran forbids gay and women's advocacy groups, be it on a campus or anywhere else in society. In fact, Ahmadinejad declared in his speech at Columbia that Iran is completely devoid of

'It's 1938 and Iran is Germany '

gays! Perhaps this is reminiscent of the notorious, "Final Solution." As former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly argued, "People, wake up, its 1938 and Iran is Germany."

Everything this modern day Hitler embodies and promotes starkly contrasts our country's cherished values. Instead of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Ahmadinejad's regime houses a "morality police" to enforce "crimes" such as homosexuality and expressions of women's rights, implicitly eliminating individual freedom of speech and expression.

Daniel Pipes, an acclaimed expert on the Middle East who will be speaking on campus on Oct. 8, commented recently on the Iranian nuclear threat. He wrote, "Bolstered by the economic windfall from oil and gas sales, the regime since mid-2005, has at almost every turn adopted the most aggressive steps to join the nuclear club, notably by beginning nuclear enrichment in February." The threat is real, and Iran's nuclear intentions are becoming more lucid by the second. Pipes's talk is sure to be engaging and insightful -- a discussion not to be missed.

One last thought: As Ahmadinejad stood behind a podium at Columbia, his regime oppressed and murdered innocent citizens. While he stood on the stage delivering his speech, his regime was actively assisting in the murder of more American troops in Iraq and providing funds to the same terrorist organizations that have attacked America and its allies around the world. And, as Pipes pointed out, his government continues to seek nuclear proliferation. Instead of being entertained as a leader whose perspective must be understood through valid intellectual discussion, he should have been escorted off that stage in handcuffs and arrested as a criminal.

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

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## *Cycle of death continues amid demands for a fresh intifada*

The Times (London)

March 14, 2008, Friday

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**Section:** OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 53

**Length:** 463 words

**Byline:** James Hider, Bethlehem

### **Body**

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The bodies of the four militants were laid out in front of the Holy Land Christian souvenir shop, one of them wrapped in a Hezbollah flag.

Thousands of Palestinian mourners jostled to bid farewell to the dead men, killed the night before by Israeli special forces. As prayers for the deceased ended, the tolling of bells from the Church of the Nativity, on the site where Jesus is believed to have been born, mingled with the softly chanted Allahu akbar of the mourners.

"Don't talk about peace," said Samir, a 35-year-old history teacher in the crowd in Manger Square, Bethlehem. "The Israelis don't understand peace." The four men, three from Islamic Jihad and one from a Fatah splinter group, had been shot dead by an undercover Israeli unit in central Bethlehem.

All had been wanted by Israel for eight years for killing Israelis during the opening days of the intifada.

Within hours Palestinian militants were firing rockets from Gaza into southern Israel, and Israeli planes flew raids to hit rocket squads in northern Gaza. Ehud Barak, the Israeli Defence Minister, appeared unconcerned that an Egyptian-brokered truce with Palestinian armed groups was over. "Yesterday in Bethlehem we again proved that the state of Israel will continue to hunt and to strike any murderer who has Jewish blood on his hands, and those who send him. It is unimportant how much time has elapsed," he said.

This week Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, accused Mr Barak of being opposed to peace talks and called Israel's raid barbaric. He said that if no peace deal was reached by the end of the year "the situation could be catastrophic".

In Dakar Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary-General, accused Israel of "inappropriate and disproportionate use of force" in its raids inside the Gaza Strip which killed more than 120 Palestinians last week, including women and children. He called for a ceasefire to be respected by both sides.

As the crowd paraded the bloodied corpses of the militants around the main square during one of the largest and angriest funerals in Bethlehem in years, a speaker called for the city's men to rise up against Israeli occupation. "After they killed these people they should expect a third and a fourth intifada!" shouted a representative of the militant groups.

The body of the most senior of the dead men, Muhammad Shehadeh, was wrapped in a Hezbollah flag, while the emblem of the Lebanese Shia militia also fluttered from the rooftops. Hezbollah flags appeared last week at the



### Cycle of death continues amid demands for a fresh intifada

funeral of a gunman from East Jerusalem who killed eight Israeli students in a Jerusalem seminary, an ominous sign for Israel.

Muhammad Farhad, a sociology professor among the mourners yesterday, said: "The Israelis make a future full of violence. They have lost wisdom."

Letters, page 22

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2008

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## *Lebanese factions are still pitted against each other; LEBANON: Hopes of Peace from Lords of War*

IPS (Latin America)

March 25, 2008 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1401 words

**Byline:** Mona Alami

### **Body**

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The pages of Lebanon's history are drenched in blood. And, more than 30 years after the start of the 1975 civil war, Lebanese factions are still pitted against each other in a confrontation with a recurring sectarian dimension amidst a volatile regional context.

Faces have aged, but the protagonists are still the same. Can Lebanon's 'lords of war' avoid the pitfalls of violence and strike a new peace?

Samir Geagea, Walid Joumblat, Nabih Berri, Michel Aoun and Hassan Nasrallah are among the many political figures that rose from the rubble of the Lebanese civil war. Whether they directly or indirectly took part in combat, freely or involuntarily, they lived to shape the future of contemporary Lebanon.

The conflict, which lasted from 1975 to 1990, was the scene of many grisly battles and bloody crimes. Although casualty figures are disputed, according to a study by Aida Kanafani-Zahar, a researcher at the French CNRS -- Groupe de Sociologie des Religions et de la Laïcité (Group for Sociology, Religion and Secularism) -- the death toll during the war amounted to 150,000, with 350,000 injured.

The conflict saw many gory massacres, which fuelled sectarian sentiments. 'Lebanon witnessed a series of fights among brothers, with communities rivalling one another for power,' says Emile Khouri, a journalist with the Arabic daily An Nahar, who has closely monitored Lebanese politics for more than 30 years. 'Many massacres were often fuelled by popular outbursts or in reprisal for spiralling waves of terror.' He says all participants made mistakes.

Many were killed during the 'War of the Mountains' between the Druze and Christian communities in 1982 and 1983. Some 130 Druze were killed in the villages of Kfarmata, Obey and Benay, according Kanafani-Zahar, while around 50 Christians were killed in same areas, and their homes burnt down.

This was about the same time when 850 Palestinian men, women and children were systematically gunned down at the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps at the hands of the Lebanese Forces (LF), under Israel's watchful eye.

Subsequently, conflict erupted in Beirut between the Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Amal -- a Shia movement headed by Nabih Berri, the current Speaker of the House -- leading to many civilian casualties, although exact figures are unavailable. Amal also carried out a long, violent campaign against Palestinian refugees in what was dubbed the 'War of the Camps'.

Lebanese factions are still pitted against each other LEBANON : Hopes of Peace from Lords of War

The lines of divide became increasingly blurred as internecine wars ignited within communities. Amal and **Hezbollah** (the emerging Shia militia) clashed in Iqilm al-Tofah in 1988. The two factions also battled it out along the outskirts of Beirut for control of the capital, which forced Syrian military intervention.

The Christians also had their fraternal wars. The 'War of Cancellation,' or Ilghaa, pitted General Michel Aoun -- who was at the time head of the Lebanese army and is currently leader of the Free Patriotic movement (FPM) -- against Samir Geagea, head of the LF.

Hilal Khashan, head of the political studies department at the American University of Beirut, believes that the erosion of Christian power taking place today can be partly attributed to the conflict between Geagea and Aoun during the war.

'The Maronites in Lebanon went from playing a prominent role to a secondary one. This explains the reasons behind their present day alliances: the FPM feels the need to ally itself with **Hezbollah**, while the LF are aligned with the Future Movement headed by Sunni MP Saad Hariri (son of slain former prime minister Rafik Hariri),' says Khashan.

The War of Cancellation led to the demise of hundreds of mostly Christian civilians. 'Brothers from the same family but on opposing sides would often fight against each other,' says Khouri. This bloody chapter in the civil war was closely followed by another that was as violent and deadly -- the War of Liberation -- which was led by General Aoun against the Syrian army in 1990.

'Aoun intended to free Lebanon from Syrian domination, which was essentially a just cause. But, the political context of the first Gulf War was such that the Americans granted Syria a mandate on Lebanon for its full support in its war against Iraq, making the balance of power unfavourable to Aoun,' says Khouri. 'This strategic mistake caused the death of scores of civilians as well as about 300 soldiers, who were gunned down during the invasion of the Baabda Palace, where Aoun was in residence until he fled.'

Other political factions and their leaders also faced serious obstacles.

After the assassination of his father Kamal Joumblat, current MP and head of the PSP, rose to power. 'Walid Joumblat was able to maintain his father's legacy, which was built on the survival of the community and its cohesiveness. This may explain his constant shifting alliances.

'One should remember that in the mind of a survivor, there are no permanent alliances but permanent interests,' says Khashan, who believes that Joumblat has been successful in keeping the Druze at the centre of Lebanese politics in spite of their lack of demographic weight. The Druze population in Lebanon is estimated to be 280,000 to 350,000, in a nation of four million.

**Hezbollah** leader Hassan Nasrallah came of age in the eighties, when **Hezbollah** started appearing on the Lebanese political scene. The party is accused of masterminding the 1983 attack on the U.S. embassy in Beirut, leading to the death of 63 people, and it is linked to the twin truck bombings of French and U.S. army barracks the same year, killing more than 300 people.

'**Hezbollah** was very successful in branding itself as a resistance movement -- which is credited with causing the withdrawal of the Israeli army in 2000 -- but made the mistake of turning his attention on to the political interior,' says Khouri, referring to the current political deadlock between **Hezbollah** and the FPM on one side and the majority coalition of the PSP, LF and Future Movement on the other.

A recent **Hezbollah** blunder was the kidnapping in July 2006 of two Israeli soldiers, which led to a 33-day war that saw 1,200 deaths, the displacement of a quarter of Lebanon's population, and more than 3 billion dollars worth of direct losses.

With so many feuds and killings blotting Lebanon's history, many believe that little hope remains, especially as the 'lords of war' seemingly inch closer towards violence instead of peace.

## Lebanese factions are still pitted against each other LEBANON : Hopes of Peace from Lords of War

'Two politicians strike me as the most capable of making peace: Jomblat, because of his survivor's instinct he perceives peace in his community's best interest, and Berri, because he is extremely adaptive -- he has, after all, been able to morph into the role of the head of parliament,' says Khashan. Nasrallah's Manichean view of the world -- based on the belief that war is the only means for good to prevail over evil -- makes him an unlikely architect of peace.

For Khouri, the frame of mind of militia and military men is vital. 'People who have actively participated in a war will tend to solve their conflicts on the street, usually away from parliament -- which in Lebanon, has been closed for over a year now,' he says.

Dr. Aimee Karam, a clinical psychologist, published a study in 2006 on the failure of national negotiation in Lebanon, in which she acknowledges that most 'lords of war' belong to a special breed of people. 'They (militia men and military) view conflict as a way to acquire absolute power, which is in reality quite difficult to achieve,' she says.

Karam underlines that one positive sign of the current conflict is that the elements required for starting a war are not present on both sides of the divide. During her interviews with members of the various political coalitions, she observed that sentiments of anger and being victimised as well as the adoption of a cause and ideology, essential components to causing a war, were apparent in one group alone. 'The other faction has waged its civil war and managed to grasp its real meaning; it has emerged, therefore, with a more pragmatic approach,' she says.

Whether or not war will once again sully the shores of Lebanon is uncertain, but flashbacks of the country's violent past are re-emerging with more intensity. Mussolini once said, 'Blood alone moves the wheels of history.' It seems that, for the time being, those wheels have stalled in Lebanon. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2008

## Reporters on the Job

Christian Science Monitor

March 13, 2008, Thursday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 6

**Length:** 306 words

### **Body**

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\* **Hard Act to Follow:** Other foreign journalists had visited the Tasaru Girls Rescue Center in Kenya before staff writer Scott Baldauf arrived to write about this small refuge intended to protect girls from the practice of female circumcision. The girls had willingly talked with them, but not Scott. They felt betrayed and belittled when they found out the article by a recent journalist had included comments from a local politician who was in favor of the deeply rooted cultural practice.

"So I had to be very careful in how I approached this, so as not to make them feel as if I was setting them up in order to knock them down," says Scott.

Although he discovered significant local criticism of the group supporting the girls, which is seen by some as undermining cultural traditions, he had to strike a delicate balance in his conversations with both sides.

\* **Sounds of War:** Staff writer Ilene Prusher says that covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict requires that she keep up on missile types (see story).

"A reporter should know the difference between a Qassam rocket, which is home-grown and can travel about 7 to 8 kilometers, and an imported Grad missile, which is similar to the Katyusha rocket of Hizbullah fame, and can travel distances of about 17 kilometers," she says.

Reporters also need to interpret the sounds of war. For example, she says, "people in Israel often mistake sonic booms for a missile attack. These booms are caused by an Israeli military plane flying at a speed that breaks the sound barrier; many Palestinians charge that it's done to rattle people, and having been in Gaza during a series of sonic booms, it can indeed be terrifying - one is likely to think a building next door has just been hit and is about to collapse."

- David Clark Scott

World editor

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**Load-Date:** March 12, 2008

## **No 10 rejects call for ban on radical Islam group**

The Evening Standard (London)

January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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# London **Evening Standard**

**Section:** B; Pg. 6

**Length:** 241 words

**Byline:** JASON BEATTIE, JOE MURPHY

## **Body**

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GORDON BROWN today rejected a call by David Cameron to ban the hardline Islamist group Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

Downing Street said the organisation remained a "real concern" and its activities were being kept under continuous surveillance but Mr Brown's spokesman warned there was danger that a ban could hand it a propaganda victory.

He said: "We did strengthen the law in 2006 but the question is, were we to proscribe Hizb-ut-Tahrir would that survive a legal challenge and clearly we wouldn't want to do anything that would enable such groups to claim a propaganda victory if any proscription was subsequently overturned." Mr Cameron called for a ban on Hizbut-Tahrir and **Hezbollah**, another Islamist political movement. He said the security of the country required the Government to expel or refuse entry to "those who preach hate, pit one faith against another and divide our society".

The Tory leader also called for a ban on preacher of hate Yusuf al-Qaradawi coming to Britain. He said there should be zero tolerance towards extremist clerics such as al-Qaradawi, who has defended Middle East terrorism, called for the execution of gay people and opposed rights for **women**.

His call comes after the Government granted permission for Ibrahim Moussawi, the head of **Hezbollah**'s anti-Semitic TV station, to enter the UK.

"People like al-Qaradawi and Moussawi are dangerous and divisive and should not be allowed in this country, full stop," said Mr Cameron..

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2008

*Peace, violence do not go together*

Ottawa Citizen

May 15, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A9

**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** Mahmood Elahi, The Ottawa Citizen

## **Body**

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Re With friends like these, May 10.

Terry Galvin is right about the blatant hypocrisy of the leaders Canada's anti-war movement who travelled to Cairo to swap notes with Hamas and Hezbollah -- the groups who champion suicide bombings of women and children in the name of anti-imperialism. These leaders should take a look at why Mahatma Gandhi rejected all groups preaching violence in the name of anti-colonialism.

When Gandhi launched his anti-colonial movement against the British rule in India, he stated: "If India makes violence her creed, I will not care to live in India. She will fail to evoke any pride in me." Gandhi rejected the idea that the end justifies the means. For him, the means must be noble if the end is noble.

When some militants in his movement attacked a police station, he called off his non-violent movement. Assured that there would be no recourse to violence, Gandhi resumed his struggle.

Although Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist who thought he was too soft on the enemy (the Muslims), he gained India's independence without taking a single British life. The same applies to violent groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which can achieve their goals only through non-violent political actions. Their acts of wanton violence will only provoke Israel to strike back. By associating with such violent groups, anti-war movement leaders are making a mockery of themselves. You cannot promote peace and justify violence at the same time.

Mahmood Elahi,

Ottawa

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

## *Israel to free prisoners to Abbas*

The Gazette (Montreal)  
August 7, 2008 Thursday  
Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 294 words

**Byline:** Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed yesterday to the release of 120 to 150 Palestinian prisoners this month as a gesture to President Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian officials said.

The meeting between the two leaders was the first since Olmert, dogged by a corruption scandal, threw peace talks into turmoil by announcing that he would resign as prime minister once his centrist Kadima party chooses a new leader in September.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Abbas wanted the prisoner release, slated for Aug. 25, to include long-serving inmates, women and children as well as political leaders, a reference to uprising leader Marwan Barghouthi, who is seen as a possible successor as president.

Israeli sources said releasing Barghouthi was an option but stressed that no decisions had been made.

The Hamas group, which controls the Gaza Strip, included Barghouthi, Hamas leaders and hundreds of other prisoners on its list of Palestinians it wants freed in exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured by Gaza militants in a cross-border raid two years ago.

Some Israeli officials see the release of Barghouthi to Abbas as preferable to freeing him to Hamas as part of a deal over Shalit that Egypt is trying to help broker.

Israeli Lt.-Col. Omri Borberg has been demoted but will not face a jail term for ordering that a bound and blindfolded Palestinian be shot with a rubber-coated bullet, military sources said yesterday.

An Israeli Arab was indicted yesterday on charges of joining Hezbollah while he studied medicine in Germany and agreeing to spy on the Jewish state for the Lebanese guerrilla group. The Shin Bet counter-espionage agency said Khaled Kashkush, 29, confessed to having received \$20,150 from a Hezbollah recruiter he met in Frankfurt.

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2008



## PRIMARY CONCERNS

The Jerusalem Post

September 12, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 13

**Length:** 1593 words

**Byline:** GIL HOFFMAN

**Highlight:** Front-runner Tzipi Livni tells the 'Post' ahead of next week's Kadima leadership contest: 'I will fight Israel's enemies - but in my way'. Politics. Box at end of text.

### **Body**

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Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni clearly cannot wait for the Kadima leadership race to end next Wednesday. She has campaigned across the country, but privately, she admits that she does not enjoy it.

For her, the primary is just a means to an end of capturing the premiership, capping her fast rise that began when she was first elected to the Knesset in 1999.

Livni has managed to keep her squeaky-clean image in a campaign in which her main competition, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, has highlighted all her ostensible missteps and weaknesses.

While the polls give her a significant edge over Mofaz, Livni knows she must succeed in getting her supporters out to the polling stations, where the results matter.

Livni spoke to The Jerusalem Post at her Tel Aviv office, making time in her tight schedule following an interview with the Saudi-based Al-Arabiya network. After eating a chocolate bar for a sugar rush, she tells the Post why having a prime minister with clean hands would not harm Israel in a region where its enemies often do not fight fair.

Your top asset is having clean hands, but can't that be a detriment for a prime minister in a bad neighborhood where our enemies don't play by the rules?

Corruption is internal weakness. To maintain clean behavior in the current political situation in Israel requires strength. That means standing up to central committee members and millionaires. Israel's values are what keep the country going. But [how I handle myself politically] says nothing about how I would handle external threats. None of our enemies think that I'm not ready. I will fight the bad guys but in my way. And my way has been proven effective. I've been in politics less than a decade, and I'm already a realistic candidate for prime minister.

**Hizbullah** leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said when the Second Lebanon War began that he started it because he wanted to test Israel's weak leadership. Are you concerned that he will try to test you if you become prime minister out of a misconception that you, as a woman, would be a weak leader?

The fact that I'm a woman doesn't make me a weak leader. Nasrallah said after the war that had he known that Israel would have fought back the way we did, he wouldn't have started the war. I would like to think that generals also think twice when they make decisions, just like I do. It's not that generals pull the trigger and women don't. I have no problem pulling the trigger when necessary. I was of the opinion that we needed to initiate an operation on

## PRIMARY CONCERNS

July 12. In the Arab world, they know perfectly well when I can be tough and when I can be more compromising. There is no room for compromise with Hizbullah and certainly not with Iran that operates Hizbullah in Lebanon.

Do you feel ready to make a weighty decision about a military strike on Iran?

I agree that the prime minister has to make difficult decisions. In the past three-and-a-half years, I have made many difficult decisions.

Yes, I'm ready. The only thing I won't do is say in advance what I would do. Headlines on this issue hurt more than they help.

Are Ehud Olmert's political problems hindering the negotiations with the Palestinians?

No.

Is Olmert pressuring to reach an agreement before he leaves or to publish what has already been agreed?

There is no way of reaching an agreement now. I don't think Olmert can do it, because there are two sides. Political pressure can lead to one of two unacceptable outcomes: concessions where it should be forbidden to make concessions or a blowup in the talks.

How can we know what your views are on the negotiations with the Palestinians when the guidelines you set with your Palestinian counterpart rule out anything from being leaked and say that there is no deal on anything until there is a deal on everything? How can Kadima members who are against concessions in Jerusalem confidently vote for you?

I can say my red lines and principles. I can't say how far the negotiations have gone. I think we need a diplomatic process based on two states for two peoples; I rule out the return of Palestinian refugees to our borders; and I have red lines on security, which include demilitarization and other things. We need borders based on security, maintaining holy places and where the Jews live in major population centers. The public understands it when I speak of two states for two peoples without saying the exact border. Most of the public wants to evacuate as few people as possible, while retaining our assets and holy sites.

I don't understand why you would not agree to stay in Kadima if you lost the race. Isn't that a sore loser's attitude?

I was asked if I would stay at any price, and I said no. I'm in politics for ideology and not the other way around. Imagine what you would be telling me afterward if I left without saying in advance that I could. I also refused to make such a commitment when I was in the Likud and people were demanding it.

I'm for the Annapolis process. Mofaz voted against it, and he is also against negotiations about the Golan.

How can you form a government without surrendering to Shas on child allotments, and how can you maintain your clean image if you do?

There is a coalition agreement. Nothing has changed. It will be in my hands to decide whether to do something that might tarnish my image.

How do you respond to our readers abroad who thought that one of the reasons we were not more successful in the Second Lebanon War was that the foreign minister did not give interviews to the foreign press in a war largely fought on the battleground of international PR?

Hasbara, for me, is more than talking heads. During the war, I had to be advancing the diplomatic exit. I had to talk to all the world leaders and foreign ministers so they would make right decisions. That is no less important than talking on TV. The fact that I sent other ministers and people to talk on TV proves that I am not worried about my ego and I don't have a problem with letting others grab screen time. I don't ascribe to myself supernatural powers that would have allowed me to persuade people more than others did. There are bad pictures in war. Even with

## PRIMARY CONCERNS

Shimon Peres speaking on our behalf, when half the screen is an Israeli and the other is dead kids, the side that is weaker or seen that way will always win.

But there was a feeling that the war changed dramatically on the day of Kafr Kanna when Israel didn't get out pictures in time showing where the fault really was.

The IDF gave what it could at a later stage. Until then, we were fighting on television with no weapons. The war didn't end the way it did because the world stopped liking us in the middle. The war ended because we decided that it was right for us to end it. A foreign minister's job is not to get the world off our backs so we could buy time for the IDF. We changed that mindset. The problem in the war wasn't time. More time wouldn't have helped.

How can you be satisfied with the outcome of UN Resolution 1701 when it has not empowered UNIFIL enough to prevent Syria from rearming Hizbullah?

The resolution changed the situation in that the Lebanese army is in south Lebanon. The border between Syria and Lebanon was never in our hands, and that wasn't the goal of the war. The embargo made arms smuggling over the border illegal. I'm not happy that weapons get through. But because it's not on our border and no one thinks we should send troops, the least we can do is have an embargo, and I can work to make sure it's enforced.

Do you trust Syrian President Bashar Assad?

If the question is does he want peace or international legitimacy, I have not received a satisfactory answer yet.

(BOX) The other contenders for the throne

Over the course of the campaign, The Jerusalem Post also interviewed the other three candidates. Here are excerpts from the previously published interviews:

Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz:

"Security is the main issue for the country day in and day out, and every leader in the future will have to deal with it. Military experience, familiarity with the material and the ability to make quick decisions in the middle of the night is important, and without the background, you simply can't do it. We have to deter our enemies and transmit messages that we have the ability to prevent our enemies from attacking us and surprising us. The leadership of Israel in the central places must go to someone with military experience and understanding. Experience has proven that this is very important."

Public Security Minister Avi Dichter:

"The press has always tried to be a kingmaker, for better or for worse. I don't own a newspaper or a television or radio station. The media don't work for me, and I don't work for them. I just hope the press realizes that its goal is to cover candidates and not to create them."

Interior Minister Meir Sheetrit:

"There is horrible shallowness and a lack of seriousness on the part of the press and the Kadima members in a race that will decide who will be the prime minister, a position from which they can cause grave damage to this country. This election shows we are shallower than other countries. I tell Kadima members to check the other candidates' records, and if they prefer one of them, vote for them. If they knew the candidates, I am sure they would vote differently. Wherever I was, I left my footprints, and that's what's really important. Prime minister of Israel is one of the hardest jobs in the entire world. I wouldn't dare run with as little experience as my opponents. I think it's a sin against the people of Israel."

## Graphic

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## PRIMARY CONCERNS

4 photos: TZIPI LIVNI: Hasbara is more than talking heads. KADIMA KING? The three men challenging Livni are Shaul Mofaz, Avi Dichter and Meir Sheetrit. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolinski/The Jerusalem Post)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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End of Document

## *Captured Israelis listed as dead*

The Australian

June 30, 2008 Monday

2 - All-round First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 12

**Length:** 501 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert last night declared two soldiers held by Lebanese militants to be dead -- and urged his cabinet to vote for an emotionally charged deal to swap their bodies for a notorious Lebanese prisoner.

Cabinet was expected to approve the deal with **Hezbollah**, which has sparked a fierce public debate over whether Israel would be giving up too much or carrying out its highest commitment to its soldiers to do everything possible to bring them home if they fell into enemy hands.

The deal would have **Hezbollah** return reserve sergeants Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, captured in a July 2006 cross-border raid that sparked a vicious 34-day war. In return, Israel would release Samir Kantar, a Lebanese guerilla imprisoned for nearly 30 years for an attack remembered as one of the cruellest in the nation's history.

**Hezbollah** had offered no sign that sergeants Goldwasser and Regev were alive and the Red Cross was never allowed to see them. Appealing to his cabinet to approve the deal, Mr Olmert said for the first time that Israel had concluded that the two soldiers were dead -- killed during the raid or shortly after.

"We know what happened to them," Mr Olmert said. "As far as we know, the soldiers Regev and Goldwasser are not alive."

In exchange for their bodies, the cabinet was asked to agree to give up Kantar, who is serving multiple life terms in a 1979 infiltration attack on a northern Israeli town.

Kantar -- then 16 -- shot Danny Haran in front of his four-year-old daughter, then smashed her skull against a rock with his rifle butt, killing her, too. During the attack, Danny Haran's wife accidentally smothered their two-year-old daughter in a frantic attempt to keep her quiet so Kantar and his comrades wouldn't find them. Two Israeli policemen also were killed.

Israel's military chief of staff, the head of the Mossad intelligence agency, the commander of the Shin Bet security service and other defence officials briefed ministers before the vote. The Mossad and Shin Bet chiefs opposed the deal, officials said.

Military chief Lieutenant General Gabi Ashkenazi had said that he hoped the soldiers would return soon.

## Captured Israelis listed as dead

The debate over whether to trade an infamous attacker for two soldiers believed to be dead taps into a military ethos that runs deep within Israeli society, where most young men and many young women perform compulsory service. Soldiers go out to battle with the understanding they will not be left behind in the field.

The controversy has weighed the immediacy of the Regev and Goldwasser families' anguish against the pain suffered by a family attacked nearly 30 years ago. The woman whose family was killed by Kantar, Smadar Haran Kaiser, has in the past opposed his release. Channel 10 TV reported that she gave her approval for the deal.

“There is no doubt that today's discussion has special weight and is exceptionally sensitive in terms of its national and moral implications,” Mr Olmert said at the start of the cabinet meeting.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2008

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## DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 18, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A14

**Length:** 548 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

### **Body**

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#### ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Ambassador returns home after kidnapping

Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan returned home Saturday three months after he was kidnapped on the main highway through Pakistan's wild border region.

Tariq Azizuddin was released at a time when the government is seeking to negotiate peace deals to curb Islamic militancy along the Afghan border - an approach viewed with apprehension in the West.

However, senior Pakistani official Rehman Malik said the envoy was freed Friday through a "law enforcement action" and the government had made no concessions in return.

Azizuddin vanished Feb. 11 along with his driver and bodyguard as they drove from the city of Peshawar toward the Afghan border. In a video aired April 19 on an Arab TV channel, Azizuddin said Taliban militants had abducted them.

#### WINDSOR, ENGLAND

Queen's eldest grandson marries Canadian fiancée

The eldest grandson of Queen Elizabeth II married his Canadian fiancée Saturday in a private ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly wed at the castle's 15th-century St. George's Chapel in front of 300 guests, including the queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Phillips' mother, Princess Anne. Prince Harry, the third in line to the throne, and his girlfriend, Chelsy Davy, were also there. Phillips is 11th in line to the throne.

#### BEIRUT, LEBANON

Coalition demands talks on Hezbollah's weapons

Lebanon's ruling coalition demanded Saturday that talks to end the country's 18-month-old political crisis tackle the issue of Hezbollah's weapons, a demand the militant group rejected.

## DIGEST

**Hezbollah** insisted the group's arsenal remain untouched, saying it was necessary for fighting Israel, Lebanese media reported on the first day of the negotiations in Qatar on forming a unity government and electing a president after the country's worst violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA

Opposition leader delays return to Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's opposition leader was on the way to the airport when word came that assassins were awaiting him in his homeland Saturday, derailing plans for his return.

It was unclear when Morgan Tsvangirai would return to rally his party and campaign for the presidency against longtime leader Robert Mugabe. A runoff election is set for June 27.

"We have received information from a credible source concerning a planned assassination attempt on President Tsvangirai today," spokesman George Sibotshiwe told The Associated Press. "Because of that, it has been decided that the president will not return today."

Repeated attempts Saturday to reach Zimbabwean police for comment were unsuccessful.

Briefly

- Dominican Republic: Dominican President Leonel Fernandez coasted to a third term in office, vowing Saturday to push ahead with policies he says have lifted the Caribbean nation's economy from crisis.

- Kuwait election: Kuwaitis voted Saturday for a parliament that could include **women** for the first time and which many hope will end two years of political wrangling that has created widespread disgust with politics. Results were expected Sunday.

-"...Mideast move: Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday to discuss efforts to work out a cease-fire between the Hamas rulers of the Gaza Strip and Israel, officials said.

## Graphic

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### PHOTO

PHOTO - Peter Phillips, 30, and Autumn Kelly, 31, leave St. George's Chapel in Windsor, England, Saturday after their marriage vows. The bride recently converted from Roman Catholicism to Anglicanism so that her husband, son of Princess Anne, would not have to renounce his right of royal succession. Sang Tan AFP/Getty Images

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2008



## International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 12, 2008 Saturday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 5

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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Russia, China veto Zimbabwe sanctions UNITED NATIONS - Russia and China vetoed proposed sanctions on Zimbabwe's leaders Friday, rejecting U.S. efforts to step up punitive measures against the authoritarian regime after a widely discredited presidential election. Western powers mustered nine votes, the minimum needed to gain approval in the 15-nation council. But the resolution pushed by the Bush administration failed because of the action by two of the five veto-wielding permanent members.

The other three states with veto power - the U.S., Britain and France - argued that sanctions were needed to respond to the state-sanctioned violence and intimidation against opponents of President Robert Mugabe before and after Zimbabwe's recent presidential election. The proposal would have imposed an international travel ban and freeze on personal assets of Mugabe and 13 key officials. Indonesia executes man who killed 42 JAKARTA, Indonesia - Indonesia executed a man convicted of killing 42 women and girls in a series of ritual slayings he believed would give him magical powers, his lawyer said Friday. Ahmad Suradji, 57, was killed by firing squad late Thursday in western Indonesia despite a last minute appeal by Amnesty International, a U.K.-based human rights advocacy group that opposes capital punishment in all cases. "He appeared resigned to his fate," said Attorney General Office's spokesman Bonaventura Nainggolan. "His final wish was to see his wife. We fulfilled this." Suradji was arrested in May 1997 following the discovery of a body in a field close to this house in Lubukpakan, a village in North Sumatra province. Forty-one other corpses were later found nearby. Dog meat off menu during Beijing Olympics BEIJING - Canine cuisine is being sent to the doghouse during next month's Beijing Olympic Games. Dog meat has been struck from the menus of officially designated Olympic restaurants, and Beijing tourism officials are telling other outlets to discourage consumers from ordering dishes made from dogs, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. Waiters and waitresses should "patiently" suggest other options to diners who order dog, it said, quoting city tourism bureau Vice Director Xiong Yumei. Dog, known in Chinese as "xiangrou," is eaten by some Chinese for its purported health-giving qualities. Colombian rebel group denounces 'betrayal' BOGOTA, Colombia - Latin America's last major rebel army is denouncing the "betrayal" of two guerrillas who were guarding 15 hostages liberated by the Colombian military earlier this month. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia says "the escape of the 15 prisoners of war" on July 2 "was a direct consequence of the despicable conduct of Cesar and Enrique, who betrayed their revolutionary commitment." Colombian soldiers overpowered and arrested the two rebels during the mission. Government officials have said that the operation took the rebels completely by surprise. Hezbollah gains veto power in cabinet BEIRUT, Lebanon - Hezbollah and its allies solidified their hold on Lebanon's government Friday with the formation of a national unity Cabinet that gives them veto power over government decisions. Still, the Western-backed parliamentary majority managed to deny the Hezbollah-led opposition any of the most important Cabinet positions, except for the one it had already held - foreign affairs.

International briefs

**Load-Date:** July 12, 2008

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## *All out: Lebanese village empties after rocket attack from nearby*

The Gazette (Montreal)

January 9, 2009 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A4

**Length:** 317 words

**Byline:** AFP

**Dateline:** TAYR HARFA, Lebanon

### **Body**

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A Lebanese village from where rockets were fired at Israel yesterday resembled a ghost town after panicked residents fled or hid in fear of massive retaliation from across the border.

Lebanese soldiers and Italian troops serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon patrolled the streets seeking information on who fired the rockets early in the day from just outside the village of about 4,500 people.

Several missiles slammed into the northern Israel town of Nahariya, wounding two women.

"No one is left here," said Hasna Ataya, 55, one of the few residents who stayed in the border village along with her 20-year-old daughter Khadija.

"Many took their personal belongings and some rented vehicles to flee with their loved ones. I stayed behind with my daughter because we don't have a car."

Amina Rahal, 48, said she packed food for her three children before fleeing from Tayr Harfa, seven kilometres from the Israeli border.

"The last war was terrifying," Rahal said of the 34-day summer conflict in 2006 between the Shiite militant group Hezbollah and Israel that largely devastated southern Lebanon and killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians.

"My children can't take another war," she added. "When we saw everyone heading toward (the coastal town of) Tyre, we decided to follow their example."

Rahal said that since the early morning rocket attack and Israeli retaliation with artillery rounds, no one had dared venture into her shop. "My children are terrified," she said. "They heard the rocket fire this morning and were trembling. We saw black smoke rising from the fields after Israel retaliated."

Mohamed Akeel, 59, said he had rented a cab to flee to Tyre along with his wife and five children. "We'll spend the night in Tyre until things calm down," he said, loading their belongings.

No one has claimed responsibility for the rockets, but Hezbollah and Hamas have indicated that they were not behind it.

All out: Lebanese village empties after rocket attack from nearby

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2009

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End of Document

## *Israel's indicted minister steps down*

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

April 24, 2007 Tuesday

Third Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 326 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Jerusalem, with Guardian

### **Body**

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ISRAEL'S Finance Minister Avraham Hirschson has stepped down temporarily to fight allegations of embezzlement, the latest in a series of Government leaders to face criminal investigation.

The minister is a key ally of embattled Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, himself the subject of two ongoing fraud investigations.

Mr Hirschson's departure from the cabinet further weakens the Government only days before the scheduled release of an official report on the conduct of last year's war against Lebanon's *Hezbollah*.

Mr Hirschson, 66, is accused of involvement in the embezzlement of about 10 million shekels (\$A2.94 million) from a trade union he chaired and an associated charity.

Among the senior politicians being considered to replace him is former justice minister Haim Ramon, forced to resign in January after being convicted of forcibly kissing a *female* soldier in his office. He is serving a 180-hour community service order.

Israel's head of state, President Moshe Katsav, has also temporarily suspended himself after prosecutors indicted him on charges of rape and sexual assault against *female* employees in the President's office and in his previous government ministries.

Minister for Strategic Threats Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the anti-Arab Yisrael Beiteinu party, is being questioned this week over an offshore bank account through which he allegedly received secret payments.

And the head of the Knesset foreign security committee, Tzachi Hanegbi, will soon be on trial accused of bribery and perjury in relation to a number of appointments he made while police minister.

Meanwhile Israel's most prominent Arab MP, Azmi Bishara, resigned from the Knesset at the Israeli embassy in Cairo this week in the face of secret charges thought to concern his contacts with Syria and *Hezbollah* during last year's Lebanon war. His supporters say he has long been a target for the Israeli establishment because of his campaign to change Israel's status as a Jewish state.

**Load-Date:** July 3, 2007

## Israel 's indicted minister steps down

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End of Document

## *Closing the curtain on war; MEANWHILE*

The International Herald Tribune

October 16, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 9

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Mohamad Bazzi - The New York Times Media Group

### **Body**

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Across the street from my building in Beirut, there's a bakery that doubles as the local office of a Sunni political party. Normally, the shebab, the young men, spend all day and night roaring around the block on mopeds or washing their cars to thumping rap music.

But one evening last May, while my wife and I were on a visit from New York, they were standing on the sidewalk with a hodgepodge of rifles and handguns. One of them had put on a ski mask, which made his air of menace curiously abstract. When he pretended to shoot, he held his rifle from the waist, like a child soldier in Liberia.

In the span of one week, Lebanon had come to teeter on the edge of communal warfare - the one thing all Lebanese politicians have vowed would never happen again since the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990. After 18 months of political deadlock, word went out that the Shiite militia **Hezbollah** was dispatching hundreds of fighters into the largely Sunni areas of West Beirut.

As the sun set that evening, a couple of teenagers headed over to the corner and hauled a trash Dumpster into the middle of the street. The Dumpster didn't block the street entirely, so after some debate, the shebab dragged two French doors from a nearby construction site and propped them at a delicate, 45-degree angle against the Dumpster, one on each side, making a contraption that looked as if it might fall over in a strong breeze.

By morning, the Dumpster was pushed aside. The shooting was heavy and very close; you could smell it. **Hezbollah** was sweeping through the neighborhood while our Sunni neighbors were trying to fight back.

As a child growing up in the early 1980s during the civil war, I spent long nights huddled in the hallway with my parents while various militias traded artillery and machine-gun fire. When the fighting was particularly heavy, we would drag mattresses into the hallway and prop them against the walls. And now I found myself reverting to that old civil-war mode as our block reverberated with gunfire and the occasional thump of rocket-propelled grenades.

But at a certain point, desperate to know what was going on, we broke one of the cardinal rules I learned during the civil war: stay away from the windows. We peeked through the bedroom curtains.

Across the street, three **Hezbollah** commandos in green fatigues crouched, Kalashnikovs propped on their knees, in a small garden where kids usually play ball. Two more advanced methodically down the block, shouting to residents: "Don't go outside! Stay inside! Don't go out on your balconies!"

## Closing the curtain on war MEANWHILE

A teenaged boy, barefoot, ran toward them, shirtless to show he was unarmed, surrendering. As we watched, one fighter swung his rifle toward our window. It pointed directly at us; he must have seen the curtain flutter and thought it was a sniper. We scampered away from the window .

We decided we might as well get used to our new, reduced home. During the civil war, people relied on battery-powered radios; this time we had wireless Internet, and soon Annia was instant-messaging friends in New York.

After an hour-long lull in the fighting, Annia started filling empty bottles with water in case this turned into a siege, or in case our rooftop water tank got shot out, like that of the hotel across the street. She made oatmeal with almonds and strawberries. I took my bowl and settled down to eat on the balcony. A burst of gunfire rippled out. I scuttled back inside. "Maybe it's not time to start eating on the balcony just yet," I said .

In the civil war, people developed routines. They'd peek out of their windows, and if they saw that things were quiet, they'd go out on their balconies. Then other people would join them, and soon you'd have entire families on the balconies, discussing, analyzing .

In our case, by noon, a few women were on the sidewalk. Another lesson: Women are often the first to venture out because they're less likely to be mistaken for combatants. When the call to prayer warbled out, people started filtering down the block, in ones and twos, toward the mosque.

Over the next few days, Hezbollah pulled its fighters off the streets, and leaders of the various factions headed to Qatar to negotiate. The country had been saved. Just as after the civil war, people made a silent pact to submerge their fear and distrust of one another.

But the events of that week reminded me how quickly those feelings can rise up again; how easily we can settle back into the familiar, almost comfortable rhythms of civil war.

\*

Mohamad Bazzi teaches journalism at New York University and was recently a visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2008



## *News in brief*

The Jerusalem Post

October 23, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 879 words

**Byline:** Yaakov Katz, Jerusalem Post staff, Elie Leshem

### **Body**

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Barak weighs limiting prisoner visits

Defense Minister Ehud Barak sent a letter to Attorney- General Menahem Mazuz on Wednesday asking for his legal opinion on imposing restrictions on prison visitation rights for Palestinian families from the West Bank.

Barak noted that Palestinians from Gaza were not allowed into Israel to visit jailed relatives and that the same policy should be implemented in the West Bank in an effort to pressure Hamas into reducing its demands in the negotiations for the release of St.-Sgt. Gilad Schalit.

\* Yaakov Katz

PA receives \$150 million from US

The United States signed an agreement on Wednesday to give \$150 million to the government of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Agence France Presse reported.

The funds are the first installment of the \$555m. Western nations pledged at a donors conference in Paris last year.

Israel and the Palestinians relaunched peace talks last November under US auspices, but have made little progress since then.

US President George W. Bush expressed the hope that Israel and the Palestinians will reach a peace agreement by 2008, a goal which both Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Abbas admitted was highly unlikely.

\* Jerusalem Post staff

Nasrallah poisoning claim downplayed

A report Wednesday on an Iraqi Web site claiming that ***Hizbullah*** leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah's life was saved by 15 Iranian doctors after a poisoning attempt last week should be taken with a grain of salt, said Eyal Zisser, a professor of Middle Eastern history and senior research fellow at the Dayan Center in Tel Aviv University.

The report cited Lebanese diplomatic sources as saying that the Iranian doctors were whisked to Lebanon to treat the ailing ***Hizbullah*** leader, who, fearing an Israeli assassination, has been holed up in his bunker for many months.

## News in brief

"I am very skeptical of this report," Zisser told The Jerusalem Post, adding that the Web site that had published the report, Almalaf, was virtually unheard of, had not made any such reports in the past and was therefore "unreliable."

"We must bear in mind that Lebanon is very open in terms of the media, and were such a thing to happen, we would probably get wind of it in reports from local media sources," Zisser said. \* Elie Leshem

## Iran captures 'nuclear spy pigeons'

Two alleged "spy pigeons" were apprehended near Iran's nuclear facility at Natanz, according to Iranian media reports.

A report in the Etemad Melli newspaper said security forces found metal bands and invisible string attached to the birds, one of which was found this week, and the other earlier in the month.

The source quoted in the report declined to give further description and did not say what would happen to the birds.

The uranium enrichment plant at Natanz has 4,000 operating centrifuges, according to latest reports, despite pressure from the West and UN sanctions to encourage the Islamic Republic to abandon its nuclear program.

The Iranian government insists the program is only used to generate power for civilian use.

\* Jerusalem Post staff

## 'Barak is most dangerous man in Israel'

"[Defense Minister] Ehud Barak is the most dangerous man in the country," ex-education minister and former Meretz chairman Shulamit Aloni told Army Radio Wednesday.

Aloni said she would be pleased if the Palestinians would sue Barak, who she termed a warmonger, in the International Court in The Hague.

Former chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. [res.] Dan Halutz, she said, was also worthy of a Hague lawsuit. Halutz, she said, was "a war criminal."

"I would like to say openly that Barak is the most dangerous man in the State of Israel. His decision is a crime against humanity, if implemented. Cutting electricity from residents, children, women and hospitals is a crime against humanity. That's the UN's definition."

When asked why she viewed Barak as dangerous, the former education minister said, "Because of his personality, because he's looking to start wars, because of his vanity and condescending nature and because he chooses extreme measures."

A Barak spokesman said in response: "Aloni's words are delusional. There is no doubt that her old age put her youth to shame." \* Jerusalem Post staff

## IDF stops man carrying explosives

Soldiers from the IDF Givati Brigade's Tzabar Battalion found a pipe bomb and three Molotov cocktails on the body of a Palestinian man waiting to pass through the Hawara checkpoint, south of Nablus on Wednesday.

Border Police forces detonated the bomb in a controlled environment and the suspect was transferred to a security interrogation. \* Jerusalem Post staff

## IDF troops seriously wound Palestinian

A 17-year-old Palestinian boy was seriously wounded Wednesday when he was shot in the head by IDF troops in El Fara refugee camp outside Nablus, Palestinian sources claimed.

## News in brief

Islamic Jihad said the boy was shot during IDF searches in the camp for one of its armed wing's gunmen.

He was treated in the camp by Palestinian medics and reported to be in stable condition. \* Jerusalem Post staff

Scooter driver, 90, hurt in accident

A 90-year-old man riding an electric scooter was seriously injured on Wednesday in an accident in Ramat Gan.

The man was hurt when a car crashed into him on Ha'etzel Street. The casualty was evacuated to Tel Hashomer Medical Center. \* Jerusalem Post staff

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**Defying Hamas, Abbas swears in new cabinet; Move opens up new paths for peace, Israeli leader says**

Ottawa Citizen

June 18, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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**Byline:** Matthew Fisher and Scott Wilson, CanWest News Service and The Washington Post; with files from Citizen News Services

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah responded yesterday to Hamas's sudden victory on the battlefield in Gaza last week by swearing in a new cabinet that excluded anyone from Hamas's parliamentary majority.

Saying Hamas had carried out a "military coup against the Palestinian legitimacy and its government," the president also issued a decree ordering Hamas's armed wings to disarm, a move Hamas officials immediately condemned as illegal.

Hours later, Israel was attacked from Lebanon by Katyusha rockets, the first time since its bloody war with Hezbollah ended 10 months ago, Israeli military officials say they are investigating whether Hezbollah or Palestinians living in refugee camps in Leb-anon fired the 107mm rockets, which some officials said appeared to be cruder than the thousands Hezbollah fired into Israel during the war.

It was unclear whether the attack was connected to Mr. Abbas's decision earlier in the day, and Hezbollah denied carrying out the strike.

Two of the three rockets landed in an area where several thousand rockets launched by Hezbollah fell on the Jewish state during last summer's 34-day war, which resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people. A third rocket went down in Lebanon, while a fourth, which had a timer device, was found by Lebanese troops before it could be launched.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, whose government already is reeling from several grave internal crises, accused those who carried out the rocket attacks of trying to destabilize his country.

A spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon condemned the attacks "as a serious violation" of last summer's ceasefire agreement.

Defying Hamas, Abbas swears in new cabinet; Move opens up new paths for peace, Israeli leader says

Israel would not respond for the time being to this unexpected provocation in the north -- which caused no casualties, but spread panic in the town of Kiryat Shmona -- according to officials travelling with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Mr. Olmert, who is in New York for discussions at the UN before he is to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington, last night signalled that a new Palestinian government, free of Hamas, could prove an opportunity to renew peace negotiations on the creation of a Palestinian state that have been stalled for nearly seven years.

"We will be ready to discuss with Abbas the political horizon for what will eventually become the basis for a permanent agreement between us and the Palestinians," Mr. Olmert said in a speech before the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations.

He said he was ready to renew regular contacts with the Palestinian president in order "to resolve the outstanding daily issues and move forward to finding ways to solve grander issues."

After speaking with Mr. Olmert at the United Nations yesterday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called "on all parties to exercise restraint" and said that the recent developments in Gaza created "broad humanitarian concerns."

By swearing in the 12-member emergency cabinet yesterday, Mr. Abbas has paved the way for an end to a western financial embargo imposed after Hamas -- which is listed as a terrorist group by Canada and other western nations and is dedicated to the destruction of Israel -- won parliamentary elections last year.

The restored funds will likely be used in part to pay for continued Israeli supply of fuel, water and electrical power to Gaza, a crowded strip of coastal territory where 1.5 million people live, many of them refugees who are dependent on aid.

Mr. Abbas and his new prime minister, Salam Fayyad, pledged yesterday not to abandon Gaza's residents. They said their government had a legal obligation to pay salaries to about 70,000 public employees in Gaza, including the police, many of whom were the targets of the Hamas takeover.

"You are in our hearts and at the top of our priorities and programs," Mr. Fayyad said of Palestinians in Gaza during a speech after he took the oath of office.

Israel closed border crossings to Gaza when factional fighting there intensified last week, with about 100 people killed, and the Hamas takeover has heightened concerns among residents that Israel will further isolate their territory. Many Gazans have begun stocking up on food, fuel and other staples.

An Israeli fuel company, Dor-Alon, which supplies all of Gaza's gas, said yesterday that it is cutting supplies because of the Palestinian Authority's inability to pay for the fuel.

However, Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the Israeli Defence Ministry department that deals with the Palestinians, said that fuel to Gaza would continue and that the cost would be covered with the help of the expected foreign aid.

Saeb Erekat, an aide to Mr. Abbas and the chief Palestinian negotiator, said that he had spoken with the Israelis about ensuring a continued flow of vital supplies to Gaza. Israeli officials have said supplies would not be cut off, in order to avoid a humanitarian crisis. But Israel refuses to have contact with Hamas, and there are no mechanisms in place yet for the transfer of such aid.

Yesterday, about 300 Palestinians, many of them Fatah members and their families fleeing Hamas rule, gathered at the main Erez Crossing into Israel, seeking to reach the West Bank, but were refused entry. Only a handful were allowed in, and the Israelis fired warning shots to push the crowd back.

Israeli Channel 2 television showed women and children stranded in a concrete tunnel leading to the heavily secured crossing.

Defying Hamas, Abbas swears in new cabinet; Move opens up new paths for peace, Israeli leader says

"We're afraid Hamas will slaughter us," one woman said. There have been few killings since Hamas completed its takeover of Gaza, but many people from Fatah fear retribution.

The international community yesterday signalled its support for Mr. Abbas and its intention to isolate Hamas.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg today are expected to offer political and financial support to the new Palestinian government, although it was unclear if they would authorize a resumption of direct aid to the Palestinian authority.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, said in a statement that the federal government will work with the new Palestinian cabinet.

Mr. MacKay added that Canada wants to support what he called "voices of moderation" within Palestinian society to help bring peace and stability to the region.

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

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***Politics in America's Arab capital; Welcome to Dearborn, Mich., where politicians come to take the pulse of U.S. Muslim voters***

The Toronto Star  
June 29, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A15

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**Byline:** michelle shephard, Toronto Star

**Dateline:** DEARBORN, Mich.

## **Body**

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In a time before 9/11, this town - home to the nation's largest population of Arab Americans - was one of George W. Bush's stomping grounds.

He spoke of the indignities of racial profiling and the use of secret evidence and the plight of Palestinians. And he appealed to the largely conservative nature of the population on issues such as abortion.

That was 2000, and many Muslims here had Bush bumper stickers.

Now, this Detroit suburb of 100,000 - often cited as a bellwether for America's 6 million Muslim voters

provides a study on the effects seven years of the Bush administration's post-9/11 policies have had on a religious and ethnic group.

Sharpen the focus further and enter the Shatila bakery on Warren Ave. on a busy afternoon. Every patron has a story about feeling like an outcast in the country where many of them were born or have lived for most of their lives.

Dr. Nazem Alhusein is a 46-year-old pediatrician who came here 21 years ago from Syria.

"In 2000, I voted for Al Gore," he says proudly, his Michigan baseball cap resting on a table inside the bakery. "Ninety-nine per cent of my friends voted for George Bush. Eventually, after we had him for two administrations, everyone felt I did the right thing."

Alhusein's wife is Canadian and his sisters live in Toronto, which means he drives north about once a month and endures repeated questioning at the border - something that didn't happen before 9/11, he says.

Syrian-born Ayman Saleh has a similar story.

"We feel like we're watched and held to a higher standard in every way," he says of travelling with his family.

The Shatila bakery is on a stretch of Warren Ave. that blends the Middle East with Middle America.

Signs here for halal meat shops, bakeries and grocery stores are mainly in Arabic - until McDonald's, KFC and Taco Bell logos mark the unofficial end of Dearborn's Arab strip.

Politics in America 's Arab capital Welcome to Dearborn , Mich. , where politicians come to take the pulse of U.S. Muslim voters

West on Warren and it's a dismal row of auto-repair shops, liquor joints and dry-cleaning operation called Happy Cleaners, which looks neither happy, nor clean.

Dearborn's Arab community traces its roots to 1927, when hometown boy Henry Ford opened his car plant and Lebanese immigrants took advantage of his generous \$5 a day wage for assembly-line work.

When immigration reform began in the 1960s and '70s, Muslim Iraqis, Yemenis, Palestinians and Syrians joined the Lebanese community, which had been predominantly Christian.

By the 1990s, Dearborn had a larger Arab population than any other U.S. city.

It's been called the Muslim capital of America, though its population certainly isn't representative of America's Muslims - since it is predominantly Shiite and there is no South Asian Muslim presence. Still, this is where politicians come to take the pulse of Muslim voters.

Last month, Barack Obama held a private meeting with Imam Hassan Qazwini, the Iraqi American who heads the Islamic Center of America, which boasts the largest mosque in North America, and is a favourite contact for world leaders.

Ushering a Toronto Star reporter into his impressive office for a recent interview, Qazwini offered tea and chocolates as he spoke of every Muslim American's "moral duty" to get involved in the November presidential election.

What unites U.S. Muslims, he said, is their fear of the erosion of civil rights and a "war on terror" that is really a campaign against Islam.

Qazwini related his own problems with profiling, saying he undergoes at least two hours of interrogation when he travels internationally.

"I'm someone who meets with presidential nominees, with the Pope and at least five times with President Bush since 2000 and I'm a well-known moderate leader in this country," Qazwini said.

"If this happens to me, what happens to the other six million Muslims in this country?"

Ironically, profiling was what he talked about with Bush eight years ago - when it was a problem that paled in comparison to what some Muslim and Arab Americans face today.

Arab American News publisher Osama Siblani also remembers those conversations with Bush.

After they met in 2000, Bush raised the issue of profiling of Arab citizens at a debate with Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore - and Siblani's influential newspaper immediately endorsed Bush.

"Bush has proven that he is one of us," he told The Chicago Tribune at the time.

Siblani is often as much part of the news as he is the publisher of it, having been interviewed on everything from Al Jazeera to CNN's Larry King Live.

The day after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he famously went on ABC-TV and said: "We are part of America and we are part of the victims, not the perpetrators."

He said many people couldn't "distinguish between Osama bin Laden and Osama Siblani ... and that is scaring the hell out of us here."

Lebanon's unrest since 9/11 has complicated the picture in Dearborn, since much of the Lebanese population supports Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group condemned by both the United States and Canada as a terrorist organization.



Politics in America 's Arab capital Welcome to Dearborn , Mich. , where politicians come to take the pulse of U.S. Muslim voters

Federal agents increased their surveillance of the Muslim population as children and adults jammed the streets here chanting support for Hezbollah fighters after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 2006. The head of the FBI's Detroit office told reporters he feared there were Hezbollah cells operating in the region.

When questions about the patriotism of Dearborn's leaders were raised, Siblani shot back in defence of his community's Hezbollah support.

"Who should they chant for? George Bush, the one who's sending Israeli bombs to kill their relatives, to kill more people?" Siblani asked in The Detroit Free Press. "If they want to prosecute us, prosecute us. Let them get their buses, line them up and haul us out."

Siblani remains unapologetic about his support of Hezbollah's political goals while denouncing its violent tactics targeting Americans. And he dismisses the criticism he has faced, chalking it up to society's double standard.

"The New York Times can criticize Israel, but if I do, some people think I'm a Hezbollah spokesperson," Siblani said. "I'm held to a different standard because I'm an Arab."

Most Arab leaders here say they'll be listening to the presidential candidates' foreign policy vision as much as their plans on the host of domestic issues facing all Americans.

And they assure that past criticisms of the Bush administration's policies at home and abroad do not give an automatic nod to the Democrats.

In fact, Obama's campaign could face a backlash. As noted in a New York Times article last week, Muslim Americans from California to Virginia at first greeted the Illinois senator with enthusiasm. "But more than a year later, many say he has not returned their embrace."

Some critics fault Obama for his vigorous denials of being a Muslim (as 10 per cent of the U.S. population believes he is, according to a recent poll) without challenging the pertinence of his religion.

And what about the fact that campaign workers stopped two women wearing headscarves from sitting behind Obama during a Detroit rally this month.

"There is a shift in the American psyche that to me is very alarming," Imam Qazwini said. "I wish it was like when I came to the country some 16 years ago. I think the situation is much worse now.

"I truly love America. And this is not the America that I got to know."

## Graphic

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Dave Krieger for the Toronto Star The Islamic Center of America in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn boasts the largest mosque in North America. "I'm held to a different standard be- cause I'm an Arab," says Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab Amer- ican News "I'm held to a different standard be- cause I'm an Arab," says Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab Amer- ican News

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2008

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Australian (Australia)

June 25, 2007 Monday

All-round Country Edition

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### **Body**

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More paperwork and more bureaucrats a waste of time

MOST TALKED ABOUT

HOWARD'S BLUEPRINT

NOT too many people have actually read the "Little Children Are Sacred" report to the Northern Territory Chief Minister and my advice is not to bother. I've just ploughed through the 97 recommendations and that was enough to tell me why the federal Government needed to act unilaterally. Every recommendation is more about how the bureaucracy and judiciary can be assisted and improved with more staff, better reporting, protocols, policies and consultations than it is about actually doing something practical. To implement the report would take a lifetime.

Instead, let's get as many teachers, health workers, police and volunteers as we can into every community, then follow up with an army (or the Army) of plumbers, electricians, builders and whatever else is needed to work with the indigenous residents so we can keep the children safe and encourage responsibility at the local level. Creating more mounds of paperwork and more bureaucrats doing fly-ins from offices in Canberra, Darwin and Alice Springs is a waste of time.

Veronica Cleary

Lindisfarne, Tas

THE Northern Territory Chief Minister should be ashamed of her record. She has presided over the development of a catastrophic state of affairs in Aboriginal communities. She has passed laws governing lawlessness and alcohol abuse, then failed miserably to enforce them. Little wonder that John Howard has declared enough is enough and taken over her responsibilities for Aboriginal affairs to put an end to the daily outrages and abuses inflicted on women and children. He could do no less.

Predictably, there have been cries of outrage from Aboriginal leaders remote from the problems that Mal Brough and responsible local community leaders demand be addressed. Howard has rightly asserted his intention of ignoring these expressions of dissent. He should. Similarly, Noel Pearson, with his first-hand knowledge of the dysfunction of Aboriginal communities, has passionately expressed his outrage at the critics.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The time for talk is long past. Messrs Howard, Pearson and Mal Brough are absolutely right in the action they propose in order to put an end to what is a national disgrace. They must now apply the blow-torch to every premier and demand prompt and effective action from them.

Mike Pope

Bundaberg, Qld

FOR the life of me, I cannot see the dilemma with regard to the Prime Minister introducing measures in the hope of solving the crisis involving Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory. The time for talk, talk, talk is past (it's all been said time and again) -- now it is imperative that we do, do, do! We can idealise, theorise, politicise until the cows come home, it is not going to solve the problem. The wellbeing and safety of children is paramount to any other consideration.

Let's stop pontificating and support this important initiative.

Maureen Jefferies

Tandur, Qld

WHEN a mining company exploits minerals beneath the earth, it is required to rehabilitate the site and remove any toxic waste, etc. So when alcohol companies exploit the "taxpayer gold" from dispossessed and traumatised indigenous people, the toxic waste is found in streets and communities across Australia in the form of sexual and physical abuse against children and women particularly and violence generally. Shouldn't those companies have an obligation to help clean up this toxic waste and rehabilitate the source of their wealth? There are many people here in Katherine and in the communities around here that could put that assistance to good use for the immediate protection and safety of women and children.

S. McAnulty

Katherine, NT

SO ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope thinks John Howard's steps to reform indigenous communities are racist ("Plan to split ALP unlikely to work", 23-24/6). I thought I had heard every conceivable misuse of the term "racist" by Left ideologues but to describe urgent moves to protect women and children from barbarous assaults as racist truly takes the cake.

Peter Bonar

Findon, SA

MONICA Brown's letter (23-24/6) should be required reading for all those who wish to criticise John Howard's declared course of action. To detract from the urgency with which this unacceptable situation should be treated is obnoxious and contemptible.

Frederick Eva

Wellington Point, Qld

THE man who harvested Hansonism, too busy for reconciliation, suddenly acts unilaterally in the shadows of a difficult election. While Kim Beazley wept in parliament at the "Bringing Them Home" report, John Howard looked bemused. Maybe he's finally discovered that it was never about having the ticker, it was about having the heart.

Steve Forsyth

Tumut, NSW

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN no way do I want to devalue the importance of the issue, it's just that I can't help but wonder if the long overdue response to the so-called national emergency on remote Aboriginal communities is the election-year rabbit out of the hat John Howard has been sweating on.

Ralph Castles

Oxley, Qld

Shia sheik's comments fuel local anti-Jewish hatred

THE comments by Australia's senior Shia cleric, Kamal Mousselmani, that he and the whole Shia community in Australia support Hezbollah are utterly shameful ("I support Hezbollah: Aussie cleric", 23-24). Hezbollah is a racist terror group whose goal is to destroy Israel and its Jewish population. Israel wants peace with Lebanon and its military operations are only ever in self defence in response to Hezbollah attacks. Sheik Mousselmani's comments fuel anti-Jewish hatred which is seemingly so prevalent among Australia's Muslim community.

Ian Fraser

Cherrybrook, NSW

SHEIK Mousselmani has well and truly revealed which flag he flies by openly confessing that he and Australia's approximately 30,000 Shi'ites are avid supporters of Hezbollah and haters of Israel. Does Sheik Mousselmani have the bravado to admit that Muslims hate Christians, liberalism and democracy just as much as they do the Jews?

A. Khat

Ryde, NSW

IN expressing his support for Hezbollah, Sheik Mousselmani states "... Israel is killing our people". We are all aware that Israel's incursion into Lebanon was in response to the kidnapping of soldiers and indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hezbollah on the Israeli population. This is a prime example of the blatant hypocrisy frequently displayed by Muslim clerics when their support for terrorist organisations is questioned.

J. Smith

Buderim, Qld

SHEIK Mousselmani gets full credit for honesty but that is all. Change the geographic situation a little to better understand his abuse of freedom. Instead of living comfortably in Australia, let us suppose he is a resident of the Hezbollah-dominated area of Lebanon. Instead of declaring his hatred for Israel, let us just suppose for a moment that he declared his love for Israel and hatred for the confrontationist policies of Hezbollah. What do you suppose would happen next?

Robert Webb

Ormiston, Qld

GIVEN that Hezbollah is a proscribed terrorist organisation in Australia pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism Act 2005, when can we expect Sheik Mousselmani to be charged by Australian Federal Police, assuming of course that the law is applied equally in this country to people of all races and faiths? If our anti-terrorist laws mean anything, it's difficult to imagine a more blatant exhortation of anti-Australian and anti-Western values.

There is no place in Australia for Sheik Mousselmani or anyone else who advocates Islamo-fascism or terrorism and supports a terrorist group masquerading as a benevolent organisation. The federal Government owes a duty to its citizens to promptly rid the country of such corrosive influences, either by deportation or prosecution.

John McLeod

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sunshine Coast, Qld

Colourful language

AUSTRALIAN navy personnel swear at Iranians and it's called colourful language ("How Aussies beat capture", 23-24/6). Andrew Peacock has an infamous conversation with Jeff Kennett on a carphone in 1987 during which John Howard, in very colourful language, is called every rude name under the sun and Howard eventually appoints Peacock our ambassador to the US. CFMEU official Joe McDonald swears at an employer on a Perth building site in equally colourful language and he's crucified. I'm confused.

Gareth Davies

Maylands, WA

WHY are John Howard's claims that we'll be run by the unions if Labor gets in at the next election being taken so seriously? Look at the state governments. All Labor, all told what to do by big business and large developers. Even if you go back to the last federal Labor government, they were way more friendly to big business than they were to labour. Howard's scare-mongering just doesn't wash.

Brett Elliott

Boondall, Qld

Dams be damned

ALAN Barron's suspicion that he is living in Noddyland (Letters, 23-24/6) is correct. His proposal to build one or two additional dams instead of a desalination plant conveniently ignores the fact that the genesis of Victoria's water restrictions, implemented many years back, lay in the unavailability of further suitable dam sites (never mind whether there's enough rain to fill them).

His allegation that dams do not create greenhouse gases is wrong -- when the water level in a dam falls, vegetation grows on the vacated land. When the dam refills, the vegetation decays anaerobically, releasing large quantities of methane, a far more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Reputable scientific tests have demonstrated that a hydro scheme whose dams empty and fill frequently can produce as much greenhouse gas as a conventional power station of equivalent output.

Barron argues against powering a desalination plant with wind farms on the grounds that they are eyesores which involve government outlay. Well, dams don't come cheaply and not everybody thinks they're beautiful.

Michael Kellock

Foster, Vic

THE maniac zealotry of the Victorian Government has produced the ultimate stupid machine, a giant desalinator to be driven by windmills. Sancho Panza, where are you?

What will happen when the wind stops blowing? Thirty years of desalination plants, 50 years of nuclear plants and countless worldwide studies and analysis show that nuclear-powered desalination is likely to be cheaper by a factor of six than Victoria's windmills machine. Even Egypt and Tunisia have nuclear desalinators. Is the technology really too hard for us? When the wind stops, we will of course burn more dirty brown coal and belch carbon dioxide into the air. Put some spin on that, Mr Bracks.

The veracity of science is being assaulted from many quarters by neo-religious zealots. All of Australia is paying for our past failure to adopt nuclear power. We can no longer attract heavy industry because our power will become too expensive as carbon taxes inevitably turn the screws.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

But a desalination plant powered by windmills? Hands up those engineers who never lost their love for Meccano sets. Watch the cost per litre of desalinated water pass six times the cost of dam water. Just for the greenie vote.

Geoffrey Sherrington

Donvale, Vic

Not autonomous units

YOU report that enrolments in mining-related subjects have "plummeted" by 17 per cent since 1991 ("Unis slow to meet mining demands", 23-24/6). That's nothing. Enrolments in IT-related subjects, if Queensland numbers are an indication, have dropped more than 70 per cent since 2001. That's what I call a "plummet".

Meanwhile, all the indications are that industry is hitting another growth phase and -- wait for it -- universities around the country have been laying off hundreds of academics. I have difficulty in seeing how this is running universities "like businesses". Any well-managed business would anticipate an upturn at the low point of the cycle, rather than dismantle all its capacity, then have to rebuild at great expense.

A big problem is that departments in universities are not autonomous units. They are frequently put in a position of being unable to bank a surplus, yet being forced to carry a deficit. Also, university administrations and governments are notorious for changing the rules without concern for consequences. If any business sector was subject to the level of destructive micro-management by government that universities are, you can bet there would be a change of government at the next election. Universities run like businesses? Not a chance.

Philip Machanick

Taringa, Qld

Spreading falsehoods

WHILST I applaud the rolling out of faster broadband across the country, I am still awaiting mobile phone coverage and free-to-air TV reception at my place; just minutes from the CBD of our largest city. I get better reception for both when I'm visiting outback towns than when I'm sitting at home. If Helen Coonan says one more time that there is 100 per cent coverage in the capital cities, I may sue her for spreading falsehoods.

Don Plimer

Kensington, NSW

FIRST BYTE

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Our PM's indication, in announcing national emergency measures, that it's OK to move other than in accordance with Constitutional niceties suggests that, in lieu of the next election, we could give our Abrams tanks a run in Canberra.

M. F. Horton

Alice Springs, NT

Noel Pearson's hour has come and jealous comments from the Old Guard, such as Lowitja O'Donoghue's "(he's) not our new messiah", won't detract from his image as Australia's Martin Luther King.

L. Leroux

Acton, ACT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Dutch backpacker Paul de Waard deserves honorary Australian citizenship.

MokhlesK. Sidden

South Strathfield, NSW

If Jonah Jones (First Byte, 23-24/6) is serious in advocating annual elections, I for one support him. The wisdom of the people exercised every 12 months would have stopped any democratic nation from the folly of invading Iraq.

David Tehr

Dalkeith, WA

If the federal Labor Party is serious about its broadband internet vision, why is it that the ACT Labor Government won't force TransACT to deliver speeds faster than 2megabits per second over its cable network to residential consumers?

Mark Scott

Oxley, ACT

How did Jamie Walker find Roxby Downs if he was looking in the Simpson Desert ("Postman finally finds an address in full boom town", 23-24/6)?

Alan Sanders

Southbank, Vic

This is scary: I find myself agreeing with Frank Pulsford's two most recent letters. Either Frank has finally seen the light or I'm losing my mind. Or both.

Lewis Winders

Sheffield, Tas

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GPO Box 4162, Sydney, NSW, 2001 Fax: 02 9288 3077

Email: [letters@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:letters@theaustralian.com.au) (no attachments)

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Prints of Leak cartoons

For information on buying prints of any Bill Leak cartoon go to [leakcartoons@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:leakcartoons@theaustralian.com.au)

Prints of Nicholson cartoons

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To buy a print of a Nicholson cartoon go to <http://www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au/print>

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## War on the Corner

The New York Times

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Late Edition - Final

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**Byline:** By MOHAMAD BAZZI

Mohamad Bazzi teaches journalism at New York University and was recently a visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

## **Body**

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Across the street from my building in Beirut, there's a bakery that doubles as the local office of a Sunni political party. Normally, the shebab -- young men -- spend all day and night roaring around the block on mopeds, or soaping and polishing their cars while playing thumping rap music. But one evening last May, while my wife and I were on a visit from New York, they were standing on the sidewalk with a hodgepodge of rifles and handguns. One of them had put on a ski mask, which made his air of menace curiously abstract. When he hoisted his rifle, pretending to shoot, he held it from the waist like a child soldier in Liberia.

In the span of one week, Lebanon had come to teeter on the edge of communal warfare -- the one thing all Lebanese politicians have vowed would never happen again since the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990. After 18 months of political deadlock, word went out that the Shiite militia Hezbollah was dispatching hundreds of fighters into the largely Sunni areas of West Beirut.

As the sun set that evening, a couple of teenagers headed over to the corner and hauled a trash Dumpster into the middle of the street. The Dumpster didn't block the street entirely, so after some debate, the shebab dragged two French doors from a nearby construction site and propped them at a delicate, 45-degree angle against the Dumpster, one on each side, making a contraption that looked as if it might fall over in a strong breeze.

By morning, the Dumpster was pushed aside. The shooting was heavy and very close; you could smell it. Hezbollah was outside, sweeping through the neighborhood while our Sunni neighbors were trying to fight back.

As a child growing up in the early 1980s during the civil war, I spent long nights huddled in the hallway with my parents while various militias traded artillery and machine-gun fire. When the fighting was particularly heavy, we would drag mattresses into the hallway and prop them against the walls. And now I found myself reverting to that old civil-war mode, as our block reverberated with gunfire and the occasional thump of rocket-propelled grenades.

But at a certain point, desperate to know what was going on, we broke one of the cardinal rules I learned during the civil war: stay away from the windows -- from anything that can shatter. We peeked through the bedroom curtains.

Across the street, three Hezbollah commandos in green fatigues crouched, Kalashnikovs propped on their knees, in a small garden where kids usually play ball. Two more advanced methodically down the block, shouting to

## War on the Corner

residents: "Don't go outside! Stay inside! Don't go out on your balconies!" A teenaged boy, barefoot, ran toward them, shirtless to show he was unarmed, surrendering. As we watched, one fighter swung his rifle toward our window. It pointed directly at us; he must have seen the curtain flutter and thought it was a sniper. We scampered away from the window, back into the hallway.

We decided we might as well get used to our new, reduced home. During the civil war, people relied on battery-powered radios; this time we had wireless Internet access, and soon Annia was instant-messaging her friends in New York.

After an hourlong lull in the fighting, Annia started filling empty bottles with water in case this turned into a siege, or in case our rooftop water tank got shot out, like that of the hotel across the street. She made oatmeal with almonds and strawberries. I took my bowl and settled down to eat on the balcony. A burst of gunfire rippled out. I scuttled back inside. "Maybe it's not time to start eating on the balcony just yet," I said to Annia.

In the civil war, people developed routines. At first, they peek out of their windows. When they see that things are quiet, they go out on their balconies. Then other people join them, and soon you have entire families on the balconies, pointing, discussing, analyzing the situation. Some pull up chairs and light cigarettes, or even water pipes. In our case, by noon, a few women were on the sidewalk. Some, braving possible snipers, even made forays into the street. Another lesson: women are often the first to venture out because they're less likely to be mistaken for combatants. When the call to prayer warbled out, people started filtering down the block, in ones and twos, toward the mosque.

Over the next few days, Hezbollah pulled its fighters off the streets, and leaders of the various factions headed to Qatar to negotiate. The country had been saved. Just as after the civil war, people made a silent pact to submerge their fear and distrust of one another. But the events of that week reminded me how quickly those feelings can rise up again -- how easily we can settle back into the familiar, almost comfortable rhythms of civil war.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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DRAWING (DRAWING BY HOLLY WALES)

**Load-Date:** May 18, 2011

### *In short Non Fiction*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 5, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** SPECTRUM; Books; Pg. 35

**Length:** 888 words

**Byline:** Reviews by Bruce Elder

## **Body**

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### ON MY OWN TWO FEET

By Janine Shepherd

Random House, 288pp, \$34.95

There are some nonfiction books - particularly follow-ups to previous bestsellers - that read more like a dialogue between the author and their fans than a story to be enjoyed by new readers.

In earlier books Janine Shepherd, a champion cross-country skier, told how she was seriously injured when hit by a truck in 1986 but went on to fly an aircraft, become an aerobatics instructor, marry and have three children.

In this, the sequel, she staggers from crisis to crisis. Her mother has her pancreas, lymph nodes and duodenum removed; her husband, a Qantas pilot, ends up with meningitis in a hospital in Los Angeles then he is diagnosed with depression and a bipolar disorder; and her marriage collapses.

Between crises Shepherd recounts the mundane minutiae of her everyday life: horse-riding; home renovations; her husband's problems with flight exams; going to the Sydney 2000 Olympics. This is a strange, strange book that doesn't make much sense if you haven't read her previous ones.

### DICTIONARY OF BATTLES AND SIEGES

By Tony Jaques

The Miegunyah Press, 1354pp, \$90

This is a book that should not exist. Over every page, with its tiny succinct entries on battles such as "Buffalo Wallow, 1874, Red River Indian War" and "Marignano, 1515, War of the Holy League", hangs the solitary question, "Why?"

Surely if I want information on these battles I would go to the internet. Surely if I wanted the information in a portable format I wouldn't want to lug around a book that weighs about 2 kg. And, if you want to understand its bias, go looking for the famous Aboriginal-white settler battles in Australia - most famously the Battle of Pinjarra - and you won't find any in a book that lists 8500 battles.

## In short Non Fiction

This book seems to have been written for people who collect reference books. The scholarship is remarkable and the information about humanity's penchant for warfare is profoundly depressing.

It offers plenty of sad, supportive evidence for Konrad Lorenz's thesis, articulated in *On Aggression*, that males are biologically programmed for aggression and violence.

**HEZBOLLAH**

By Augustus Richard Norton

Princeton University Press, 187pp, \$29.95

This excellent short history of Hezbollah, written by a former US Army officer and current professor of international relations and anthropology at Boston University, demonstrates that dismissing it as a "terrorist organisation" is both glib and dishonest.

Here is the story of the complex relations between Israel, Lebanon and Syria; those between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims; of how the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in the early 1980s gave rise to the emergent Hezbollah; of how Hezbollah, in a country with a poor social service network, took the initiative and established hospitals, orphanages, factories to produce halal foods, schools, a vocational institute for women and even petrol stations and a computer store.

Everyone who wants to understand the complexities of the Middle East, and particularly those of Lebanon and Israel, and wants to reach the truth beyond the political rhetoric, should read this book. The narrative is straightforward even if the mountain of facts is sometimes overwhelming.

## PICK OF THE WEEK

## ISOLARION

By James Attlee

University of Chicago Press, 278pp, \$41.95

Having lived in south Oxfordshire for seven years in the 1970s I have travelled up and down Oxford's Cowley Road, which runs from Magdalen Bridge to the famous Morris car works, literally thousands of times. In all those journeys, not once did it occur to me that the rich diversity of cafes, shops, pubs, galleries and houses would be the suitable subject for a travel book. What a great idea.

Starting at Magdalen Bridge, taking his time and reflecting at length on what he sees and experiences, James Attlee slowly makes his way up this not-very-distinguished road. There are no Oxford colleges, no ancient buildings and no iconic statues. However, what he does discover shows that a journey of a few kilometres can be as rich and as memorable as a round-the-world ticket with a hundred stopovers.

Here is a world of Asian-run fruit shops, an alternative therapy flotation tank, a reggae concert, a tailor who specialises in clerical and legal robes and a Russian supermarket with "four kinds of coleslaw in jars". As well, Attlee researches and writes about the Pakistani community along the road, about the asylum seekers living secretly in the bedsits, and the eternal British obsession with football as it manifests itself in pub discussions and arguments.

Part of the appeal of this remarkable book is the way each shop manages to fire the author's imagination. Thus a visit to a jeweller includes references to Shakespeare, Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Petrarch and Charlemagne and the porn shop on the corner evokes Lucretius, St Jerome and even The Bible. Each experience opens up worlds of associations and slowly the street becomes the world. Attlee describes in meticulous detail each place - right down to the misspellings on the walls - and thus the book becomes a series of vignettes connected by the

## In short Non Fiction

road. In this he echoes the style adopted by Bruce Chatwin in his groundbreaking travel book *In Patagonia*. The vignettes, like marks on a painting by a pointillist, eventually coalesce to become a beautiful work of art.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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## *Hamas hopes for prisoner exchange*

The Irish Times

January 27, 2009 Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; War in Gaza; Pg. 11

**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** LARA MARLOWE in Gaza City

### **Body**

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CLOSE TO 100 sad, ageing women crowded into the front courtyard of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) here yesterday, clutching photographs of their sons and husbands in Israeli prisons.

The Israel-Hamas ceasefire has raised hopes of a prisoner exchange. In the war, 100 Palestinians were killed for every Israeli. The ratio however works to the Palestinians' advantage in hostage swaps. Hamas hopes to obtain the freedom of up to 400 prisoners in exchange for the Franco-Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit it holds.

We will release all the women in Israeli jails. This is our main demand, shouts a young man. Abu Mujahed, spokesman for Hamas's Popular Resistance, tells me there are 150 women and 350 boys under the age of 18 among 11,000 Palestinians held in Israel.

It is a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention for Israel to move prisoners from occupied territory to Israel, the ICRC says.

Shalit will not be the only soldier, Abu Mujahed harangues the female crowd. We will kidnap more soldiers to release our prisoners. We captured some during the aggression three-week war, but the Israelis killed them in bombardments, he continues.

Nawal Salem (50) frets that her son Rami, who is serving a 16-year sentence for laying land mines and shooting at Israeli soldiers, worried terribly about his family in Gaza during the war. When the prisoners write home, they beg the women to speak to them on thrice-weekly broadcasts on Palestinian radio stations entitled: We will not forget our prisoners.

Majda Haddad (49) attends every meeting of the Association to Free Prisoners, even on feast days, even during the bombing, because it gives me strength. Her son Raed (29) has served half his 14-year sentence.

He's with the [Fatah] al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade. They sent him to southern Lebanon to train for a month with Hizbullah. The Israelis grabbed him at the Rafah crossing, on his way home.

Two foreign guests are treated like celebrities.

Sami el-Haj, the Sudanese journalist for al-Jazeera television whom US forces arrested in Afghanistan in 2001, has come from Guantánamo (where he was freed last May) to Gaza out of solidarity, and Magdi Hussein, an Egyptian Islamist and scholar who is close to the Muslim Brotherhood.

## Hamas hopes for prisoner exchange

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2009

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## **Body of female fighter returned**

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

July 17, 2008 Thursday

All But Toronto Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A8

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Tom Perry, Reuters

**Dateline:** BEIRUT

### **Body**

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BEIRUT - Some crept into Israel by boat, others used ladders to scale the border fence from Lebanon to attack the Jewish state.

Their bodies returned to Lebanon by truck yesterday as part of an exchange between Israel and the Lebanese guerrilla group **Hezbollah**. Most of the nearly 200 bodies are thought to be Palestinian, killed in decades of conflict with Israel.

Exhumed from numbered graves in a cemetery in northern Israel, they include Dalal al-Mughrabi, remembered by Palestinians as a heroine and by Israelis as a terrorist for leading a 1978 raid that killed about 35 people.

Mughrabi, 20, who was killed during the attack, became a prominent symbol of the Palestinians' fight for statehood.

Her body was received with military honours by **Hezbollah**, an organization that did not exist when the law student and her raiding party sailed from Lebanon to Israel in small rubber boats.

They landed on a beach in northern Israel, where they shot dead an American woman taking wildlife photos before hijacking a civilian bus on the coastal highway.

Born in Beirut to a Lebanese mother and a Palestinian father, Mughrabi led a secret life in Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. Before leaving the family home for the last time, she handed her mother her portrait photo.

"She said, 'Take this picture.' I felt great sadness and distress. I asked myself, 'Why has she brought me this,?'" said Aminah Ismail, 70.

"As she got further away she kept looking back and waving goodbye. She crossed the road and she was still waving to me."

Mughrabi's body was accompanied by the remains of three other members of the group whose attack triggered Israel's 1978 invasion of south Lebanon, territory controlled by Palestinian factions at the time.

Sultan Aboul Einein, a Fatah official and veteran guerrilla, said up to 150 of the dead were former Fatah fighters who would have made the same choice as Mughrabi.



## Body of female fighter returned

"They represent an historic, essential stage in our struggle," he said.

"They all fought for Palestine and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

"Upon their arrival they will have a temporary burial until their burial in Palestine."

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2008

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## *Forsaking both soldiers and the downtrodden*

The Jerusalem Post

June 6, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 9

**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** DAVID J. FORMAN

**Highlight:** Counterpoint

### **Body**

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In light of the release of *Hizbullah* spy Nissim Nasser, the possibility of a deal being struck for the return of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, kidnapped at the start of the recent Lebanon war, is again dominating the headlines. It is a stark reminder that next week will mark yet another anniversary of the battle of Sultan Yakoub, when soldiers Yehuda Katz, Zvi Feldman and Zachary Baumel went missing during the First Lebanon War. After more than 26 years since that fateful day of June 11, 1982, they have essentially been forgotten.

It was so long ago that no one gives a damn. For certain, their names are not raised in present negotiations. The only time recently that I have heard the name of one of these missing soldiers mentioned in public was at the wedding of Zachary Baumel's niece (whom he never met). A prayer for all the Israeli MIAs was included in metaphorical juxtaposition to that part in the wedding ceremony when Psalm 137 is recited, just prior to the breaking of the wine glass: "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither; let my tongue stick to my palate, if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory even at my happiest hour."

When the groom brought his foot crashing down on the wine glass, I had this sinking feeling that he was symbolically shattering any hope of our ever finding out what happened to Baumel, Katz and Feldman, as well as to Guy Hever and Ron Arad. (It has been rumored that Israel has agreed to take Arad's name off the table in the recent round of negotiations for Regev and Goldwasser.)

IN AN act of desperation to call attention to the fate of Regev, Goldwasser and Gilad Schalit, a Pessah Seder, with the appropriate theme "Free the Captives," was conducted in front of the prime minister's residence. During the First Lebanon War, a group of reserve soldiers returning from the field of battle stood in silence across from the prime minister's residence, as they changed the numbers daily on a board of those who were being killed in the war. Whenever prime minister Menachem Begin returned to his residence, he walked across the street to where the reservists were standing and bowed his head in mournful contemplation.

Why was there not one government representative at that Seder? Ehud Olmert tells us that there is not a day that passes that he does not think about all the missing soldiers and their families. I seriously doubt that Olmert and the rest of his ministers lose a minute's sleep over the matter.

Despite the above-mentioned perennial announcements that an agreement for their return is close at hand, they remain in captivity, as does Schalit. We can only pray that one day these recurrent reports turn out to be true, before our government loses interest in Udi, Eldad and Gilad, as it has with Zachary, Yehuda, Zvi, Ron and Guy.

## Forsaking both soldiers and the downtrodden

But what should we expect from Olmert who inherited the mantle of leadership from Ariel Sharon, the architect of the first Lebanese fiasco? When Sharon became prime minister, he should have felt a moral obligation to find out about our MIAs from that war. He did nothing. Since the Second Lebanon War, our prime minister brashly states that he has learned from his mistakes. On the contrary, he has learned nothing from his predecessor's mistakes regarding the MIAs; otherwise, Eldad's and Udi's immediate return would have been part of the government-approved UN cease-fire with Hizbullah. None of this bodes well for Olmert to correct the severe errors in judgment whereby he led the country, like Sharon, into a disastrous war.

THERE IS a severe crisis of confidence in our political leadership. In virtually all areas of governmental responsibility, we the citizenry have been sorely disappointed. Therefore, to compensate for the government's inertia, volunteer organizations and NGOs have assumed the role that the government should fill. Like those volunteer groups that seek to keep the cause of the missing soldiers in the public eye and travel the world to uncover any shred of information about them, as well as lend support to their families, there are manifold organizations and hundred of volunteers involved in other social issues as well.

They work in Israeli Jewish and Arab programs, help Ethiopian Jews, teach in Beduin encampments, establish shelters for battered women, manage rape crisis centers, serve hot lines for foreign workers, combat trafficking in women, protect Palestinian farmers from settler hooliganism, advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians, promote religious pluralism - to name but a few.

Economic policies over the past years have witnessed a widening gap between the haves and have-nots. To aid those who have been relegated to the margins of Israeli society, dozens of organizations do the work of the government by aiding the elderly, the poor and the needy - setting up soup kitchens, dispensing heating oil, delivering blankets and clothes, distributing food packages.

There is a direct paradigmatic link between the manner in which our government relates to the missing and the way it relates to all who suffer neglect.

If our leaders would fulfill the Jewish ethic that instructs us not to abandon our soldiers on the field of battle, no matter how long ago, then they would not discard the weaker elements in our society. But, until this happens, it will continue to fall to us to become the proponents of all our MIAs; and consequentially the moral spokespersons for all the disenfranchised, who, like the missing and their families, have been callously forsaken.

## Graphic

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Photo: Elderly immigrants at a soup kitchen. Volunteer organizations have assumed roles once filled by the government. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *Israel must fight its battles alone*

The Toronto Star

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

Copyright 2009 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A02

**Length:** 664 words

**Byline:** Rosie DiManno, Toronto Star

### **Body**

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In defending its existence, Israel needs no advice from anybody.

It does not require the world's approval.

That will never be granted and, in any event, wouldn't minimize even an iota the intransigence of Israel's many enemies - those who lob rockets indiscriminately at civilians, delete the vilified nation from school textbooks, screech venom during public protests and demand boycotts against Israeli professors in Canadian universities.

For all the political support Israel still enjoys in Washington - where President-elect Barack Obama has declined to speak a condemnatory word about the now 12-day-old offensive against Gaza, perhaps hoping the crisis will be diffused before he takes office - the tiny state well understands it will always have to fight its own wars, alone, with no purported ally making any common cause on the ground.

There is clearly, also, some doubt in the Knesset that an Obama administration would be so steadfast a friend to Israel as all its predecessors. That might have prompted Israel to act now, muscularly, with both aerial and ground assaults.

But just as Israel is never allowed to participate in a multinational military coalition against the likes of Afghanistan and Serbia - as if inclusion would bring disrepute on the exercise - so too is the country unilaterally and singularly responsible for its own security.

Aim rockets at towns inside Israel from Gaza - because moral equivalency apparently justifies such attacks on innocents as a response to economic blockade - and, at some point, the target will start firing back, if only out of exasperation.

What's astonishing - maddening to its opponents - is that this speck of an entity so rarely loses these battles, and even then only by virtue of a revisionist scorecard that racks up demerit points for failing to achieve all objectives. By this reckoning, Israel lost the 2006 war with Hezbollah in Lebanon because the foe wasn't remotely routed. And Israel, wracked with self-reproach over what it failed to do in that engagement, accepted the assessment. For the first time, its vaunted security forces looked weakened, blunted by Hezbollah's sheer refusal to recoil. Of course, the truth is that Hezbollah was more than willing to accept the death of civilians, made this expendability of human life part of its martial tactics, and then exploited those losses to secure greater revulsion for Israel.

## Israel must fight its battles alone

Having made the difficult decision, too long deferred, to take the conflict to Hamas by sending ground troops into Gaza, Israel needs to finish what it started; to control the battlefield for today and for however many tomorrows can be secured by this tragic but unavoidable campaign.

That means no ceasefire yet and maybe house-to-house combat before it's over, Hamas relishing the prospect of urban warfare on turf its fighters know intimately. That won't change the outcome but it will cause more suffering for Palestinians.

The optics of war are poor for Israel as helpless civilians flee from the barrage, bloodied children carried in their parents' arms, grown men weeping over the destruction of their homes. But it is Hamas that established the non-boundaries of this conflict by inserting fighters and munitions into mosques, schools and teeming residential neighbourhoods. They hide behind the skirts of women and promote martyrdom.

While neither side is yet in the mood to accept a truce, Hamas has more to gain by a cessation of hostilities, despite all the defiant rhetoric. Hamas knows as little about fighting a conventional war as they do about governing with even a vestige of competence.

Since Palestinians made the fatal error of electing a radical Islamist organization over the corrupt devil that they knew, they doomed themselves to lives of crushing wretchedness. These are the consequences.

But in the court of public opinion, Israel can't win for trying. Every Israeli knows that. Every Jew knows it.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

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### National briefs

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 9, 2008, Friday

Copyright 2008 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P8A

**Length:** 958 words

## **Body**

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### Defense secretary plans aid to Myanmar

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday the U.S. military was stepping up preparations for a relief mission in Myanmar, but he said he couldn't imagine air dropping aid without permission from the closed regime.

His comments followed those earlier Thursday by Ky Luu, director of the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, that an air drop was one option being considered as Myanmar's junta continued to stall on accepting assistance from the United States.

Gates said the military was moving aircraft, ships and Marines closer to Myanmar in case permission is granted to deliver humanitarian supplies.

"I cannot image us going in without the permission of the Myanmar government," Gates said at a Pentagon press conference with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### Funeral industry offers new option to burial

CONCORD, N.H. - Since they first walked the planet, humans have either buried or burned their dead. Now a new option is generating interest - dissolving bodies in lye and flushing the brownish, syrupy residue down the drain.

The process is called alkaline hydrolysis and was developed in this country 16 years ago to get rid of animal carcasses. It uses lye, 300-degree heat and 60 pounds of pressure per square inch to destroy bodies in big stainless-steel cylinders that are similar to pressure cookers.

No funeral homes in the U.S. - or anywhere else in the world, as far as the equipment manufacturer knows - offer it. In fact, only two U.S. medical centers use it on human bodies, and only on cadavers donated for research.

Because of its environmental advantages, some in the funeral industry say it could someday rival burial and cremation.

### Doctors at greater suicide risk, study says

CHICAGO - There's a grim, rarely talked-about twist to all that medical know-how doctors learn to save lives: It makes them especially good at ending their own. An estimated 300 to 400 U.S. doctors kill themselves each year - a suicide rate thought to be higher than in the general population, although exact figures are hard to come by.

## National briefs

Some doctors believe the stigma of mental illness is magnified in a profession that prides itself on stoicism and bravado. Many fear admitting psychiatric problems could be fatal to their careers, so they suffer in silence.

"All physicians have access to neat, clean ways to commit suicide," said Dr. Robert Lehmberg, a Little Rock, Ark., surgeon who has battled depression and long considered suicide "an exit strategy if absolutely necessary."

## Robbery suspect caught from photo

BENSALEM, Pa. - Police say they had no trouble tracking down a robbery suspect, because the victims had taken his picture while chatting with him at a bar a short time before the theft.

The suspect, Andre Smith, struck up a conversation with a group of women at a bachelorette party at the Bensalem Township taproom early Sunday morning, the township's public safety director, Fred Harran, said Wednesday. The women were taking photos of each other when Smith jumped in front of the camera, Harran said.

Smith later was ejected from the bar for allegedly harassing customers.

When two women in the group left the bar to go to a nearby convenience store, Smith robbed them of their purses, Harran said. The women recognized Smith - who apparently didn't recognize them - and gave investigators a copy of their photo, Harran said.

Later Sunday, a detective went around to local apartment complexes looking for Smith and spotted him, Harran said.

Smith was arrested on robbery and theft charges and is being held on \$50,000 bail. Electronic court records did not list an attorney for him.

## World briefs

Hezbollah wages gunbattles in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Running gunbattles raged in parts of Beirut on Thursday after the leader of Hezbollah accused Lebanon's Western-backed government of declaring war on his Shiite militant group. At least four people were killed and eight wounded in the capital.

In a grim reminder of Lebanon's devastating 1975-90 civil war, factions threw up roadblocks and checkpoints dividing Beirut into sectarian enclaves on the second day of clashes between Sunni Muslims loyal to the government and Shiite supporters of Hezbollah.

A top Sunni leader went on television urging Hezbollah to pull its fighters back and "save Lebanon from hell."

The army, which has stayed out of the sectarian political squabbling that has paralyzed the country for more than a year, did not intervene in the battles.

The chattering of automatic weapons and thumps of exploding rocket-propelled grenades echoed across Beirut. People huddled in hallways or staircases as gunmen rushed from one street corner to the next firing at their foes. Some families fled to neighborhoods that remained quiet.

## Bahamas releases giant manta ray into ocean

NASSAU, Bahamas - A 1,000-pound manta ray was returned to the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday after three years as a research subject and tourist attraction at a Bahamian resort.

The massive black ray, known as "Zeus," was lowered from a helicopter on a hydraulically welded frame to ensure its safe entry into the water. It spans nearly 13 feet in diameter - including a 3-foot mouth.

## National briefs

Marine biologists had studied the creature and will now use a satellite tracking tag to monitor its movements in the open sea.

Relocating the ray from its 2.7 million-gallon aquarium took more than two hours, according to a statement issued by the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island.

Known for its water slides and pink-towered hotel, the Atlantis is the flagship resort of Kerzner International Holdings, a casino and hotel developer. The resort employs 7,800 people, making it the largest private employer in the Bahamas.

Compiled from wire reports

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2008

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## *Lebanese rockets fire on Israel*

The Australian

January 9, 2009 Friday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 684 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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ISRAEL last night faced a war on a second front after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into the Jewish state, only a day after **Hezbollah** warned it had kept "all options open" in response to the 13-day offensive against its ally Hamas.

The attack, to which Israel immediately replied with artillery fire, came after it yesterday conducted 60 strikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian death toll from Operation Cast Lead passed 700.

**Hezbollah** denied it was responsible for the attack, but it followed leader Hassan Nasrallah raising for the first time the possibility of a renewed conflict with Israel since the air, naval and land operation against Hamas began on December 27.

"We have to act as though all possibilities are real and open (against Israel) and we must always be ready for any eventuality," Nasrallah said in a speech on Wednesday.

**Hezbollah**, which claims to have up to 40,000 rockets in southern Lebanon, ruined Israel's reputation as the Middle East's military strongman in the month-long Lebanese war of 2006.

No other group claimed responsibility for the attack, but sources suggested the three Katyushas might have been fired by militants in support of Hamas, such as the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- General Command, which has warned that it might open other fronts against Israel if the attacks on Gaza continued.

The three Katyushas fired at the northern Israeli town of Nahariya injured two **women**.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak this week raised the prospect of Israel facing a second front.

"While we are fighting in Gaza, we keep an open eye on the sensitive situation to the north. We are ready and alert to face any unwanted developments in that area," said Mr Barak, a former defence chief and Israel's most decorated soldier.

The development on the Lebanese border came after Israel renewed its offensive in Gaza only minutes after the expiry at 4pm Wednesday (1am yesterday AEDT) of the first of its daily three-hour bombardment pauses of the Palestinian enclave.

## Lebanese rockets fire on Israel

After the first attack, the Israeli army fired five shells into Lebanon at the district where the rockets had come from. Residents in the area quickly started to flee, fearing a new war front.

With the bombardment pause due to go into effect for the second time last night, to allow the delivery of more aid through a humanitarian corridor opened up on Wednesday by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, jets carried out mass strikes on smuggling tunnels under the border between Gaza and Egypt.

At the same time as it escalated its attacks near the Egyptian border, Israel's security cabinet said it welcomed a French-Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in the hostilities.

The security cabinet decided that while it would consider the ceasefire proposal, it would push ahead with its aim to target Hamas strongholds and remove the group's ability to launch rockets into southern Israel.

Government spokesman Mark Regev said: "Israel welcomes the initiative being considered for sustainable quiet."

But he said that from Israel's point of view it must contain two conditions -- a cessation of firing into Israel and an arms embargo on Hamas that received international support.

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Hamas officials yesterday met Iranian officials at Iran's embassy in Damascus, Syria, to discuss their response to the proposal.

Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas was also scheduled to travel to Cairo as part of negotiations.

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Opinion -- Page 12

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**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009

## *Lebanese rockets fire on Israel*

The Australian

January 9, 2009 Friday

2 - All-round First Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 708 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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ISRAEL last night faced a war on a second front after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into the Jewish state, only a day after **Hezbollah** warned it had kept "all options open" in response to the 13-day offensive against Hamas.

The attack, to which Israel immediately replied with artillery fire, came after it yesterday conducted 60 strikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian death toll from Operation Cast Lead passed 700.

**Hezbollah** denied it was responsible for the attack, but it followed leader Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday raising for the first time the possibility of a renewed conflict with Israel since the air, naval and land operation against Hamas began on December 27.

"We have to act as though all possibilities are real and open (against Israel) and we must always be ready for any eventuality," Nasrallah said.

**Hezbollah**, which claims to have up to 40,000 rockets in southern Lebanon, ruined Israel's reputation as the Middle East's military strongman in the month-long Lebanese war of 2006. The exchange of fire yesterday echoed that conflict, which began against the backdrop of Israel's last major offensive in Gaza.

No other group claimed responsibility for the attack, but sources suggested the three Katyushas might have been fired by militants in support of Hamas, such as the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which has warned it may open other fronts against Israel if the attacks on Gaza continue.

Two **women** were wounded in the attack on the northern Israeli town of Nahariya. Lebanese officials said rockets were fired from an area north of the Lebanese coastal village of Naqoura. Israeli television said five Israeli mortar shells crashed near a village about 3km north of the border. Residents in the area quickly started to flee, fearing a new war front.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak this week raised the prospect of Israel facing a second front.

"While we are fighting in Gaza, we keep an open eye on the sensitive situation to the north. We are ready and alert to face any unwanted developments in that area," said Mr Barak.

## Lebanese rockets fire on Israel

The development on the Lebanese border came after Israel renewed its offensive in Gaza only minutes after the expiry at 4pm Wednesday (1am yesterday AEDT) of the first of its daily three-hour bombardment pauses of the Palestinian enclave.

Before the bombardment pause went into effect for the second time last night, to allow the delivery of more aid through a humanitarian corridor opened up on Wednesday by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, jets carried out mass strikes on tunnels used to smuggle arms under the border between Gaza and Egypt.

Tanks were reported to have entered the southern part of Gaza and an officer was killed by anti-tank fire, bringing to eight the Israeli soldiers killed in the operation. At the same time as it escalated its attacks near the Egyptian border, Israel's security cabinet welcomed a French-Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in the hostilities. The security cabinet decided that while it would consider the proposal, it would continue to dismantle Hamas's ability to launch rockets into southern Israel.

"Israel welcomes the initiative being considered for sustainable quiet," government spokesman Mark Regev said. But he said Israel required two conditions -- a cessation of firing into Israel and an arms embargo on Hamas that received international support.

UN officials said yesterday that only 36 trucks carrying fuel, food, water and medicines had got into Gaza on the first day of the corridor's operation on Wednesday. UN Works and Relief Agency spokesman Chris Gunness said this was "a drop in the ocean", saying it would have helped only 10,000 people out of a population of 1.5 million. At least 500 trucks around the clock were needed.

Israeli representatives arrived in Cairo last night for talks on a plan presented on Tuesday by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy. Talks were to be held separately with representatives of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said earlier Cairo was aiming for a ceasefire within three days.

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**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009

**Hamas vows more attacks; Palestinians fire in air in celebration while U.S.,  
Abbas condemn massacre at Jerusalem seminary**

The Toronto Star  
March 7, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA01

**Length:** 642 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY

## **Body**

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Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised yesterday's deadly attack on a rabbinical seminary and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

Hamas stopped just short of claiming responsibility for the Jerusalem shootings, which left nine people dead including the gunman.

"We bless the operation. It will not be the last," Hamas said in a statement sent to reporters by text message.

At mosques in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip, many residents performed prayers of thanksgiving, only performed in cases of great victory.

About 7,000 Gazans marched in the streets of Jebaliya, firing in the air in celebration, and visited homes of those killed and wounded in the last Israeli incursion.

In the southern town of Rafah, residents distributed sweets to moving cars, and militants fired mortars in celebration.

In Lebanon, **Hezbollah**'s Al-Manar satellite TV station said a previously unknown group called the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh and Gaza was responsible for the attack. The claim could not immediately be verified. Mughniyeh, a **Hezbollah** commander, was killed in a car bomb in Syria last month. **Hezbollah** has blamed Israel for the assassination.

Israeli government spokesperson Mark Regev and moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the shooting. But Regev said the Palestinian government must take steps against the extremists - not just denounce their attacks.

"Tonight's massacre in Jerusalem is a defining moment," he told the Associated Press. "It is clear that those people celebrating this bloodshed have shown themselves to be not only the enemies of Israel but of all of humanity."

The United Nations, United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany all condemned the school shooting.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who had on Wednesday persuaded moderate Abbas to return to peace talks with Israel, called the attack an "act of terror and depravity."

Hamas vows more attacks Palestinians fire in air in celebration while U.S. , Abbas condemn massacre at Jerusalem seminary

Rice said she spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to express U.S. condolences to the people of Israel and the families of the victims.

"This barbarous act has no place among civilized peoples and shocks the conscience of all peace-loving nations. There is no cause that could ever justify this action," she said.

Israel's foreign ministry condemned the "abominable" attack and urged the world to rally with it against terrorism."

The ministry said Israel "expects the countries of the world to support it in its war against those who murder students, women and children, by any means and with respect for neither place nor target."

At his West Bank headquarters, Abbas condemned the attack.

"The president condemned all attacks that target civilians, whether they are Palestinian or Israeli," the president's statement said.

Abbas had briefly suspended talks to protest an Israeli offensive in Gaza that killed more than 120 Palestinians.

The Jerusalem attack came on the same day Egyptian officials were trying to mediate a truce between Palestinian militants and Israel.

The proposal, backed by the United States, would stop rocket fire on Israel in exchange for an end to Israeli attacks on militants and the resumption of trade and travel from Gaza. An Israeli official confirmed that Israel is open to the idea of letting guards from Abbas' Fatah movement oversee Gaza's borders, one of the main tenets of the truce idea.

But the Israeli spoke before the shooting, and it was not immediately known whether his country's position would change.

The Egyptian proposal reflected a growing realization that Israel's current policy of blockade and military action has failed to weaken Hamas. Still, a deal between Hamas and Israel was far from certain, with Israel fearing the militants will use any lull to rearm and Hamas raising tough conditions, such as a demand for Israel to stop targeting militants in the West Bank as well as Gaza.

## Graphic

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Nati Shohat EPA CORBIS Israeli medics rush a seriously wounded young Israeli to an ambulance outside a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem after deadly attack by gunman yesterday. MOHAMMED SALEM Reuters Hamas supporters in Jebaliya camp, northern Gaza Strip, celebrate yesterday's attack on a Jewish seminary. MOHAMMED SALEM Reuters Hamas supporters in Jebaliya camp, northern Gaza Strip, celebrate yesterday's attack on a Jewish seminary.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2008

## *Lebanese rockets fire on Israel*

The Australian  
January 9, 2009 Friday  
N - Canberra Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 684 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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ISRAEL last night faced a war on a second front after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into the Jewish state, only a day after Hezbollah warned it had kept "all options open" in response to the 13-day offensive against its ally Hamas.

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The three Katyushas fired at the northern Israeli town of Nahariya injured two women.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak this week raised the prospect of Israel facing a second front.

"While we are fighting in Gaza, we keep an open eye on the sensitive situation to the north. We are ready and alert to face any unwanted developments in that area," said Mr Barak, a former defence chief and Israel's most decorated soldier.

The development on the Lebanese border came after Israel renewed its offensive in Gaza only minutes after the expiry at 4pm Wednesday (1am yesterday AEDT) of the first of its daily three-hour bombardment pauses of the Palestinian enclave.

## Lebanese rockets fire on Israel

After the first attack, the Israeli army fired five shells into Lebanon at the district where the rockets had come from. Residents in the area quickly started to flee, fearing a new war front.

With the bombardment pause due to go into effect for the second time last night, to allow the delivery of more aid through a humanitarian corridor opened up on Wednesday by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, jets carried out mass strikes on smuggling tunnels under the border between Gaza and Egypt.

At the same time as it escalated its attacks near the Egyptian border, Israel's security cabinet said it welcomed a French-Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in the hostilities.

The security cabinet decided that while it would consider the ceasefire proposal, it would push ahead with its aim to target Hamas strongholds and remove the group's ability to launch rockets into southern Israel.

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**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009



## *Peace is the last thing Hamas want*

The Sun (England)

January 5, 2009 Monday

Edition 1

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

**Length:** 682 words

**Byline:** TREVOR Kavanagh

### **Body**

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IMAGES of distraught parents bearing the corpses of their mutilated children make "great" TV.

Great, as in powerful, I mean. They are potent, heartrending evidence of the atrocity that is war.

Sympathy instantly focuses on the innocent victims.

Which, of course, is precisely what the Hamas fanatics who run Gaza want.

For such zealots, global television news is priceless propaganda.

Never forget the difference between Islamist fanatics and those they aim to destroy.

"You love life," they sneer.

"We love death." The world was shocked when a suicide bomber made this chilling boast for the first time after 9/11.

Today it is the common mantra of radical Islamic clerics and terrorists. Shrewdly, they identify our squeamishness as weakness and use it as a weapon of war.

Since we love life, how can we fail to blame the Israelis when their tanks and bombers bring death to impoverished Palestinians? Certainly it is hard to ride to the defence of what looks like utterly disproportionate use of air power against a near-defenceless civilian enclave.

But how would you feel if you lived in a country the size of Wales surrounded by enemies who have vowed to destroy you? Where terrorists, armed and funded by powerful neighbours, are bombarding towns and villages every day with increasingly lethal rockets? And where every attempt at a negotiated peace is rebuffed by suicide attacks on your own innocent women and children? The Israelis have offered to end the fighting if Hamas stops firing rockets.

## Peace is the last thing Hamas want

No response.

The last thing Hamas or Hezbollah - or their puppet masters in Iran or Syria - want is peace with Israel.

They want the Jewish state exterminated - just as Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jewish people.

Yes, Gaza is an appalling example of man's inhumanity to man.

Fanatics

But without doubt, this invasion was systematically and skilfully provoked by fanatics elected by the Palestinians to run Gaza.

If they are eager for a short cut to Paradise, why not take a few hundred, a few thousand or a few hundred thousand with them? Saturday's demo by thousands of Muslim men and veiled women would have been more impressive if they'd done the same after London's 7/7 bombings.

Were they the same stooges police escorted through London with placards threatening to slit the throats of anyone who we supported cartoons about Mohammed? These marchers claim the Israeli onslaught cannot be justified by the amateurish bombardment of nearby Israeli towns such as Ashkelon and Sderot with primitive Kassam rockets.

Thousands of these homemade missiles are launched from Gaza, peppering the townships where, ironically, the residents moved for a quiet life.

Instead, as I found during a visit to Sderot last year, the constant fear of incoming missiles is a living nightmare.

New missiles are reaching deeper into Israel. More sophisticated versions are being smuggled by Hezbollah into neighbouring Lebanon.

Soon they will be able to reach the capital, Tel Aviv, and its airport.

It is fair to say that, no matter how provoked, Israel is not above reproach.

The presumption that Jews are the "Chosen People" can make them shockingly arrogant.

There are Israelis who speak with undisguised contempt about their Arab neighbours. Equally, in this Middle East oasis of free speech, Israeli citizens will vehemently attack their own government for any perceived injustice towards Palestinians.

Jews are the first to admit they are paranoid. Having survived the Holocaust, who wouldn't be? They live in constant fear that Iran will carry out its deadly threat to wipe them off the map.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is putting his words into deeds, bankrolling, training and arming Hamas and Hezbollah.

After decades of fighting for survival, there is an almost desperate desire for Israel to achieve a peaceful settlement, along the lines of those negotiated with Arab neighbours Jordan and Egypt.

Until then, Israel is fighting for its very life - just as it has been every day since it was born 60 years ago.

DO you agree with Trevor? Have your say at [thesun.co.uk/columnists](http://thesun.co.uk/columnists).

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2009

## *On Israel's political battlefield, a female contender rises*

Christian Science Monitor

May 7, 2007, Monday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 1

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** Joshua Mitnick Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** Tel Aviv

### **Body**

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So far, Tzipi Livni is one of the few politicians who have escaped unscathed from Israel's ongoing self-critique following the war in Lebanon.

And, with a public fed up with politicians mired in scandal, Ms. Livni, the foreign minister, has emerged as a contender to become Israel's second **female** prime minister.

The former intelligence agent surged forward thanks to her image as the antipolitician: clean in a morass of corruption, a technocrat amid apparatchiks, and circumspect in a political culture dominated by bluntness.

But while she has called for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to quit after the scathing Winograd Commission report on the war, her hesitation to lead a rebellion inside Mr. Olmert's Kadima Party is causing some to question her political prowess: Does Livni have the political chops to get the top spot and win over the confidence of Israelis.

"In Israel, politics is a contact sport," says David Makovsky, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "Her weakness is her sense of caution. She didn't have the influence to change the course of the cabinet debate, even though she wasn't happy" during the Lebanon war.

Mr. Olmert is thought to have survived the initial shock of the Winograd report, which criticized him for not having a clear enough plan for last summer's war against **Hizbullah**, even though his coalition is still considered fragile. On Sunday, Livni and Olmert issued a statement that they would continue to work together.

Just after **Hizbullah** captured two soldiers and killed three others inside Israel's border with Lebanon, sparking the war, Livni was one of the few talking about the diplomatic endgame in a cabinet meeting amid the clamor for fierce retaliation.

"It was clear to me that there would be no clear military victory," she recalled, according to the interim report of the Winograd Commission's inquiry. "It was clear to me that it would be impossible to get the soldiers back through a military operation."

During her 12-month tenure as Israel's top diplomat, the Lebanon war was not the only instance in which Livni has broken with conventional wisdom.

## On Israel 's political battlefield, a female contender rises

She has supported moving up talks on a final peace treaty with the Palestinians despite Israel's more conservative position ruling out negotiations as long as Palestinian militants can act at will.

Along with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Livni promoted talks about the so-called "political horizon," an effort to tackle, early on, deal-breaker issues like a right of return for Palestinian refugees. The two are known for their close rapport and have even been said to share the same talking points.

"Up until now, Palestinians have talked about their independence, and Israel has talked about its security," said an Israeli official who has worked with Livni at the foreign ministry. "Tzipi has said, 'No, we accept the principle of a Palestinian state; let's talk about what that means.' That's taking the dialogue a step further."

Her relatively dovish position on peace talks reflects the gradual recognition among some on the Israeli right that significant territorial concessions to the Palestinians would be a necessity for peace.

The daughter of a Likud parliamentarian and former right-wing underground member, Livni was appointed to be Israel's privatization czar in 1996 and then was elected to the legislature on the Likud slate in 1999. Loyal to former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, she backed his withdrawal from Gaza and followed his lead in bolting Likud to form the centrist Kadima Party.

When Mr. Sharon fell into a coma last year, she backed Olmert as prime minister and was named deputy prime minister after Kadima emerged victorious. But considerable speculation emerged about the tension between the two after the war.

In the wake of the Winograd report, Livni found herself the focus of swirling rumors that she planned to lead a movement inside of Kadima against Olmert. If successful, she would become the first woman to lead Israel since Golda Meir was prime minister in the early 1970s.

But at a press conference at the foreign ministry Wednesday, after tripping on the way to the podium, she then faltered politically.

For the first time, the politician known for her straight talking sounded muddled, explaining that she would remain as Olmert's deputy even though she believed he should resign. And overnight, she turned from the golden girl of Israel politics to an object of media ridicule.

While one commentator joked that she was more suited to be the leader of the Israel Women's Network, columnist Sima Kadmon of Yediot Ahronot newspaper likened her to a rabbit caught in the headlights. "She suddenly stopped and froze in place. Hesitated. Panicked. Unsure," wrote Ms. Kadmon. Livni "proved that she is far from being ready to be prime minister. An honest politician is definitely good news, but it is not enough to run a country."

Though observers say Livni missed an opportunity to topple Olmert, the Winograd's final report on the war, expected by the end of the summer, could provide her with another chance. "This isn't the end of it," says Akiva Eldar, a veteran political columnist for Haaretz newspaper. "She can be a killer. Don't forget she was four years in the Mossad. Don't let her face and her smiles fool you. She just made a mistake."

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

## *Show some backbone, EU*

The Jerusalem Post

March 25, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** HILLEL NEUER

**Highlight:** The writer is executive director of UN Watch in Geneva.

### **Body**

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The UN Human Rights Council's preoccupation with Israel will surge to a new intensity this week with the expected election of two officials who describe the Jewish state in Nazi terminology, along with three more resolutions indicting it for a litany of alleged crimes.

Unless the European Union starts showing backbone, the UN's other powerful voting blocs will continue scapegoating the Middle East's only democracy in order to divert attention from situations of gross human rights abuses in places like Tibet, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe, which target peaceful protesters, women and dissidents.

The council was created in June 2006 to reform the discredited Commission on Human Rights, criticized by many for its regular focus on Israel to the exclusion of the world's worst human rights violators. However, apart from some passing attention to Burma, the supposedly reformed body has devoted all of its condemnatory resolutions to the Jewish state - 16 to date.

Even still, the upcoming week, wrapping up the council's main annual session, will stand out as particularly egregious.

First, the 47-nation council will vote on three separate resolutions, introduced by the Arab and Islamic states, slamming Israel for alleged human rights violations in the Golan Heights, concerning the settlements, and for "severely impeding the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

There is not a word about recent Palestinian rocket and shooting attacks targeting civilians.

As it happens, the council already condemned Israel during the first week of this session - over events in Gaza - after Arab and Islamic states pushed the panel to rearrange its schedule and open with Agenda Item 7, "the Human Rights situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories," before anything else.

BY CONTRAST, the council has maintained strict silence on the bloody shootings and mass arrests taking place in Tibet. Its resolutions have been equally silent about abuses in 190 other countries.

Second, the Arab and Islamic states applied massive pressure on the council leadership to list Richard Falk as the only nominee to be the next Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories, to replace John Dugard, whose six-year term ends soon.

## Show some backbone, EU

The terms of the mandate, unchanged from February 1993, are to investigate "Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law." Actions by Palestinians and other Middle East regimes - rocket attacks, suicide bombings, state sponsorship of terror - are excluded from the investigator's purview.

Falk, an emeritus professor at Princeton, is a veteran figure on the international scene of radical Left and pro-Palestinian politics. "It is especially painful for me, as an American Jew," he wrote in a recent article, "to feel compelled to portray the ongoing and intensifying abuse of the Palestinian people by Israel through a reliance on such an inflammatory metaphor as 'holocaust.'"

After describing the Nazi horrors, he asked, "Is it an irresponsible overstatement to associate the treatment of Palestinians with this criminalized Nazi record of collective atrocity? I think not."

Falk's article concluded by warning of a "Palestinian holocaust in the making." If appointed, Falk will be a ubiquitous voice undermining the balanced approach of the road map for peace.

THIRD, THE council is expected to elect Jean Ziegler, a radical Geneva politician, to its 18-member advisory committee. As the UN expert on the right to food for the past seven years, Ziegler ignored many of the world's most starving populations, instead launching polemics against the West, the US and Israel.

In 2005, Ziegler compared Israeli soldiers to concentration camp guards. During a 2006 interview, he said, "I refuse to describe Hizbullah as a terrorist organization. It is a national resistance movement. I can understand Hizbullah when they kidnap soldiers."

As documented by a new UN Watch documentary available on YouTube, Ziegler also has an odd affinity for dictators. In 1989, shortly after Libyan agents blew up Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, he went to Libya to co-found the "Moammar Khaddafi Human Rights Prize," and served as its spokesman.

The prize has since been awarded to anti-Western dictators such as Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez, as well as racists and anti-Semites such as Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, and Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Muhammad. In 2002, the award went to Roger Garaudy, a French Holocaust denier - in the same year that Ziegler won it himself.

Bizarrely, although he once boasted of it - in five different newspapers, including Time magazine - Ziegler now denies any involvement with the prize.

Can anything be done? Yes.

On the resolutions, the Arab and Islamic states rely on an automatic majority of non-democratic countries. Yet the key battle is one of legitimacy, won or lost by how the democratic European Union votes. If the EU would announce a new stand of opposing the endless one-sided resolutions - instead of abstaining or even voting in favor - they might actually end.

Regarding Richard Falk, the appointment tomorrow will be by consensus between the council president and the 47 member states. If Canada and the EU publicly declare their opposition to his nomination, there will be no consensus. Though Falk could be elected by the Arab-backed majority, it is considered embarrassing for any expert to begin a mandate without the support of key democratic countries. The US, while not a voting member, must also publicly declare that they do not support this US national.

Finally, Ziegler's election, also for tomorrow, will be decided by the 47 council members. His victory is virtually assured - unless Switzerland withdraws his nomination. Human rights activists from Darfur, Cuba, the US and Europe have appealed to Swiss President Pascal Couchepin to act now, as have many hundreds of individuals through a petition on [www.unwatch.org](http://www.unwatch.org).

There's only one day left.

This week more than ever, the very credibility of the UN human rights system is at stake.

Show some backbone, EU

## Graphic

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Photo: RICHARD FALK: 'Is it an irresponsible overstatement to associate the treatment of Palestinians with this criminalized Nazi record of collective atrocity? I think not.'

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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End of Document

**DIGEST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 12, 2008 Monday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 674 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

## **Body**

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### BEIRUT, LEBANON

Pro-government forces are defeated in battle

Lebanon hung between fears of all-out war and hopes of political compromise Sunday as government supporters and opponents battled with rockets and machine guns in the mountains overlooking the capital.

The fighting saw the collapse of pro-government forces in the Aley region, a stronghold of anti-Syrian Druse leader Walid Jumblatt.

Beirut was quiet a day after Hezbollah gunmen left the streets, heeding an army call for the Shiite fighters to clear out.

Thirty-eight people have been killed since Wednesday, when a power struggle between the Hezbollah-led opposition and the U.S.-backed government began erupting into the worst sectarian violence since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Some analysts saw Hezbollah's demonstration of its power as paving the way for a solution to end the political crisis. Analysts said the opposition now appears to have the upper hand, which could force the government to compromise.

### KHARTOUM, SUDAN

Chad is accused of aiding rebels in surprise attack

Sudan severed relations with Chad on Sunday, accusing it of supporting fighters who assaulted the capital the night before, and warned that a top Darfur rebel leader was hiding somewhere in the city.

A curfew was lifted in Khartoum but remained in effect in the capital's twin city of Omdurman, where rebels were still loose, state-run radio reported quoting police Maj. Gen. Mohamed Abdul-Majeed. The country's official news agency said more than 300 rebels were arrested Sunday across Omdurman.

The surprise assault late Saturday was the closest Darfur rebels have ever come to Sudan's seat of government, hundreds of miles from their bases in the far west of the country.



## DIGEST

## KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

Prisoners have been on hunger strike for 6 days

More than 200 Taliban suspects have gone on a hunger strike in the Kandahar prison to demand fair trials, officials said Sunday.

The prisoners have not eaten for about six days, and three are in poor condition, said Bismillah Afghanmul, one of the provincial council members who met with the prisoners to try to resolve the situation. He said he met with nine prisoners who had taped their mouths shut.

The prisoners are demanding fair and independent trials as well as the presence of defense lawyers during the investigations and hearings, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission said in a statement.

They also complained that some of the cases have not gone before a court, leaving the detainees' fates in limbo, the commission said.

## KATMANDU, NEPAL

Hundreds of protesters detained after rallies

Police detained more than 600 **female** Tibetan protesters, including many Buddhist nuns, on Sunday after breaking up several demonstrations against China's recent crackdown in Tibet.

It was the largest number of protesters detained on a single day since Tibetan exiles began almost daily protests in March against Chinese policies in Tibet and the first time that only **women** demonstrated.

The protesters held three separate rallies in Katmandu but were quickly stopped by police. More than 600 protesters were being held in detention centers in Katmandu, said police official R.P. Dhamala.

Briefly

- Baghdad hopes: The U.S. military expressed hope Sunday for a diplomatic solution to seven weeks of fighting in Baghdad's Sadr City, as a fragile cease-fire settled over the Shiite slum that houses nearly half the capital's six million people.

- Ferry capsizes: An overloaded ferry capsized off the coast of southern Haiti, killing at least 11 people, U.N. and Haitian authorities said Sunday. The boat sank after taking on water about 150 yards from shore late Saturday.

- Olympic torch: A Chinese man was arrested for saying on the Internet that he planned to grab the Olympic torch during its relay through eastern China, Beijing police said Sunday.

- Sri Lanka vote: Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday hailed his party's election victory in the country's tense eastern province as a mandate to push ahead with his war against Tamil Tiger rebels in the north.

## Notes

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World

## Graphic

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## DIGEST

## PHOTO

PHOTO - Militants of the Shiite Amal opposition group take positions Sunday during heavy clashes with pro-government fighters in Shwayfat in the Druze mountains southeast of Beirut, Lebanon. Anwar Amro | AFP / Getty Images

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2008

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## *A tragedy unfolds in Turkey*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 30, 2008 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Leaders; Pg. 12

**Length:** 398 words

### **Body**

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THERE is no shortage of usual suspects for the callous bombing in Turkey's biggest city, Istanbul. Most fingers are pointed at the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. But there's also Hizbullah, an Islamist group fostered by the army to fight the godless PKK and since aligned with al-Qaeda, which carried out bombings in 2003. Or indeed the military itself: 86 alleged members of a secret secular-nationalist group, including two retired generals, face trial for plotting to destabilise the elected Government of the Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his Justice and Development Party, or AKP.

The bombs may have also been timed to coincide with other destructive politics this week in Turkey's Constitutional Court. This guardian of the secular state, installed by the army after one of its coups, is weighing a ban on the AKP and 71 of its leaders, including Mr Erdogan and the President, Abdullah Gul, for covertly seeking the introduction of sharia law.

Turkey has become a bit more pious during Mr Erdogan's six years in office: more Islamic lessons in schools, fewer alcohol shops, and government moves (knocked back by the court) to let women wear headscarves at universities. But this may reflect the rise of an awkward new middle class of AKP voters from the small-town interior. Istanbul and coastal tourist areas are as relaxed as ever. Mr Erdogan hardly seems a closet jihadist: his main drive has been to qualify Turkey for the European Union. The prosecution case is weak on evidence, yet a judgment against the AKP could come this week - just in time to prevent the party interfering in August's military promotions, in which a general revealed as having held secret meetings with the court's deputy chief justice is expected to be made army chief.

The AKP will get re-elected under a new name, just as it sprang from two banned predecessors. But a ban would set back Turkey's EU accession for years - no doubt a side aim of a secular establishment happier with a less open economy - and scuttle the peace deal in Cyprus pushed by Mr Erdogan. It will also send a negative signal to Muslims constantly lectured about democracy by the West: they'll conclude that even moderate Islamic parties just aren't allowed to win. This might have been headed off if the EU had not quibbled so long at Turkey's application, while allowing in all and sundry from Eastern Europe.

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2008

## *Displaced refugees take shelter in Bedawi*

The Irish Times

May 30, 2007 Wednesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

**Length:** 1003 words

### **Body**

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LEBANON: Recent violence has forced many families to flee from the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, writes Louise Roug in Bedawi refugee camp, Lebanon.

Over the years, the tents have come down and concrete apartment blocks have gone up on this hillside overlooking the Mediterranean.

In the course of six decades, institutions have taken root here: kindergartens, schools, medical facilities. Residents bury their dead beneath tiny white headstones framed by pink roses and purple bougainvillea at the small cemetery.

The streets of Bedawi, teeming with honking cars, children on bicycles and scooter-riding teenagers, resemble streets in Lebanese villages anywhere.

But unlike other towns dotted around the mountains here, Bedawi is a town in limbo.

In this nation of about four million Lebanese, who number Sunni and Shia Muslims as well as Christians and minority Druze, 400,000 Palestinians live in a dozen scattered "camps". Lebanese families in the area surrounding Bedawi have had little contact with the Palestinians. Although there is local commerce, the refugees are not allowed to hold anything but menial jobs outside the camp, all but guaranteeing a life of poverty for children growing up there. The Palestinians have no passports and are not allowed to own land.

For several days last week, Lebanese soldiers unleashed a barrage of firepower at Islamic militants hiding inside a neighbouring refugee camp.

Fleeing the shelling, more than 15,000 Palestinians came to the Bedawi camp, joining 11,000 refugees already living here.

On these crowded streets, aid workers took names as minibuses ferried tall stacks of thin foam mattresses to the new arrivals. In front of a barber shop, a Japanese news crew was filming.

"Everyone's here," said Mona Said (31), a Palestinian resident of Bedawi, as she weaved her way through the packed alleyways. "It's great," she added, giving a thumbs up.

The battle and subsequent flight of civilians once again brought attention to the issue of the refugees here, further straining the relationship between Palestinians and Lebanese. Many Lebanese have rallied behind the army, with

## Displaced refugees take shelter in Bedawi

volunteers from neighboring villages also offering to go into the camp and fight. This week, several refugees told of Sunnis from the surrounding area shooting at them as they fled.

On the facebook.com website in recent days, young Lebanese have created a multitude of discussion groups, with several posts containing racist remarks against the refugees. Many Lebanese hold Palestinians responsible for sparking the 15-year civil war that ended in 1990. They accuse Palestinian militants of making the country a battleground in their fight against Israel.

Palestinians are Sunni, but posters of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Shia group Hizbullah, have gone up around this camp since Hizbullah's 34-day war with Israel.

Here in Bedawi, residents forced the radical group Fatah al-Islam out when they sought to establish a foothold late last year. The militants then went to the Nahr el-Bared camp a few miles away, establishing a paramilitary base there. Fleeing residents said they were trapped between a small, militant group of foreigners espousing an alien, al-Qaeda-style ideology and the Lebanese army, which shelled the camp, bringing down homes, schools and mosques.

"We're born in debt, and we spend our lives paying," said Firas Abdallah (22), who had sought refuge in Bedawi after shelling destroyed his home last week. "I feel that we as Palestinians, whatever we do, we'll always be regarded as foreigners, outsiders," said Siham Zagmout (54).

Zagmout was born in another camp farther south in 1953. By the time she was 12, Zagmout's family came to the Bedawi camp where she roamed the streets.

"It's true we were poor, but our family bonds were very strong," Zagmout said. Her parents told her stories of the land they had farmed for wheat, grapes and figs but now couldn't return to - a village where boys and girls met at the well to flirt.

"From hearing all these stories, sometimes in my dreams I would see the fields and orchards, and a big shining sun."

At 20 she married a young man from the camp. She named her first daughter Mona, meaning hope. The couple also had Raoul, now 29, and 17-year-old Dima, whose name means summer clouds. "We had nothing to offer our children, only an education."

She recalled her past as she sat in a courtyard filled with potted flowers outside the kindergarten she co-founded in 1975. Mona had grown up at this kindergarten and eventually become a teacher there, too.

"We do everything to give the children some of the rights of children in other places," said Zagmout, who wore a traditional dress and headscarf.

Her daughter, now 31, wore new Nike trainers, jeans and a T-shirt advertising a group organising after-school activities for kids called Right to Play.

Her daughter's eyebrows were carefully plucked, and she was carrying a black notebook with the group's motto on a sticker: "Look after yourself. Look after one another." She listened patiently to the adults and children who came up to her, demanding her ear.

A few years ago, Mona took a job working as a nanny and teacher for the Saudi royal family. She had a big salary, a chauffeured car and travelled with the royals. She divided her salary between her family in Bedawi and a camp orphanage.

The toys of the youngest prince could have provided for hundreds of children in Bedawi, she said. Living with such excess knowing her family lived in poverty proved too distressing. "I hated myself," said Mona, who returned to Lebanon two years later. "Sometimes when I sat down to eat with them for dinner, I remembered our life here."

## Displaced refugees take shelter in Bedawi

It was getting close to 10pm, and the two women had been helping the recently arrived refugees to find accommodation in schools and with other families. Like her daughter, Zagmout had enjoyed the influx of people. They, too, were hosting a family of 15 people in their modest home. "You forget about yourself in a situation like this," she said.

**Load-Date:** May 30, 2007

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## World

The Toronto Star  
May 29, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA02

**Length:** 440 words

### **Body**

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Lebanon

PM asks country

to 'heal the wounds'

Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, appointed to form a new cabinet despite reservations by the Hezbollah-led opposition, is urging his country to "heal the wounds" from its war-torn past.

"I extend my hand to everyone, so that we can achieve for our country the prosperity we deserve," Saniora said yesterday.

The western-leaning parliamentary majority formed a national unity government with the Hezbollah-led opposition to avert renewed civil war. The opposition was unable to stop the appointment Tuesday of Saniora to form a cabinet, despite its veto over government decisions.

France

'Ogre of Ardennes' gets life term for 7 slayings

Self-confessed serial killer and rapist Michel Fourniret and his wife Monique Olivier were sentenced to life in prison yesterday.

They showed no reaction after Fourniret, dubbed the "Ogre of the Ardennes", was found guilty of killing seven women and girls aged 12 to 22 after raping or attempting to rape them over 14 years from 1987. Some victims were first drugged and bound.

Olivier, 59, described by the chief prosecutor as a "big slimy spider" and "cunning witch" during the trial, must spend at least 28 years in jail for the part she played in some of the murders and a rape, said the court in northern France.

Iran

President's rival elected parliamentary speaker

In a potential major political shift, a political rival to Iran's president was elected by an overwhelming majority as speaker of the parliament yesterday. Ali Larijani, Iran's former chief nuclear negotiator, is viewed by the West as a moderating influence in Tehran.

## World

The role of parliamentary speaker is a powerful position in Iranian politics and analysts said Larijani could use it to challenge the president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, against whom Larijani ran for president in 2005. Larijani won the speaker position, 231-31.

The overwhelming result appeared to be a commanding rebuke of Ahmadinejad, who has faced growing dissatisfaction in Iran about his steering of the economy.

## United States

## Presidential candidates finally agree - on Darfur

The three major U.S. presidential candidates issued a rare joint statement yesterday condemning atrocities against civilians in Sudan and demanding an end to the violence.

"After more than five years of genocide, the Sudanese government and its proxies continue to commit atrocities against civilians in Darfur," said the statement signed by Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain.

"This is unacceptable to the American people and to the world community," the candidates said.

From the Star's wire services

**Load-Date:** May 29, 2008



## *Christians in Jerusalem observe Easter despite threat of violence*

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

March 24, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS;NEWS; Pg. A5

**Length:** 390 words

**Byline:** Laurie Copans THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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Christian pilgrims, undeterred by recent violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip, sang and prayed on Easter Sunday at the church believed to be built on the site where Jesus rose from the dead.

Polish men in feathered fur hats, Indian women in saris and Palestinian clergy in white and gold robes found shelter from Jerusalem's sweltering heat in the cavernous Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City.

The outgoing Roman Catholic leader in the Holy Land, Patriarch Michel Sabbah, criticized both Israelis and Palestinians responsible for the recent bloodshed - including Israeli military operations in Gaza, rocket fire from Palestinian militants and a deadly shooting attack on a Jewish religious seminary.

"Despite this, there are hundreds of thousands in both the Palestinian and Israeli societies who send an outcry: peace, peace," Sabbah, a Palestinian, said in a sermon.

"We need leaders who are ready to offer their lives for the sake of peace, not leaders who issue orders to kill and assassinate and send others to kill or to get killed."

Sabbah, 75, and dozens of clergymen in gold-embroidered capes circled the candlelit rotunda where believers say Jesus was buried and then rose from the dead. Stern-faced ushers led the procession, striking the ground with large silver-topped staffs and forcing back the throngs of pilgrims.

Israeli security had deployed thousands of officers countrywide to secure events connected with Easter and the Jewish festival of Purim. Security was also high because of Israeli concerns of a possible revenge attack for the assassination of a Hezbollah commander last month in Syria.

Israel denied involvement, but Hezbollah has blamed the Jewish state and threatened to avenge his death with an attack on Israeli targets.

Jeri Minasy, 59, a retired flight attendant from Newnan, Georgia, said the recent bloodshed couldn't deter her from spending Easter in Jerusalem. She called the experience "special, mystic and spiritual."

But she wondered what Jesus would think about the bloodshed. "I think he would be appalled that people can't get along. He would be crying," Minasy said.

## Christians in Jerusalem observe Easter despite threat of violence

Protestants, who venerate a spot outside the Old City known as the Garden Tomb as the site of Jesus' burial, gathered there early Sunday to sing songs accompanied by a rock band. Some raised their hands and swayed to the music.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2008

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## *Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 1604 words

**Byline:** Hani M. Bathish

## **Body**

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As a tense calm returned to Beirut's suburbs Monday after a bloody day of riots which left eight dead, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) said investigations into Sunday's clashes have begun and "will be conducted with the utmost seriousness and speed" to determine those responsible.

BEIRUT: As a tense calm returned to Beirut's suburbs Monday after a bloody day of riots which left eight dead, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) said investigations into Sunday's clashes have begun and "will be conducted with the utmost seriousness and speed" to determine those responsible.

Speaker Nabih Berri hosted both the LAF's commander, General Michel Suleiman, and its intelligence chief, Brigadier George Khoury, at his residence in Ain al-Tineh Monday. Suleiman offered his condolences to Berri over those killed in Sunday's clashes, including Ali Hassan Hamza, an official with the speaker's Amal party.

The LAF commander told Berri that the military was launching a "serious and effective" investigation into the matter. Berri reportedly cleared his agenda of meetings for the next two days to focus exclusively on and follow up the investigations, meeting Monday with State Prosecutor Said Mirza.

Unidentified snipers fired at protesters and army troops Sunday afternoon at the Mar Mikhael intersection in Shiyyah as the army was moving in to disperse protesters and clear the road of burning tires. Politically, the incident spurred rival factions to trade accusations, each accusing the other of shooting at demonstrators.

A security source told The Daily Star that the army had detained three men, suspected snipers, who were seen atop one building located behind the Moallem gas station and the Mar Mikhael Church in Shiyyah.

A judicial source said that close to 50 protesters were rounded up on Sunday, but only 23 were officially arrested - for attacking army soldiers and pelting them with stones as they were trying to disperse protesters in Mar Mikhael. Some were arrested for trying to take weapons from soldiers and others for carrying weapons themselves, the source added.

A ministerial meeting at the Grand Serail on Monday decried Sunday's riots and Prime Minister Fouad Siniora described the eight protesters who died as "martyrs of all the nation." Monday was declared an official day of mourning with schools and universities closed.

## Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths

Information Minister Ghazi Aridi, reading out a statement at the end of Monday's meeting, called on all factions to be aware of the delicate period the country was going through and said the government supported the security forces and the military leadership and awaited the results of investigations. Aridi said no leniency must be shown to those found responsible for the shootings Sunday.

Among those shot and killed in Mar Mikhael were Mahmoud Ali Hayek, 17, from the village of Adloun; Abdel-Amir Mansour, 23; and paramedic Mustafa Amhaz, who was killed while doing his duty. Mohammad Arslan, who was wounded in the melee on Sunday, died of his injuries at Sahel Hospital the following day.

An eighth person killed in Sunday's violence, Ali Hassan Maatouk, was run over by a firetruck in Nabatieh which was rushing to put out tires set ablaze by protesters in the nearby village of Kfar Tibnit. Maatouk died of his injuries in hospital. The army reported at least 29 injured in all. Most of the injured were taken to Sahel, Bahman and Hayat hospitals.

An army statement issued Monday said the events which took place on Sunday targeted both citizens and the army and only serve the interests of Lebanon's enemies, "in particular Israel, which did not distinguish between an army barracks and buildings in Dahiyeh during the summer 2006 war."

The statement called on the families of those protesting to demand improvements from the government to act responsibly and practice restraint when taking to the streets. The army also called on all news media to act in the spirit of national responsibility and place the public interest above all else in its coverage of events, by conveying a balanced view of events.

**Hizbullah** on Monday demanded to know who was behind the shootings Sunday that killed several of the protesters. The party warned that any cover-up would be a threat to stability and civil peace in Lebanon. "Those martyrs who fell and were wounded, were they hit by the army's bullets and if so, who issued the order for the soldiers to open fire?" a **Hizbullah** statement asked, adding: "Or was there another party [responsible], and who was that party?"

**Hizbullah** said it held the authorities responsible for "every drop of blood spilled" Sunday.

Lebanese Forces boss Samir Geagea, addressing a press conference in Maraab Monday, denied that members of his party were involved in the shootings at Mar Mikhael. Geagea said he doubted that Sunday's protests were "impulsive and unplanned," reasoning that no such spontaneous protest had taken place on a Sunday afternoon before, and without **women** or children, only young men age taking part.

Geagea said that the Lebanese Forces were the first to demand a full and thorough investigation. "Those martyrs who fell are innocent, but the events put into motion were not innocent. There are groups working to overturn the system, to bring down the government and paralyze the army," he asserted.

"If they burn people's cars, do they get electricity? Is it reasonable in 2008 for **women** to be seen carrying their children and running from Ain al-Rummaneh after seeing these young men coming at them and to see shooting all around them?" Geagea asked of the demonstrations widely attributed to persistent power cuts. "I am not with shooting at protesters, but we need a minimum degree of law and order," the Lebanese Forces leader said.

A statement issued by the press office of parliamentary majority leader MP Saad Hariri said the events in the southern suburbs Sunday show the futility of haphazardly resorting to street protests and thrusting civilians into the fray, which only results in further tensions and confrontations.

Hariri expressed his sorrow for the fall of innocent victims who "did not choose their fate freely as much as they found themselves in a situation for which they would not have desired martyrdom."

The statement added that the army must not be subject to attrition or to blackmail and citizens must not use protests over living conditions as an excuse to confront the army.

## Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths

The protests Sunday extended to the Bekaa, the South, the Sidon road and other areas of Dahiyeh, as well as the Mar Elias district of Beirut.

***Life creeps back to normal at site of bloodshed***

BEIRUT: Life returned hesitantly on Monday to the area around the Mar Mikhael intersection, a typically busy junction connecting the capital with the city's eastern suburbs. The remains of charred tires, a burned-out car, rocks and dirt piled on the sides of the road stood amid a desolate scene, a silent testament to the previous night's clashes.

The busy road saw less traffic than usual, even for a weak day. Lebanese Army soldiers and armored personnel carriers were evident, especially at entrances to access roads leading into the mainly Christian Ain al-Rummaneh suburb. Most shops were closed; some, however, had already started to clean up and fix the damage, mostly shattered glass, broken signs and flagging spirits.

Abdel-Latif Qabbani, who runs a small sweets shop in Shiyyah, saw the protesters moving up from Msharafieh toward Galerie Semaan. "Most were armed with hand guns and sticks, they didn't damage any cars on our street, only on the road leading up to Galerie Semaan and Baabda," said Qabbani, who opened his shop five years ago, long after the 1975-90 Civil War ended and with it the infamy acquired by such locales as Galerie Semaan.

"No one benefits from such actions. The sad thing is in a few days from now people will forget all the poor people who died," Qabbani said, adding that the area remains on edge and tense. "It still needs a few days before things really go back to normal."

Dina, the manager of a gas station located just meters from the Mar Mikhael intersection along the road leading up to Galerie Semaan, saw the chaotic scene unfold before her eyes. "The bullets were flying from every direction. My only concern was my children's safety and how

I will escape with my life, how to get to my car without being shot at," said Dina, who brings her baby with her to work.

"The army started coming after 4 p.m., they were everywhere. With all the thick smoke no one could tell where the shots were coming from," Dina said, "It's like Iraq, exactly like Iraq. We are afraid to go out of our homes as we do not know if we will come back or not."

Dina's husband Samer had the car ready to go at a moment's notice just in case the clashes flare up again. "The protesters were burning tires near the gas station. The whole place could have gone up in smoke and with it our livelihood," said Samer, who added that he had already found work abroad.

Daily Star employee Alice Sader was attending her daughter's wedding at the Mar Jiryes Church in Shiyyah on Monday as the protests escalated. "The bride hadn't arrived yet when we heard the first few shots. We thought they were firecrackers," Sader said. The wedding party then received a call in the middle of the ceremony from a friend telling them of the deteriorating situation in Mar Mikhael.

"We could not see the fires. We only heard shots as we were inside Shiyyah far from the clashes," Sader added. "We rushed the ceremony. It was over in half an hour, then we went down to the church hall for the reception, again for a quick half-hour. It didn't feel like a wedding."

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2008

## *Another Israeli minister faces criminal investigation*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 24, 2007 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 7

**Length:** 410 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

### **Body**

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THE Israeli Finance Minister, Avraham Hirschson, has stepped down temporarily to fight allegations of embezzlement, the latest Israeli Government leader to face criminal investigation.

Mr Hirschson is a key ally of the embattled Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, himself the subject of two fraud investigations. His departure from the cabinet further weakens the already unpopular Government only days before the scheduled release of an official report on the conduct of last year's unsuccessful war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The 66-year-old former labour leader is accused of involvement in the embezzlement of about 10 million shekels (\$2.94 million) from a union he chaired and from an associated charity.

Among the senior politicians being considered to replace Mr Hirschson, Israeli media report, is the former justice minister Haim Ramon, who was forced to resign in January after being convicted of forcibly kissing a female soldier in his office. He is serving an 180-hour community service order working with horses.

The Minister for Strategic Affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the anti-Arab Yisrael Beiteinu party, is also being questioned this week over revelations of an offshore bank account through which he allegedly received secret payments.

The President, Moshe Katsav, has also temporarily suspended himself after prosecutors indicted him on charges of rape and sexual assault against several female employees in the president's office and in his previous government ministries.

Among the other continuing investigations into senior politicians is the forthcoming trial of the head of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee, Tzachi Hanegbi, who is accused of fraud, bribery and perjury in relation to a number of government appointments he made while police minister.

Meanwhile, Israel's most prominent Arab MP, Azmi Bishara, has resigned from the Knesset at Israel's Cairo embassy in the face of undisclosed secret charges thought to concern his contacts with Syria and Hezbollah during last year's war with Lebanon.

Mr Bishara, a communist of Christian origin, had failed to return from a foreign trip last month in the face of mounting media speculation that he would be jailed on his arrival in Israel.

## Another Israeli minister faces criminal investigation

His supporters say he has long been a target for the Israeli political and security establishment because of his campaign to change Israel's status as a Jewish state to one in which native citizens of all races have equal legal rights.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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## *Attack on Israel from Lebanon threatens to open new front*

Daily News Egypt

January 8, 2009 Thursday

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**Length:** 1600 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM: Insurgents in Lebanon fired at least three rockets into northern Israel on Thursday, ripping through a crowded nursing home and threatening to open a new front for the Jewish state as it pushed forward with a bloody offensive in the Gaza Strip that has killed over 700 people.

Lebanon's government, wary of conflict, quickly condemned the rocket fire and said it was trying to determine who was behind the attack. Israel fired mortar shells into southern Lebanon in response.

According to a BBC report, analysts concluded Hezbollah were unlikely culprits, despite recent fiery rhetoric from the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah about the possibility of renewed conflict with Israel.

Reports from Beirut said Hezbollah had made it known to the Lebanese government that it was not involved.

And the group has a reputation, even among Israelis, for being a credible conveyor of information about its activities.

The scale of the attack, much smaller in the first instance than the July 2006 ambushes, argued against Hezbollah involvement.

The group would be capable of a much heavier blow if it had wanted a confrontation with the Israelis, the report said.

The rockets seem to have been short-range, and were fired from south of the Litani river, which is controlled by the Unifil peacekeeping force and the Lebanese regular army.

In new Gaza violence, Israel killed at least 11 people, including three who were fleeing their homes, raising the death toll from its 13-day offensive to 699 people, according to Palestinian medical officials.

Also, UN spokesman Adnan Abu Hasna said Israeli forces fired on a truck on a UN aid mission and killed the Palestinian driver. He said the UN coordinated the delivery with Israel, and the attacked vehicle was marked with a UN flag and insignia.



## Attack on Israel from Lebanon threatens to open new front

Earlier this week, an Israeli attack near a UN school killed up to 40 people. At the time, Israel said it opened fire after insurgents hiding in the crowd fired mortar shells at Israeli troops.

Israel's offensive is meant to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel. With roughly half the dead believed to be civilians, international efforts to broker a cease-fire have been gaining steam.

For a second straight day, Israel suspended the operation for three hours to allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza.

One rocket from Lebanon went through the roof of a nursing home in the northern town of Nahariya, about 8 km from the border, and exploded in the kitchen as about 25 elderly residents were eating breakfast in the adjacent dining hall. One resident suffered a broken leg, another bruises, apparently from slipping on the floor after emergency sprinklers came on.

"The rocket entered through the roof, hurling the water heaters into the air. It went through bedrooms upstairs and then into the kitchen. There was a serious blast," said Henry Carmelli, the home's manager.

About three hours later, air-raid sirens went off again. But authorities said it was a false alarm.

Israel has repeatedly said it was prepared for a possible attack on the north since it launched its bruising campaign against Hamas insurgents in Gaza on Dec. 27. Israel has mobilized thousands of reserve troops for such a scenario, and leaders have warned Hezbollah of dire consequences if it enters the fighting.

"We are following what is happening in the north. We are prepared and will respond as necessary," Defense Minister Ehud Barak told reporters.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Hezbollah, which did not comment, has said it does not want to draw Lebanon into a new war. Small Palestinian groups have rocketed Israel twice since the 2006 war.

Israeli officials suggested radical splinter groups in Lebanon, not Hezbollah, were responsible and said Israel has no interest in escalating the conflict.

Cabinet Minister Isaac Herzog welcomed the Lebanese government's condemnation of the attack.

"We look at it as a local event, something that was predictable," he said.

Herzog said Israel welcomes the Egyptian-French diplomatic activity, but said the government was prepared to "deepen" its offensive if the peace efforts fail.

In Beirut, Prime Minister Fuad Saniora condemned the rocket fire, and Israel's response. The government stressed it was committed to peace.

Shortly after the first rockets fell around Nahariya, Lebanese TV stations reported Israeli mortar fire on open areas in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military confirmed it carried out "pinpoint fire" in response.

Israeli defense commentators said they expected the incident to be a one-time show of solidarity with the Palestinians. Still, police said public bomb shelters throughout the north were opened.

Palestinians reported some two dozen airstrikes in Gaza on Thursday. One insurgent was killed and 10 wounded in Gaza City, while an air strike in northern Gaza killed three members of a rocket-launching cell. The attack took place about 150 meters from a hospital and wounded 12 bystanders. The Israeli army has repeatedly said insurgents use civilian areas for cover.

Seven other Palestinians were killed in separate incidents, including three civilians - an elderly man and two women - who were fleeing their homes, officials said.

In Geneva, the international Red Cross said it found four small children alive next to their mothers' bodies in the rubble of a Gaza home hit by Israeli shelling.

## Attack on Israel from Lebanon threatens to open new front

A Red Cross spokesman said rescuers had been refused permission by Israeli forces to reach the site for four days.

The Israeli offensive has reduced Palestinian rocket fire, but not stopped it altogether.

Several barrages were reported on Thursday, including a strike that damaged a school and sports center in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon and another attack that wounded four soldiers near the Gaza border, police said.

For a second day, Israel quieted its guns to allow in desperately needed food, medicine and fuel into Gaza. Defense Ministry spokesman Peter Lerner also said some 300 Palestinian holders of foreign passports would be allowed to leave.

UN spokesman Chris Gunness said three hours was "wholly inadequate" and would not be enough to relieve widespread food and water shortages.

After Wednesday's lull, Israel bombed suspected smuggling tunnels near the border with Egypt. The tunnels are Hamas' lifeline, used to bring in arms, money and basic goods. Israel says local homes are used to conceal the tunnels.

The latest casualties brought the total Palestinian death toll during Israel's 13-day assault to 699, according to Palestinian health officials, and drove home the complexities of finding a diplomatic solution for Israel's Gaza invasion.

Some 350 civilians, including about 130 children, are among the dead, according to Palestinian medical officials. Since the offensive began, 11 Israelis have been killed, including three civilians and an infantry officer killed Thursday by an anti-tank missile.

Growing international outrage over the toll of Israel's offensive, which includes 3,000 Palestinians wounded, could work against continued fighting. So could President George W. Bush's departure from office this month and a Feb. 10 election in Israel.

But Israel has a big interest in inflicting as much damage as possible on Hamas, both to stop rocket fire on southern Israeli towns and to diminish the group's ability to play a spoiler role in peace talks with Palestinian moderates.

New strides were being made on the diplomatic front with the US throwing its weight behind a deal being brokered by France and Egypt.

While the UN Security Council failed to reach agreement on a cease-fire resolution, Egypt's UN Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz said representatives of Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority agreed to meet separately with Egyptian officials in Cairo.

Israeli envoys arrived in Egypt on Thursday.

In Turkey, a Mideast diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly said Wednesday that his country would be asked to put together an international force that could help keep the peace. And diplomats in New York worked on a UN Security Council statement backing the cease-fire initiative but failed to reach agreement on action to end the violence.

"We are very much applauding the efforts of a number of states, particularly the effort that President (Hosni) Mubarak has undertaken on behalf of Egypt," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. "We're supporting that initiative."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said that both Israel and the Palestinian Authority had accepted the cease-fire deal, but he made no mention of Hamas, without which no truce could work.

## Attack on Israel from Lebanon threatens to open new front

The Palestinian Authority controls only the West Bank while Hamas rules Gaza - two territories on opposite sides of Israel that are supposed to make up a future Palestinian state. Hamas took control of Gaza from forces loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in June 2007.

Later, Israeli officials made it clear Sarkozy's statement was not exactly accurate.

For Israel to accept the proposal, "there has to be a total and complete cessation of all hostile fire from Gaza into Israel, and ... we have to see an arms embargo on Hamas that will receive international support," said government spokesman Mark Regev.

Hamas said it would not accept a truce deal unless it includes an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza - something Israel says it is not willing to do. Israel and Egypt have maintained a stiff economic embargo on Gaza since the Hamas takeover.

The Israeli Cabinet decided on Wednesday to push ahead with the offensive while at the same time pursuing the cease-fire. -Agencies

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2009

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## *Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 1604 words

**Byline:** Hani M. Bathish

## **Body**

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As a tense calm returned to Beirut's suburbs Monday after a bloody day of riots which left eight dead, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) said investigations into Sunday's clashes have begun and "will be conducted with the utmost seriousness and speed" to determine those responsible.

BEIRUT: As a tense calm returned to Beirut's suburbs Monday after a bloody day of riots which left eight dead, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) said investigations into Sunday's clashes have begun and "will be conducted with the utmost seriousness and speed" to determine those responsible.

Speaker Nabih Berri hosted both the LAF's commander, General Michel Suleiman, and its intelligence chief, Brigadier George Khoury, at his residence in Ain al-Tineh Monday. Suleiman offered his condolences to Berri over those killed in Sunday's clashes, including Ali Hassan Hamza, an official with the speaker's Amal party.

The LAF commander told Berri that the military was launching a "serious and effective" investigation into the matter. Berri reportedly cleared his agenda of meetings for the next two days to focus exclusively on and follow up the investigations, meeting Monday with State Prosecutor Said Mirza.

Unidentified snipers fired at protesters and army troops Sunday afternoon at the Mar Mikhael intersection in Shiyyah as the army was moving in to disperse protesters and clear the road of burning tires. Politically, the incident spurred rival factions to trade accusations, each accusing the other of shooting at demonstrators.

A security source told The Daily Star that the army had detained three men, suspected snipers, who were seen atop one building located behind the Moallem gas station and the Mar Mikhael Church in Shiyyah.

A judicial source said that close to 50 protesters were rounded up on Sunday, but only 23 were officially arrested - for attacking army soldiers and pelting them with stones as they were trying to disperse protesters in Mar Mikhael. Some were arrested for trying to take weapons from soldiers and others for carrying weapons themselves, the source added.

A ministerial meeting at the Grand Serail on Monday decried Sunday's riots and Prime Minister Fouad Siniora described the eight protesters who died as "martyrs of all the nation." Monday was declared an official day of mourning with schools and universities closed.

## Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths

Information Minister Ghazi Aridi, reading out a statement at the end of Monday's meeting, called on all factions to be aware of the delicate period the country was going through and said the government supported the security forces and the military leadership and awaited the results of investigations. Aridi said no leniency must be shown to those found responsible for the shootings Sunday.

Among those shot and killed in Mar Mikhael were Mahmoud Ali Hayek, 17, from the village of Adloun; Abdel-Amir Mansour, 23; and paramedic Mustafa Amhaz, who was killed while doing his duty. Mohammad Arslan, who was wounded in the melee on Sunday, died of his injuries at Sahel Hospital the following day.

An eighth person killed in Sunday's violence, Ali Hassan Maatouk, was run over by a firetruck in Nabatieh which was rushing to put out tires set ablaze by protesters in the nearby village of Kfar Tibnit. Maatouk died of his injuries in hospital. The army reported at least 29 injured in all. Most of the injured were taken to Sahel, Bahman and Hayat hospitals.

An army statement issued Monday said the events which took place on Sunday targeted both citizens and the army and only serve the interests of Lebanon's enemies, "in particular Israel, which did not distinguish between an army barracks and buildings in Dahiyeh during the summer 2006 war."

The statement called on the families of those protesting to demand improvements from the government to act responsibly and practice restraint when taking to the streets. The army also called on all news media to act in the spirit of national responsibility and place the public interest above all else in its coverage of events, by conveying a balanced view of events.

**Hizbullah** on Monday demanded to know who was behind the shootings Sunday that killed several of the protesters. The party warned that any cover-up would be a threat to stability and civil peace in Lebanon. "Those martyrs who fell and were wounded, were they hit by the army's bullets and if so, who issued the order for the soldiers to open fire?" a **Hizbullah** statement asked, adding: "Or was there another party [responsible], and who was that party?"

**Hizbullah** said it held the authorities responsible for "every drop of blood spilled" Sunday.

Lebanese Forces boss Samir Geagea, addressing a press conference in Maraab Monday, denied that members of his party were involved in the shootings at Mar Mikhael. Geagea said he doubted that Sunday's protests were "impulsive and unplanned," reasoning that no such spontaneous protest had taken place on a Sunday afternoon before, and without **women** or children, only young men age taking part.

Geagea said that the Lebanese Forces were the first to demand a full and thorough investigation. "Those martyrs who fell are innocent, but the events put into motion were not innocent. There are groups working to overturn the system, to bring down the government and paralyze the army," he asserted.

"If they burn people's cars, do they get electricity? Is it reasonable in 2008 for **women** to be seen carrying their children and running from Ain al-Rummaneh after seeing these young men coming at them and to see shooting all around them?" Geagea asked of the demonstrations widely attributed to persistent power cuts. "I am not with shooting at protesters, but we need a minimum degree of law and order," the Lebanese Forces leader said.

A statement issued by the press office of parliamentary majority leader MP Saad Hariri said the events in the southern suburbs Sunday show the futility of haphazardly resorting to street protests and thrusting civilians into the fray, which only results in further tensions and confrontations.

Hariri expressed his sorrow for the fall of innocent victims who "did not choose their fate freely as much as they found themselves in a situation for which they would not have desired martyrdom."

The statement added that the army must not be subject to attrition or to blackmail and citizens must not use protests over living conditions as an excuse to confront the army.

## Suleiman promises speedy probe into riot deaths

The protests Sunday extended to the Bekaa, the South, the Sidon road and other areas of Dahiyeh, as well as the Mar Elias district of Beirut.

***Life creeps back to normal at site of bloodshed***

BEIRUT: Life returned hesitantly on Monday to the area around the Mar Mikhael intersection, a typically busy junction connecting the capital with the city's eastern suburbs. The remains of charred tires, a burned-out car, rocks and dirt piled on the sides of the road stood amid a desolate scene, a silent testament to the previous night's clashes.

The busy road saw less traffic than usual, even for a weak day. Lebanese Army soldiers and armored personnel carriers were evident, especially at entrances to access roads leading into the mainly Christian Ain al-Rummaneh suburb. Most shops were closed; some, however, had already started to clean up and fix the damage, mostly shattered glass, broken signs and flagging spirits.

Abdel-Latif Qabbani, who runs a small sweets shop in Shiyyah, saw the protesters moving up from Msharafieh toward Galerie Semaan. "Most were armed with hand guns and sticks, they didn't damage any cars on our street, only on the road leading up to Galerie Semaan and Baabda," said Qabbani, who opened his shop five years ago, long after the 1975-90 Civil War ended and with it the infamy acquired by such locales as Galerie Semaan.

"No one benefits from such actions. The sad thing is in a few days from now people will forget all the poor people who died," Qabbani said, adding that the area remains on edge and tense. "It still needs a few days before things really go back to normal."

Dina, the manager of a gas station located just meters from the Mar Mikhael intersection along the road leading up to Galerie Semaan, saw the chaotic scene unfold before her eyes. "The bullets were flying from every direction. My only concern was my children's safety and how

I will escape with my life, how to get to my car without being shot at," said Dina, who brings her baby with her to work.

"The army started coming after 4 p.m., they were everywhere. With all the thick smoke no one could tell where the shots were coming from," Dina said, "It's like Iraq, exactly like Iraq. We are afraid to go out of our homes as we do not know if we will come back or not."

Dina's husband Samer had the car ready to go at a moment's notice just in case the clashes flare up again. "The protesters were burning tires near the gas station. The whole place could have gone up in smoke and with it our livelihood," said Samer, who added that he had already found work abroad.

Daily Star employee Alice Sader was attending her daughter's wedding at the Mar Jiryeh Church in Shiyyah on Monday as the protests escalated. "The bride hadn't arrived yet when we heard the first few shots. We thought they were firecrackers," Sader said. The wedding party then received a call in the middle of the ceremony from a friend telling them of the deteriorating situation in Mar Mikhael.

"We could not see the fires. We only heard shots as we were inside Shiyyah far from the clashes," Sader added. "We rushed the ceremony. It was over in half an hour, then we went down to the church hall for the reception, again for a quick half-hour. It didn't feel like a wedding."

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

## *Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Ground war to be intensified 'as much as necessary'*

The Australian

January 5, 2009 Monday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 744 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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ISRAEL vowed to further escalate the military campaign against the militant group Hamas after launching a ground invasion in Gaza yesterday.

Israel would intensify its offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip "as much as necessary", Defence Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday.

"This operation won't be easy and won't be simple," he said. "The operation will be expanded and intensified as much as necessary. War is not a picnic."

Hamas vowed that Gaza would become "a welcome cemetery" for Israeli troops and pledged "a black destiny" as retribution.

Five civilians had been killed since Israeli troops, tanks and special forces soldiers launched the ground invasion of the Gaza Strip through four points.

Troops were reported to be operating last night just 3km south of Gaza City, the hub of the densely populated enclave sandwiched between Israel and Egypt.

Israeli troops had control of the major roads leading into Gaza's main population centre as they pushed deeper into the Hamas stronghold.

At the same time, Israel ordered troops in the north of the country, along the border with Lebanon, to be on alert against Hezbollah in case the Iranian-backed militant group launched attacks.

Israeli infantry kitted with night-vision goggles trotted alongside tank columns into the Hamas stronghold before battles raged in open areas east and north of Jabaliya and east of Gaza City.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah urged Hamas to inflict huge losses on Israel.

Mr Barak, who is running Israel's military operation, referred to Hezbollah's presence to the north of Israel during a televised address.

Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Ground war to be intensified 'as much as necessary'

"While we are fighting in Gaza we keep an open eye on the sensitive situation to the north," he said. "We are ready and alert to face any unwanted developments in that area."

Dozens of Palestinian families fled as infantry units took control of the roads. Cars and trucks filled with children, women and belongings headed south from the area of the former Jewish settlement of Netzarim, about 3km south of Gaza City.

The ground invasion was an escalation of Israel's eight-day aerial bombing of Gaza. Israel said it was targeting facilities and infrastructure that support Hamas's firing of rockets up to 40km into Israel.

The UN estimates that 421 Palestinians have been killed in the bombing. Four Israelis have been killed in the past two weeks by Hamas rockets.

At least 30 Israeli soldiers and an unknown number of Hamas fighters have been wounded.

An Israeli officer and a soldier "were severely wounded", the army said in a statement. "Twenty-eight other soldiers were injured moderately and lightly."

Medics said three Hamas fighters and 20 Palestinian civilians had been killed since the ground invasion began.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the escalation would have "grave consequences" for the Middle East. The UN Security Council held an emergency session yesterday after the ground invasion but was unable to agree on any statement.

Shortly before the invasion, Israel hit a mosque during evening prayers in northern Gaza, killing up to 16 people and injuring scores of others.

Hamas showed that despite eight days of bombardment it still had weapons, firing a rocket into the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon.

Demonstrations against the attacks took place around the world but Israel insisted the attacks were in self-defence after two weeks of rocket attacks by Hamas.

Israeli officials said the aim of the operation was to destroy facilities that enabled Hamas to launch the rockets that in recent weeks had hit towns and cities such as Ashkelon, Sderot, Ashdod and Beersheba.

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Palestinian presidential adviser Sabri Saidam said Israel's invasion would only serve to intensify hatred in the region.

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The movement's radio output was interrupted by a man's voice speaking in Hebrew-accented Arabic: "Hamas leaders are hiding in the tunnels and are leaving you on the front line of Israel's defence forces," he said.

"Hamas leaders are lying to you and they are hiding in hospitals. Launching rockets puts civilians in danger."

**Load-Date:** January 4, 2009



Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Ground war to be intensified 'as much as necessary'

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**Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary'**

The Australian  
January 5, 2009 Monday  
2 - All-round First Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 745 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

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Israeli tanks roll into Gaza -- Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary'

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## *Lebanese rockets fire on Israel*

The Australian

January 9, 2009 Friday

3 - All-round Metro Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 717 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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ISRAEL last night faced a war on a second front after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into the Jewish state, only a day after **Hezbollah** warned it had kept "all options open" in response to the 13-day offensive against Hamas.

The attack, to which Israel immediately replied with artillery fire, came after it yesterday conducted 60 strikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian death toll from Operation Cast Lead passed 700.

**Hezbollah** denied it was responsible for the attack, but it followed leader Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday raising for the first time the possibility of a renewed conflict with Israel since the air, naval and land operation against Hamas began on December 27. "We have to act as though all possibilities are real and open and we must always be ready for any eventuality," Nasrallah said.

**Hezbollah**, which claims to have up to 40,000 rockets in southern Lebanon, ruined Israel's reputation as the Middle East's military strongman in the month-long Lebanese war of 2006. The exchange of fire yesterday echoed that conflict, which began against the backdrop of Israel's last major offensive in Gaza.

No other group claimed responsibility for the attack, but sources suggested the three Katyushas might have been fired by the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which has warned it may open other fronts against Israel if the attacks on Gaza continue.

Two **women** were wounded in the attack on the northern Israeli town of Nahariya. The rockets, one of which struck the roof of a nursing home, were fired from north of the coastal village of Naqoura. The five Israeli mortar shells crashed near a village 3km north of the border. Residents started to flee, fearing a new front.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak admitted the prospect of Israel facing a second front. "We are following events in the north, we are alert and will know how to respond," he said.

Israel renewed its offensive in Gaza only minutes after the expiry at 4pm Wednesday (1am yesterday AEDT) of the first of its daily three-hour bombardment pauses of the Palestinian enclave.

Before the pause went into effect for the second time last night, to allow the delivery of more aid through a humanitarian corridor opened on Wednesday by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, jets conducted mass strikes on tunnels used to smuggle arms under the border between Gaza and Egypt. Troops have also rounded up 150

## Lebanese rockets fire on Israel

suspected Hamas fighters. Tanks entered southern Gaza and an officer was killed by anti-tank fire, bringing to eight the Israeli soldiers killed.

Two Israelis were seriously wounded when Hamas rockets fired from Gaza hit a building near a kibbutz in the Negev desert about 5km from Gaza border.

As it escalated its attacks, Israel's security cabinet welcomed a French-Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire. The cabinet decided that while it would consider the proposal, it would continue to dismantle Hamas's ability to launch rockets into southern Israel.

``Israel welcomes the initiative being considered for sustainable quiet," government spokesman Mark Regev said. But he said Israel required two conditions -- a cessation of firing into Israel and an arms embargo on Hamas that received international support.

Last night's humanitarian pause was marred by UN claims that one of its drivers had been killed when his truck was hit by Israeli fire. The UN said earlier that only 36 trucks carrying fuel, food, water and medicines had got into Gaza on the first day of the corridor's operation on Wednesday. Works and Relief Agency spokesman Chris Gunness said this was ``a drop in the ocean", adding it would have helped only 10,000 people out of a population of 1.5 million. At least 500 trucks around the clock were needed.

Israeli, Hamas and Palestinian Authority representatives opened separate talks in Cairo on the plan presented on Tuesday by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said Cairo was aiming for a ceasefire within three days. ``We're talking about 48 to 72 hours at the most, because I cannot imagine the Israeli killing machine continuing this operation," he told the Saudi-owned al-Hayat newspaper.

More reports -- Page 8

Opinion -- Page 12

Editorial -- Page 13

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009

## **Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary' -- Israeli tanks roll into Gaza**

The Australian

January 5, 2009 Monday

3 - All-round Metro Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 754 words

**Byline:** John Lyons, Middle East correspondent

### **Body**

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"This operation won't be easy and won't be simple," he said. "The operation will be expanded and intensified as much as necessary. War is not a picnic."

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Five civilians had been killed since Israeli troops, tanks and special forces soldiers launched the ground invasion of the Gaza Strip through four points.

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Israeli troops had control of the major roads leading into Gaza's main population centre as they pushed deeper into the Hamas stronghold.

At the same time, Israel ordered troops in the north of the country, along the border with Lebanon, to be on alert against **Hezbollah** in case the Iranian-backed militant group launched attacks.

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Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary' -- Israeli tanks roll into Gaza

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Medics said five Hamas fighters and at least 20 Palestinian civilians had been killed since the ground invasion began.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the escalation would have "grave consequences" for the Middle East. The UN Security Council held an emergency session yesterday but was unable to agree on a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire after the US argued a return to the situation that existed before the ground invasion was unacceptable.

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**Load-Date:** January 4, 2009



Barak warns ground war will be intensified 'as much as necessary' -- Israeli tanks roll into Gaza

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## Top guns

The Jerusalem Post

May 30, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 14

**Length:** 2608 words

**Byline:** YAAKOV KATZ

**Highlight:** Holed up for the past 40 years in the middle of the desert, the IDF's officer training school is still producing Israel's finest. Two boxes at end of text.

## **Body**

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Maj. Yoni Shetbon paces back and forth at the front of the classroom. His M16 rifle slung over his shoulder, the bearded Shetbon walks up to the board in the front of the hall and writes down two words - "Combat Ethics." He then turns to his audience - a group of 300 wide-eyed young soldiers in the last weeks of their studies before becoming officers. They are sitting in the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Hall at the IDF's Officer Training School near Mitzpe Ramon, popularly known by its Hebrew acronym Bah'd 1 (basis hadracha - instruction base).

Shetbon knows what he is talking about when it comes to combat ethics. During the Second Lebanon War, the 29-year-old religious father of four demonstrated them as chief operations officer of Battalion 51 of the Golani Brigade.

On July 26, Battalion 51 lost eight soldiers, including several officers, during a battle with Hizbullah in Bint Jbail. Shetbon took command of one of the companies and in what he says was a split-second decision took a team of soldiers and retrieved the bodies of their dead comrades before they were taken by Hizbullah.

Following the war, he was one of 17 soldiers to receive a citation of excellence from IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi.

Due to his exemplary service, after the war the IDF sent Shetbon to be an instructor for Battalion Gefen, the combat officer course. The breakdown in military values discovered during the war, the drop in motivation to serve and the overall feeling of discontent in the military was behind the decision to send officers with a record like Shetbon's to educate the future generation of infantry commanders.

There is no better way to do this than by telling his personal story from Bint Jbail.

"A commander has several seconds to make a decision," Shetbon tells his soldiers, a mix from the IDF's various infantry brigades and special forces units. "In Bint Jbail there were five bodies in an open field and we received a tip on the secure phone line that Hizbullah intended to seize them. I had to make a decision within several seconds whether to send soldiers to risk their lives to retrieve the bodies or not."

The soldiers, most of them just over 18 months in the army and with almost no combat experience, sit riveted in their seats as Shetbon continues.

"The top brass is telling us that a conflict with our enemies can erupt at any time," he says while retelling the story of Maj. Ro'i Klein, Battalion 51's deputy commander who was killed in Bint Jbail. "A commander who doesn't live

## Top guns

according to a set list of values will not know how to make those split-second decisions and will not jump on the grenade [as Klein did during the battle] in the moment of truth."

This is the IDF following the Second Lebanon War, investing not just in new training regimens and advanced combat platforms but also in the moral standard of its soldiers and ensuring that its future commanders will be taught the right values so they understand what they are fighting for.

This is not a simple task, particularly in light of the recent rise in draft-dodging.

Ahead of the IDF draft last summer, the Human Resources Department reported an increase in the number of teenagers dodging military service. The total reaches 25 percent of those born in 1989 and scheduled to be drafted this year - 11% of them are haredim and received exemptions, an increase of 1% over last year. Seven percent did not enlist for medical reasons, including physical and mental conditions. The figure is nearly double what it was in the 1980s.

Motivation to serve is not the only problem. Following the war and the damage it caused the IDF's image, the Ground Forces Command recorded a 20% drop in the number of soldiers who asked to go to officer training school, which not only creates a more difficult service for a soldier but also extends it by another 18 months - four and a half years instead of the mandatory three.

The drop in applications, which has in the meantime been curbed, is possibly one of the greatest challenges this training school has faced since it was established 40 years ago in the barren hills near the Ramon Crater.

BEFORE THE BASE opened its doors, the IDF's officers' school was in Pardess Hanna and then at Camp Sirkin on the outskirts of Petah Tikva. With the establishment of the state 60 years ago, the IDF replaced the Hagana which had since 1921 held training courses for its fighters in Kfar Giladi in the North.

Before the 1967 Six Day War, prime minister David Ben- Gurion decided to transfer all of the IDF's training schools from the center of the country to the South as part of his efforts to settle the Negev.

Bah'd 1 was chosen as the first school to make the move, which was pushed off until 1968 due to budget constraints. On May 27 - this week 40 years ago - the new school opened its doors. Since then it hasn't stopped for a day.

Today, the school gives a number of courses for staff officers, support combat officers and combat officers. The first two are fully integrated, and **female** soldiers make up more than half of the cadets in most classes.

The combat course lasts 13 weeks, following which infantry officers carry on for another four months of specialization. Soldiers from the Armored, Engineering and Artillery Corps complete their specialization back at their units of origin.

The IDF is facing another growing challenge when it comes to officer training - 25% of the cadets in the combat course come from the national-religious camp, including a large number of settlers, by far the largest representation of a single sector.

IDF officers point out that these soldiers are highly motivated and are found predominantly in the mid-ranks of infantry brigades like Golani, Nahal and Givati. They are eager to fight Israel's enemies but as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's peace talks with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas advance, there is an underlying concern in some political circles that these soldiers will not follow orders to evacuate West Bank settlements.

Base commander Col. Aharon Haliva is not concerned with the statistics or the political unease. The makeup of his training school is after all, he explains candidly, an exact reflection of trends in Israeli society.

"Today the national-religious see themselves as the state's pioneers," he explains from his desert office where bookshelves are stocked with sets of Talmud, several volumes of the Bible and assorted books on military, Jewish and Israeli history. "This is today. Years ago the pioneers used to be the kibbutzniks."

## Top guns

In his previous job, Haliva, 40, who climbed the ranks in the Paratroopers' Brigade, served as commander of the Ephraim Regional Brigade, responsible for all military operations in Tulkarm and Kalkilya. Commander of the officers school is almost a definite step toward general. Of the last 16 commanders, 10 went on to become generals, including Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former chief of General Staff.

In what some might interpret as controversial, Haliva speaks openly about the different sectors in society and those which are sending and not sending their children to the school. Like one of the predecessors - OC Human Resources Maj.-Gen. Elazar Stern - Haliva is critical of the education youth are receiving in urban areas.

"We don't get enough soldiers from cities," Haliva said. "This is because of the type of education they get at home."

Following the Second Lebanon War, Stern stirred controversy when he said in a radio interview that he did not need to visit bereaved families in Tel Aviv. "I see which homes I visit and, with all the pain and pride, I also look at the homes I don't go to... there's no bereavement in those homes. There's no bereavement there and there won't be bereavement there."

Following in the footsteps of his self-proclaimed mentor, at the end of each course Haliva sends thank-you letters to high schools whose graduates become IDF officers.

One of the things he is most concerned with is the apparent disconnect between Israeli youth and their Jewish roots and values. "We need to have our finger on the pulse of our country's educational system all the time," he says.

Haliva served in the territories in a wide range of positions throughout the second intifada. He says candidly that one of the country's mistakes ahead of the Second Lebanon War was that "we sanctified the watchtower and the patrol car in the West Bank." In contrast, since the war and having taken over officer training, the curriculum he set up has cadets spending a mere 10% of their time on training for low intensity conflicts - like the conflict with the Palestinians. The rest of the time, soldiers learn how to lead platoons in a conventional war.

"If a cadet learns how to be an officer and lead troops in a conventional war against another country like Syria, then he will know how to operate inside Nablus," Haliva says.

WHILE HALIVA was leading troops when the second intifada broke out in October 2000, Shetbon was just starting his officer's training course.

Looking back at his training, Shetbon says that today the IDF is putting a greater emphasis on what some might call "old-fashioned" military values such as the need to always strive for contact and engagement with the enemy.

The importance of this value was made clear in April when Ashkenazi fired a battalion commander who, according to military probes, failed to engage Islamic Jihad terrorists who infiltrated the Nahal Oz fuel depot along the Gaza border and killed two Israelis.

"We make clear to cadets that they always need to strive for contact with the enemy," Shetbon explains. "We teach them to understand that they have capabilities - both physical and mental - that they don't yet know about."

Shetbon recently wrapped up three weeks of intensive training on the Golan Heights with his company of cadets. There, the future officers practiced storming mock **Hizbullah** "nature reserves" - fortified positions found in southern Lebanon and used to launch Katyusha rockets - and also honed navigational skills by sending each cadet for a 30-kilometer hike alone at night.

"We try to simulate for them what a battle will look like," says Haliva. "We run live-fire exercises after they haven't slept a whole day and create an atmosphere like there is a real war, since we need to be ready and we need to win the next war."

Micki Ohayun from the Paratroopers' Brigade and Yoav Sarussy from Golani are currently finishing their officer training. Both fall into the minority sector of their course - they are from cities - Beersheba and Haifa.

## Top guns

Sarussy, 20, says that before he volunteered for officer training school his friends tried to dissuade him from signing on for more time in the army. "They asked me what I needed this for," he recalls. "I told them that someone needs to do it and if it won't be me, who will it be?"

Ohayun is a littler older and has been in the army for more than two years. He grew up in a military environment and attended a military high school. During the Second Lebanon War his battalion was deployed in Maroun A-Ras. The home he holed up in came under heavy Hizbullah rocket and machine-gun fire. One of his officers was killed.

"That event helped me make up my mind that this was what I wanted to do," he says. "Today with people talking about destroying us, there is no doubt that we need a strong military."

Soldiers like Sarussy and Ohayun are given the option of attending officers' school after a year or more in the army and after undergoing a series of tests. According to Haliva, more than 6,000 cadets come through the school annually, with some attending the staff courses, combat support course and combat course.

The cadets not only study military tactics and strategy but are also imbued with Jewish values. They are taken to Jerusalem to visit the Old City, Yad Vashem and the Supreme Court.

Shetbon, Sarussy and Ohayun's commander, says that while youth today are more self absorbed than in the past, the soldiers who arrive at the school are the "crme de la crme of Israeli society."

"Most people today care about how what they are doing affects them," Shetbon says. "Bah'd 1 is proof that youth today are still willing to sacrifice themselves on behalf of the other."

While he will be celebrating his school's 40th anniversary this week, Haliva says he is extremely concerned with what the next 40 years have in store for the country and not just from a security perspective.

"I wonder what type of country we will have in 40 years," he says, leaning back in his chair with a massive picture of the Temple Mount behind him. "Will we have peace with our neighbors? What will be with the economy and national security?"

One thing he is sure of is that the school will still be here when Israel celebrates its 100th anniversary. "This school," he says, "is guaranteeing our future."

(BOX #1) Atten-hut!

One person who has been at Bah'd 1 since it opened its doors 40 years ago is St.-Sgt. Maj. Avraham Twito.

He was there on May 27, 1968 when he lined up the first class of cadets that arrived at the school to become officers and he is still there today, at the age of 67, doing what he knows best.

Twito is the school's quartermaster or sergeant major. (In Hebrew he is called the Rasar.) His job is to ensure that cadets always have their berets on their heads - that is the regulation at the school - have their uniforms tucked in and boots polished. He conducts all of the graduation ceremonies and is the one who you can hear ordering the soldiers to stand at ease, at attention or march left and right.

He refuses to divulge how many graduation ceremonies he has overseen.

"I don't count," he says. "Lets just say that a large- size city has been through me here."

He is not concerned with the quality of the soldiers who come to become officers. "Throughout Israel's history and in all of its wars, the officers have proven that they have the right level of motivation," he says.

While the "material" that arrives is of a high- quality, Twito says that today's youth is more critical and doesn't take things at face value. "There is more curiosity today," he says. "They ask more questions."

## Top guns

At 67, Twito could have retired years ago but he says that he is looking forward to the upcoming graduation ceremony in the beginning of June.

"I am excited and emotional at every ceremony," he says. "I conduct each one like it is my first. It is all for the cadets and the parents and that is why I can't afford to make even one mistake."

(BOX #2) At the barbershop

Transportation Minister and former chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Shaul Mofaz was his favorite customer. Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yoram "Ya-Ya" Yair, former head of the IDF's Human Resources Department, was one of his most difficult.

Prosper Vaknin has been cutting hair at the Officer Training School for the past 34 years. He has given tens of thousands of haircuts, some with electric clippers, others with scissors. Earlier this month, Vaknin received a citation of excellence from OC Ground Forces Command Maj.- Gen. Avi Mizrahi.

"All of the cadets come to get haircuts from me," he says. "Especially before the graduation ceremonies."

When Mofaz was commander of the school from 1984 to 1986 he used to regularly get his hair cut by Vaknin.

"He was easy to cut," the 64-year-old Vaknin says. "Ya-Ya [who was commander of the school from 1979 to 1981] on the other hand was difficult. He had a wave in his hair and was always worried that I would cut it off."

Have the cadets changed over the years when it comes to the type of haircuts they want? "Today they are more spoiled," Vaknin says. "Years ago they were more down-to- earth."

## Graphic

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9 photos: At ease. **Female** soldiers make up more than half of the cadets in most classes. Defense Minister Ehud Barak upon completing officers' training. Shetbon lecturing on combat ethics. Base commander Col. Aharon Haliva. Ben-Gurion's dream come true. The officers' school was the first of the IDF training facilities to make the move to the Negev. Chief of staff Moshe Dayan decorates a new officer. Catch up on the base's buzz with Prosper Vaknin. (Credit: Rafi Kotz; IDF Spokesperson)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *As conflict expands, U.N. halts Gaza aid*

The Salt Lake Tribune

January 8, 2009 Thursday

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**Section:** BREAKING; News; National; World

**Length:** 1103 words

**Byline:** By Ibrahim Barzak and Steve Weizman The Associated Press

### **Body**

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The U.N. halted deliveries to the Gaza Strip on Thursday after gunfire from an Israeli tank killed an aid truck driver, and the threat of a wider conflict arose when militants in Lebanon fired rockets into northern Israel.

Israel responded with mortar shells.

During a three-hour pause in the fighting to allow in food and fuel and let medics collect the dead, nearly three dozen bodies were found beneath the rubble of bombed out buildings in Gaza City.

Many of the dead were in the same neighborhood where the international Red Cross said rescue workers discovered young children too weak to stand who had stayed by their dead mothers.

Relations between Israel and humanitarian organizations have grown increasingly tense as civilian casualties have mounted.

The United Nations demanded an investigation after Israel fired shells at a target next to a U.N. school filled with Gazans seeking refuge from fighting that has left nearly 750 Palestinians dead, according to Palestinian hospital officials and human rights workers. Israel said militants had launched an attack from the area, and then ran into a crowd of civilians for cover. Nearly 40 Palestinians died.

"We've been coordinating with them (Israeli forces) and yet our staff continue to be hit and killed," said a U.N. spokesman, Chris Gunness, announcing the suspension.

Eleven Israelis have died since the Dec. 27 beginning of the offensive against the Hamas militants in charge of Gaza, meant to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel. But with roughly half the Palestinian dead believed to be civilians, international efforts to broker a cease-fire have been gaining steam.

Israeli envoys traveled to Egypt on Thursday to discuss the proposal being brokered by France and Egypt and now backed by the U.S.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said any time lost will play into the hands of those who want war.

"The weapons must go quiet, the escalation must stop, Israel must obtain security guarantees and leave Gaza," he said in Paris.

## As conflict expands, U.N. halts Gaza aid

The U.N. provides food aid to around 750,000 Gaza residents, and runs dozens of schools and clinics throughout the territory. They have some 9,000 locally employed staffers inside Gaza, and a small team of international staffers who work there.

Elena Mancusi Materi, UNRWA's spokeswoman in Geneva, said the suspension concerned all truck movement in Gaza.

"If someone comes to one of our food distribution centers, we will give that person food. If people come to our clinics with injuries, we will treat them."

For a second straight day, Israel suspended its Gaza military operation for three hours to allow in humanitarian supplies. Shortly before the pause took effect, however, the U.N. said one of its aid trucks came under fire from a gunner on an Israeli tank, killing the driver.

U.N. spokesman Adnan Abu Hasna said the U.N. coordinated the delivery with Israel, and the vehicle was marked with a U.N. flag and insignia when it was shot in northern Gaza. The Israeli army said it was investigating.

Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Palestinian Health Ministry said 35 bodies were discovered Thursday during the three-hour pause in fighting in several areas around Gaza City that have seen fierce fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas militants.

He said it was unclear how many militants were killed because the remains were in poor condition, but that women and children were among the dead. Hassanain said 746 Palestinians have died in Israel's 13-day offensive.

Many of the dead found Thursday were in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, where the international Red Cross said it found four small children alive next to their mothers' bodies in the rubble of a home hit by Israeli shelling. The neutral aid group says a total of 15 dead were recovered from two houses in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City on Wednesday.

A Red Cross spokesman says rescuers had been refused permission by Israeli forces to reach the site for four days. It said the delay in allowing rescue services access was "unacceptable."

The Israeli military said in a statement that Hamas militants used Palestinian civilians as human shields, and that Israeli forces work closely with international aid groups to help civilians during the fighting in Gaza.

In other Gaza violence, Israel killed at least 12 people, including the U.N. driver and three people who were fleeing their homes, according to Palestinian medical officials.

The rockets from Lebanon raised the specter of renewed hostilities on Israel's northern frontier, just 2½ years after Israel battled the Hezbollah guerrilla group to a 34-day stalemate. War broke out between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006 as Israel battled Palestinian militants in Gaza, on Israel's southern borders.

No group claimed responsibility. Lebanon's government condemned the attack, and Hezbollah -- which now plays an integral role in Lebanon's government -- denied any responsibility for the rocket fire, which lightly injured two Israelis.

"The rocket entered through the roof, hurling the water heaters into the air. It went through bedrooms upstairs and then into the kitchen," said Henry Carmelli, the home's manager.

Israel has repeatedly said it was prepared for a possible attack on the north since it launched its bruising campaign against Hamas militants in Gaza, to the south. Israel has mobilized thousands of reserve troops for such a scenario, and leaders have warned Hezbollah of dire consequences if it enters the fighting.

"We are prepared and will respond as necessary," Defense Minister Ehud Barak told reporters.



## As conflict expands, U.N. halts Gaza aid

The Israeli offensive has reduced Palestinian rocket fire, but not stopped it altogether. Several barrages were reported Thursday, including one strike that damaged a school and sports center in the southern city of Ashkelon, police said. Both buildings were empty.

For Israel to accept a proposed cease-fire deal, "there has to be a total and complete cessation of all hostile fire from Gaza into Israel, and ... we have to see an arms embargo on Hamas that will receive international support," said government spokesman Mark Regev.

For its part, Hamas said it would not accept a truce deal unless it includes an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza -- something Israel says it is not willing to do. Israel and Egypt have maintained a stiff economic embargo on Gaza since the Hamas takeover.

The Palestinian Authority controls the West Bank while Hamas rules Gaza -- two territories on opposite sides of Israel that are supposed to make up a future Palestinian state. Hamas took control of Gaza from forces loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in June 2007.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2009

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End of Document

## *Taking stock of Lebanon's good, bad and ugly*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

June 11, 2008 Wednesday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 1087 words

**Byline:** Sharad Venkat

## **Body**

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As I looked out into the night from the balcony of the Phalange Party compound in Saifi, the lights of houses glittered on the distant hills outside of Beirut. Waiting with 39 other Harvard students for former President Amin Gemayel to usher us into the conference room, I thought of something a friend told me a day earlier.

First person by Sharad Venkat

As I looked out into the night from the balcony of the Phalange Party compound in Saifi, the lights of houses glittered on the distant hills outside of Beirut. Waiting with 39 other Harvard students for former President Amin Gemayel to usher us into the conference room, I thought of something a friend told me a day earlier, itself a popular repetition of Beirut's contradictory reputation. To paraphrase, he said: "Beirut pulls you in with its beautiful landscapes, its rich history, its ceaseless nightlife, its stunning and enigmatic women ... and then when you have let Beirut enter you, when you have let yourself sink into its welcoming earth, it will explode. Beirut will take your blood to feed the constantly spinning cycle of violence, as payment for taking in its riches, or perhaps as punishment for believing that what you had fallen in love with was the reality."

Our delegation, organized by two incredible Lebanese students at Harvard, Yalda Aoukar and Sara al-Yafi, arrived here the same night as the leaders who were returning triumphantly from the negotiations in Doha. We arrived to see the opposition dismantle its tents and remove the last of its roadblocks, to see life filling Downtown Beirut and patrons packing the restaurants, bars and nightclubs. All signs of conflict were hidden, like someone stuffing all of the dirty clothes into the closet before his or her mother bursts in to inspect the room. Forty students from 18 different countries were treated to the beautiful version of Beirut, all the eyesores having been quickly removed and stowed away.

But we were not fooled. We had spent months studying Lebanon's history, its colonization by the French, its rich tradition of bloodbaths and political assassinations, courtesy of not only internal power struggles, but also the long arms of the Syrians and the Israelis.

So as we listened to Lebanese Forces head Samir Geagea talk about the cedars and the protests that helped force the Syrians out, we did not forget that he is also known as one of the most notorious warlords of the Civil War. As Gemayel spoke of national unity and of looking forward instead of back, we kept in mind that the Phalange Party is

## Taking stock of Lebanon 's good, bad and ugly

widely believed to have taken part in the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. As Hizbullah representatives waxed poetic about their valiant resistance against the Israeli occupation and the two massacres at Qana, we did not forget about their lightning military operation in Beirut two weeks earlier to remind the government who was really in charge. In Damascus, when President Bashar Assad spoke to us about a more open, more progressive Syria and his desire for formal diplomatic relations with Lebanon, we did not forget that many journalists sit in Syrian jails today, or that Assad's father presided over the near-complete obliteration of Hama.

Every political party we met did its best to show us its dedication to Lebanon and national unity, while subtly reminding us why they were right while the others were wrong. Every group spoke of wanting to move beyond the sectarian identities of the past, but at every meeting, we came out feeling like they had not yet sipped the Kool-Aid that they had so readily offered to us. Forty Harvard students can create a public-relations windfall for any group, and they all tried to make the best of it with their cameramen, journalists and best orators ready.

So yes, we were transported by the wonderful beauty of Beirut and the rest of Lebanon. Yes, we were shocked and star-struck to receive an audience with almost every major leader in the country. But we were not fooled into thinking that the earth beneath our feet was not rich with the blood of the Lebanese, or that anybody we spoke to was just a victim, or that national unity was the only item on everyone's agenda.

But despite the many different agendas, we wanted to believe that at the end of the day, all of these parties really do desire unity. We want to believe that despite Beirut's reputation, this beautiful, vibrant city will not once again give way to the tragedies of the past. We want to believe that Doha is the beginning of a long-lasting peace, that national unity will triumph over sectarianism, that Syria, Israel and Lebanon will settle issues like the Golan Heights and the Shebaa Farms, that Hizbullah's recent exchange with Israel signals some kind of progress, that a two-state solution will finally be reached to provide the Palestinians a true homeland and to create the foundation needed for stability in the broader Middle East.

As the members of my delegation go back to their home countries, I know they will tell the story of these 12 days in Lebanon over and over again. They will not endorse any one party, leader, or group, but they will sing praises about the view from Mount Lebanon, about the incredible hummus, lahem mishwi, baba ghannoush, and wonderful desserts, about evenings of smoking narguileh, about the compression of so much politics into such a small space. They will sing about the perseverance of the Lebanese people in a place that is sometimes peaceful, sometimes mad, and unwaveringly complex.

They will tell everyone their many stories about Lebanon, and of the hope of the people that this country will finally achieve its potential. They will speak of the need for the world to pay greater attention and for the international community to step up its efforts to help ensure the success of the many simultaneous reconciliation efforts ongoing. And they will tell people how pretty the country is, that it is a great place to live, to work and to invest. Everything they say will be true, as long as there is peace.

As the various members of my delegation said goodbye, I decided to remain. I am not ready to leave just yet. These past 12 days and the past few months of study have left me wanting to learn more about this country, about its politics and its people. And I know the Lebanese I meet will keep teaching me.

Sharad Venkat is a master's candidate at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. He will be here for the summer and can be reached at [sharad.dailystar@gmail.com](mailto:sharad.dailystar@gmail.com)

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## News Summary

The New York Times  
January 20, 2008 Sunday  
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### **Body**

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#### INTERNATIONAL 3-12

##### Jpn's Txt Best Sellers

Five of Japan's 10 best-selling novels last year were originally cellphone novels, mostly love stories written in the terse abbreviations characteristic of text messaging. 1

##### Iran's Radical Left

Political protest has been harshly suppressed under the current Iranian government, especially dissent linked to the West. But the radical left until now has been permitted relative freedom because, analysts say, it rejects the liberal reform movement and also attacks the West. 3

##### An Elephantine Problem

Elephants are not supposed to saunter down the streets of Bangkok. But each night, the giant gray beasts are driven into red-light districts and tourist areas by handlers who peddle novelty items, causing traffic jams and property damage. 4

##### 15 Killed in Northern Iraq

A rocket attack and several bombings killed at least 15 people in central and northern Iraq and sporadic violence continued in the southern cities of Basra and Nasiriya, Iraqi officials said.9

##### Gaza Strikes Kill Two

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##### Hezbollah Leader Speaks

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Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton won the vote in the Nevada caucuses, capturing strong support from women and injecting fresh momentum into her candidacy.1

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Just as the most expensive phase of the 2008 presidential race is about to begin, the three remaining Democrats and the five most viable Republicans all find their bank accounts depleted. 16

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<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2008

## *Unfriendly Views on U.S.-Backed Arabic TV - Correction Appended*

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### **Correction Appended**

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**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 16

### **Body**

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Toward the end of a Congressional hearing on Wednesday on American efforts to win more popular support in the Arab world, Representative Gary L. Ackerman, Democrat of New York, got sidetracked.

Mr. Ackerman was in the middle of chastising representatives from the United States-financed Middle East television channel Al Hurra for broadcasting the views of leaders of the militant Islamist groups Hamas and Hezbollah. But when a Hurra executive mentioned in the station's defense that it broadcasts uncut, live versions of President Bush's speeches, Mr. Ackerman interrupted.

"You carry President Bush live?" he asked. Then, incredulously, "Hopefully we find this helpful to the mission?"

There was laughter throughout the committee room, but the exchange highlighted the central quandary surrounding American public diplomacy efforts.

In recent weeks both conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats have attacked Al Hurra for, in the words of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page last week, providing "friendly coverage of camera-ready extremists from Al Qaeda, Hamas and other terrorist groups."

In particular, critics of the network, which was founded in 2003 as an Arabic-language, American-financed counter to Al Jazeera, are particularly annoyed that the network broadcast a 30-minute speech by the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, in December.

Mr. Ackerman also complained during the hearing that the network gave extensive coverage to Iran's conference in December on denying the Holocaust and, more recently, showed Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian prime minister (and Hamas leader), discussing the faltering Palestinian unity government.

"How does it happen that terrorists take over? Is there no supervision?" Mr. Ackerman asked.

But there was also tacit acknowledgment, even from Republican critics of Al Hurra, that blaming the network might be a little like shooting the messenger. The State Department has devoted many resources lately to public

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

diplomacy, including taking Muslim students to the World Cup games in Germany, serving as host for Arab journalists at training seminars in Washington, and dispatching the under secretary of state for public diplomacy, Karen Hughes, to talk to Muslim women around the world.

But those efforts do little to counter the rising anger among Arabs over the American role in Iraq and the Bush administration's refusal to shut down the military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

"One witness before this subcommittee last week argued that, 'Quote, "It's the policy, stupid," close quote,' " acknowledged Representative Mike Pence, Republican of Indiana, although, he added, "I'm not one who believes we should significantly reorder our policy toward the Middle East."

For decades, the United States has provided funds for radio and television stations dedicated to promoting American values and views. During the cold war, Radio Free Europe sought to counter the state-controlled Soviet media by broadcasting pro-American views.

The first President George Bush created TV Marti, to beam American programming into Fidel Castro's Cuba, though Mr. Castro managed to jam it for years so people in Cuba could not actually see it.

Al Hurra was supposed to follow that tradition. But the station's executives admitted Wednesday that they could not be completely sure that Al Hurra was doing so, because none of the top executives speak Arabic.

"How do you know that they're being true to the mission if you don't know what's being said?" Mr. Ackerman demanded.

Joaquin F. Blaya, a Hurra executive, testified that network officials made sure to question the Arabic-speaking staff about what went on the air. Mr. Blaya and State Department officials acknowledged that the speech by the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Nasrallah, violated the network's policy not to give a platform to those whom Washington considers to be terrorists.

But Mr. Blaya also contended in an interview on Wednesday that Al Hurra would lose all credibility if it did not give air time to people who disagree with American policy. He said that complaints about air time for Mr. Haniya were unjustified because he legitimately holds the post of Palestinian prime minister.

Mr. Blaya also said it was ironic that the government was seeking to promote American values like democracy and a free press while at the same time trying to censor what is shown in the station.

"That's the difference between a free media and propaganda," he said.

He said during the hearing that Al Hurra had appointed a new vice president for news, Larry Register, to make sure the mistakes did not happen again. But he admitted that Mr. Register did not speak Arabic either.

State Department officials acknowledged that the lack of Arabic speakers remained a major failing of American public diplomacy efforts in the Middle East.

Gretchen Welch, the director of policy, planning and resources in the State Department's public diplomacy department, said part of the problem was that the standard source of Arabic language instruction is two years, while the department's "hardship" postings, a label applied to many in the Middle East, last only one year.

To meet the need, she said, the State Department is putting people into language training who would otherwise be filling overseas posts, and those posts are going empty. "It is absolutely a priority," she said.

But Representative David Scott, Democrat of Georgia, expounded on the problem of trying to promote America in the Arab world. "It begs the question, then, in spite of all the myriad programs that the State Department has initiated to win over foreign peoples, why does the world -- the Muslim world in particular -- continue to hate us so?" he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Correction

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Because of an editing error, an article on Thursday about concerns in Congress that Al Hurra, an American-financed television channel in the Middle East, was broadcasting the views of militant groups referred incorrectly to comments by Joaquin F. Blaya, a Hurra executive, about the criticism. He said it was ironic that the government was seeking to promote values like democracy and a free press while trying to censor -- not censure -- what was shown on the station.

An article last Thursday about concerns in Congress over broadcasts of Islamic militant views by Al Hurra, an American government-financed television network in the Middle East, referred incorrectly to the timing of the appointment of the network's new vice president for news, Larry Register. Mr. Register was already on the job when Al Hurra broadcast a speech by Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese militant group ***Hezbollah***, in December; he was not hired to make sure such broadcasts did not recur. The article also misstated the length of Sheik Nasrallah's broadcast speech; it was 67 minutes, not 30 minutes.

**Correction-Date:** May 24, 2007

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2007

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End of Document



**Israel chooses 450 prisoners to exchange for Gilad Schalit. Hamas rejects list without even seeing it**

The Jerusalem Post

September 26, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 427 words

**Byline:** HERB KEINON

## **Body**

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An interministerial committee presented Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday with a list of 450 names of Palestinian prisoners to be released in exchange for kidnapped soldier Gilad Schalit, in a move immediately dismissed by Hamas as insufficient.

Half of the list drawn up by the committee, headed by Vice Premier Haim Ramon, included names that were on a list of 350 to 450 security prisoners that Hamas has been demanding for Schalit. Hamas is reportedly asking for some 1,000 men, plus all the minors and women prisoners, in exchange for Schalit, held in the Gaza Strip since June 2006.

If Olmert approves the list on Friday, it would be transferred to Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, who would pass it on to Hamas.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said Israel was trying to get out of the conditions for the exchange that were agreed upon previously with the Egyptians, before the negotiations collapsed. He said the present list did not even meet Hamas's minimum demands. Barhoum said Hamas was demanding that Israel release all the "veteran prisoners" and those who had been sentenced to life in prison.

The list has not been made public.

The submission of the list comes at a time of a standstill in the negotiations, which are being conducted through Egypt. The security cabinet instructed Ramon and his committee - which included Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann, Public Security Minister Avi Dichter and Minister-without-Portfolio Ami Ayalon - to draw up new, more flexible criteria last month, in a signal to Hamas it was interested in moving the negotiations forward.

Israel Radio reported that the Ramon panel announced it would not meet again to further water down the criteria and offer to trade more dangerous prisoners in exchange for Schalit.

While Israel has said in the past that its policy was not to release Palestinian prisoners with "blood on their hands," the current list is widely believed to include a number of men who fall into that category.

Earlier this month, Ramon warned Hamas that its refusal to reduce its demands would doom a deal to swap Palestinian prisoners for Schalit. He added that the onus was not just on Israel. "If there is no flexibility in Hamas's demands as well, it won't be possible to reach a deal," he said.

Israel chooses 450 prisoners to exchange for Gilad Schalit. Hamas rejects list without even seeing it

Hamas initially demanded some 450 prisoners for Schalit, but upped the ante following Israel's release in July of Lebanese terrorist/murderer Samir Kuntar, four **Hizbullah** prisoners and the bodies of 200 terrorists and infiltrators for the bodies of IDF reservists Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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**Review: Paperbacks: Non-fiction: Daughter of the Desert: The Remarkable Life of Gertrude Bell , by Georgina Howell (Pan, £7.99): The Tribes Triumphant: Return Journey to the Middle East , by Charles Glass (Harper Perennial, £9.99)**

The Guardian - Final Edition

August 18, 2007 Saturday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN REVIEW PAGES; Pg. 16

**Length:** 396 words

**Byline:** Jo Littler

## **Body**

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### Daughter of the Desert: The Remarkable Life of Gertrude Bell

Gertrude Bell is sometimes described as a **female** Lawrence of Arabia. It is a description that itself highlights the continued bias of popular history when it comes to gender. Here, Georgina Howell seeks to rectify Bell's lesser-known status by producing a dramatic and detailed account of her formidable life. Born into a wealthy, no-nonsense Victorian family, Bell flouted conventional codes of **female** behaviour to become an explorer, archaeologist, author and political envoy to the Arab world. She played a key role in drawing up the boundaries of Iraq, was influential in inciting the Arabs to revolt against the Turks, and filled her spare time by becoming a world-famous mountaineer. Howell fills the book with enlivening detail, skilfully discussing, for instance, Bell's thwarted love affairs and relating how she crossed the desert on camel with a Wedgwood dinner service and silver candlesticks. Daughter of the Desert is a fluent, celebratory and conservative biography, skating over the injustices of imperialism and taking the kind of romantic approach that makes it read like a Hollywood script-in-waiting.

### The Tribes Triumphant: Return Journey to the Middle East

American journalist Charles Glass's earlier book, Tribes with Flags , documented his "literary and spiritual" ramble through the countries of the Levant. This journey was brought to an abrupt halt in 1987 when he was held hostage for 62 days in Lebanon by the Shia Muslim group **Hizbullah**. The Tribes Triumphant is the sequel and relates his return to the region. But while he follows in the geographical footsteps of TE Lawrence, Glass is no gung-ho imperialist. On the contrary, he uses this tale, with its multiple encounters and interviews, to relate the myriad problems western imperialism has created in the Middle East. From the formation of Iraq by the west, through the problems of "the American Empire's pampered child", Israel, to the Bush-Blair invasion, Glass is eloquent on how foreign intervention has left a legacy of chaos in the Middle East. Such a historically savvy approach adds depth to an arrestingly frank travelogue, in which he is able both to confront his captors and to understand his kidnapping in Lebanon as "but a small incident in the battle by the country's poorest sect . . . to keep the western world at bay".

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

Review: Paperbacks: Non-fiction: Daughter of the Desert: The Remarkable Life of Gertrude Bell , by Georgina Howell (Pan, £7.99): The Tribes Triumphant: Return J....

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## *A deadly cat-and-mouse game along the fence*

The Jerusalem Post

March 7, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 432 words

**Byline:** REBECCA ANNA STOIL

**Highlight:** BACKGROUND

### **Body**

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The 51 kilometers of security fence separating Gaza's 1.2 million residents - and thousands of terror operatives - from the Israeli communities of the Negev has for years been the front line of a cat-and-mouse game between hi-tech monitoring solutions and years of planning and experimentation on the part of terror organizations.

The touch-sensitive fence is patrolled multiple times a day, along a narrow road that parallels it. Beduin trackers like the non-commissioned officer killed Thursday morning play an integral part in those patrols, checking the sandy shoulders for footprints, signs of digging or any other suspicious change that could indicate terror activity.

But the patrols along the fence are only one part of the system. Behind the patrol road, sometimes out of sight of the closely-guarded border area, spotters from the IDF's Intelligence Corps keep their eyes glued to screens monitoring the fence, and the area around it, 24 hours a day. In a task almost exclusively performed by female soldiers, it is the spotters who are responsible for most of the sightings along the fence, alerting tanks and infantry when they notice suspicious movement in the area.

For every mine like Thursday's, which was planted without being noticed by the spotters, dozens of bomb-planting cells are observed - and then neutralized - before they ever plant their deadly cargo. Other bombs are spotted by the trackers on their patrols, and neutralized by IDF and police sappers before they can do damage.

But when scenarios like Thursday's attack occur, both the IDF - and, apparently their adversaries - rely on experience not only from the past decade of cat and mouse along the fence, but also on lessons learned from another, similar fence, hundreds of kilometers to the north.

Observers noted that the attack, for which the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility, bore similarities to attacks carried out by Hizbullah against IDF patrols along the Lebanese border. Similar to ambushes along key routes in southern Lebanon prior to the 2000 pullout, the explosive device that was detonated Thursday seems to have been activated by remote control, while operatives waited, hidden, to ambush both the wounded as well as any troops who came to their rescue.

But the IDF also changed its behavior along the fence as a result of the lessons learned along the northern border. Since 2006, the vehicles carrying out the patrols in tandem have begun to keep a wide berth between them, in order to ensure that any attack against one of the vehicles will not necessarily paralyze the second vehicle as well.

A deadly cat-and-mouse game along the fence

## Graphic

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Photo: A SOLDIER wounded in yesterday's attack at the Kissufim crossing is treated by medics. (Credit: AP/Moti Milstein)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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End of Document

## *Year of living dangerously*

Weekend Australian

January 10, 2009 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 19

**Length:** 2247 words

**Byline:** John Lyons

### **Body**

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Israelis fear they will pay a terrible price if they fail to achieve a clear victory in Gaza, reports Middle East correspondent John Lyons

THERE is an intriguing little town in the Negev desert in Israel called Tze'elim which, although most people have never heard of it, has played a key role in this week's ground invasion of Gaza.

It amounts to a strategic smorgasbord for the Israeli Defence Forces, the strongest military in the Middle East.

In a highly secured location, various mock villages have been built; if it's training for fighting in Nablus on the West Bank of the Jordan River, then it's up the back. Gaza? Over to the right, please.

Or today we might be simulating jungle warfare against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Or fighting in the mountains of Syria.

Like a giant film set, bulldozers, technology and makeshift buildings are used to create a range of simulated battlefields that are identical to the terrain and conditions Israeli soldiers would face in these different theatres of war. Tze'elim is what you build when you're at war, or potentially at war, with several of your neighbours. During the last year, a large number of the Israeli soldiers now deployed in Gaza have trained here.

Etched into the psyche of every Israeli soldier, it seems, and member of the public, is Israel's war against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006. Inside Israel, that war is now seen as a debacle.

The death toll was high on both sides -- 1100 Lebanese died and 160 Israelis -- and Hezbollah to this day remains in control of southern Lebanon. Many analysts say Hezbollah is stronger than ever: it claims to have 40,000 missiles, including long-range ones, across southern Lebanon, ready to be deployed against Israel should the occasion arise. Israel's army was poorly trained for the conditions of southern Lebanon, equipment was poorly maintained and key elements of the war leaked to the media.

As a result, training was dramatically improved, with the construction of the conflict-of-choice facility at Tze'elim.

While for people around the world the war is an international news story, for people living in Israel -- Jewish and Palestinian -- it is a raw reality.

## Year of living dangerously

One Australian who has been living in Israel for many years tells Inquirer: "Everyone knows if we bungle this war we're in deep trouble. If we can't knock off an organisation of 12,000 to 15,000 fighters [Hamas] there will be a lot of others in this neighbourhood who smell blood. This is meant to resurrect our military reputation."

A Palestinian mother from my son's school -- which is a mixture of Palestinian, Israeli and foreign students -- gave a very different perspective. She had been very polite and mild-mannered as we waited for school to finish until I asked her about the war in Gaza. You could see the passion in her face: Israel was engaging in a "massacre, there's no other word for it".

Her response to whether Palestinians would respond with violence inside Israel met with a similar answer to that of many Israelis: that unlike previous years, Israel was now much better at managing threats to its own security. The wall between Israel and the West Bank -- or fence, as Israelis prefer to call it -- allows Israel to seal off Palestinian towns on the West Bank during times of crisis.

Certainly, at least for now, Israel itself seems safer than in previous years. In 2002, for example, there were 62 suicide bombings in Israel, resulting in 260 deaths.

That's not to say Israelis are not nervous. The Australian man who said Israel's neighbours might "smell blood" has told his adult sons who often hitchhike around Israel to stop for the time being. He has also told friends visiting from Australia not to visit Bethlehem, on the West Bank, normally a relatively safe tourist site.

In Gaza, meanwhile, people do not have the luxury of deciding where visiting friends should go and where they should not.

It is clear by all accounts that whoever is to blame, Gaza is a humanitarian tragedy.

Inside Israel, while support for air strikes was strong, as the pictures came out of Gaza after the ground offensive began, voices of dissent grew. One of the leading newspapers, Haaretz, called on Israel to cease the ground war. The paper said "it is difficult to understand the purpose of prolonging the ground operation, which is liable to end in a difficult entanglement and casualties".

Israeli historian Tom Segev added a note of discomfort inside the country when he told BBC Television: "We are getting to a point where this operation is no longer about justice, it is about vengeance."

Part of the complex layers that make up Israel is that even as Israelis and Palestinians are at war in Gaza they go about their daily lives in harmony in Jerusalem.

On Thursday, as I walked in the Old City, I saw two Israeli policemen, heavily armed, laughing in conversation with a young Palestinian woman. Earlier in the week I watched an elderly Palestinian couple walk through a crowd of ultra-orthodox Jews to go into Bikur Holim hospital. In the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Tor, I watched Palestinian and Jewish children playing in the same street: not together, but in the same street. But despite this co-existence, when it comes to Israeli soldiers engaging in a conflict it seems to seep through the soul of the populace.

Early in the week, as Israeli troops and tanks spread out through Gaza, a group of Israeli women gathered in a hairdressing salon at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. As they sat having their hair done, some of them pulled out psalm books and began reciting prayers for the soldiers.

Again, the contradiction of Israel: one of these women scoffed as she watched news reports on TV of civilian casualties from Gaza. Yet that same woman pays for a taxi for her Palestinian cleaners to get home to the West Bank twice a week when many Israelis are happy to let their workers go by bus.

Israel will never win a popularity contest in this neighbourhood. But the war in Gaza has highlighted the growing gap between moderates in the Middle East -- such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan who have decided to co-exist and do deals with Israel -- and those committed to its destruction.



## Year of living dangerously

The leader of the latter camp is Iran, with Hezbollah and Hamas enthusiastic supporters. Others, such as Syria, are in an intriguing position: while their rhetoric is anti-Israel, they are acting differently in private.

Until the hostilities between Israel and Gaza broke out two weeks ago, Syria was quietly negotiating a possible diplomatic recognition of Israel in Ankara, Turkey.

Some in Israel believe the country's very existence is at stake. They believe this year is one of the most important in Israel's history; while the year starts with a war against Hamas it may end, they believe, with a war of sorts (air strikes) against Iran as they try to prevent Iran developing nuclear capacity.

Israel this week was condemned around the world for the ferocity of its response to Hamas's firing of rockets into southern Israel, in which more than 660 Palestinians have been killed in the past 12 days.

But in Israel such condemnation seemed to have little effect. Instead, Israelis evoked their age-old military position: if you hit us we'll hit you so hard you'll think carefully before you do it again. Much of the world media calls it disproportionate response.

To begin to understand this conflict, one needs to try to understand Defence Minister Ehud Barak, at the moment the most powerful man in Israel.

The war on Gaza is occurring in two vacuums: Jerusalem and Washington. It's clear that Israel feels that until January 20's inauguration of Barack Obama it has a free hand as far as the US is concerned. America is in transition, and that suits Israel.

The other vacuum is inside Israel. As is George W. Bush, caretaker Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is a lame-duck leader. And his Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's star has faded in recent weeks. Although she has a high profile on the world stage, inside Israel her fortunes have fallen.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud's candidate for PM, is polling strongly but is not even in the parliament yet. Which leaves Barak, the Israeli war hero, who is running the war in the Gaza. Barak's stocks have soared during the Israeli offensive. Barak leads the Labor Party, which only a few weeks ago was facing a wipeout at the February 10 election.

Polls had Labor winning as few as seven seats; now the polls have them winning as many as 16 seats.

Barak is a creature of the Israeli military: he has spent his entire adult life in the army, rising to become its chief of staff. He tapped the public mood in Israel last week with one line when he announced the air strikes against Hamas targets in Gaza: "We believe it is our primary contract with our citizens to protect them against terrorist attacks."

Given there are about 800,000 people in Israel living within the 40km range of Hamas rockets from Gaza, Barak was speaking to a strong constituency. Barak is in an extraordinary position, in that whoever wins, he is almost certain to remain Minister for Defence, which in Israel is a hugely influential position, given the country's strategic realities.

Around the country during the past week, thousands of young Israelis were called up for military service, "reservists" who have other jobs but are called on when Israel goes to war.

While soldiers engaged in a brutal ground war across the border in the south of the country in Gaza, other troops went on alert in the north of the country, alert to the possibility that Hezbollah, with strongholds in the south of Lebanon, may deploy some of its missiles to take advantage of the fact that Israel has its attentions elsewhere. While Hamas and Hezbollah are formidable opponents, the extraordinary feature of Middle Eastern politics is that for Israel they are not the main game: that title rests with Iran.

This is Israel's year of living dangerously. After a relative two-year calm since the end of the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel is beginning a year that could determine its future. When I told an Israeli official a few months ago that I was coming to Israel to work, he quipped: "Are you going to get there before the war starts?"

## Year of living dangerously

He meant war with Iran, not Hamas.

It was before Obama was elected US president, and he went on to say: "Israelis are watching every word Obama says about Israel. Have you noticed all the European leaders going to Israel at the moment? They don't want Israel to feel isolated. An isolated Israel is a dangerous Israel."

The official's argument was that if Israelis sensed Obama would not support, or at least turn a blind eye to, an air strike by Israel against Iran's nuclear research facilities then they would act alone.

Obama quelled some concerns inside Israel by appointing Rahm Emanuel, a strong supporter of Israel, as his chief of staff.

Israelis may be watching every word Obama utters about the Middle East, but the world was not watching everything that occurred this week in Gaza because Israel banned foreign journalists from entering.

This made it the "war without witnesses", the media unable to verify claims and counter-claims. Israel appears to have made this decision -- again -- following the Lebanon debacle of 2006. In that war, foreign media reported words and pictures of the bombing of Beirut, including countless images of civilians being killed. This time it's an odd mix -- pictures of injured children being carried by their parents -- along with words defending their actions by Israeli defence officials.

One of those officials is Sydneysider Benjamin Rutland, "head of the European and Pacific Desk, IDF Spokesperson".

Rutland explains to Inquirer that the IDF has a list of Hamas targets inside Gaza and "we are taking them out one by one".

The UN school that was hit, killing up to 40 people, is not one of those, he says. He says the soldiers in the field spotted mortar fire coming at them and returned fire, not knowing exactly what they were firing at. He says of the 40 or so killed, some were Hamas fighters. "Unfortunately there were civilians hit as well," he says.

Inquirer asks Rutland how, given that Israel has banned foreign media from entering Gaza, can people be sure the army is telling the truth? "We do tell the truth when we put things out," he says.

An interesting perspective was provided this week by Richard Haass, a former adviser to the first Bush president, George H.W. Bush. Haass, president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, has expertise in conflict zones: he was Washington's negotiator in peace talks between the British Government and the Irish Republican Army in the days of terrorism in Northern Ireland.

"The British achieved success in Northern Ireland not because of police or the British army alone but because the message was sent to the IRA that they could not shoot their way to power," he told France 24 TV this week. "What Israel has done militarily needs to be complemented by economic and diplomatic initiatives. There needs to be a set of initiatives without which radical elements in the Middle East could be emboldened."

Clearly, the hostilities between Israel and Hamas are so deep that alone they cannot resolve their longer-term problems.

This week it took Egypt and France to provide some hope of a short-term solution. After January 20, that mantle moves to Obama to find that which has eluded so many of his predecessors: peace in the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2009

## *Israeli strikes on Gaza: What are the motives?*

Guardian.com

December 29, 2008

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theguardian

**Length:** 761 words

**Highlight:** Mark Tran examines the media analysis of Israel's major air attacks on the Palestinian territory

### **Body**

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As Israel steps up its bombing campaign in Gaza, commentators have been examining the motivations and implications of its decision to launch the airstrikes in which more than 300 people have been killed in the space of a few days.

Ethan Bronner, in the New York Times, says Israel's main aim is to force Hamas to end its rocket attacks and military build-up. He also sees another goal: for Israel to expunge the ghost of its flawed summer 2006 war against Hezbollah in Lebanon and re-establish Israeli deterrence.

Along the same lines, Meir Javedanfar at the Jerusalem Post says one of the reasons Israel has acted with overwhelming force is that it does not want Hamas to turn into another Hezbollah, which was able to boast that it had defeated Israeli forces in the 2006 conflict.

"In other words," he writes, "Israel does not want Hamas to develop a deterrence capability, which it can later use to change the strategic rules of the game."

Javedanfar, however, warns of the potential for a Hamas public relations victory should Israel's actions result in huge casualties.

"What Israel has to watch out for is the level of force it applies. There is a very fine line of diminishing returns when it comes to application of massive military force against guerrilla organisations that operate among civilians. This is especially true when it comes to Hamas, which has become expert at using its own population as a human shield.

"Any excess on Israel's part could turn the recent fighting into a Hamas PR victory."

Palestinian sources put the number of deaths in Gaza so far at more than 300, vastly exceeding past casualty numbers. The UN's aid agency in the Palestinian territories, UNWRA, has put the number of civilian deaths at 51, which it says is a conservative tally. Two Israelis have died in rocket attacks since Saturday.

Juan Cole, writing on his Informed Comment blog, reminds us - if we needed reminding - that, since the second intifada broke out in 2000, Israelis have killed nearly 5,000 Palestinians, almost 1,000 of them minors.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza: What are the motives?

"Since fall of 2007, Israel has kept the 1.5 million Gazans under a blockade, interdicting food, fuel and medical supplies to one degree or another. Wreaking collective punishment on civilian populations such as hospital patients denied needed electricity is a crime of war," he says.

Tom Segev, writing in Ha'aretz, thinks Israel is repeating the mistakes of the past by believing it can defeat Hamas militarily.

"It is admittedly impossible to live with daily missile fire, even if virtually no place in the world today enjoys a situation of zero terror," he says.

"But Hamas is not a terrorist organisation holding Gaza residents hostage: It is a religious nationalist movement, and a majority of Gaza residents believe in its path. One can certainly attack it, and with Knesset elections in the offing, this attack might even produce some kind of ceasefire.

"But there is another historical truth worth recalling in this context: since the dawn of the Zionist presence in the Land of Israel, no military operation has ever advanced dialogue with the Palestinians."

Seth Freedman, a frequent critic of Israeli policy, sees little option for the Israeli government other than to act as it did.

"As soon as the six-month ceasefire ended, with Hamas refusing to lay down their weapons and resuming their attacks on Israeli civilians, it was plain that Israel was being invited, if not provoked into, an operation to cut the head off the hydra.

"Hamas knew that, with tens of thousands of Israeli men, women and children within range of the Kassam rockets, public opinion would demand action to protect those in the line of fire."

For Jackson Diehl, in the Washington Post, Israel's course of action means Ehud Olmert, the outgoing prime minister, "will be remembered for fighting two bloody and wasteful mini-wars in less than three years in power".

He adds: "The first one, in Lebanon during the summer of 2006, punished but failed to defeat or even permanently injure Hezbollah, which is politically and militarily stronger today than it was before Olmert took office. This one will probably have about the same effect on Hamas, which almost certainly will still control Gaza and retain the capacity to strike Israel."

Writing before the end of the six-month truce in Egyptian weekly al-Ahram, Saleh Al-Naami speculated that Hamas was banking on a high number of civilians casualties causing deep embarrassment for the Palestinian Authority, led by Mahmoud Abbas, and the so-called moderate Arab axis, of which Egypt is a leading member.

**Load-Date:** December 29, 2008

***Hamas wants dead civilians on both sides; Rockets fired into Israel invite retaliation against Palestinians set up as human shields***

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

January 14, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B7

**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** Alan M. Dershowitz, Special to the Los Angeles Times

## **Body**

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A temporary ceasefire in Gaza that simply allows Hamas to obtain more lethal weapons will assure a repetition of Hamas' win-win tactic of firing rockets at Israeli civilians while using Palestinian civilians as human shields.

The best example of Hamas' double war crime tactic was on Jan. 6, when it succeeded in sending a rocket to a town fewer than 35 km south of Tel Aviv and injuring a child.

At the same time, it provoked Israel to attack a United Nations school from which Hamas was launching its rockets. Residents of the neighborhood said two Hamas fighters were in the area at the time, and the Israeli military said they had been killed, according to the New York Times.

The Hamas tactic of firing rockets from schools, hospitals and mosques dates back to 2005, when Israel ended its occupation of Gaza. Several months ago, the head of the Israeli air force showed me a videotape (now available on YouTube) of a Hamas terrorist moving his rocket launcher to the front of a UN school, firing a rocket and then running away, no doubt hoping that Israel would respond by attacking the rocket launcher and thus killing Palestinian children.

This is the Hamas dual strategy: to kill and injure as many Israeli civilians as possible by firing rockets indiscriminately at Israeli civilian targets, and to provoke Israel to kill as many Palestinian civilians as possible to garner world sympathy.

Lest there be any doubt about this, recall the recent case of Nizar Rayan, the Hamas terrorist and commander killed in Gaza by an Israeli missile strike Jan. 1. Israeli authorities had warned him that he was a legitimate military target, as was his home, which was a storage site for rockets. This is the same man who in 2001 sent one of his sons on a suicide mission to blow himself up at a Jewish settlement in Gaza.

Rayan had the option of moving his family to a safe area. Instead, his four wives and children remained with him and became martyrs as Israel targeted his home for destruction.

Hamas leaders have echoed the mantra of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of ***Hezbollah***, that, "We are going to win because they love life and we love death."

It is difficult to fight an enemy that loves death in a world that loves life.

Hamas wants dead civilians on both sides; Rockets fired into Israel invite retaliation against Palestinians set up as human shields

The world tends to think emotionally rather than rationally when it is shown dead women and children who are deliberately placed in harm's way by Hamas. Instead of asking who was really to blame for these civilian deaths, people place responsibility on those who fired the fatal shots.

Consider a related situation: An armed bank robber kills several tellers, then hides behind a hostage, the robber while killing civilians. Police, trying to prevent further killings, shoots at the robber but accidentally kills the hostage. Who is guilty of murder? The bank robber who fired from behind the human shield.

International law of war, likewise, makes it a war crime to use human shields in the way Hamas does. It also makes it a war crime for Hamas to target Israeli civilians with anti-personnel rockets.

In Lebanon in 2006, Hezbollah used this tactic in its war with Israel, setting up civilians to be in harm's way. When Israel accidentally killed civilians, Hezbollah celebrated them as martyrs.

The New York Times reported Friday that a wounded fighter was smiling at the suffering of civilians, saying, "They should be happy," because they "lost their loved ones as martyrs."

The best proof of Hamas' media strategy of manipulating sympathy is the way it dealt with a rocket it fired the day before Israel's airstrikes began. The rocket fell short of its target in Israel and landed in Gaza, killing two young Palestinian girls. No one saw pictures of these two dead children because they were killed by Palestinian rockets rather than by Israeli rockets. Hamas knows that pictures are more powerful than words.

Israel must continue to try to stop the Hamas rockets that endanger more than a million Israeli civilians. It also must continue to do everything in its power to avoid Palestinian civilian casualties, not only because that is the right thing to do but because every Palestinian death plays into the hands of Hamas' leaders.

A bad day for Hamas is a day in which its rockets fail to kill or injure any Israeli civilians and Israel kills no Palestinian civilians. That is what Israel and the world must strive for. Hamas knows that the moment it ends its policy of firing rockets at Israeli civilians from behind the shield of Palestinian civilians, Israel will end its military activities in Gaza. That is precisely the result Hamas does not want to achieve.

Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

## **Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti-Israeli tone at Durban 2**

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

June 24, 2008 Tuesday

National Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** John Ivison, National Post

**Dateline:** OTTAWA

### **Body**

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OTTAWA - An internal caucus revolt has forced NDP leader Jack Layton to revise his party's position for a second time on Canada's participation at the United Nations conference on racism, to be held in Geneva next year.

A delegation of eight angry MPs told Mr. Layton the NDP's call for Canada to take part in an event critics fear will degenerate into an anti-Semitic hatefest risks alienating the party's traditional blue-collar voting base.

The NDP initially supported the Conservative government's boycott of the event, dubbed Durban 2 after its predecessor in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The first conference ended in acrimony after a number of resolutions critical of Israel were adopted.

The NDP position shifted after Mr. Layton received assurances from UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour that there would be no repeat of Durban 1 at next year's event. The new position was hailed by Muslim groups and roundly criticized by Jewish organizations, who suggested the revised decision was a cynical ploy to win Muslim votes. However, opposition from a group of senior NDP MPs, including deputy leader Thomas Mulcair and Winnipeg MP Pat Martin, has forced Mr. Layton to backpedal.

"It caused an uproar. A number of us went apes--t," said one MP.

The party is set to release a third position on Durban 2 in the next few days, in which it says Canada should not go unless it receives ironclad guarantees the conference will not become "hateful, anti-Semitic or Islamophobic."

"We cannot sit idly by and condone what happened in 2001, nor can we abandon international anti-racism work," said Brad Lavigne, the NDP's director of communications. "Jack Layton is always looking for solutions when there's an impasse. In this case, he suggests we set out the guarantees Canada would need to see Canada participate. We must denounce the anti-Semitism from the first conference and set clear conditions that it never happen again."

Mr. Mulcair, whose wife is Jewish, did not return calls but he is understood to have been extremely upset with the decision to advocate Canada attend Durban 2, arguing that he would lose his Montreal riding of Outremont at the next election unless the position was reversed.

## Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti- Israeli tone at Durban 2

It is also understood there is discomfort in caucus with the candidacy of Samira Laouni, a Moroccan with a doctorate in international economics from the Sorbonne in Paris, who is running for the NDP in the Montreal riding of Bourassa.

Ms. Laouni is Quebec project manager for the Canadian Islamic Congress, an organization that deems Israel to be an "apartheid regime" guilty of genocidal crimes and calls for the Canadian government to remove Hezbollah and Hamas from a list of designated terrorist organizations.

Her riding association president until recently was Hayder Moussa, who is also vice-president of the Association des Jeunes Libanais Museulmans de Montreal. The association's Web site has links to a number of radical Shiite ayatollahs, including Hezbollah's spiritual leader, Sayed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. The Web site has also featured the Hezbollah war anthem Ya Ashraf An Na ( United We Stand), which calls on Muslims to fight the tyrant because victory is promised by God.

Mr. Lavigne said Mr. Moussa was asked to resign from his position with the NDP some weeks ago after the party learned of a controversial poem he had written, in which he was accused of labelling non-Muslim women as promiscuous drunks. Neither Ms. Laouni nor Mr. Moussa could be reached for comment yesterday.

Mr. Martin said he is satisfied that a compromise has been reached on the Durban issue but says he remains concerned the party is abandoning its base in the search for votes.

"I'm very pro-Israel and I can't understand how we've got offside on this subject.

"We just seem to gain some credibility and then we do something goofy," he said.

Other MPs who are said to have backed the call for Mr. Layton to think again include Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Dave Christopherson, Brian Masse, Peter Stoffer, Dawn Black and Penny Priddy.

Mr. Layton is said to be enthusiastic about luring Muslim voters, alienated by the Liberal party's support for the extension of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan and the staunch pro-Israel position of Bob Rae, the new foreign affairs critic.

But there are growing concerns from some veteran New Democrats that the party's trawl for new votes is importing views that are antithetical to the NDP's traditional positions.

One MP said the party was in danger of being "hijacked."

## Graphic

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Black & White

Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters; Opposition from the likes of such NDP MPs as Thomas Mulcair, right, has caused party leader Jack Layton, left, to backtrack on his position on the UN racism conference. ;

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2008



## **Defence minister raises 'Cain'**

The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan)

July 31, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. B4

**Length:** 470 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- Israeli's new defence minister, Ehud Barak, suggested Monday draft dodgers should bear the "Mark of Cain on their foreheads" for evading compulsory military service in what has long been known here as "the people's army."

Military service was once considered a right of passage and essential for the Jewish state's defence. But according to Israeli Defence Forces statistics, one of four Israelis born in 1989 evaded this summer's draft by getting medical or religious exemptions or because they had a criminal record or were living overseas.

Most controversially, more than one in 10 of those eligible for military service who skipped it were Ultra-Orthodox Israelis who did so in order to study the Jewish holy book, the Torah.

Unless exempted, all Israeli males upon turning 18 are drafted to serve three years in the armed forces. All Israeli females are obliged to serve about half that time.

Barak, a highly decorated paratrooper who once entered Lebanon dressed as woman while leading a raid that killed three senior members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization responsible for the murders of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics, decried the new attitude at a memorial service for Ze'ev Schiff, the dean of Israeli military correspondents,

"The Israel Defence Forces are turning gradually into an army of only half the people," said Barak, who served as prime minister from 1999 to 2001, adding that those who did their service were being made to feel like "suckers."

Barak also lambasted employers for firing reservists who were called up and universities for not allowing them to take their examinations in such a way as not to conflict with their military obligations.

With politicians and many other public figures held in low esteem, the military had been Israel's last untarnished institution. But its senior commanders were widely condemned for the tactics used during Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer and for allowing three soldiers to be kidnapped by Hezbollah and Hamas and taken from Israel into Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The most recent embarrassment came over the weekend when an Israeli soldier from the crack Golani Brigade fell asleep while on an operation about 700 metres inside Gaza and a friend vouched for his presence during a head

## Defence minister raises 'Cain'

count. The sleeping soldier's unit only discovered that he had been left behind when they did a second head count in Israel and rushed back to retrieve him.

In another incident that the IDF is still investigating, a unit conducted an operation without authorization last Thursday near the West Bank town of Hebron. Wearing civilian clothes, they commandeered a Palestinian taxi and then shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian who had approached the vehicle. As a result, a multitude of charges are pending against six soldiers.

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2007

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End of Document

## *A funny kind of peace*

Ottawa Citizen

May 19, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. B6; Leonard Stern

**Length:** 872 words

**Byline:** Leonard Stern, The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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If there were a gold medal for misrepresentation, it would go to the Canadian Peace Alliance. As the Citizen recently reported, members of the peace alliance attended a conference in Cairo where other participants included terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah, groups that pioneered the suicide bomb.

The peace alliance, which claims to be the "largest network of peace coalitions and organizations in Canada," is an odd outfit. When North Korea tested a nuclear bomb last fall, the peace alliance issued a press release denouncing ... the U.S. and Israel. In another press release on Iran's nuclear program, the peace alliance denounced ... the U.S. and Israel. What's really weird, though, is a brochure on the alliance's website that seems to deny Osama bin Laden had anything to do with 9/11.

A diverse society makes room for all types: flat-earthers, swingers, Elvis-sighters. But please, choose a name for your organization that fits. If the Canadian Peace Alliance is consorting with people who blow up family pizzerias, then it has an odd definition of "peace."

One former official with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has suggested that these "peace" activists ought not to be surprised if the Canadian security establishment will now take a closer look at them. In Cairo there were calls for "resistance" against "Zionists," which in the language of Islamism has often meant the killing of Jews.

Now some will argue that "Zionist" means "Israeli." Trouble is, Muslim fundamentalists have never bothered with such distinctions. In 1994, Hezbollah bombed a Jewish community centre in Argentina, killing dozens of "Zionists." Islamists murdered the Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl because, though born in New Jersey, to them he was a Zionist. Iran organizes "anti-Zionist" festivals featuring lectures from leading racists like ex-Klansman David Duke.

No, don't be fooled by the duplicitous language at the Cairo Conference, an event that one Egyptian newspaper celebrated as a significant step toward building an alliance between Islamists and western leftists.

It's clear why such an alliance benefits Islamists. Traditional Islamist propaganda such as martyrdom videos play well to Arabic-speaking crowds, but they don't resonate with western audiences. Hamas is better off being represented in the west by stooges who march under the banner of "peace" or "antiwar."

But what accounts for the attraction that some leftists have for militant Islam? The left historically has championed secularism, whereas Hezbollah is Arabic for "Party of God." What possibly could motivate secular leftists to sell their moral and intellectual inheritance, and to ally with religious totalitarians?

## A funny kind of peace

Radical leftists and Islamists have united in a shared hatred. The object of their hatred, according to literature from the Cairo conference, is "imperialism and Zionism." Again, in the coded language of militant Islam, that usually means Americans and Jews.

Hatred, especially anti-Semitism, is a curious disease, and people so afflicted will act even against their own interest. The left historically has championed the rights of women, whereas Islamists oppress women horribly. The left historically has advocated for liberal causes such as gay rights, whereas Islamists consider homosexuality a hanging offence.

James Clark, one the Canadian activists who went to Cairo, says that so far as he could tell, there was no anti-Semitism. Although he said that "oppressed" Muslims have been known in the past to "conflate Zionism as a political movement with Judaism," in Cairo people avoided doing so.

Yet there is something malignant on the left. We saw it six years ago, in Durban, South Africa, at the United Nations conference against racism. There, anti-Israel delegates carried signs saying "Hitler should have finished the job." Copies of the anti-Semitic classic The Protocols of the Elders of Zion circulated openly.

Still, one admired the chutzpah. Durban was billed as a conference "against racism" but really it was a forum for hatemongers. There's a similar disconnect when we hear of "peace" activists showing solidarity with with those who preach jihad.

Political extremists are savvy marketers. During the Cold War, Stalin's agents in the U.S. called themselves the American-Soviet friendship movement. They of course didn't want to build friendships but to bring communist rule to the Americas. On the radical right, white supremacists typically have the word "heritage" in their organizations' names. "Heritage" has a positive connotation and hides the organization's true nature.

The main association of Hitler apologists calls itself the Institute for Historical Review. Its agenda is to rehabilitate fascism, which was discredited as a political ideology thanks to the Holocaust. Its members think that if they can persuade enough people that there was no Auschwitz, then Nazism has another chance -- but of course the association can't openly advertise itself as fascist, so members call themselves "revisionists."

Never judge a book by its cover, or an organization by its title. Look closer. You might be surprised.

Leonard Stern is the Citizen's editorial pages editor. E-mail: [lsfern@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:lsfern@thecitizen.canwest.com)

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2007

### *News in brief*

The Jerusalem Post  
May 1, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** Jerusalem Post staff, Yaakov Lappin

## **Body**

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Mofaz: Iran could have bomb in a year

Iran has taken command of its nuclear technology and could have an atomic bomb in a year, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz was quoted as saying Wednesday, citing Israeli intelligence. According to Channel 10, Mofaz made the comments during talks with US officials in Washington where he leading an Israeli delegation holding meetings within the framework of the Israel-US Strategic Dialogue.

In the past, the general consensus in the intelligence community has been that Iran had hit some technical difficulties with enrichment and that its attainment of nuclear capability was much further off. Late Sunday night, as Mofaz headed to Washington, he said that Iran must be prevented from attaining nuclear weapons and that all the options were on the table in order to stop that from happening.

"Teheran leads the axis of evil, poses a threat to the entire world, is up to its neck in the Middle East and is even trying to get a foothold in the West Bank," he said.

\* Jerusalem Post staff

Man who aided Bishara sent to jail

An east Jerusalem money changer who helped Azmi Bishara obtain hundreds of thousands of shekels from various sources in Arab countries was sentenced to six months in jail on Wednesday.

The money changer, Firas Asila, 29, of Jerusalem's Beit Hanina neighborhood, was convicted of money laundering in a plea bargain agreement six months ago.

The judge ordered him to pay the amount found in his possession - NIS 260,000 - back to the state.

Bishara, a former Israeli Arab lawmaker, is suspected of treason and espionage for aiding *Hizbullah* during the Second Lebanon War. He fled the country in 2007.

\* Jerusalem Post staff

Police officers to be polygraphed

## News in brief

In an effort to stem leaks to the press, the Ministerial Committee on Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) Affairs voted unanimously on Wednesday to introduce polygraph tests to all police officers from the rank of commander upward.

The initiative has the backing of Public Security Minister Avi Dichter, as well as Israel Police Chief Insp.- Gen. David Cohen, who has previously blasted the tendency of some senior officers to leak information to the media.

The decision was made following extensive research carried out by the police, the attorney-general's office and the Shin Bet. The committee decided to administer the tests when police commanders take up new posts, and may apply them periodically thereafter. \* Yaakov Lappin

Man indicted for raping soldier

A 52-year-old man from Kiryat Ata was indicted Wednesday in Haifa District Court on suspicion of raping a **female** soldier and committing indecent acts against two others. The man, Yehuda Yitzhak, allegedly carried out the offenses after giving the soldiers a ride in his vehicle on separate occasions.

Before the suspected rape, Yitzhak allegedly told the girl that she was "full of negative energies" and promised to restore her "positive energies." \* Jerusalem Post staff

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## **Rockets from Lebanon bring fear of escalation; GAZA CRISIS**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 15, 2009 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 11

**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** JASON KOUTSOUKIS IN JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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NORTHERN Israel was under renewed attack from Lebanese-based militants last night with four Katyusha rockets striking the area surrounding the Sea of Galilee, again raising fears of the war in Gaza spreading across the region.

Israeli forces returned fire immediately, with four artillery shells striking the southern Lebanon village of Al-Hibarieh. There were no reports of injuries.

It was the second time in a week that attacks have been made on northern Israel, but there were no reports of injuries

Israeli forces have been on high alert in the north of the country since the start of the conflict in Gaza.

An Israeli military source who spoke to the Herald on condition of anonymity said it appeared the latest attack was again the work of Palestinian militants.

"Israeli intelligence has been predicting low-level attacks by Palestinian militants operating in the area," he said. "We believe those attacks will be limited and we don't believe the intention is to set the border alight."

Southern Lebanon is controlled by the Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** movement which fought a six-week war with Israel in 2006.

Both Israeli and Lebanese political sources have indicated previously that they do not expect **Hezbollah** to initiate another destructive war with Israel because it has too much at stake in the Lebanese elections due in May.

But as the war in Gaza enters its 20th day, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, appeared determined to continue fighting despite pressure for a ceasefire emerging from within his cabinet.

Israel continued its bombardment yesterday, with jets striking more than 60 targets while troops tightened their grip on Gaza's most densely populated areas, pushing the Palestinian death toll close to 1000.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the dead include at least 311 children and 76 **women**. Of the 4418 people reported injured, 1549 are children and 652 are **women**.

There have been 13 Israelis killed since the start of the offensive on December 27, including nine soldiers, and 58 civilians injured by rockets.

## Rockets from Lebanon bring fear of escalation GAZA CRISIS

United Nations and Red Cross officials believe the death toll could be much higher because of the difficulty of extracting bodies from collapsed buildings.

With the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, due to land in Israel today, there was intense international pressure for Israel to cease its bombardment of Gaza on humanitarian grounds.

Israeli media reports suggest the Defence Minister, Ehud Barack, and the Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, are also pushing for a ceasefire but have been rebuffed by Mr Olmert who believes the operation has not achieved its goals.

There is a widespread assumption within Israel that the conflict will not continue beyond the weekend ahead of the swearing in of the new US president, Barack Obama, on Tuesday.

Mr Olmert was embarrassed yesterday when the US rejected his claim that it had abstained from voting on last week's Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire following a request he made to the President, George Bush.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

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### News in brief

The Jerusalem Post

March 4, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 469 words

**Byline:** Jerusalem Post staff, Dan Izenberg, Ehud Zion Waldoks, Etgar Lefkovits

## **Body**

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### Israel ups security for officers abroad

Israel has boosted security around IDF generals and officers overseas after one officer received an unidentified phone call in Arabic, Channel 1 reported on Monday.

According to the report, it was not certain whether the call was a wrong number, or a genuine threat. Regardless, the increased security measures were expected to continue through the end of March.

The report added that since the assassination of Hizbullah terror chief Imad Mughniyeh on February 12, security forces have received a number of threats warning of attacks against Israeli officials all over the world. \* Jerusalem Post staff

### New attempt to block Katsav deal

High Court Justice Miriam Na'or on Monday gave the state until March 9 to respond to a request by petitioners for a temporary injunction preventing the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court from considering the plea bargain between the state and former president Moshe Katsav on March 26, as currently scheduled.

If Na'or grants the request, the criminal trial against Katsav will be suspended until she rules on the petitioners' request to hold a second hearing before an expanded court to reconsider last week's 3-2 High Court decision to accept the plea bargain.

The request for a second hearing was submitted by the Movement for Quality Government, the Women's Network, Kolech, the Association of Rape Crisis Centers, Na'amat and WIZO. \* Dan Izenberg

### Dumping site okayed for North

The Regional Planning and Building Committee for the North approved on Sunday the Environmental Protection Ministry's plan to build a second construction waste dumping site in the North.

The 1.2 million ton capacity site is expected to be ready sometime in July and will serve communities from Kiryat Shmona to the western Galilee. The only site operating in the North has been the Teanim site in the southern Golan Heights.

## News in brief

Last week, the ministry lambasted many local authorities for polluting their water supplies by allowing illegal dumping. \* Ehud Zion Waldoks

**Sharansky to receive Reagan Award**

World-renowned Soviet dissident and former minister Natan Sharansky will be presented the 2008 Ronald Reagan Freedom Award this summer, the Reagan Foundation announced this week.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan is scheduled to present the award at a gala event in June.

"Fewer and fewer people can remember the world of Communism and even fewer can appreciate that its demise could never have happened so quickly and so peacefully without the moral clarity, courage and vision which President Reagan brought to the world agenda of international relations," Sharansky said.

Previous winners included former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev, former US Secretary of State General Colin Powell, late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and late Jordanian King Hussein I. \* Etgar Lefkovits

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## **Rockets from Lebanon renew threat of escalation; GAZA CRISIS**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 15, 2009 Thursday

Fourth Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 11

**Length:** 500 words

**Byline:** JASON KOUTSOUKIS IN JERUSALEM - with Associated Press

### **Body**

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NORTHERN Israel was under renewed attack from Lebanese-based militants last night with three Katyusha rockets striking the area surrounding the Sea of Galilee, again raising fears of the war in Gaza spreading.

Israeli forces returned fire immediately, with four artillery shells striking Al-Hibarieh village. There were no reports of injuries on either side.

It was the second time in a week that attacks have been made on northern Israel. Israeli forces have been on high alert in the north of the country since the start of the Gaza conflict.

A military source who spoke to the Herald on condition of anonymity said it appeared the attack was again the work of Palestinian militants. "We believe those attacks will be limited and we don't believe the intention is to set the border alight."

Southern Lebanon is controlled by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement, which fought a six-week war with Israel in 2006. Israeli and Lebanese political sources have indicated previously that they do not expect Hezbollah to initiate another war because it has too much at stake in elections due in May.

But as the war in Gaza enters its 20th day, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, appeared determined to continue fighting, despite pressure for a ceasefire emerging from within his cabinet.

Israel continued its bombardment yesterday, with jets striking more than 60 targets while troops tightened their grip on Gaza's most densely populated areas, pushing the Palestinian death toll close to 1000. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the dead include at least 311 children and 76 women. Of the 4418 people reported injured, 1549 are children and 652 are women.

There have been 13 Israelis killed since the start of the offensive on December 27, including nine soldiers, and 58 civilians injured by rockets. United Nations and Red Cross officials believe the death toll could be much higher because of the difficulty of extracting bodies from collapsed buildings. With the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, due to land in Israel today, there was intense pressure for Israel to cease its bombardment on humanitarian grounds.

Israeli media suggest the Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, and the Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, are pushing for a ceasefire but have been rebuffed by Mr Olmert, who believes the operation has not achieved its goals.

## Rockets from Lebanon renew threat of escalation GAZA CRISIS

There is a widespread assumption within Israel that the conflict will not continue beyond the weekend, before the swearing in of the new US president, Barack Obama, on Tuesday.

Mr Olmert was embarrassed yesterday when the US rejected his claim that it had abstained from voting on last week's Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire following a request he made to the President, George Bush. Osama bin Laden has issued an audiotape urging Muslims to launch a jihad to stop the Israeli offensive in Gaza. The tape has been posted on Islamist militant websites, though its authenticity cannot be confirmed. Bin Laden also condemns Arab governments.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

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End of Document

## *UN halts Gaza aid shipments, cites Israeli attacks*

The New Zealand Herald

January 9, 2009 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; World

**Length:** 1288 words

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - The UN halted deliveries to the Gaza Strip on Thursday after gunfire from an Israeli tank killed an aid truck driver, and the international Red Cross said it would restrict activities after one of its drivers was injured in a similar incident.

The threat of a wider conflict arose when militants in Lebanon fired two rockets into northern Israel. One rocket crashed into a retirement home, but there were no serious injuries. Israel responded with mortar shells.

During a three-hour pause in the fighting to allow in food and fuel and let medics collect the dead, nearly three dozen bodies were found beneath the rubble of bombed out buildings in Gaza City.

Many of the dead were in the same neighborhood where the international Red Cross said rescue workers discovered young children too weak to stand who had stayed by their dead mothers.

Relations between Israel and humanitarian organizations have grown increasingly tense as civilian casualties have mounted.

The United Nations demanded an investigation after Israel earlier this week fired shells at a target next to a UN school filled with Gazans seeking refuge from fighting that has left nearly 750 Palestinians dead, according to Palestinian hospital officials and human rights workers. Israel said militants had launched an attack from the area, and then ran into a crowd of civilians for cover. Nearly 40 Palestinians died.

"We've been coordinating with them (Israeli forces) and yet our staff continue to be hit and killed," said a UN spokesman, Chris Gunness, announcing the suspension. The UN is the largest aid provider in Gaza.

Israeli police, meanwhile, said militants in the Gaza Strip fired 24 rockets into Israel on Thursday, injuring four people, one of them seriously. Militants fired larger numbers of rockets in the early days of the conflict.

The Israeli military said one soldier attached to a tank battalion was killed by gunfire in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

Twelve Israelis, including nine soldiers, have died since the Dec. 27 beginning of the offensive against the Hamas militants in charge of Gaza, meant to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel. But with roughly half the Palestinian dead believed to be civilians, international efforts to broker a cease-fire have been gaining steam.

Israeli envoys traveled to Egypt on Thursday to discuss the proposal being brokered by France and Egypt and now backed by the U.S.

## UN halts Gaza aid shipments, cites Israeli attacks

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said any time lost will play into the hands of those who want war.

"The weapons must go quiet, the escalation must stop, Israel must obtain security guarantees and leave Gaza," he said in Paris.

The UN provides food aid to around 750,000 Gaza residents - about half of Gaza's population - and runs dozens of schools and clinics throughout the territory. They have some 9,000 locally employed staffers inside Gaza, and a small team of international staffers who work there.

Elena Mancusi Materi, UNRWA's spokeswoman in Geneva, said the suspension concerned all truck movement in Gaza.

"If someone comes to one of our food distribution centers, we will give that person food," she said. "If people come to our clinics with injuries, we will treat them."

For a second straight day, Israel suspended its Gaza military operation for three hours to allow in humanitarian supplies. Shortly before the pause took effect, however, the UN said one of its aid trucks came under fire from a gunner on an Israeli tank, killing the driver.

UN spokesman Adnan Abu Hasna said the UN coordinated the delivery with Israel, and the vehicle was marked with a UN flag and insignia when it was shot in northern Gaza. The Israeli army said it was investigating.

In Geneva, the international Red Cross said it would restrict its aid operations to Gaza City for at least one day after one of its convoys came under Israeli fire at the Netzarim crossing during the three-hour lull in fighting Thursday. One driver was lightly injured.

Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Palestinian Health Ministry said 35 bodies were discovered Thursday during the three-hour pause in fighting in several areas around Gaza City that have seen fierce fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas militants.

He said it was unclear how many militants were killed because the remains were in poor condition, but that women and children were among the dead. Hassanain said 746 Palestinians have died in Israel's 13-day offensive.

Many of the dead found Thursday were in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, where the international Red Cross said it found four small children alive next to their mothers' bodies in the rubble of a home hit by Israeli shelling. The neutral aid group says a total of 15 dead were recovered from two houses in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City on Wednesday.

A Red Cross spokesman says rescuers had been refused permission by Israeli forces to reach the site for four days. It said the delay in allowing rescue services access was "unacceptable."

The Red Cross statement was a rare public criticism from the aid group, which normally conducts confidential negotiations with warring parties.

The Israeli military said in a statement that Hamas militants used Palestinian civilians as human shields, and that Israeli forces work closely with international aid groups to help civilians during the fighting in Gaza.

In other Gaza violence, Israel killed at least 12 people, including the UN driver and three people who were fleeing their homes, according to Palestinian medical officials.

The rockets from Lebanon raised the specter of renewed hostilities on Israel's northern frontier, just 2½ years after Israel battled the Hezbollah guerrilla group to a 34-day stalemate. War broke out between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006 as Israel battled Palestinian militants in Gaza, on Israel's southern borders.

## UN halts Gaza aid shipments, cites Israeli attacks

No group claimed responsibility. Lebanon's government condemned the attack, and Hezbollah - which now plays an integral role in Lebanon's government - denied any responsibility for the rocket fire, which lightly injured two Israelis at a retirement home.

"The rocket entered through the roof, hurling the water heaters into the air. It went through bedrooms upstairs and then into the kitchen," said Henry Carmelli, the home's manager.

Israel has repeatedly said it was prepared for a possible attack on the north since it launched its bruising campaign against Hamas militants in Gaza, to the south. Israel has mobilized thousands of reserve troops for such a scenario, and leaders have warned Hezbollah of dire consequences if it enters the fighting.

"We are prepared and will respond as necessary," Defence Minister Ehud Barak told reporters.

The Israeli offensive has reduced Palestinian rocket fire, but not stopped it altogether. Several barrages were reported Thursday, including one strike that damaged a school and sports center in the southern city of Ashkelon, police said. Both buildings were empty.

For Israel to accept a proposed cease-fire deal, "there has to be a total and complete cessation of all hostile fire from Gaza into Israel, and ... we have to see an arms embargo on Hamas that will receive international support," said government spokesman Mark Regev.

For its part, Hamas said it would not accept a truce deal unless it includes an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza - something Israel says it is not willing to do. Israel and Egypt have maintained a stiff economic embargo on Gaza since the Hamas takeover.

The Palestinian Authority controls the West Bank while Hamas rules Gaza - two territories on opposite sides of Israel that are supposed to make up a future Palestinian state. Hamas took control of Gaza from forces loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in June 2007.

- AP

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2009

**DIGEST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 9, 2008 Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 535 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

## **Body**

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### JERUSALEM

Rockets from Lebanon hit northern Israeli town

Two Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon struck a northern Israeli town overnight causing no injuries, an Israeli police spokesman said, the first such attacks by Lebanese militants in six months.

Around 2 a.m. Tuesday, the rockets struck a road leading into the western Galilee town of Shlomi, a few miles from the Lebanon border, said police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld.

Rosenfeld and an army spokesman said it had not yet been determined where the rockets were made.

Israel's northern border has been largely quiet since the war with Hezbollah militants based in Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

During that conflict, Hezbollah fired nearly 4,000 rockets at northern Israeli towns, killing 40 Israeli civilians.

### MADRID, SPAIN

Abortion clinics begin five-day strike

Private clinics in Spain, which perform most of the country's abortions, began a five-day strike on Tuesday to protest what they said was persecution by anti-choice activists and government inspectors, who have swept the sector in recent weeks to crack down on illegal terminations.

The strike involves about 40 clinics and could affect as many as 2,000 women, according to Francisca Garcia Gallego, a regional director of the Association of Accredited Abortion Clinics, which organized the stoppage.

Garcia said the central government had done nothing to protect abortion clinics or patients from a wave of aggressive protests by anti-choice activists and raids by local authorities that resulted in a dozen arrests in December.

In recent weeks, clinics had been vandalized and doctors and nurses insulted and, in one or two cases, hit by protesters, she said.



## DIGEST

## ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

## Scotland Yard delivers report on Bhutto's death

On Tuesday, anti-terrorism officials from Scotland Yard delivered a confidential report to Pakistan regarding its early findings in the killing of Benazir Bhutto.

Whether the information, given to President Pervez Musharraf, will ever be made public, or will help resolve many unanswered questions surrounding Bhutto's death on Dec. 27, remains in doubt.

Scotland Yard's involvement is widely seen as an attempt by the government to lend its own investigation a veneer of legitimacy. But the involvement of the British team "will not help because they've been invited by the government," said General Hameed Gul, a former head of Pakistan's intelligence services.

## JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA

## Zuma is ANC's candidate for national elections

African National Congress leader Jacob Zuma will be the governing party's candidate for national elections, the group declared Tuesday, despite his pending trial on corruption charges.

The decision following a meeting of the party's decision-making national executive committee sets the scene for a showdown between the governing party and prosecutors and risks political uncertainty in Africa's economic powerhouse.

"It is a declaration of war," political analyst Tinyiko Maluleke said.

Zuma's allies claim he is the victim of a political vendetta. Zuma, a 65-year-old former guerrilla leader is due to go on trial in August. Corruption charges against him were dropped on a technicality in 2006, but prosecutors now say they have additional evidence.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2008

## *The Mideast's ground zero*

Yukon News (Yukon)

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. 7; The World Today

**Length:** 842 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman, The New York Times

### **Body**

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The fighting, death and destruction in Gaza is painful to watch. But it's all too familiar. It's the latest version of the longest-running play in the modern Middle East, which, if I were to give it a title, would be called: "Who owns this hotel? Can the Jews have a room? And shouldn't we blow up the bar and replace it with a mosque?"

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Who Owns This Hotel? The struggle for hegemony over the modern Arab world is as old as Nasser's Egypt. But what is new today is that non-Arab Iran is now making a bid for primacy -- challenging Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Iran has deftly used military aid to both Hamas and Hezbollah to create a rocket-armed force on Israel's northern and western borders. This enables Tehran to stop and start the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at will and to paint itself as the true protector of the Palestinians, as opposed to the weak Arab regimes.

"The Gaza that Israel left in 2005 was bordering Egypt. The Gaza that Israel just came back to is now bordering Iran," said Mamoun Fandy, director of Middle East programs at the International Institute of Strategic Studies. "Iran has become the ultimate confrontation state. I am not sure we can talk just about 'Arab-Israeli peace' or the 'Arab peace initiative' anymore. We may be looking at an 'Iranian initiative.'" In short, the whole notion of Arab-Israeli peacemaking likely will have to change.

Can The Jews Have a Room Here? Hamas rejects any recognition of Israel. By contrast, the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, which controls the West Bank, has recognized Israel -- and vice versa. If you believe, as I do, that the only stable solution is a two-state one, with the Palestinians getting all of the West Bank, Gaza and Arab sectors of East Jerusalem, then you have to hope for the weakening of Hamas.

Why? Because nothing has damaged Palestinians more than the Hamas death-cult strategy of turning Palestinian youths into suicide bombers. Because nothing would set back a peace deal more than if Hamas' call to replace Israel with an Islamic state became the Palestinian negotiating position. And because Hamas' attacks on towns in southern Israel is destroying a two-state solution, even more than Israel's disastrous and reckless West Bank settlements.

## The Mideast's ground zero

Israel has proved that it can and will uproot settlements, as it did in Gaza. Hamas' rocket attacks pose an irreversible threat. They say to Israel: "From Gaza, we can hit southern Israel. If we get the West Bank, we can rocket, and thereby close, Israel's international airport -- any time, any day, from now to eternity." How many Israelis will risk relinquishing the West Bank, given this new threat?

Shouldn't We Blow Up the Bar and Replace it with a Mosque? Hamas' overthrow of the more secular Fatah organization in Gaza in 2007 is part of a regionwide civil war between Islamists and modernists. In the week that Israel has been slicing through Gaza, Islamist suicide bombers have killed almost 100 Iraqis -- first, a group of tribal sheikhs in Yusufiya, who were working on reconciliation between Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds, and, second, mostly women and children gathered at a Shiite shrine. These unprovoked mass murders have not stirred a single protest in Europe or the Middle East.

Gaza today is basically ground zero for all three of these struggles, said Martin Indyk, the former Clinton administration's Middle East adviser whose incisive new book, *Innocent Abroad: An Intimate Account of American Diplomacy in the Middle East*, was just published. "This tiny little piece of land, Gaza, has the potential to blow all of these issues wide open and present a huge problem for Barack Obama on Day 1."

Obama's great potential for America, noted Indyk, is also a great threat to Islamist radicals -- because his narrative holds tremendous appeal for Arabs. For eight years Hamas, Hezbollah and al-Qaida have been surfing on a wave of anti-US anger generated by George W. Bush. And that wave has greatly expanded their base.

No doubt, Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran are hoping that they can use the Gaza conflict to turn Obama into Bush. They know Barack Hussein Obama must be (am)Bushed -- to keep America and its Arab allies on the defensive. Obama has to keep his eye on the prize. His goal -- America's goal -- has to be a settlement in Gaza that eliminates the threat of Hamas rockets and opens Gaza economically to the world, under credible international supervision. That's what will serve US interests, moderate the three great struggles and earn him respect.

Thomas L. Friedman writes on international affairs for the New York Times.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

## *The Mideast's Ground Zero*

The International Herald Tribune

January 8, 2009 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 6

**Length:** 830 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman - The New York Times Media Group

### **Body**

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## The Mideast's Ground Zero

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**Load-Date:** January 13, 2009

## *The Mideast's Ground Zero*

The New York Times

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Editorial Desk; Pg. 27; OP-ED COLUMNIST

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

### **Body**

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<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

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## *What has to happen to end the battle over Gaza*

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 8, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. A10

**Length:** 815 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman, Special to Times Colonist

### **Body**

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Thomas L. Friedman wrote *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*.

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009

**Guardian Weekly: Leading article: Gaza Punishing the people**

Guardian Weekly

March 7, 2008 Friday

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## **TheGuardianWeekly**

**Section:** Pg. 20

**Length:** 470 words

### **Body**

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Four months have passed since the peace meeting in Annapolis, and the smouldering fire of the Israel-Palestine conflict has once again combusted. More than 110 Palestinians have died in fighting after Israel launched an offensive to stop the firing of Qassam rockets. Half the casualties of Israel's onslaught are civilian, including women, children and a 21-month-old baby. Ehud Barak, Israel's defence minister, has said an even broader offensive is on the cards to crush the rocket squads - and maybe even bring down Hamas's rule.

Already critically weakened in the eyes of his people for his policy of engagement with Israel, the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas suspended peace negotiations last Sunday, but stopped short of declaring the process dead.

It has been said often enough that a peace settlement is impossible while Gaza is being ignored. But if any sequence of events demonstrated the utter futility of Israel, backed by the international community, trying to negotiate over the heads of half of the Palestinian people, it is what happened last weekend. Things were bad enough already.

The independent Palestinian parliamentarian Mustafa Barghouti had counted 177 Palestinian deaths since Annapolis. Most were in Gaza, but there were also now more checkpoints in the West Bank than there had been before the November conference. While 788 Palestinians had been set free in a confidence-building measure, 1,152 had been newly arrested. In the same period there were four Israeli deaths.

Israel acknowledges military action on its own will not stop the rockets. For that you need a ceasefire, and for that you need negotiations with Hamas, which the Israeli leadership (although not the people) refuses to contemplate. So Israel is left with only military options - reoccupying parts of Gaza or assassinating Hamas's leaders. Both have been tried in the past, and both have failed.

Hamas, on the other hand, is gaining in at least one of its objectives: to be considered the lead movement of the Palestinian resistance. It still has no answer to the economic blockade. It may have acquired longer-range missiles but it is a long way from establishing with its enemy the balance of deterrence which Hizbullah has established in South Lebanon.

## Guardian Weekly: Leading article: Gaza Punishing the people

The unstoppable cycle of assassinations and Qassams constitutes a form of collective punishment in which civilians on both sides bear the brunt. Israeli suggestions that targeted assassinations would reduce the number of civilians killed have been exposed as threadbare. A major military operation is leading to more civilian deaths, not fewer.

Israel does not have a clear military strategy in Gaza. No matter how many Hamas leaders are killed, it will never be able to wipe the Strip clean of the movement. But Israel still possesses the means to negotiate a ceasefire.

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2008

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## **GROUND ZERO; THE MIDDLE EAST'S TROUBLES ARE BOILING OVER IN GAZA**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 8, 2009 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2009 P.G. Publishing Co.

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

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman

### **Body**

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Can the Jews have a room here?

## GROUND ZERO THE MIDDLE EAST'S TROUBLES ARE BOILING OVER IN GAZA

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## Notes

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

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2009

**Olmert to face calls to resign as Israel descends into crisis Report to pin Lebanon war failure on ailing government**

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

April 29, 2007 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; International; Pg. 33

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** CHARLES LEVINSON in Jerusalem

## **Body**

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ISRAEL'S BELEAGUERED prime minister, Ehud Olmert, will face demands tomorrow to resign after the publication of a damning report into his government's handling of last year's war in Lebanon.

A commission set up to investigate his government's conduct before and during the month-long conflict with Hezbollah is expected to be sharply critical of Mr Olmert.

Its report is expected to say that Mr Olmert exercised "misguided and rash judgment" in launching the war. It will criticise him for being too easily influenced by his generals and for failing to anticipate the strength of Hezbollah.

According to leaks yesterday, it also faults Mr Olmert's defence minister, Amir Peretz, for his lack of military knowledge, and passes judgement on Dan Halutz, the army chief who resigned in January.

The report will not call for Mr Olmert to step down, something beyond its remit, but opposition politicians across the political spectrum are expected to seize on its findings to urge him to quit.

Many Israelis are furious that the war appeared to leave Israel militarily embarrassed and politically damaged, with little evidence that its Syrian- and Iranian-backed foe had been weakened, let alone defeated.

The report follows a spate of high-profile scandals involving the country's most senior politicians, with a new one rocking the foundering government almost every week. Even the military, once seen as a pillar of the Jewish state, is struggling to regain its lustre after failing to smash a few thousand Hezbollah guerrillas in 34 days of battle.

"The army has failed. The government has failed. It looks as if there is a very big crisis," said Sylvan Shalom, an opposition Likud lawmaker and a former foreign minister.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian conflict simmers on, with no prospects of peace nearly 15 years after the signing of the Oslo peace accords.

As the Jewish state began its 60th year of statehood last week, Israelis celebrated with barbecues and fireworks, but their leading politicians, statesmen, and intellectuals have embarked on an unusual bout of introspection.

Some say that modern Israel is not the homeland the country's founding fathers envisioned 60 years ago. Others see a thriving country weathering a rough patch.

## Olmert to face calls to resign as Israel descends into crisis Report to pin Lebanon war failure on ailing government

"Israel is in a phase of cleaning the sewage," said Amos Oz, 67, the country's most distinguished author and a regular frontrunner for the Nobel Prize in literature.

Mr Olmert has reportedly appealed to Mr Oz for support in the face of tomorrow's report. It is a sign of desperation, since Mr Oz has few kind words for his country's current leadership. In a typical sideswipe, he said: "This phase stinks to high heaven, but it is in the nature of the drainage to stink not when it is blocked but when it is being cleaned up."

In addition to his war woes, Mr Olmert, 61, whose approval ratings have slumped into single figures, is under suspicion for a slew of corruption allegations - more, according to the Jerusalem Post, than any leader in the history of the country. He is being investigated over allegations of shady property deals, of irregularities in doling out government contracts and public tenders, and of giving political appointments to cronies. Four cabinet ministers have also faced corruption charges in the past year. The former justice minister, Haim Ramon, resigned in August after he was accused and subsequently found guilty of forcibly kissing a 20-year-old female soldier.

Last weekend, the finance minister, Abraham Hirschon, a close ally of Mr Olmert, took time off to fight a looming indictment for fraud and embezzlement.

In perhaps the most appalling case to shake Israel, President Moshe Katsav faces two charges of rape among various others involving sexual misconduct and obstruction of justice. He stepped aside "temporarily" from office in January to contest the allegations.

To the generation of Israelis who have been here since the beginning, the current crop of leaders pales in comparison to the giants of the past.

"We've had a deterioration in the level of political leadership. We're getting more mediocre people, more incompetent people and more corrupt people," said Moshe Arens, 82, who fought alongside the former prime minister Menachem Begin in Israel's war of independence in 1948.

Mr Arens, a Right-wing ideologue who served as defence minister three times, most recently in 1999, can be counted among Israel's founding fathers. Many of those still living from Mr Arens's generation echo those frustrations.

"It's a very, very different state to the one we thought about when we were soldiers in 1948, when we created the state of Israel," said Uri Avnery, 83, once a Right-wing Zionist paramilitary commando, now an icon of Israel's pro-peace Left.

"In the early years, when we showed our Israeli passports at any border in the world, we were proud. I'm not sure this is the situation now," he added.

Israelis, however, take pride in their merciless self-criticism. Even those who offer the harshest indictments, in their next breath contend that Israel's scandals and other troubles, are equally a sign that the system is functioning.

Mr Oz said: "Israel is a dream come true, It is flawed and imperfect. This is the nature of dreams, not the nature of Israel."

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