

**Date and Time:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:40:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223361649

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Palestinians are cry-babies, says Sharon\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

2. [\*Truce springs from both politics and poker\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

3. [\*CEASEFIRE IN TATTERS FOLLOWING GAZA RAID\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

4. [\*Palestinian Focus: The Internal Fight\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

5. [\*Israelis kill vendor in Gaza raid\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

6. [Bomber buried as hero: Israel closes Gaza Strip to workers. Before violence erupted in 2000, about 100,000 Gazans worked in Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

7. [AS BOMBER IS BURIED, ISRAEL CLOSES GAZA STRIP](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

8. [Israel blows up hardline leader](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

9. [Israel seals off Gaza Strip](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

10. [Assassinate militant leaders, Israeli defence minister says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

11. [ISRAELI ATTACK KILLSTWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

12. [Israel waging its own war on terrorism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

13. [Militants work toward a truce as Israelis strike](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

14. [MIDDLE EAST CRISIS; Powell's salvage mission](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

15. [ISRAEL SEALS GAZA AFTER KILLINGS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

16. [PALESTINIANS FREEZE BANK ACCOUNTS; INVESTIGATION WILL FOCUS ON WHETHER NINE CHARITIES FUNNEL MONEY TO TERRORISTS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

17. [Israel promises a war 'to the bitter end'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

18. [Road map through minefield](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

19. [Israel set to resume targeted killings following attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

20. [Effort on to save peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

21. [Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

22. [3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

23. [Israel bombs go for home Aussies injured in violence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

24. [Defense chief targets militant leaders](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

25. [Palestinian officials freeze charities' accounts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

26. [Picking jihad over children; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

27. [ROAD MAP FALLING APART AS BOTH SIDES PLEDGE REVENGE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

28. [ISRAELI BULLETS AND PALESTINIAN BOMBS BLAST ROADMAP TO SHREDS; MIDDLE EAST: WASHINGTON SENDS DIPLOMAT TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE PEACE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

29. [HELL ON EARTH IN HOLY LAND Bus blastkills 16 in Jerusalem](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

30. [Taking Action While Action Is an Option](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

31. [\*Israeli missiles kill bystander\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

32. [\*Arafat says truce can be arranged; Contacts under way with all factions\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

33. [\*Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

34. [\*16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't been erected, Foreign Ministry official says\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

35. [\*Palestinian leaders freeze charities' accounts\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

36. [\*The New Assassins\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

37. [Islamic charities frozen](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

38. [Gaza raid, threats undercut truce talks](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

39. [Palestinian Authority freezes funds of Islamic charities; Israel welcomes the move to probe for terrorism links](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

40. [Bombs and bloodshed hit peace hopes; 23 killed in an hour of Israel violence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

41. [CIVILIANS TO BE TARGETED IN THEIR HOMES](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas



**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

42. [4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

43. [Palestinian Gunmen Attack Israeli Checkpoint in Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

44. [Bomber died to atone for infidelity](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

45. [Mideast road map suffers fresh blow](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

46. [Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

47. [SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

48. [Mideast violence fouls 'road map'; Attacks by both sides claim 25 victims](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

49. [A Move to Save Road Map; After 5 violent days, tentative cooperation](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

50. [Bombers hit back at Israel : Fifteen die in suicide attacks on troops and nightspot](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

51. [WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

52. [THE GATES OF HELL](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

53. [NO ONE'S SAFE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

54. [Israeli round-up of suspected militants a blow to peace effort](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

55. [Israel to resume targeted killings as terror leaders go underground](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

56. [27 Israeli Reserve Pilots Say They Refuse to Bomb Civilians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

57. [Bus and airstrike carnage rock M-E](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

58. [ISRAEL ROUNDS UP SUSPECTED MILITANTS IN WEST BANK](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

59. [Middle East crisis: Gaza: Dead, the people who tried to help: Furious crowds cry out for revenge in city streets](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

60. [Truce possible in Mideast; Egyptian mediators try to salvage peace plan after week of violence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

61. [Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

62. [Israel closes crossing after suicide bombing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

63. [THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE PALESTINIANS At Gaza Funeral, Arab Anger Boils and Israel Tightens Checkpoints](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

64. [Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

65. [MIDEAST TALKS ON AS ATTACKS CONTINUE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

66. [The Killing of the Sheikh](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

67. [SUICIDE BUS BOMB KILLS 17; SCORES MORE INJURED IN BLAST IN JERUSALEM](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

68. [\*Shoot-out in refugee camp leaves 3 dead in Gaza City\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

69. [\*After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

70. [\*Peace push Powell to head for Jordan\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

71. [\*Yasser arafat fears he's next\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

72. [\*Madonna cancels shows in Israel due to violence in the region\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

73. [U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

74. [Woman suicide bomber kills four Israelis](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

75. [Israelis, Palestinians trade missile strikes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

76. [SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13; 2 SEPARATE ATTACKS IN ISRAEL ALSO LEAVE MORE THAN 55 HURT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

77. [Sheikh Ahmed Yassin](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

78. [FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

79. [Madonna embarks on world tour](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

80. [Israel bus bombings kill at least 16](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

81. [Cowen speaks out on barrier; NEWS BRIEF](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
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82. [Mother's only wish was to die a martyr](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

83. [Israel acts to end a road block to peace](#)



**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

84. [Israel air strikes after twin suicide bombings; Road map to peace blown up](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

85. [Live by the sword ...](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

86. [After Deadly Attack, Arab Rage and an Israeli Videotape](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

87. [Envoy arrives in Jerusalem after upsurge in violence MIDDLE EAST ROAD MAP:](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

88. [Israelis kill terror chief](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

89. [\*POOLS OF BLOOD, BODY PARTS AND A PEACE PROCESS IN A CRITICAL STATE; ROAD-MAP IN JEOPARDY AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 16 ON COMMUTER BUS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

90. [\*PALESTINIAN MILITANTS TALK TRUCE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

91. [\*The real obstacle to peace is not terror, but sabotage by Sharon-backed army\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

92. [\*Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to  
Oct 31, 2004

93. [\*Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

94. [16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

95. [Israeli soldiers clash with Palestinian protesters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

96. [LETTER: YASSIN AND THE MORALITY OF KILLING](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

97. [ISRAEL HITS BACK AFTER BUS SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 13](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

98. [Israel has killed bid for peace: Arafat](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

99. [ISRAEL DEFIES ROAD-MAP AND VOWS TO BUILD SETTLEMENTS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

100. [Israel shuts border to Gaza Strip until Sunday: Move is a reponse to suicide bombing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

## *Palestinians are cry-babies, says Sharon*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

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

**Length:** 536 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, in Jerusalem and Marian Wilkinson, in Washington and agencies

### **Body**

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The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, has reportedly dismissed the Palestinians as "cry-babies" as his government and the Islamic militant group **Hamas** have declared all-out war on each other.

Mr Sharon also told cabinet that the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was "like a chick who hasn't grown his feathers", The Washington Post reported two participants in the meeting as saying. It was up to Israel to strike against terrorists, Mr Sharon said, until Mr Abbas was willing and able to do so.

Speaking on Israeli Army radio yesterday, the Deputy Defence Minister, Zeev Boim, said that "as a government responsible for the security of its citizens, we must wage a war [against **Hamas**] to the bitter end because no one else, at least at this stage, will do it."

However, a poll published yesterday found that 67 per cent of Israelis say the Government should stop its policy of assassinating Palestinian militants. Sixty-five per cent believe the policy is damaging to Israel, or at least has no benefits.

**Hamas** issued a statement in Gaza saying that "Israel has declared war on our people, and therefore from now on Sharon is a wanted man and we will be after his head like the head of every Israeli. I say to the Israelis: Your wives, your husbands, your children, all will be a target."

The group also warned all foreigners to leave Israel.

By yesterday morning the death toll for the previous 48 hours had climbed above 40, including 16 people killed by **Hamas** in a bus bombing in Jerusalem and at least 19 Palestinians killed by Israeli helicopter strikes in Gaza, five of them **Hamas** members.

In the latest violence, gunmen fired at an Israeli car near the Jewish settlement of Neve Tzuf in the West Bank, wounding two **women**, one of them seriously.

An Israeli newspaper carried an interview with the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, yesterday in which he called for an "armed peace force as a buffer zone between the Israelis and the Palestinians".

The White House announced that a presidential envoy, John Wolf, could leave for Jerusalem as early as today.

## Palestinians are cry-babies, says Sharon

The US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, telephoned Middle East leaders, including Mr Sharon and Mr Abbas, in an effort to bring the US-backed road map for peace back on track and put pressure on Hamas.

Mr Powell and other officials made it clear the US would temper any further criticism of Mr Sharon since Wednesday's bombing in Jerusalem and would concentrate on eliminating the threat from Hamas.

In his calls, Mr Powell asked Middle East leaders to cut off funding and support for Hamas, and urged Mr Abbas to do more to crack down on Hamas.

US officials also refrained from repeating Mr Bush's earlier criticism of the Israeli Government over its retaliatory attacks on Hamas, which killed civilians as well as Hamas figures.

Mr Bush, having announced the policy to isolate Hamas, on Thursday avoided any discussion of the Middle East crisis.

Mr Powell took over the handling of the crisis, announcing that he would go to Jordan later this month following the ASEAN conference to meet the other sponsors of the road map, including Mr Annan, the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, and leaders of the European Union.

A deadly detour Page 30

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

## *Truce springs from both politics and poker*

The International Herald Tribune

July 1, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1392 words

**Byline:** James Bennet

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY:

### **Body**

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The agreement by the three main Palestinian factions to suspend attacks on Israelis is based on bad faith. And that may give it a fragile chance of success.

The truce, which was announced Sunday, resulted from new international pressure after the war in Iraq. But its roots are deeper, in the complex politics of Palestinian violence, which have helped feed the 33-month uprising against Israel and now may, haltingly, be bringing it a close.

The Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, has set a trap of sorts for **Hamas** and other militant groups. He is hoping to whipsaw any relative calm resulting from a cease-fire to extract concessions from Israel, such as the opening of military checkpoints in Gaza that occurred Monday.

The New York Times

Then he wants to use the political support he hopes will follow to meet the demands of the international peace plan known as the road map, collecting weapons and punishing whoever violates the truce, his advisers say. He has made no secret that his goal is to turn **Hamas** into just another political party, stopping it from effectively conducting its own foreign policy toward Israel.

**Hamas** leaders see the trap clearly. That is why they called for Abbas' resignation last month, after he urged an end to the armed uprising against Israel.

**Hamas** leaders are gambling that the cease-fire will fail, and with it, Abbas and an American-led peace plan, say Palestinian officials who have negotiated with them. They hope that Abbas's own trap will close over him, that the conflict will resume, and that a negotiated solution will seem more hopeless than ever.

As the cease-fire negotiations ripened last week, the Palestinian foreign minister, Nabil Shaath, acknowledged in an interview that bad faith was a key to the agreement.

"Everybody is bargaining with a very different set of expectations," he said. "Maybe **Hamas** didn't want to go into a situation against its interests, but they bet that Israel will not follow through."

The question is why **Hamas** feels it must play along with the governing Palestinian Authority, even for a short time. There are two sets of motivations cited by Palestinian officials and militant leaders, one driven by external considerations, and the other, subtler one, by intensely factionalized Palestinian politics.

### Truce springs from both politics and poker

The American defeat of Saddam Hussein played a central role, as Hamas sponsors in Syria and Iran came under new American pressure, and other Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia, moved to calm the region.

"After Sept. 11, the Palestinian resistance lost its international support," said Samir Mashharawi, a top official here of Abbas's mainstream Fatah faction, who was involved in talks with Hamas. "After the Iraq war, the Palestinian resistance lost its Arab support."

The second, internal set of reasons arises from Palestinian politics. In the view of Abbas's allies and other Fatah officials, it was Fatah's initial leadership of the intifada, or uprising, that legitimated Hamas violence to begin with. After the uprising erupted in September 2000, it was months before Hamas began playing a high-profile role. With Fatah pursuing a truce, Hamas had little choice but to play along.

"Having Fatah involved made the conflict a national conflict," said Qadoura Fares, a Fatah legislator who negotiated the truce in Damascus with Khaled Mashal, a top Hamas leader, and Ramadan Shalah, of Islamic Jihad. "If Fatah is out, you have two extreme Muslim groups against Israel, against the peace process, and against the Palestinian state. They understand these things."

Abbas is acting now because, along with the Palestinian people, Fatah is in deep trouble. Once Hamas fully joined in the fighting, Fatah found itself in a new competition for respect in the street.

In the view of some of Abbas's advisers, the great mistake then made by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and a founder with Abbas of Fatah, was to try to out-Hamas Hamas. That was an impossible proposition for Fatah, given its official acceptance of a two-state solution with Israel.

It is significant that the name chosen for Fatah's violent wing was "Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades." The name reflects, in part, that the intifada began after Ariel Sharon, now the prime minister of Israel, visited the site of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in September 2000 with hundreds of police officers. The site is sacred to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

But it also reflected what some Palestinian officials lament as an Islamicization of Fatah, a secular faction, during the conflict, as it tried to outdo Hamas.

The name was not enough, however. Although lacking the same fundamentalist visions of paradise as Hamas, Al Aksa Martyrs also turned to suicide as a weapon. More than a year into the conflict, with Hamas gaining popularity, Al Aksa Martyrs began in January 2002 to regularly conduct suicide bombings and shootings against Israelis, after Israel killed a popular local leader of the group.

Unlike Hamas, which felt bound by religious injunctions, Al Aksa Martyrs felt free to use women as suicide bombers. Further, like Hamas, the group began striking frequently across the so-called Green Line, the boundary of the West Bank.

The new attacks across the Green Line persuaded Israelis that Fatah, like Hamas, was now bent on the destruction of all Israel, not just on attaining a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the Six Day War of 1967.

In the short term, the increasingly anarchic violence restored Fatah's popularity in the street. In an interview with The New York Times early in March 2002, shortly before Israel arrested him on charges of terrorism, Marwan Barghouti, a rising Fatah leader, noted that the faction's support had been collapsing. Now, he said proudly at the time, "there is no Hamas, no Islamic Jihad."

It was Barghouti, who denies the Israeli charges against him and says he is strictly a political leader, who dispatched Fares to Damascus to negotiate the truce.

During the days following that interview with Barghouti, Palestinian violence reached a crescendo in what seemed to be daily explosions in March by suicide bombers in Israeli streets and cafes. Top Palestinian officials learned that



## Truce springs from both politics and poker

Israeli forces were preparing a broad offensive into the West Bank, and some pleaded with Arafat to act forcefully to stop the violence, a longtime associate of Arafat said.

Arafat refused, the adviser said, believing that Israel would not take the step. Arafat always preferred not to confront the Islamic groups, preserving both his own broad popularity and the option of enabling new violence as a negotiating tool, the adviser and Israeli intelligence officials said.

Arafat was wrong. At the end of March, Israeli troops stormed into the West Bank in their biggest ground offensive since they invaded Lebanon two decades earlier. The offensive, like other military operations that followed it, commanded broad support among Israelis, who had concluded from the Fatah-linked campaign of suicide attacks that there was no one left on the Palestinian side to negotiate with.

Over the succeeding year, as Israel began putting whole Palestinian cities under curfew and taking back territory ceded to Palestinian control under the Oslo peace process, a political debate began inside Fatah over whether the faction had lost control of its youth and its message. Led by Fares and others, a new generation of Fatah leaders argued that the faction needed to reach out again to Israeli moderates.

Some Fatah leaders continued to urge attacks, but only against soldiers and settlers to clarify that Fatah was seeking only to throw off the Israeli occupation.

But Abbas was focused on rebuilding Palestinians' shattered relations with the American government, and he realized that the Bush administration would not accept such distinctions between forms of violence. He sought a total halt, as did the Egyptians and Saudi Arabians. He is trying to play again to Fatah's relative strength over **Hamas**, as the faction that can make gains through negotiation with Israel.

In the short term, Abbas's biggest problem in maintaining the cease-fire may be within Fatah. It was telling that Sunday, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad jointly announced the suspension of violence, while Fatah lagged hours behind. It lacks the tight discipline of the other groups.

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2003

## **CEASEFIRE IN TATTERS FOLLOWING GAZA RAID**

Birmingham Post

August 22, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 504 words

**Byline:** RUSSELL SMITHY

### **Body**

---

The Palestinian terror group **Hamas** called off its ceasefire yesterday after an Israeli helicopter attack killed one of its senior leaders in Gaza City.

Ismail Abu Shanab was decapitated and two of his bodyguards were killed when five missiles struck his estate car.

Fifteen bystanders were wounded, doctors said, including **women** and children.

**Hamas** responded by saying it was calling off a unilateral ceasefire it signed with the other main militant groups on June 29.

'We consider ourselves free from this ceasefire,' **Hamas** official Ibrahim Hanieh said.

**Hamas** members at the scene smeared their fists in blood and soot and vowed to have their revenge.

The missile attack came two days after a **Hamas** suicide bomber blew himself up on a Jerusalem bus, killing 20 people. The militant group had insisted after Tuesday's bombing that it was still observing the truce.

Abu Shanab's estate car had been slowing down to avoid a large stone in the road when the first missile crashed into it, witnesses said.

Three scorched bodies were pulled from the burning car. Two were identified as bodyguards, and it appeared Abu Shanab had been decapitated by the strike.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas said Israel's killing of the senior **Hamas** leader would undermine his efforts to crackdown on the militants.

'There is no doubt that what the Israeli troops carried out today is an ugly crime,' Abbas said.

'We condemn such acts. This is against peace and the peace process.'

There were reports the other main Palestinian militant group, Islamic Jihad, had also called off its ceasefire after today's missile strike.

There was no immediate comment by the Israeli military.

## CEASEFIRE IN TATTERS FOLLOWING GAZA RAID

In the past, Israel has repeatedly killed wanted Palestinians in targeted missile attacks. Israel had suspended the practice after militants declared a unilateral truce on June 29.

Earlier that month, Israel fired missiles at the car of another **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who escaped with minor injuries.

Abu Shanab was widely seen as a moderate in the group, and served as a liaison with Abbas during the prime minister's efforts to persuade **Hamas** to halt attacks. He served as a **Hamas** spokesman and had a civil engineering degree from the University of Colorado.

Rantisi, the target of the failed Israeli missile strike in June, said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would pay a high price for the killing of Abu Shanab. 'If Sharon thinks the **Hamas** political leadership fears assassination, he is mistaken,' he said.

Islamic Jihad spokesman Khalid Bateesh also blamed Sharon for the death of Abu Shanab and said he had wrecked the ceasefire. The rocket attack in Gaza City 'ended the Palestinian initiative of the (ceasefire) and Islamic Jihad declares that it is no longer observing this initiative,' he said.

Sheik Nafez Azzam, another Islamic Jihad leader, said: 'We have not met yet to evaluate the issue and make a decision, but it is clear to the whole world that Israel does not want the truce. Israel has blown up the truce and run over it.'

**Load-Date:** August 22, 2003

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End of Document

## *Palestinian Focus: The Internal Fight*

The New York Times

July 1, 2003 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1446 words

**Byline:** By JAMES BENNET

**Dateline:** GAZA, June 30

### **Body**

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The agreement by the three main Palestinian factions to suspend attacks on Israelis is based on bad faith -- and that may give it a fragile chance of success.

The truce, which was announced Sunday, came about because of new international pressure after the war in Iraq. But its roots are deeper than that, in the complex politics of Palestinian violence, which fed the 33-month-old uprising against Israel and now might, haltingly, be bringing it to a close.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, has set a trap for **Hamas** and other militant groups. He is hoping to whipsaw any relative calm resulting from a cease-fire to extract concessions from Israel, like the opening of military checkpoints inside Gaza today. Then he wants to use the political support he hopes will follow to comply with the international peace plan known as the road map, collecting weapons and punishing whoever violates the truce, his advisers say. He has made no secret that his goal is to turn **Hamas** into just another political party, stopping it from conducting in effect its own foreign policy toward Israel.

**Hamas** leaders see the trap clearly. That is why they called for Mr. Abbas's resignation earlier this month, after he urged an end to the armed uprising against Israel.

**Hamas** leaders are gambling that the cease-fire will fail and with it, Mr. Abbas and the American-led peace plan, say Palestinian officials who have negotiated with them. **Hamas** hopes Mr. Abbas's own trap will close over him, the conflict will resume and a negotiated solution will seem more hopeless than ever.

As the cease-fire negotiations ripened last week, Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, acknowledged in an interview that bad faith was a key. "Everybody is bargaining with a very different set of expectations," he said. "Maybe **Hamas** didn't want to go into a situation against its interests, but they bet that Israel will not follow through."

The question is why **Hamas** feels it must play along with the governing Palestinian Authority even for a short time. There are two sets of motivations cited by Palestinian officials and militant leaders. One arises from external considerations and the other, subtler one, from intensely factionalized Palestinian politics.

The American defeat of Saddam Hussein played a central role, as **Hamas** sponsors in Syria and Iran came under new American pressure and Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia's, moved to calm the region. "After Sept. 11,

## Palestinian Focus: The Internal Fight

the Palestinian resistance lost its international support," said Samir al-Mashharawi, a top official here of Mr. Abbas's mainstream Fatah faction. "After the Iraq war, the Palestinian resistance lost its Arab support."

Other motives stem from Palestinian politics. In the view of Mr. Abbas's allies and other Fatah officials, Fatah's initial leadership of the intifada, or uprising, legitimized Hamas violence. After the uprising began in September 2000, those officials noted, it was months before Hamas began playing a high-profile role. Now, with Fatah pursuing a truce, Hamas had little choice but to play along.

"Having Fatah involved made the conflict a national conflict," said Qadoura Fares, a Fatah legislator who negotiated the truce in Damascus, Syria, with leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "If Fatah is out, you have two extreme Muslim groups against Israel, against the peace process and against the Palestinian state. They understand these things."

Mr. Abbas is acting now because, along with the Palestinian people, Fatah is in trouble. Once Hamas joined fully in the fighting, Fatah found itself in a new competition for respect in the street.

In the view of some of Mr. Abbas's advisers, the great mistake made then by Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, was to try to out-Hamas Hamas. That was an impossible proposition for Fatah, given its official acceptance of a two-state solution with Israel.

It is significant that the name chosen for Fatah's violent wing was "Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades." It reflects, in part, the fact that the intifada began after Ariel Sharon, with hundreds of policemen, visited the site of Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem in September 2000. The site is sacred to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

But the name also reflected what some Palestinian officials lament as an Islamicization of Fatah, a secular faction, as it tried to top Hamas.

The name was not enough. Although lacking Hamas's fundamentalist visions of paradise, Al Aksa Martyrs added suicide to its arsenal. With Hamas gaining popularity, the group began in January 2002 to conduct suicide bombings and shootings against Israelis, after Israel killed a popular local leader of the group.

Unlike Hamas, which felt bound by religious injunctions, Al Aksa Martyrs felt free to use women as suicide bombers. Further, like Hamas, the group began striking frequently across the so-called Green Line, the boundary of the West Bank.

Those attacks helped persuade Israelis that Fatah, like Hamas and Islamic Jihad, was bent on erasing Israel, not just on attaining a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war.

The increasingly anarchic violence bolstered Fatah's popularity.

But in March 2002, as Palestinian violence reached a peak in what seemed daily attacks, Palestinian security officials learned that Israel was preparing a broad offensive into the West Bank. Some pleaded with Mr. Arafat to act forcefully to stop the violence, a longtime associate of his said.

He refused, this adviser said, believing that Israel would not take the step. Mr. Arafat preferred not to confront the Islamic groups, preserving his own broad popularity and the option of unleashing violence as a bargaining lever, this adviser and Israeli intelligence officials said.

At the end of March, Israeli troops stormed into the West Bank in their biggest ground offensive since they invaded Lebanon in 1982.

Over the succeeding year, as Israel began putting whole Palestinian cities under curfew and taking back territory ceded to Palestinian control under the Oslo peace accord, a debate grew inside Fatah over whether the faction had lost control of its youth and its message. Mr. Fares and other 40-something Fatah leaders, who grew up under Israeli occupation rather than living decades in exile as Mr. Arafat did, argued that Fatah needed to reach out again

## Palestinian Focus: The Internal Fight

to Israeli moderates. Some Fatah leaders continued to urge attacks but only against soldiers and settlers, to clarify that Fatah was seeking only to throw off occupation.

Mr. Abbas, however, was intent on rebuilding Palestinians' shattered relations with the United States, and he realized that the Bush administration would not accept such distinctions. He sought a total halt, as did the Egyptian government. Mr. Abbas is trying to play to Fatah's relative strength, as the faction that can make gains through negotiation.

In the short term, Mr. Abbas's biggest problem may be Fatah. It was telling that on Sunday, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad jointly announced the suspension of violence, while Fatah lagged behind. It lacks their ramrod discipline.

Fatah officials are worried that they may not be able to stop violence by some Aksa Martyrs cells, which Israeli officials say are loosely controlled. Al Aksa claimed responsibility today for the first rupture of the cease-fire, a sniper's killing of a foreign worker in the West Bank.

Israeli troops shot to death an armed Palestinian who fired a pistol at an army roadblock early Tuesday near the northern West Bank city of Tulkarem, military officials told Agence France-Presse. The man had no immediately known connection to any militant organization.

Further, Mr. Arafat, like **Hamas**, may feel threatened by any rising support for Mr. Abbas. It was no coincidence that allies of Mr. Arafat raised last-minute objections to the truce on Sunday, delaying Fatah's announcement and underscoring his pre-eminence.

In the longer term, if the truce holds, the test of that strategy will be whether peace talks undercut the Islamists and strengthen support for a two-state solution.

**Hamas** has always opposed that solution. But in an interview in April, Ismail Abu Shanab, a leader here of **Hamas**, said an American-brokered two-state solution could lead to peace -- a statement that might, of course, have been mere posturing.

Asked if he would then give up his claim of a "right of return" to his family home outside Ashkelon, in what became Israel in 1948, Mr. Abu Shanab, said, "No." Then he added, "But maybe this will fade down."

"If we have a state," he continued, as his 4-year-old daughter played nearby, "maybe the next generation will see things differently."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: HANDSHAKE IN GAZA -- An Israeli soldier, center, with a Palestinian officer at a crucial junction near Netzarim, a settlement in the Gaza Strip. Israel has released control of most of Gaza's main north-south road. Page A11. (Associated Press)(pg. A1); A Palestinian officer placed a flag yesterday in Beit Hanun in Gaza after Israeli forces dismantled a checkpoint. (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A10)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2003

## *Israelis kill vendor in Gaza raid*

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

August 27, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Section:** WIRE;

**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** By Ibrahim Barzak Associated Press

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Israel accelerated its deadly campaign against militants Tuesday, killing a water-pipe vendor in a botched missile strike against **Hamas** gunmen in the Gaza Strip that also wounded 26 bystanders.

Three **Hamas** members managed to flee in their car in a crowded Gaza City street before the missiles hit, witnesses said. Five children were among the wounded, doctors said.

Israel has killed seven militants in two missile raids in Gaza and stepped up military operations in the West Bank since 21 people died in a **Hamas** suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last week. Hours before the Gaza Strike, Israeli soldiers dressed as Arabs snatched two wounded militants, one involved in a suicide bombing, from their beds in a West Bank hospital.

The violence has frozen progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan and exposed the reluctance of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to confront the armed groups.

The Israeli crackdown, backed by warnings that every militant is marked for death, has also forced members of **Hamas** and other groups to go deeper into hiding. **Hamas** members said they were changing their appearances -- shaving beards, losing weight, even disguising in women's robes. Leaflets hung in mosques throughout the Gaza Strip instructed **Hamas** activists to take precautions -- such as not traveling in groups, avoiding use of their telephones -- so as not to present easy targets.

In the latest Israeli operation, a helicopter fired three missiles at a car stuck in a traffic jam on a crowded residential street just north of Gaza City, near the Jebaliya refugee camp.

"The people in the car jumped out and ran in two different directions" after one rocket hit near the front of the white car, said Shadi Tayan, who owns a bookstore in the area. After the men fled, two more missiles hit.

**Hamas** sources said the car was carrying three of its members, including Khaled Masoud, the brother of a **Hamas** military wing commander killed in an Israeli raid in Gaza three months ago. They said Masoud was wounded in the strike. An Israeli security official said Masoud was responsible for building crude rockets of the type regularly fired into Israel and Jewish settlements in Gaza -- almost invariably missing their targets.

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2003

Israelis kill vendor in Gaza raid

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End of Document



**Bomber buried as hero: Israel closes Gaza Strip to workers. Before violence erupted in 2000, about 100,000 Gazans worked in Israel**

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A16

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** IBRAHIM BARZAK

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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The first **female Hamas** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral yesterday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become more difficult but few were willing to openly blame **Hamas** for their new hardship.

Top Israel army commanders met at the Defence Ministry to consider a response to the latest attack, a security official said. Targeted killings of **Hamas** leaders were expected to resume, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

AP

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time **Hamas** dispatched a **female** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar said.

The Israeli security official said **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin issued a religious edict permitting **women** to carry out bombings, something **Hamas** had resisted. He said Yassin personally approved Wednesday's attack.

The Israeli closure shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs could cross. The closure was to last until Sunday, the security official said.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize **Hamas**, questioned the wisdom of Wednesday's attack. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42, who works in a factory near the Israeli town of Ashkelon.

Even such veiled criticism remains relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble in private about tighter travel bans or other hardships prompted by terrorist acts. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

Bomber buried as hero: Israel closes Gaza Strip to workers. Before violence erupted in 2000, about 100,000 Gazans worked in Israel

The bombing was carried out by Reem al-Reyashi, 22, a mother with two young children. She had been escorted into a room for a security search when she blew herself up. The attack was jointly claimed by **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Thousands marched through Gaza City during her funeral. Masked gunmen from **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the **Hamas** green flag.

"It is not enough to call her a hero. Calling her hero does not give the whole truth. This woman abandoned her husband and children to win paradise," Zahar said in the eulogy.

Three of those killed in the attack were border police, and the fourth was a private security guard. The army said four of the seven wounded were Palestinians.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia declined to condemn the attack. Palestinian leaders usually denounce attacks on civilians in Israel, but not on soldiers or settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians view Israelis in occupied areas as legitimate targets.

Before violence erupted in 2000, about 100,000 Palestinians from Gaza worked in Israel, providing the main source of income for the territory. Now only 15,000 workers and another 4,000 merchants, in addition to the workers at the industrial park, have permits to cross into Israel.

The Palestinian parliament approved a budget of about \$2 billion for the year, more than twice projected revenues, in hopes foreign aid will make up the difference. Donor countries, who have propped up the Palestinian budget during more than three years of Mideast fighting, are demanding financial reform in the Palestinian Authority.

## Graphic

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Color Photo: MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS; Palestinian gunmen from the Fatah movement ride atop a vehicle during the funeral of **Hamas female** suicide bomber Reem al-Reyashi in Gaza City yesterday.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

## **AS BOMBER IS BURIED, ISRAEL CLOSES GAZA STRIP**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 16, 2004 Friday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A11

**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak/ The Associated Press

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

### **Body**

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Top Israeli army commanders met Thursday at the Defense Ministry to consider a response to the latest attack, a security official said. Targeted killings of senior **Hamas** militants were expected to resume, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

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Even such veiled criticism remains relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble in private about tighter travel bans or other hardships prompted by the militants' actions. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

## AS BOMBER IS BURIED, ISRAEL CLOSES GAZA STRIP

The bombing was carried out by Reem Raiyshi, 22, a mother with two young children. She had been escorted into a room for a security search when she blew herself up. The attack was jointly claimed by **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

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## Notes

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WORLD

## Graphic

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PHOTO; (1) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Photo - Militants from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades attend the funeral of Palestinian suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi on Thursday in Gaza City./ (2) GETTY IMAGES Photo - Comrades of Israeli soldier Zur Or, killed in Wednesday's suicide attack, mourn at his funeral Thursday in Holon, near Tel Aviv.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

## *Israel blows up hardline leader*

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1087 words

### **Body**

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**Hamas** declares all-out war on Israel, US

RADICAL Islamic group **Hamas** yesterday declared all-out war against Israel and the US, after Israel killed its spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

It was the first time **Hamas** has declared a war of revenge against the US.

Sheik Yassin, 67, a paraplegic cleric, was killed with seven Palestinians when an Israeli helicopter fired three missiles as he left a Gaza City mosque.

Sheik Yassin was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination drew condemnation from the Arab world.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians carrying green **Hamas** flags flooded the streets of Gaza City for the funeral procession.

Mourners jostled to touch Sheik Yassin's flag-draped coffin and **women** threw flowers.

Two Israeli helicopters flew in a sky blackened by the smoke of burning tyres lit in protest.

Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said **Hamas** official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Sheik Yassin.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz pledged "the battle against **Hamas** will continue," suggesting there will be more air strikes and raids aimed at the militant group.

The US urged both sides to show restraint.

Britain last night condemned the killing and said it was unlikely to help fight terrorism.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Israel had a right to defend itself against terrorism, but it could not use means outside international law.

"We therefore condemn it. It's unacceptable, it's unjustified, and it's very unlikely to achieve its objective," Mr Straw said.

## Israel blows up hardline leader

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as the wheelchair-using Sheik Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a mosque.

Among the others dead were the sheik's bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded, including two of his sons.

Three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later in the day, one while handling explosives and two by Israeli army fire, during a protest against the Sheik Yassin killing, hospital officials said.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was at his farm in southern Israel at the time of the missile strike, and was briefed by phone throughout the operation.

Mr Sharon said last night Israel would go on with its war on terror, flagging there would be more target attacks.

He called Yassin an arch-terrorist who plotted attacks that killed hundreds of Israelis.

"It is the natural right of the Jewish people, like that of all nations that love life, to hunt down those who rise to destroy it," Mr Sharon said.

Fearing reprisal at tacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities.

The Sheik Yassin assassination was seen as a huge gamble by Mr Sharon, who is trying to score a victory against **Hamas** ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The Palestinian Authority said in a statement: "Israel has exceeded all red lines with this cheap and dirty crime," and declared a three-day mourning period.

Flags at PA President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters were lowered to half-mast.

Sheik Yassin was Mr Arafat's biggest political rival, but Mr Arafat was always careful not to confront the **Hamas** leader.

Cabinet ministers stood as Mr Arafat recited a prayer for the sheik.

He then added: "May you join the martyrs and the prophets. To heaven, you martyr."

Earlier, about 2000 demonstrators gathered outside Mr Arafat's headquarters, screaming for revenge and demanding to speak to him, but he stayed inside.

"He is like a man who was hit on the head because they killed Yassin, now they could kill him," an aide to Mr Arafat said.

"He feels his turn is next and is sad and worried."

Tens of thousands of Palestinians took to West Bank streets in protest.

In Nablus, the largest city, about 15,000 people flocked to the centre.

"Dozens of people came to us this morning volunteering to be suicide bombers," a masked militant said. "We will send them in the right time."

**Hamas** promised a harsh response.

"Yassin is a man in a nation, and a nation in a man. And the retaliation of this nation will be of the size of this man," said Abdel-Aziz al-Rantisi, a prominent **Hamas** leader in Gaza who escaped an Israeli assassination attempt last June.

**Hamas** also threatened the US, saying its backing of Israel made the assassination possible.

## Israel blows up hardline leader

"All the Muslims of the world will be honoured to join in on the retaliation for this crime," **Hamas** said in a statement.

**Hamas** leaders had insisted their struggle is against Israel alone.

Militant groups Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, sometimes at odds with **Hamas**, also promised revenge.

Since its founding by Sheik Yassin in 1987, **Hamas** has carried out scores of attacks.

Israel tried to kill the sheik in September when a plane dropped a bomb on a building where he and other leaders were met. He escaped with a small wound to his hand.

## REACTION

"The battle is open and war between us and them is open. They are the killers of prophets and today they killed an Islamic symbol. It's a war on Islam . . . what happened was beyond the assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, they wanted to assassinate the Palestinian cause."

Senior **Hamas** political leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi

"This is a crazy and very dangerous act. It opens the door wide to chaos. Yassin was known for his moderation and he was controlling **Hamas**."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie

"He had been marked for death for a long time . . . Yassin and the others were behind the terror framework in the Gaza Strip."

Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim

"War, war, war on the sons of Zion. An eye for an eye. There will be a response within hours, God willing."

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades

"The benefit with this operation is that Israel made clear again that terror has no immunity and that it will strike against its activists, its deputies, its leaders anywhere they are."

Israeli Finance Minister and ex-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu

"I think that this is very, very dangerous for us. We are talking here about opening a pandora's box. We are now counting backwards to, God forbid, the next terror attack against us, and the question is how many Israelis, how many Jews have to be killed for this irresponsible act."

Yossin Beilin, leading Israeli Opposition dove

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

## *Israel seals off Gaza Strip*

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

January 16, 2004 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 15

**Length:** 419 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Stri

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- The first **female Hamas** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral Thursday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become more difficult but few were willing to openly blame militants for their new hardship.

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## Israel seals off Gaza Strip

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**Load-Date:** February 17, 2006

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## **Assassinate militant leaders, Israeli defence minister says**

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

February 2, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A4; NEWS

**Length:** 393 words

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defence minister said yesterday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in violence in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

Associated Press

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. **Hamas** took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, and **Hamas** officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

#### **MANY PINPOINT ATTACKS**

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad -- often prompting a violent response. In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months. Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Zeev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

**Hamas**, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the last three years, also appeared to have scaled back its activities until a **Hamas female** suicide bomber killed four Israelis at a Gaza-Israel checkpoint Jan. 14.

Yassin encouraged kidnapping Israeli soldiers a day after Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners as part of an exchange with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah for a businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

## Assassinate militant leaders, Israeli defence minister says

Yassin said it has become extremely difficult to capture soldiers, apparently trying to explain why **Hamas** has failed to free the 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

## Graphic

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Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinians sit atop the rubble of their houses, demolished by the Israeli forces during an operation to arrest militants, in the West Bank town of Jericho.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2004

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## ISRAELI ATTACK KILLSTWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL

The Scotsman  
June 13, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

**Section:** Pg. 14

**Length:** 808 words

**Byline:** Ben Lynfield

### **Body**

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SEVEN Palestinians, including a senior Hamas militant, were killed in an Israeli missile strike in Gaza City yesterday as both sides squared up for an all-out war that could scuttle United States-backed peace efforts.

The helicopter attack, which killed the wife and two-year-old daughter of the militant Yasser Taha, was the latest episode in what has become a dizzying cycle of violence since last week's summit in Akaba, Jordan, to launch the peace blueprint known as the "road map".

It was the fourth helicopter gunship strike on a densely populated area of Gaza within three days.

Reports said Apache gunships fired six missiles at a car carrying Mr Taha, reducing it to twisted wreckage. They added that the last missile exploded among bystanders who had hurried to the scene from a nearby mosque, injuring more than 40 of them.

The young girl, unconscious and burned, was rushed to hospital and died there, medical officials said. A baby bottle and baby shoes were pulled from the burning car.

Later in the day, an Israeli motorist was killed in a Palestinian shooting attack in the West Bank. Israeli forces also killed two Islamic Jihad activists who drew guns on soldiers who had come to arrest them in the West Bank town of Jenin, the military said.

The violence threatens the political survival of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, who promised his people an easing in their daily living conditions, and the international community that he would elicit a ceasefire from Hamas and other militant groups.

"If this continues, he will resign," said Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian legislator. "He promised the Palestinians a change for the better and if he cannot deliver, he will draw the conclusions."

The Gaza gunship attack was launched while Israelis were still reeling from a devastating Hamas bombing of a bus in central Jerusalem on Wednesday that left 16 people dead.

The bus bombing, which came after a failed attempt by Israel to assassinate Abdul Aziz Rantissi, the Hamas leader, has been taken by Israel's security forces as the signal for an intensive campaign against Hamas, regardless of the effect on Mr Abbas's efforts to persuade the group to join a ceasefire.

"This targeted killing is just the beginning," a security source said.

## ISRAELI ATTACK KILLSTWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Earlier, an Israeli official said the gunship strike followed orders by Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli defence minister, for the army to "use everything it has" against Hamas.

During a cabinet meeting, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, was adamant Israel would not constrain its efforts to "combat terrorism." He said the Palestinian Authority leaders had told him they would not be ready for another four months to thwart attacks.

"We will not wait for a month, a week or even a day," he said. "We will fight the terror by ourselves."

He called Mr Abbas "a chick who has not grown his feathers yet" and mocked the Palestinian leadership as "cry-babies" for saying they did not have the capability to thwart attacks.

Moshe Yaalon, the army chief of staff, warned that a Palestinian ceasefire would be dangerous for Israel, as it would give Hamas time to reorganise.

On the Palestinian side, the war rhetoric was equally ferocious. "These are killers of children, women, innocent people. Let us wait to see which side is going to destroy the other," said Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader. Hamas said in a leaflet that it had ordered "all military cells" to take action and called on foreigners to leave Israel so they would not be harmed.

The gunship attacks are clearly adding fuel to Hamas's approach that armed struggle and not diplomacy is the way of dealing with Israel.

In an interview on the BBC's Arabic service, Osama Abu Hamdan, the Hamas representative in Lebanon, urged the militia of the Fatah movement, of which Mr Abbas is a senior leader, to keep up its attacks.

"We face Zionist terrorism and all the forces must defend the Palestinian society," he said. "The fight is not just Hamas's fight, but the fight of all the Palestinian people."

Colin Powell, the US Secretary of State, last night urged Mr Abbas to move faster to restrain terrorist groups. "We want him to use that limited capability as effectively as he can," Mr Powell said, adding that the road map was still intact.

But Hassan Khreisheh, a hard-line Palestinian legislator, said Mr Abbas was part of the problem. He said: "He cannot make a war against Hamas because the people are pro-Hamas and pro-resistance against the occupation. I think he will be forced by the people to resign because he has brought no improvement."

Wadie Abu Nassar, a Haifa-based analyst, said: "Unfortunately, I believe there will be more and more attacks ... and more and more innocent people killed. The only chance for Abbas is to convince Bush to help him. Only Bush can press Sharon. If not, Abbas will be a hopeless case."

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

## *Israel waging its own war on terrorism*

University Wire

March 25, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Daily Texan via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 699 words

**Byline:** By James Burnham, Daily Texan; **SOURCE:** U. Texas-Austin

**Dateline:** AUSTIN, Texas

### **Body**

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This week an Israeli missile ended the life of one of the world's most well known terrorists, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. In 1987 Yassin helped found **Hamas**, a terrorist organization with the explicit purpose of waging "war" against Israel until the entire country capitulates and is driven into the ocean.

**Hamas** sympathizers in Europe and America take pains to distinguish between the organization's political wing, which coordinates activities in Palestine and administers basic civil services, and the organization's terrorist wing, which murders Israeli **women** and children in buses and coffee shops. However, the charter of the organization is very explicit about their goal stating, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it." It is foolhardy to ask the government of Israel to stand idly by as the minions of Yassin and his violent ideology murder its children with no thoughts of peace.

Israel's detractors also cite the long and tumultuous history that exists between the people of Israel and the people of Palestine. Yes, there have surely been grave injustices perpetrated by both sides in this conflict. However, the moral relevance of today lies in current intent. **Hamas** terrorists do not attack armed Israeli soldiers in any sort of military operation with an explicit purpose -- they seek only to murder and maim innocent Israelis through residential bombing. Israel's army, however, restricts its operations to target only those members of **Hamas** or their ideological kid brother, Islamic Jihad, in an effort to rid the region of the violence and murder that these organizations spread. Their operations target only those who wish to destroy Israel and are, thus, morally sound actions, as they are the direct result of continued violence by Palestinian terror organizations.

Israel has the military capability to destroy every man, woman and child living in the Palestinian territory. Its government could wipe out **Hamas** in one day if it was willing to accept countless innocent deaths. It is this restraint, despite the danger to its own people, that evidences the moral superiority of Israel in this conflict. By showing a restraint entirely foreign to **Hamas**, Israel demonstrates its humanity and desire to someday obtain a lasting peace. Only the most naive would argue that, were it presented with the opportunity, **Hamas** would not destroy all of Tel Aviv or murder all of Israel.

Most troubling in recent years are the organizations that are dedicated to exporting America's young and foolish to Palestine, where, in all their youthful fervor and ignorance, they are used as human shields to protect terrorist hideouts and strategic locations. The most recent example of one of Lenin's "useful idiots" was Rachel Corrie, a person who has become something of a hero to America's disaffected, anti-Israel suburban youth. This woman is a terrorist supporter at worst and an extremely confused person at best. She was killed because she was standing in

## Israel waging its own war on terrorism

front of an Israeli bulldozer (not exactly the fastest moving vehicle) to protect a tunnel that **Hamas** uses to smuggle in weapons from Egypt! While her intentions may have somehow been pure, how can we revere this person who gave her life for what? For **Hamas** to have fresh dynamite?

Israel is confronted with a situation more severe than anything our nation has had to face. We have had one major terrorist attack on our soil in a few years and consider ourselves stricken, Israel has had scores and considers life normal. Our war against the progenitors of hatred and radicalism is no different from the war being waged by Israel. al Qaeda seeks our destruction; **Hamas** seeks Israel's. Whether the strike that killed Yassin hurts **Hamas** or simply inflames its recruits, it was Israel's right and duty to demonstrate to all those who seek to murder its **women** and children that they will not go unpunished. Appeasement is a deceased doctrine; there can be no peace with terrorists by showing weakness. Just as America must show resolve and determination in the face of al Qaeda, Israel will only be able to obtain peace through strength.

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**Load-Date:** March 25, 2004

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## *Militants work toward a truce as Israelis strike*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

June 26, 2003 Thursday

Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** News;

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** MARGARET COKER

### **Body**

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Jerusalem --- The largest Palestinian militant organizations worked Wednesday toward an agreement to end attacks against Israeli targets for three months, if Israel also halted military operations against the groups. While negotiations were under way, Israel launched an airstrike in the Gaza Strip that brought threats of retaliation from **Hamas**, one of the groups in the negotiations, and endangered the proposed cease-fire deal.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has worked for more than a month to persuade militant groups to enact a truce. A truce deal is considered a necessary first step to push ahead with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Cox International Correspondent

As representatives from **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Fatah were meeting in Gaza City on Wednesday evening to hammer out a final statement, Israel tried and failed to kill **Hamas** member Mohammed Siyam, who was traveling through his hometown of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli pilots hit a taxi parked behind the targeted vehicle, killing the driver and a 20-year-old **female** passenger, hospital workers said. Siyam was wounded in the explosions, but his injuries were not life-threatening, hospital officials said. Another 16 people were also wounded in the attack.

The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz reported that the helicopter located and targeted a **Hamas** cell preparing to launch homemade rockets at Israeli targets in an area where 7,500 Jewish settlers live isolated from the 1.2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In another incident Wednesday, two **Hamas** members tried to attack an Israeli army base in Gaza, an operation described as retaliation for Israel's detention Tuesday of more than 100 suspected **Hamas** sympathizers. Israeli soldiers killed two **Hamas** operatives before they reached the base.

**Hamas'** military wing issued a statement saying the Khan Yunis attack was "clear evidence that the criminal occupier does not want to achieve the calm it claims to be seeking." It vowed reprisal killings as a result.



## Militants work toward a truce as Israelis strike

Despite the latest attack and the belligerent tone of the statement, officials from Islamic Jihad, the second-largest militant organization behind **Hamas**, said late Wednesday that their cease-fire discussions would continue.

"We are interested in a cease-fire. We are still discussing a cease-fire, but the case is not done yet," Mohammad Al-Hindi, an Islamic Jihad spokesman, said in a telephone interview from Gaza.

President Bush reacted coolly to earlier reports that the deal had been signed.

"I'll believe it when I see it," Bush said at a Washington news conference, echoing Israeli officials in insisting that the real test for progress on the peace plan is whether Palestinian security forces will disarm militant groups.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has undercut the impact of any cease-fire deal by reasserting his government's right to defend its citizens by using the policy known as "targeted killings."

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2003

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**MIDDLE EAST CRISIS;**  
**Powell's salvage mission**

The Advertiser

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 451 words

**Byline:** By New York Correspondent PHILLIP COOREY

## **Body**

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US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell has been dispatched to the Middle East in a desperate attempt to save Washington's ailing peace plan for the region.

After the killing of 37 people in two days Mr Powell announced he would travel to Jordan on June 22 to meet co-sponsors of the peace plan, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union.

US President George W. Bush, who only a week ago vested his personal prestige by revealing the peace plan in the region, will also dispatch to Israel today diplomat John Wolf to try and keep the so-called Road Map for Peace on track.

The plan calls for concessions from both sides and envisages separate Palestinian and Israeli states by 2005. But the first week has been marked by slaughter on both sides, including the bombing of a Jerusalem bus on Wednesday which killed 16 and injured 70.

Yesterday, with Israel and terror group **Hamas** vowing to fight to the finish, an Israeli missile strike in the Gaza Strip killed seven people, including senior **Hamas** militant Yasser Taha, his wife and daughter.

Near the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli and Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian militants.

The violence brought to 37 the number of people killed in the past two days alone.

In a clear sign to expect more, **Hamas** official Mahmoud al-Zahar warned: "These are killers of children, **women**, innocent people. Let us wait and see who is going to destroy the other."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was equally defiant, saying **Hamas** would continue to be targeted in the assassination attacks.

He belittled Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, with whom he met last week when Mr Bush revealed the plan, and in whom the US has vested its hopes to curtail Palestinian violence.

Mr Abbas was "a chick without feathers" and Palestinian leaders were "cry babies who let terror run rampant", Mr Sharon said.

## MIDDLE EAST CRISIS; Powell's salvage mission

"We have to help him (Abbas) fight terror until his feathers grow," Mr Sharon told his Cabinet.

Mr Bush was attacked on Tuesday when he criticised the Israelis for jeopardising the peace plan with a bungled missile attack on another **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi. Yesterday, the White House rounded on **Hamas**, blaming it for the recent violence.

"The issue is not Israel, the issue is not the Palestinian Authority, the issue is the terrorists who are killing in an attempt to stop the (peace) process. The issue is **Hamas**, the terrorists are **Hamas**," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

He defended Mr Bush's silence on the issue yesterday and the fact he had not spoken directly to the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. "It's not as if a phone call will get **Hamas** to stop being terrorists," Mr Fleischer said.

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

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End of Document

## ISRAEL SEALS GAZA AFTER KILLINGS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 16, 2004 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 596 words

**Byline:** IBRAHIM BARZAK, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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The first **female Hamas** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral yesterday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried that life would only become more difficult -- but few were willing to openly blame militants for their new hardship.

Top Israel army commanders met at the Defense Ministry yesterday to consider a response to the latest attack, a security official said. Targeted killings of senior **Hamas** militants were expected to resume, said the official.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time that the Islamic militant group **Hamas** dispatched a **female** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence.

"She is not going to be the last [attacker] because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington that the United States has condemned the bombing and has "called once again on the Palestinians to take steps to end the violence."

The Israeli security official said **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin issued a religious edict permitting **women** to carry out bombings, something **Hamas** had resisted. He said Yassin personally approved Wednesday's attack.

The Israeli closure shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs could cross. The closure was to last until Sunday, the security official said.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize **Hamas**, questioned the wisdom of Wednesday's attack. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42, who works in a factory near the Israeli town of Ashkelon.

## ISRAEL SEALS GAZA AFTER KILLINGS

Even such veiled criticism remains relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble in private about tighter travel bans or other hardships prompted by the militants' actions. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

The bombing was carried out by Reem Raiyshi, 22, a mother with two young children. She had been escorted into a room for a security search when she blew herself up. The attack was jointly claimed by **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Thousands marched through Gaza City during her funeral. Masked gunmen from **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the **Hamas** green flag.

"It is not enough to call her a hero. Calling her hero does not give the whole truth. This woman abandoned her husband and children to win paradise," Zahar said in the eulogy.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei declined to condemn the attack. Palestinian leaders usually denounce attacks on civilians in Israel, but not on soldiers or settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians view Israelis in occupied areas as legitimate targets.

Before violence erupted in 2000, about 100,000 Palestinians from Gaza worked in Israel, providing the main source of income for the territory. Now, only 15,000 workers and another 4,000 merchants -- in addition to the workers at the industrial park -- have permits to cross into Israel.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

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**PALESTINIANS FREEZE BANK ACCOUNTS;  
INVESTIGATION WILL FOCUS ON WHETHER NINE CHARITIES FUNNEL  
MONEY TO TERRORISTS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 29, 2003 Friday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 458 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak The Associated Press

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

## **Body**

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Palestinian authorities said Thursday that they had frozen the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations had funneled money to terrorists. The Palestinians' action was the most striking yet in a clampdown on armed groups sought by the United States.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities on Sunday.

The move became known Thursday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly checks at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked and turned them away.

Israel welcomed the decision. But it pressed on with its hunt for militants and killed a Hamas fighter in a missile raid in the Gaza Strip.

The airstrike in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis killed Hamdi Kalakh, 23, as he was driving a donkey cart along a residential street, Palestinian officials and witnesses said. At least three other people were reported to have been injured.

Hamas supporters said Kalakh was a member of Hamas' military wing.

The Israeli army said he was wanted for mortar, rocket and bomb attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. It said the raid had thwarted an attack on the nearby Gush Katif Jewish settlement bloc, a few hundred yards from where Kalakh died.

Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, praised the move to shut down the charities.

"There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for Hamas," he said. "Anything that serves this need (of stopping the flow of money) is a positive development."

Abdel Maguid Mashrawi, a Palestinian Monetary Authority spokesman, said the aim was to "monitor the money that is coming from outside and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes."

## PALESTINIANS FREEZE BANK ACCOUNTS; INVESTIGATION WILL FOCUS ON WHETHER NINE CHARITIES FUNNEL MONEY TO TERRORISTS

According to a copy of the order, the nine charities are: Al Jamiya Al Islamiya; the Islamic Young Women's Association; As-Salah Association; the Social Care Committee; the Palestinian Student Friends Association; the Islamic Charity for Zakat; Al Mujamma Al Islami; Al Nour Charity Association; and Al Aqsa Charity Association.

In December, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, at the time No. 2 in the Palestine Liberation Organization, asked Saudi Arabia to divert donations for two of the charities - Al Jamiya Al Islamiya and As-Salah - to the Palestinian Authority. Abbas said he believed the two were fronts for Hamas, Palestinian officials said.

Hamas disputed any links to the charities and said the Palestinian Authority was acting under U.S. and Israeli pressure. The charities "have nothing to do with Hamas and will not affect Hamas but will affect the poor families," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas spokesman.

## Graphic

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PHOTO; Color photo by JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - Israeli soldiers talk to a Palestinian woman holding her baby during an Israeli military operation in Nablus, in the West Bank, on Thursday.

**Load-Date:** August 29, 2003

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End of Document

**Israel promises a war 'to the bitter end';**

Morning Star

June 14, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

**Section:** Pg. 4

**Length:** 362 words

**Byline:** by Our Foreign Desk

## **Body**

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ISRAEL promised a "war to the bitter end" against **Hamas** yesterday, but an opinion poll showed that a majority of Israelis oppose the stepped-up attacks on leaders of the militant Islamist group.

"As a government responsible for the security of its citizens, we must wage a war to the bitter end against **Hamas** because no-one else, at least at this stage, will do it, " said Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim.

However, a poll in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily found that 67 per cent of Israelis wanted what the survey termed the "assassination policy" to stop, at least temporarily, to give new Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a chance to grow stronger.

Israel launched a helicopter missile strike assassination attempt in the Gaza Strip on Thursday that killed seven people, including **Hamas** activist Yasser Taha, his wife and one-year-old daughter.

The Israeli army issued a statement yesterday expressing "sorrow over the death" of Mr Taha's family.

**Hamas** gunmen fired at an Israeli car near the Jewish settlement of Neve Tzuf in the West Bank yesterday, wounding two **women**, one of them seriously.

In separate incidents near the West Bank city of Jenin, **Hamas** killed an Israeli civilian buying charcoal in a Palestinian village and Israeli soldiers shot and killed two alleged militants.

In what it called a message to "terrorists and their accomplices, " the Israeli army also demolished the family house of Jerusalem bus bomber Abdel-Mua'ti Shabana in the West Bank city of Hebron, leaving nine people homeless.

The israelis also destroyed another activist's home in the West Bank village of Dura.

US officials said that Assistant Secretary of State John Wolf would leave for Jerusalem today, to lead a US team that will monitor progress under the road map and meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The plan calls for an end to violence and the start of confidencebuilding steps, including a Palestinian crackdown on militants and an Israeli freeze in settlement construction on occupied land, before creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.



Israel promises a war 'to the bitter end';

Mr Abbas has sought to negotiate a deal with **Hamas** to end its attacks on Israelis, but **Hamas** broke off talks last week.

## Graphic

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A BITTER END: **Hamas** member Yasser Taha being buried in Gaza city yesterday (left) and a relatives of Bat-El Ohana, one of Wednesday's Haifa bus bombing victims, weeping as she carries her coffin (right).

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2003

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End of Document

## Road map through minefield

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 926 words

### **Body**

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'This is the kind of peace the road map will bring us'

THE fifth Israeli air strike in 48 hours on Hamas leaders in Gaza killed seven Palestinians on Thursday, lifting the combined Israeli-Palestinian death toll past 50 for the week, as the Bush administration scrambled to salvage its road map for Middle East peace.

On Thursday night, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a senior member of the Islamic Jihad militant group and an Israeli settler in the West Bank was shot and killed when he apparently entered a nearby Palestinian village to buy a bag of charcoal.

Despite the violence, both Israeli and Palestinian officials said a glimmer of hope exists for renewing peace talks when Ambassador John Wolf, the new US Mideast peace monitor, is scheduled to arrive later today.

But during the week neither side made any effort to halt the accelerating cycle of attacks and counterattacks. US officials seemed to acknowledge that, at best, the violence by both sides had stalled the road map peace plan for several weeks.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced that he would meet in Jordan with fellow members of the so-called "quartet" of road-map supporters: the US, Britain, Russia and the European Union, on June 22.

Powell telephoned Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom on Thursday to urge Israel to put an end to the violence. But according to Shalom's office, Powell stopped well short of demanding an end to the assassination attempts on Hamas leaders that appear largely responsible for this week's escalated violence.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer put the full blame for this week's setbacks to the peace plan on Hamas, which staged an attack on Sunday in co-ordination with two other militant groups that killed four Israeli soldiers and started the tit-for-tat violence.

"The issue is not Israeli. The issue is not the Palestinian Authority. The issue are terrorists who are killing in an attempt to stop a hopeful process from moving forward," Fleischer said. Hamas are the "enemies of peace" he added.

Israeli Government spokesman Jonathan Peled characterised the US pressure to end the violence as "extreme".

"The Hamas issue has become a real pain," he said. "We have to respond to these horrible attacks; how can we not?"

## Road map through minefield

The US also pressed Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which help fund Hamas, to help rein in the militant group. Leaders there reportedly said they could do nothing until the US takes a firm stand against what they called Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

Israel TV reported that leaders in Jordan were beginning to fear that Israeli attacks against Palestinians could incite riots and unrest in the country that's arguably America's most important ally in the peace plan.

Jordan had promised to return its ambassador to Israel and normalise diplomatic relations after last week's peace summit in Aqaba, but Jordanian leaders say they've postponed those plans until Israel gets serious about the peace process.

Ron Cohen, a member of the Israeli Parliament who sits on the security and foreign affairs committee, said he fears it may be months before Israel stops targeting Hamas leaders.

"We're witnessing a serious policy change here," he said. "It seems they're going after Hamas until there's nothing left."

Israeli military commanders said they'd been ordered to use "everything they have" to kill Hamas leaders. A major military offensive reportedly was being planned to target the West Bank city of Hebron, where Hamas allegedly launched the suicide bus bombing on Wednesday that killed 18 people, including the bomber, in Jerusalem.

Leaders of Hamas -- the Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement -- issued an unprecedented warning this week urging all foreigners in Israel to leave the region or face getting caught in coming waves of attacks against the "Zionist Jews".

"We have to run an effective armed struggle against everybody," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas leader in Gaza who's become the group's lead spokesman since Hamas political leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi was wounded in an Israeli assassination attempt on Tuesday.

"The message must be sent for every Israeli -- your children, your women, your husbands; everybody is a target," Zahar said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas denounced the latest missile attack by Israeli forces that killed senior Hamas leader Yasser Taha.

Rumours swirled in both Israeli and Arabic media that the soft-spoken Palestinian leader, whom the US is counting on to curb the militants and make peace with Israel, is close to resigning.

Senior members of Abbas' and Arafat's Fatah party said the Prime Minister discussed resigning earlier this week at a Fatah Central Committee meeting in Ramallah. Abbas may step down within two weeks, they said, if the US doesn't act to curb Israeli attacks.

The identities of the passers-by killed by the Israeli attack were not immediately clear, but since Tuesday 23 Palestinians have been killed in missile attacks. As many as 10 were linked to Hamas, but most were civilians -- one was a student heading to a final exam at the Islamic University; others were a mother and daughter out shopping, a man and his wife roasting corn near their home and a guard standing near a mosque.

Hundreds of infuriated Palestinians from the funeral procession crowded at the scene. Dr Moawiya Hassanain, the head of al Shifa hospital in Gaza City, said 36 people were injured in Thursday's blast and a man wounded earlier in Wednesday's attack died.

The death toll from Wednesday's suicide bombing also rose to 18, including the bomber.

## Road map through minefield

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End of Document

## *Israel set to resume targeted killings following attack*

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

January 16, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** News; Pg. P3A

**Length:** 323 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - A senior Israeli official warned that the founder of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was "marked for death," but he and other officials later said today that any decision to kill Yassin would need approval from the prime minister.

Yassin, a quadriplegic, appeared in public today and scoffed at the official's warnings. "We do not fear the threat of death," said Yassin as an assistant pushed his wheelchair to a Gaza City mosque.

Israeli security officials met earlier this week to weigh a response to Wednesday's **Hamas** bombing in Gaza, in which a **female** suicide attacker killed four Israeli soldiers. One Israeli official said targeted killings of **Hamas** members are likely to resume, after a lull of several months.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim went even further, naming Yassin as a target. But he later said no specific decision was made at the meeting to kill Yassin.

Israel has assassinated a number of **Hamas** commanders - but killing the Islamic movement's spiritual leader, respected even by many Palestinians who do not support **Hamas**, would be a dramatic escalation and likely provoke revenge bombings.

Yassin spoke to reporters outside the mosque, saying, "We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

He said he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved Wednesday's bombing.

Israeli officials also said Yassin issued a religious ruling allowing **women** to become bombers, after **Hamas** initially recruited only male suicide bombers.

Late Thursday, after the security meeting at the Defense Ministry the previous day, Boim said Yassin is a key target.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death, and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him," Boim told Israel Army Radio.

Israel set to resume targeted killings following attack

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004

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End of Document

## *Effort on to save peace*

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 25

**Length:** 428 words

**Byline:** PHILLIP COOREY

### **Body**

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US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell will spearhead a diplomatic push to try to stop the spiralling Arab-Israeli violence and salvage Washington's ailing peace plan for the region.

After more killings yesterday, Powell phoned the foreign ministers of Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and announced he would travel to Jordan on June 22 to meet co-sponsors of the peace plan, Russia, the UN and the European Union.

US President George W. Bush, who only a week ago vested his personal prestige by launching the peace plan in the region, was to dispatch to Israel yesterday 33-year-old diplomat John Wolf to try to keep the peace "road map" on track.

The plan calls for concessions from both sides and envisages separate Palestinian and Israeli states by 2005.

But the first week has been marked by slaughter on both sides, including the bombing of a Jerusalem bus on Wednesday which killed 16 and injured 70.

Yesterday, with Israel and terror group **Hamas** vowing to fight to the finish, an Israeli missile strike in the Gaza Strip killed seven people, including senior **Hamas** militant Yasser Taha, his wife and baby daughter.

Near the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli and Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian militants.

The violence brought to 37 the number of people killed in the past two days alone.

In a clear sign to expect more, **Hamas** official Mahmoud al-Zahar warned:

"These are killers of children, **women**, innocent people. Let us wait and see who is going to destroy the other."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was equally defiant, saying **Hamas** would continue to be targeted in the assassination attacks.

He belittled Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, with whom he met in Jordan last week when Bush launched the plan, and in whom the US has vested its hopes to curtail Palestinian violence.

## Effort on to save peace

Abbas was "a chick without feathers" and Palestinian leaders were "crybabies who let terror run rampant", Sharon said.

"We have to help him [Abbas] fight terror until his feathers grow," Sharon told his Cabinet.

President Bush was attacked on Tuesday when he criticised the Israelis for jeopardising the peace plan with a bungled missile attack on another **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi.

Yesterday, the White House rounded on **Hamas**, blaming it for the recent violence.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said: "The issue is not Israel, the issue is not the Palestinian Authority, the issue is the terrorists who are killing in an attempt to stop the [peace] process. The issue is **Hamas**, the terrorists are **Hamas**."

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003



## **Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

**Section:** Front; Pg. a1

**Length:** 1277 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians chanting "Revenge! Revenge!" flooded Gaza's streets Monday to bury **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was assassinated by an Israeli missile. As ordinary Palestinians seethed with anger, militants pledged unprecedented retaliation - including threats against the United States.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many world leaders condemned Monday's killing of Yassin, the most prominent Palestinian targeted by Israel in 31/2 years of fighting. The Bush administration said it was "deeply troubled" by the attack and that it had no advance warning.

"We will get revenge for every drop of blood that spilled," said Salman Bdeiri, a **Hamas** supporter crying near the mosque where Yassin prayed shortly before being killed by an Israeli airstrike.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, banning Palestinians from Israel, and placed its security forces on high alert.

Later Monday, Palestinian militants fired several homemade rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets in and near Gaza. To the north, Hezbollah guerrillas fired an anti-tank missile at Israeli troops along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Israel quickly responded to both attacks. It struck at Hezbollah with planes and artillery fire. No casualties were reported. Israel sent tanks into northern Gaza near the town of Beit Hanoun. Israeli security officials said the purpose of the operation was to prevent further rocket fire.

The Yassin assassination was part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's effort to crush **Hamas** ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. However, the killing was seen as a major gamble that could galvanize the Palestinians behind **Hamas**. Rival Palestinian militant groups immediately pledged solidarity with **Hamas**.

The missile strike dealt what could be the final blow to the stalled U.S.-led "road map" peace plan. It also angered Egypt and Jordan, moderate Arab states whose tacit support Sharon needs for any unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

Since Yassin founded **Hamas** in 1987, the group has killed hundreds of Israelis in scores of attacks. **Hamas** wants to destroy the Jewish state and replace it with an Islamic one.

## Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

For the first time Monday, **Hamas** threatened the United States and suggested it might seek outside help in carrying out revenge attacks.

"The Zionists didn't carry out their operation without getting the consent of the terrorist American administration and it (the United States) must take responsibility for this crime," **Hamas** said in a statement. "All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime."

In the past, **Hamas** has refrained from targeting U.S. citizens or interests, instead focusing on fund-raising and recruitment within the United States, according to senior U.S. law enforcement officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was heeding the **Hamas** terror warning.

"If they are threatening the United States, we have to take it quite seriously," he told reporters in Washington.

While not condemning the assassination, the State Department said it increases tensions and would make it harder to pursue peace in the Middle East. "We are troubled," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told NBC that "it is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region."

But Israel said it will press ahead with more targeted attacks and raids.

"The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," Sharon said. He called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies."

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags, poured into the streets of Gaza City for Yassin's funeral procession, the largest gathering here in recent memory. Tens of thousands of furious Palestinians rallied across the West Bank.

Mourners in Gaza jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and **women** ululated and threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tires.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was paraded through an honor guard of 400 militants armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

"Our leader has left us, but we say to him, 'Your lessons will stay within our hearts and minds and our generations,'" Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a **Hamas** leader, said in a eulogy.

In addition to Yassin, who was in his 60s, 12 Palestinians were killed Monday, seven in the airstrike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

The attack came before daybreak, when Israeli helicopters swooped toward a Gaza street and fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left the mosque.

Blood and flesh splattered on the walls. Nearby windows shattered. Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair, and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street. Lying in tatters nearby was the brown blanket in which Yassin - a quadriplegic - was nearly always wrapped.

"Two or three people were lying next to him on the ground. One was legless," said taxi driver Yousef Haddad.

Among those killed were several of Yassin's bodyguards and his son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, including two of Yassin's sons.

After the attack, residents rubbed their hands in pieces of gravel mixed with Yassin's blood, a traditional sign of anger and a preparation for revenge.

## Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

The Palestinian Authority declared three days of mourning and closed schools. Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah headquarters were lowered to half-staff.

Palestinian ministers stood as Arafat recited a Muslim prayer for Yassin and then added: "May you join the martyrs and the prophets. To heaven, you martyr."

The missile strike shook Arafat in more ways than one. The massive outpouring of support for **Hamas** showed how formidable a rival the Islamic group has become to Arafat's weakened Palestinian Authority.

Arafat also fears he may be next on Israel's hit list, said a confidant, Communications Minister Azzam Ahmed.

However, an Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel's campaign focuses on **Hamas**, at least for now.

Boucher, the State Department spokesman, urged Israel to keep its promise to not harm Arafat. "We think that's an important pledge and we would expect them to stand by that."

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's killing will eventually weaken **Hamas**.

"If we have to balance how many more terrorists Yassin would have sent, how many terror attacks he would have approved, if we weigh this on the scales, we acted rightly," Mofaz was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee.

But Sharon's critics in Israel warned that the Yassin killing could be viewed as an attack on Islam.

"This had nothing to do with security, nothing to do with protecting Israeli citizens. It's all about politics and public opinion," said lawmaker Yossi Sarid of the dovish Yahad Party.

Yassin's killing virtually buried hopes of reviving the road map, which envisioned an end to violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by next year.

"Such actions are not only contrary to international law, but they do not do anything to help the search for a peaceful solution," Annan said of the assassination.

European and Arab leaders condemned the killing. Egypt canceled a trip by legislators and other dignitaries to Israel to mark the 25th anniversary of the peace treaty between the two countries.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the assassination "is unacceptable, it is unjustified and it is very unlikely to achieve its objectives."

## Graphic

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photo

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

### 3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 1, 2004 Thursday City Edition

Copyright 2004 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

**Section:** AREA/STATE; Pg. B-7

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** Michael Paul Williams/ Times-Dispatch Staff Writer, Contact Michael Paul Williams at (804) 649-6815 or [mwilliams@timesdispatch.com](mailto:mwilliams@timesdispatch.com),

## **Body**

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The women - a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew - were five days into a U.S. tour to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians when the founder of Hamas was assassinated by Israeli missiles.

"Of all the stupid things that the government could do, this was the stupidest," said Michal Sagi, a 35-year-old Jewish Israeli. "I don't see how Israelis and Palestinians can benefit from it. I don't see how it can contribute to a peaceful solution."

Dr. Nuha Khoury, a Christian Palestinian, said the slaying of Sheik Ahmed Yassin was viewed back home not as a "targeted assassination" but "an extrajudicial killing."

And Nahla Assali, a Muslim Palestinian, noted that dozens of prominent Palestinians had purchased a newspaper ad urging their brethren not to retaliate. But the execution "does not give too much space for any talk about peace."

Assali, Khoury and Sagi are in Richmond as part of a regional tour sponsored by Partners for Peace, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization that is seeking a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

They will speak at 7 tonight at Baptist Theological Seminary. The public is welcome.

The women said audience reaction has been mostly positive, although some people have accused the Palestinian women of not condemning their own society enough. "There have been a few angry questions," said Khoury, deputy director of Dar al-Kalima Academy.

Michael F. Brown, executive director of Partners for Peace, said his organization exercises no editorial control over what the women say.

"We tell them, 'This is your opportunity to speak to American audiences ... to tell them what's in your hearts and in your minds,'" he said.

The assassination of Yassin was fresh in their minds during an interview at The Times-Dispatch yesterday. Largely depicted in the aftermath as a terrorist who ordered suicide bombings, he was also a founder of an organization that filled a much-needed void in providing health clinics, schools and welfare programs to a population "among the poorest in the world," Khoury said.

## 3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING

Assali, 65, was born in West Jerusalem. In 1948, after the Deir Yassin massacre, which involved the killing of Arab townspeople by Jewish commandos in a village near Jerusalem, her father sent the family to live in Damascus. They were never allowed to return to their original home.

The children's-rights advocate said the Israeli government could have imposed a curfew, surrounded the wheelchair-bound Yassin and arrested him, but took the easy way out by firing missiles. In the process, about a half-dozen others were killed and more were injured, she said.

"In the Israeli papers, that is reported as collateral damage," she said. "That is an insult, when you refer to human life as if it were furniture."

The United States vetoed a United Nations resolution condemning Yassin's assassination by the Israeli government because it did not include language condemning Palestinian suicide bombers.

"Why not take the act on its own merits?" Assali asked. "This balancing ... it's not there when we're talking about the Palestinians."

Sagi, a member of Checkpoint Watch, a women's organization for human rights, said the veto symbolizes a larger problem: "We are paying a high price within Israel, but internationally, we just do what we want."

If Israelis are paying such a price, why do they continue to support Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his policies?

"Many, many, many Israelis are driven by fear ... ," she said. "People aren't able to step outside their fear for even a moment."

But she argues that since Israel is the occupying force and stronger player in the situation, "It's our responsibility to bring it to an end. We can do it. It's up to us."

Khoury - whose father died of a heart attack in January when he was denied passage through an Israeli checkpoint because he lacked a "sickness permit" - asked that people try to understand what conditions created the refugee-turned-spiritual leader.

"Why would somebody become a Sheik Yassin?" she said. "Nobody even asks."

Still, Khoury disagrees with Yassin's ideology. "I feel we Palestinians have a just cause, a moral cause, and we don't need suicide bombings to get our rights."

But Palestinians need the U.S. government to be evenhanded, she said. "If it wants peace, it has to be just and it has to deliver for both people ... an arbitrator that is dealing with a conscience."/

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2004

## *Israel bombs go for home Aussies injured in violence*

Hobart Mercury (Australia)  
September 11, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 19

**Length:** 317 words

### **Body**

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ISRAELI warplanes yesterday flattened the home of a **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar in retaliation for twin suicide bombings that earlier killed 15 Israelis.

Zahar, who was not in his house at the time, survived but a 29-year-old and a bodyguard were killed.

In targeting Zahar's home, Israel signaled a further escalation in its campaign against the Islamic militant group. Israel has killed 12 **Hamas** members in air strikes in the past three weeks, but yesterday marked the first time it attacked a **Hamas** leader in his home.

AP

The suicide bombings went off five hours apart. Dozens, including three Australian **women**, were wounded in the attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short a visit to India and will hold security consultations today. Two strategic decisions -- whether to expel Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat or order a large-scale invasion of the Gaza Strip -- would be on the agenda, a security official said.

In meetings with security chiefs overnight, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz decided to intensify targeted killings of **Hamas** leaders. Mofaz and his advisers were in session when they received word of the Jerusalem bombing.

**Hamas** praised the bombings but stopped short  
of claiming responsibility.

The Israeli military yesterday raided the West Bank village of Rantis and arrested 15 members of the Abu Isleem clan.

Villagers said two young men from the clan, both **Hamas** supporters, carried out the suicide bombings.

The first bombing came as soldiers were waiting for rides home outside a Tel Aviv army base. Eight were killed in addition to the bomber.

Five hours later, another suicide bomber entered a popular bistro in the posh German colony neighborhood of Jerusalem. Seven cafe patrons were killed.

Three Australian **women** were injured in the blast.

## Israel bombs go for home Aussies injured in violence

Two Melbourne women were admitted to hospital with shrapnel wounds. The third Australian was discharged after medical treatment.

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2003

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End of Document

## **Defense chief targets militant leaders**

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

February 2, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 The Columbian Publishing Co.

**Section:** World/Nation; Pg. a3

**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press writer

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defense minister said Sunday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. **Hamas** took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Sunday was a Muslim holiday, and **Hamas** officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad often prompting a violent response. In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months. Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Zeev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

**Hamas**, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the last three years, also appeared to have scaled back its activities until a **Hamas female** suicide bomber killed four Israelis at a Gaza-Israel checkpoint Jan. 14.

Yassin encouraged kidnapping Israeli soldiers a day after Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners as part of an exchange with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah for a businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

Yassin said it has become extremely difficult to capture soldiers, apparently trying to explain why **Hamas** has failed to free the 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.



## Defense chief targets militant leaders

Also Sunday, Israeli troops riding jeeps and a tank raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months, killing a Palestinian militant. The fighting forced many residents to stay inside at the start of the four-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

There were no Israeli casualties, and the army withdrew in the afternoon. Three houses were destroyed, Palestinians said.

Jericho, isolated in the Jordan River valley, has been relatively untouched by the fighting.

The dead militant was Shadi Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades member from Jenin who apparently sought refuge in Jericho.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2004

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End of Document

## *Palestinian officials freeze charities' accounts*

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 29, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 The Columbian Publishing Co.

**Section:** World/Nation; Pg. a9

**Length:** 473 words

**Byline:** IBRAHIM BARZAK, Associated Press writer

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Palestinian authorities said Thursday they froze the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations funnel money to militants the Palestinians' most striking action yet in a U.S.-sought clampdown on armed groups.

Israel welcomed the decision but threatened tough action after a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit near the coastal city of Ashkelon, the deepest strike since **Hamas** began firing Qassams toward Israel in November 2001.

Later Thursday, an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at a target in the Gaza Strip, killing a **Hamas** member and wounding at least three other people, officials and witnesses said. Palestinians identified the dead man as Hamdi Kalkha, 23, a member of **Hamas**' military wing. The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Israeli bulldozers and tanks earlier flattened brush just inside Gaza to rob militants of cover the first foray into Palestinian-controlled land since Israel withdrew from parts of Gaza in July under the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan. Security officials said the move was not a prelude to a major military strike.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said **Hamas** was trying to hit a power plant just south of Ashkelon. The rockets caused little damage or injury, but Israel considers them a strategic threat.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities on Sunday. The move became known Thursday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly checks at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked and turned them away.

Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, praised the move.

"There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for **Hamas**," he said. "Anything that serves this need (of stopping the flow of money) is a positive development."

Palestinian Monetary Authority spokesman Abdel Maguid Mashrawi said the aim was to "monitor the money that is coming from outside, and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes."

Officials said the government is trying to find a way to monitor the money transfers so that the welfare payments can resume.

## Palestinian officials freeze charities' accounts

According to a copy of the order, the nine charities are: Al Jamiya Al Islamiya, the Islamic Young Women's Association, As-Salah Association, the Social Care Committee, the Palestinian Student Friends Association, the Islamic Charity for Zakat, Al Mujamma Al Islami, Al Nour Charity Association and Al Aqsa Charity Association.

Hamas disputed any links to the charities and said the Palestinian Authority is acting under U.S. and Israeli pressure. The charities "have nothing to do with Hamas, and will not affect Hamas, but will affect the poor families," spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi said.

**Load-Date:** August 31, 2003

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End of Document

**Picking jihad over children;  
One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve  
among Palestinians.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 26, 2004 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A01

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Wind whipped a chilly Gaza street, kicking up dust around Um Zayad, a Palestinian mother of four, as she shivered red-cheeked beneath a billowing black robe and wrinkled her nose in disapproval.

A few days earlier, another Gaza mother had feigned a limp as she approached an Israeli army checkpoint and was escorted inside a building for a security inspection. She blew herself up, also killing three soldiers and a security guard in yet another act of self-proclaimed martyrdom.

"It's true, we should defend our country," Zayad said, reacting to the Jan. 14 attack. "But I prefer to raise my kids. Women can also be fighters, but not women who have children to raise."

The latest bombing - the seventh by a Palestinian woman since September 2000 - touched a nerve inside a society that normally celebrates the bombers as heroes. This time, as pride gave way to bitterness, many Palestinians expressed shock that Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which took joint responsibility for the attack, would send a mother to her death, leaving two toddlers behind.

"Did she think about her children before she did this?" asked Um Wasim, another Gaza mother, rushing home last week from a secretarial job. "People are criticizing her because there really is no excuse for this."

In a farewell videotape replete with Hamas banners and weapons, Reem Salah al-Raiyshi, 22, said she chose jihad - holy struggle - over motherhood, because she always wanted to turn her body into shrapnel that would kill Israelis.

"God gave me two children, and I loved them so much," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people."

Dressed in a green Hamas bandana and cradling an assault rifle, Raiyshi told the camera she was confident God would provide for her 3-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son.

Picking jihad over children; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.

**Hamas** staged a high-profile funeral. Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the group's spiritual leader, praised Raiyshi as the first **Hamas** woman in a coming onslaught.

But in a departure from tradition, Raiyshi's brother Ayman spoke out immediately against his sister's mission and the militants who dispatched her. "This destroys our life, our work and our future," he told a Chicago Tribune interviewer. "It never occurred to us that she would do such a thing. If she had mentioned it, I would have prevented her, because of the children."

Raiyshi's relative Yusef Awad also condemned her act, saying her suicide detracted from the Palestinian national movement.

"The greatest jihad is raising your children," he told the Tribune.

Surveys show a majority of Palestinians, especially those in the Gaza Strip, where the Islamic resistance group **Hamas** holds sway, support suicide bombings as a response to Israel's occupation of Gaza and West Bank lands. In the last three years, there have been dozens of such bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis.

In recent weeks, however, more Palestinians have publicly questioned the bombings.

In the West Bank, criticism was voiced this month after Islamic Jihad operatives sent Iyad al-Masri, 17, on a suicide mission to avenge the killing of his brother Amjad, 15, who collapsed in his arms Jan. 3 after being shot by Israeli troops in a Nablus raid.

Detonating his explosives in an attempted attack on an Israeli patrol, Iyad Masri killed only himself on Jan. 11.

"It was wrong to send him to his death at a time when we were still mourning his brother. They must reconsider their tactics," Masri's father, Bilal, told Reuters.

Even among Palestinian media not known for publishing such criticisms, the issue has come to the fore.

Citing the possibility "of a strategic change in peoples' perception of such attacks," daily al-Ayyam columnist Hassan al-Batal praised the courage of the Raiyshi and Masri families for speaking out.

The Israeli daily Haaretz last week cited unnamed **Hamas** sources as saying the use of a **female** suicide bomber, even though the group had previously said a woman had no place in such attacks, was part of a larger power struggle within the organization over the next leader of **Hamas**' political bureau, based in Damascus, Syria.

Yassin, **Hamas**' spiritual leader, wants to play a pivotal role in selecting the bureau's next chief. But in talks brokered by Egypt recently, he entertained the idea of a tactical lull in attacks on Israelis. For that reason, a **Hamas** source told Haaretz, Yassin was perceived by "external **Hamas**," those not in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as too moderate.

"Now Yassin has to prove to the external **Hamas** that he's just as tough as they are," the source said. Using a mother to mount the next wave of attacks was a chilling way to send that message.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or [foreign@phillynews.com](mailto:foreign@phillynews.com).

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

KHALIL HAMRA, Associated Press

Picking jihad over children; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.

A boy holds a picture of Reem Salah al-Raiyshi. She killed herself and four others this month.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005

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End of Document

## **ROAD MAP FALLING APART AS BOTH SIDES PLEDGE REVENGE**

Birmingham Post

September 11, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** KATE BISHOP Ultra-Orthodox mourners gather around the body of Dr David Applebaum, killed at Tuesday's night suicide bombing, during his funeral in Jerusalem. Dr Applebaum, the head of a Jerusalem hospital emergency room, had been with his daughter, Naava, on the eve of her wedding in a cafe when the bomber struck. Seven died; Dr David Applebaum and his daughter, Naava

### **Body**

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The road map Middle East peace play lay in tatters last night as both Israel and **Hamas** militants raised the bloody stakes.

Israeli warplanes responded to a pair of suicide bombings that killed 15 with an air raid that flattened the Gaza City home of senior **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar with a half ton bomb.

Zahar escaped with minor injuries but his eldest son and a bodyguard were killed.

The strike marked the first time a **Hamas** leader had been attacked in his home, an escalation of Israel's campaign against the Islamic group.

Several **Hamas** leaders immediately went underground, and the group threatened to widen its bombing spree by blowing up Israeli apartment blocks and homes.

Israeli premier Ariel Sharon cut short a visit to India and flew home for crisis talks.

On the Cabinet agenda are said to be two items: An invasion of Gaza and the expulsion of Yasser Afafat from Palestinian territories.

Amid the bloodshed, Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qureia accepted the job of prime minister after several days of wavering, his decision apparently rushed by fears that a continued power vacuum will tempt Israel to intensify military strikes.

Qureia said he would form a crisis Cabinet of no more than eight ministers and seek parliament's approval today.

The **Hamas** military wing issued a statement claiming responsibility for the two suicide bombings on Tuesday, saying they 'came as the beginning of our retaliation for the enemy's crimes against our people.'

The first explosion killed eight soldiers at a crowded bus stop near Tel Aviv, and the second blast -five hours later - killed seven people at a popular Jerusalem coffee house. Dozens of bystanders were maimed and wounded.

## ROAD MAP FALLING APART AS BOTH SIDES PLEDGE REVENGE

The Israeli military said after the bombings that it will press ahead with its 'all-out war' on Hamas. In the three weeks leading up to yesterday's air strike, Israel had killed 12 Hamas members and five bystanders in targeted attacks, and Hamas said the suicide bombings came in retaliation for strikes against its leaders.

In the West Bank village of Rantisi, 20 relatives of the two Hamas members identified as Tuesday's suicide bombers were arrested by Israeli troops.

Villagers said the two, Ramez Abu Isleem (24) and Ihab Abdel Kader Abu Isleem (20) disappeared last week.

Hamas threatened revenge. In another statement, its military wing said there would be more bombings in retaliation for the attack on Zahar.

'Targeting homes is violating all red lines,' it said. 'From today on, the Zionist enemy shoulders the responsibility for the targeting of houses and Zionist towers everywhere in occupied Palestine.'

The Israeli air raid of Gaza city came 12 hours after the attack on the Jerusalem coffee house.

A half ton bomb levelled the two-storey house as Zahar, aged 58, was sitting inside in a chair.

Three bodyguards stood watch at the intensive care ward in Gaza City's Shifa Hospital where he was being treated. His wounds -on his hand, head, leg and back -were largely minor.

'This crime will not make us surrender. This crime only is going to escalate the process of resistance, and the Israelis are not going to achieve their goals,' he said from his hospital bed.

'Sooner or later, we are going to achieve our freedom and we will see the Islamic flag waving on our land.'

Zahar's bodyguard and a son, 29-year-old Khaled, were killed. The blast hurled the bodyguard's body onto the roof of a mosque. Twenty-five people were wounded, including Zahar's wife and a daughter. In all, three women and five children were hurt. The Israeli military said it targeted Zahar as a senior decision-maker in Hamas.

The violence underscored the collapse of the US backed road map peace plan.

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2003



**ISRAELI BULLETS AND PALESTINIAN BOMBS BLAST ROADMAP TO  
SHREDS;  
MIDDLE EAST: WASHINGTON SENDS DIPLOMAT TO ATTEMPT TO  
SALVAGE PEACE**

Independent on Sunday (London)

June 15, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 18

**Length:** 457 words

**Byline:** JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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A United States diplomatic mission was heading for the Middle East last night in an effort to salvage the roadmap peace plan, which is in serious trouble.

John Wolf, a US diplomat, is expected to begin work here today. President George Bush announced at the Aqaba summit earlier this month that he was appointing Mr Wolf to head a team to monitor progress under the roadmap, but the resurgence of violence within days of the summit means Mr Wolf may find himself taking a more active role than planned.

Since Aqaba there has been a rapid escalation in bloodshed, with 60 people killed on both sides in a series of retaliatory attacks by the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** and the Israeli government. Israeli and Palestinian officials were due to hold talks last night following a statement yesterday from the Palestinian Authority (PA), which said it was prepared to take over security under an Israeli proposal to withdraw its army from areas of the northern Gaza Strip that it has reoccupied.

But hopes of renewed talks between **Hamas** and the PA over a possible ceasefire were dashed. Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, the most prominent leader of **Hamas**'s political wing, whom Israel tried to assassinate a few days ago, said: "The word ceasefire is not in our dictionary. Resistance will continue until we uproot them from our homeland."

**Hamas** first broke off the talks after the Aqaba summit, accusing the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, of giving too much ground to Israel. Since the missile attack on Dr Rantisi, it has vowed to reduce Israel to "rubble" and ordered all its militant cells to carry out attacks on Israelis immediately. On Wednesday, a **Hamas** suicide bomber killed 16 Israeli passengers on a bus in central Jerusalem.

Israel has vowed that it will "wage a war to the bitter end" against **Hamas**, and has carried out almost daily assassination attempts on militants in the Gaza Strip using helicopter missiles. In the last three days, six **Hamas** militants have been assassinated - and 16 innocent bystanders, including **women** and children, have been killed in the helicopter attacks. In one attack shortly after Wednesday's suicide bombing, witnesses said the helicopter fired a second time into a crowd of civilians who had gathered to help the wounded.

ISRAELI BULLETS AND PALESTINIAN BOMBS BLAST ROADMAP TO SHREDS; MIDDLE EAST:  
WASHINGTON SENDS DIPLOMAT TO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE PEACE

Under the new proposal for Israeli troops to withdraw from parts of northern Gaza, the Israeli government is demanding that Palestinian security forces crack down on **Hamas** militants and prevent them firing rockets over the fence into Israel. If the withdrawal takes place, it will be a test of the ability of the Palestinian minister in charge of security, Mohammed Dahlan, to control the militants - and of how far Israel is prepared to stand aside and give him a free hand.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2003

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End of Document

## **HELL ON EARTH IN HOLY LAND Bus blastkills 16 in Jerusalem**

Daily News (New York)

June 12, 2003, Thursday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

**Section:** NEWS;; FRONT PAGE

**Length:** 647 words

**Byline:** By CORKY SIEMASZKO DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER With News Wire Services

### **Body**

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A **Hamas** suicide bomber disguised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew set off a blast on a crowded Jerusalem bus yesterday that killed 16 people and all but shattered the latest attempt to bring peace to the Holy Land.

Within hours, the Israelis launched the first of two air strikes on Gaza that wiped out two **Hamas** militants and eight other Palestinians.

President Bush strongly condemned the **Hamas** bus attack, while his aides scrambled to save the remnants of the peace plan that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, agreed to follow last week.

"It is clear there are people in the Middle East who hate peace," said Bush, who called on "all of the free world" to condemn the killings and cut off funding to **Hamas** and other terror groups.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, whom Bush and Sharon have accused of coddling terrorists, made a televised appeal for "the cessation of all operations of shootings."

But the violence threatened to escalate as **Hamas** vowed to fight on while the Israelis promised to do what Arafat has been unwilling to do - crush the militants.

"If they fail to take action, then we will," said Sharon spokesman Raanan Gissin.

**Hamas** identified the bomber as Abdel Madi Shabneh, an 18-year-old high school student from the West Bank town of Hebron. He also was killed in the attack.

It was 5:30 p.m., and the No. 14 Egged bus bound for Talpiot was packed with commuters heading home when Shabneh - dressed in the black garb of religious Jews and carrying a suitcase - climbed aboard at the Mahane Yehuda market.

The city was on high alert because **Hamas** had vowed to retaliate for Sharon's botched attempt to rub out one of their leaders, Abdel Aziz Rantisi - an attack that drew a rare rebuke from Bush on Tuesday.

Killer rode for 20 minutes

Shabneh drew no attention to himself as he wormed his way to the middle of the bus - and waited patiently as it crawled through rush-hour traffic to Davidka Square.

## HELL ON EARTH IN HOLY LAND Bus blastkills 16 in Jerusalem

"About 20 minutes after he got on the bus, he blew himself up," police spokesman Gil Kleiman said.

In a flash, bodies were torn apart by the nails and screws packed into the suitcase with the explosives, and the bus was consumed by a fast-moving fire.

The blast was so powerful it sent passengers hurtling through the shattered windows, witnesses said. Those who survived the explosion dragged themselves, moaning and screaming, through broken glass to escape the flames.

"Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet," said Shirli Rafael, a 25-year-old municipal worker. "I saw a lot of women covered with blood - their skin was scorched. There was a headless body near the door."

Scores injured

More than 100 people were wounded by flying shrapnel as the stench of burned flesh again wafted over Jaffa Road - the site of other suicide attacks.

Paramedics tended to the living while a detail of Orthodox men collected the corpses - and the body parts - for Jewish burial. "Unfortunately, we are experienced at this," said Avi Zohar of the Magen David Ambulance Service.

Right-wing activists chanting "death to the Arabs" crowded around the burned bus. But many in the crowd said Sharon brought this on by trying to kill Rantisi.

"This is the result of what happened yesterday," said Shelley Jonas, 49, who emigrated to Israel last month from Miami Beach. "I think Sharon did the wrong thing trying to kill the Hamas leader."

A few hours later, Israeli missiles slammed into a car in Gaza City and killed Tito Massaoud, a leader in Hamas' Izz-el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, another Hamas militant and four bystanders. Dozens of other Palestinians were wounded.

Gissin insisted the hit had been planned earlier and was not payback for the Jerusalem bus bombing. "This was in the pipeline," he said.

Later, a second missile attack on Gaza's Sabra neighborhood, where Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin lives, killed four more Palestinians.

## Graphic

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AP CARNAGE Medics treat woman injured in deadly Jerusalem terror blast yesterday that was set off by teenage Palestinian dressed as an ultra-Orthodox Jew.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

## *Taking Action While Action Is an Option*

The New York Times

June 25, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1095 words

**Byline:** By JAMES BENNET

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, June 24

### **Body**

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In rounding up at least 130 Palestinians today in what it called a sweep for **Hamas** terrorists, the Israeli Army once again rattled fragile negotiations among Palestinians over halting violence against Israelis.

The Israeli action reflected suspicion of Palestinian promises to eventually protect Israelis, as well as a confidence, built over two years of harsh Israeli reprisals, raids and pre-emptive pinpoint killings, that the Bush administration would not forcefully object.

But the predawn raid in the West Bank city of Hebron also appeared to demonstrate a growing conviction that a new American-backed peace plan would begin to take hold soon, and that, with it, the Israeli military might find itself less free to act.

One senior Israeli official said tonight that he feared that a Palestinian cease-fire would permit "a trickle of terrorist attacks below the threshold" that the Bush administration would regard as meriting Israeli military response and perhaps upsetting the peace initiative. As an example, he cited the possibility that Palestinian snipers might periodically kill one or two Israeli settlers driving along West Bank roads.

"You could drag Israel to conduct negotiations under fire," the official said. Since the beginning of the year, he said, most attacks on West Bank settlers "emanated from this infrastructure that they had in Hebron."

Suicide bombers from Hebron have also struck in Jerusalem, most recently two weeks ago in an attack that killed 17 people.

Palestinian officials called the arrests a provocation intended to prevent a cease-fire. But they predicted that **Hamas** would not respond by abandoning talks, which continued today under Egyptian sponsorship in Cairo. "The Palestinian factions now understand the Israeli tactics," said Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian legislator who met last week with top leaders of **Hamas** in Damascus in pursuit of the truce.

He added, in an interview in the West Bank city of Ramallah today, "I hope Israel is not going to get into a race to see who can strike last."

## Taking Action While Action Is an Option

Raanan Gissin, the spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, called this "exactly the right time" for the Israeli operation. "The main element in this prevention was to disrupt any plans that they have to carry out terrorist attacks," he said.

Some Israeli officials said the action could push Hamas to agree to a cease-fire, although Hamas leaders said it had the opposite effect.

"How can we afford to go forward with this decision while the Israelis are arresting Hamas people in Hebron?" asked Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip. He said Hamas risked looking weak, as if it were buckling to Israeli pressure.

In all, Israeli forces arrested at least 150 Palestinians in the West Bank today. But the focus was Hebron, which Israel called the main source now of Hamas terrorism in the West Bank. Palestinians said that more than 200 people, including women and elderly men related to known Hamas militants, were caught in the Israeli net, as troops accompanied by dogs and guarded by helicopters overhead searched from house to house.

Soldiers handcuffed and blindfolded Palestinians, then brought them to intelligence officers for interrogation. Some, judged innocent, were released. There were no gunfights, and no one was injured, the army said.

As Palestinians negotiate among themselves over a cease-fire, Palestinian and Israeli officials say they are close to agreement on returning policing responsibility for the West Bank city of Bethlehem and parts of the Gaza Strip to Palestinian security forces, as part of a new international peace plan known as the road map.

The plan intends to gradually return security control to Palestinians of all areas of the West Bank and Gaza, which by previous agreement they were supposed to oversee. A year ago, after a devastating suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Israel began retaking and holding West Bank territory. Its forces have been operating freely since then in Palestinian cities and towns of the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel occupied in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.

As the adversaries negotiate, the Bush administration is assembling a monitoring team to judge compliance by each side with its obligations under the plan, which envisions a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace and a Palestinian state in just three years. If the Americans pursue the monitoring role vigorously, the plan is almost certain to draw this administration more deeply into Middle East peacemaking than any of its predecessors.

Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, said in an interview in Ramallah that, as part of the emerging agreement, Israel had said it would take no military action -- not just in Gaza and Bethlehem but in other areas -- provided the Palestinian cease-fire held. He said that Israel would refrain from its targeted killings of accused terrorists, unless it felt threatened by a "ticking bomb." In such cases, he said, Israel had agreed to inform American monitors and Palestinian officials before taking action.

"That's the real change now," he said of the overall progress in talks. "The Americans are serious."

Other Palestinian officials, like some Israeli officials, question whether the Bush administration will involve itself so deeply, particularly given the distractions of Iraq and an approaching presidential election year.

Mr. Gissin did not confirm or deny Mr. Shaath's assertions, saying he would not discuss details of the negotiations. But he said that if Israel could trust the Palestinian security forces to act against terrorism, then it would not have to act itself. "If indeed we can trust them, then we won't take any action," he said. "We don't want to kill people. We want to prevent a terrorist attack."

Israeli officials had repeatedly rejected the idea of a Palestinian cease-fire as a solution, saying the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, needed to arrest Hamas members and seize its weapons. They had said a truce would merely give Hamas time to rearm.

But Palestinian officials say the Bush administration has accepted their argument that Mr. Abbas is not yet politically strong enough to risk civil conflict with Hamas, and Israeli officials this week have been less dismissive of a cease-

## Taking Action While Action Is an Option

fire. Mr. Gissin said that if Mr. Abbas was planning to use two to three weeks of a cease-fire to rebuild security forces in preparation for taking on **Hamas**, that would advance the peace effort.

But, he said of **Hamas**, "If they are rebuilding under the eyes of the Palestinian Authority, in a month's time we'll be facing a new situation."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: Blindfolded and handcuffed, Palestinian youths and men are escorted by Israeli soldiers for interrogation at a base near Hebron on the West Bank. (Associated Press)(pg. A1); At an Israeli camp near Hebron, a soldier leads a blindfolded Palestinian woman after her arrest in a roundup. (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A8)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2003

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End of Document

## *Israeli missiles kill bystander*

The Toronto Star

August 27, 2003 Wednesday

Ontario Edition

Copyright 2003 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 629 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Highlight:** Shopkeeper dies as **Hamas** trio flees Al Aqsa militants seized from hospital

### **Body**

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Israel accelerated its deadly campaign against militants yesterday, killing a water-pipe vendor in a botched missile strike targeting **Hamas** gunmen in the Gaza Strip.

Three **Hamas** members managed to flee their car in a crowded Gaza street before the missiles hit, witnesses said. Doctors said 26 bystanders were injured, including five children.

Israel has killed seven militants in missile raids in Gaza and stepped up military operations in the West Bank since 21 people died in a **Hamas** suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last week.

Hours before yesterday's Gaza strike, Israeli soldiers dressed as Arabs snatched two wounded militants, one involved in a suicide bombing, from their beds in a West Bank hospital.

The violence has frozen progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which is supposed to lead to a Palestinian state by 2005.

In the latest Israeli operation, a helicopter fired three missiles at a car stuck in a traffic jam on a crowded residential street just north of Gaza City, near the Jabalya refugee camp.

Shadi Tayan, who owns a local bookstore, said "the people in the car jumped out and ran in two different directions" after one rocket hit near the front of the white Renault. After the men fled, two more missiles hit.

**Hamas** sources said the car was carrying three of the group's members, including Khaled Masoud, brother of a **Hamas** commander killed in an Israeli raid in Gaza three months ago. They said Masoud was wounded in the strike.

An Israeli security official said Masoud was responsible for building crude rockets of the type regularly fired into Israel and Jewish settlements in Gaza - almost invariably missing their targets.

The dead man, Hassan Hamlawi, 65, had been sitting outside his water-pipe shop when the missiles hit nearby. Blood stained the sidewalk amid scattered plastic chairs.

Crowds gathered at the scene, including **Hamas** supporters who brandished pieces of the charred car and chanted "Revenge, revenge!"



## Israeli missiles kill bystander

"There was enormous panic, women and children screaming and weeping," said Akram Lubad, his T-shirt stained with blood from helping the injured.

Palestinian Health Minister Kamal Sharafi said four of the wounded were in critical condition, including an 8-year-old girl who was in intensive care.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker criticized the strike: "The killing of innocents has got to stop. We have to see an end to terror and violence, which is clearly spelled out as the first major step of the road map."

The Gaza operation came hours after Israeli soldiers seized two wanted members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group loosely affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, from a hospital in Nablus.

Soldiers asked a nurse to lead them to the two wounded fugitives - one of whom helped plan a suicide bombing that killed an Israeli father of two in a supermarket Aug. 12. The troops confined nurses and doctors to a few rooms and broke down a door to the intensive care unit, where the two men were taken after a shootout on Friday.

Soldiers grabbed their medical files and wheeled the two men out on their hospital beds to waiting military ambulances, which took them to an Israeli military hospital.

Israel says it has no choice but to hunt down militants, denouncing Palestinian leaders for failing to dismantle the armed groups - a key requirement of the peace plan.

The Israeli crackdown, backed by warnings that every militant is marked for death, has forced members of Hamas and other groups to go deeper into hiding.

Hamas leaders were conspicuously absent from funerals for four men killed Sunday on Gaza's beachfront, and members said they were changing their appearances - shaving beards, losing weight, even disguising themselves in women's robes.

## Graphic

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JEROME DELAY/AP Palestinians surround a car that was destroyed yesterday during an Israeli rocket attack near the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. A helicopter fired missiles at a car carrying three Hamas militants, killing a nearby vendor and wounding at least 26 others.

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2003

## **Arafat says truce can be arranged; Contacts under way with all factions**

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

September 18, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C05; News

**Length:** 655 words

**Byline:** Mohammed Daraghmeh

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

### **Body**

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Palestinian President Yasser Arafat offered a new truce to Israel yesterday, after Palestinian officials said the militant group **Hamas** has signalled it might agree to stop attacking Israelis.

Interviewed on Israel TV's Channel 2, Arafat was asked if there was a possibility for a ceasefire. "Of course," he said. "You're invited. The announcement was made yesterday," referring to remarks by his security adviser, Jibril Rajoub.

The Associated Press

In an earlier interview on Israel's Channel 10, Arafat said contacts were under way with all Palestinian factions over a ceasefire.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli leaders, but the government said Tuesday that it wanted to see the Palestinian Authority begin disarming **Hamas** and other militant groups before it would consider a new truce.

Mistrust on both sides remains deep after three years of conflict and the failure of a unilateral truce declared by the militants in June -- which largely held until a **Hamas** suicide bombing killed 23 people in Jerusalem last month.

Tensions heightened after an open-ended Israeli government decision last week to "remove" Arafat, whom it accuses of fomenting violence. The United States vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution Tuesday that sought to shield Arafat from Israeli action.

Before his TV appearance, Arafat dismissed the veto as insignificant. "No decision here or there will shake us," he told supporters at his West Bank headquarters. "We are bigger than all decisions."

Despite the angry words, there were signs of new efforts to quell violence that has killed 2,468 people on the Palestinian side and 858 on the Israeli side in three years.

Palestinian prime minister-designate Ahmed Qureia said once he forms a new government, he will "call on the Israelis to agree to a mutual ceasefire" to clear the way for reopening negotiations and making progress on the stalled "road map" peace plan.

Arafat says truce can be arranged; Contacts under way with all factions

Qureia was tapped by Arafat to replace Mahmoud Abbas, who resigned Sept. 6 after four months of wrangling with Arafat over his authority, with Israel over how to implement the road map, and with Hamas and other militants over stopping attacks on Israelis.

In recent days, Hamas leaders abroad have been in touch by phone with top Palestinian Authority officials to discuss a possible truce. A senior Palestinian said Hamas indicated it would stop attacks in exchange for Israel halting targeted killings of Hamas members and other military strikes.

Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin delivered the message at a recent meeting in Gaza City with Zakaria al-Agha, an envoy sent by Arafat, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Yassin survived an Israeli air strike earlier this month, one in a series of attacks that have killed 13 Hamas members and six bystanders in the past month.

Yassin was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Israel has said it will continue its military campaign if the Palestinians don't disarm the militants, as required by the road map plan. Palestinians argue it can be done only by consultation with militants, not confrontation.

"Israel does not accept the idea of a ceasefire as a means or as an alternative to fighting terror," Foreign Ministry spokesman Jonathan Peled said. It considers a truce "an eventual possibility after we have found a Palestinian partner who begins to fight terror."

Hamas has claimed responsibility for dozens of suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis over the past three years. But the group's leadership appears to have been rattled by the Israeli air strikes, as well as by efforts to prevent foreign funds from reaching the group and its related charities.

It is widely believed Israel's government might move against Arafat in response to another major terror attack. Arafat remained at the centre of political contacts in Ramallah to form a new government. Members of his Fatah movement planned to meet Thursday to choose cabinet ministers.

## Graphic

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Photo: Jerome Delay, the Associated Press; Palestinian women at a Gaza City rally hold posters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat yesterday to show their support.

**Load-Date:** September 18, 2003

## *Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism*

The Toronto Star  
April 18, 2004 Sunday  
Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A01

**Length:** 1159 words

**Byline:** Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

### **Body**

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Attack kills fiery leader

Abdel Aziz Rantisi was the hard, unblinking face of Palestinian nationalism at its most extreme, a man who saw no advantage in a two-state solution. Better that Israel be destroyed, he said.

And though Rantisi, 56, led **Hamas** for less than a month, since the March 22 assassination of the militant Islamic movement's founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, he had long been the uprising's loudest, most defiant voice.

Israeli officials confirmed the assassination, saying in a statement that Rantisi was personally responsible for the killing of dozens of Israeli civilians in **Hamas**-sponsored attacks.

**Hamas** is responsible for most of the 112 suicide bombings that have killed 465 people on the Israeli side during 31/2 years of violence.

Rantisi's behaviour made him Number One on Israel's hit list.

And he knew it, only three weeks ago telling reporters: "We will all die one day. Nothing will change. If by Apache or cardiac arrest, I prefer Apache."

It was an Apache, as fate would have it.

Moments after the Israeli gunship missile struck his car in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood at 8: 30 last night, Rantisi emerged from the wreckage alive - just as he did in June, when the first such assassination attempt left him with superficial wounds.

This time the damage was fatal. Five minutes after he was rushed to nearby Shifa Hospital, Rantisi was gone.

"He was badly wounded to the head, the neck, the body. Each wound was enough to kill him. There was nothing we could do," said Dr. Goma El Saka, the hospital director.

Two of Rantisi's bodyguards were also killed. Rantisi's wife was also believed to be in the car, but her condition is not known. Several bystanders were also injured.

## Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism

Palestinians responded in an outpouring of white-hot rage. Thousands gathered at the hospital, the crowd growing in a march of anger that coursed through Gaza's inner-city streets.

Calls for revenge were immediate.

**Hamas**' armed wing issued a statement vowing "100 retaliations" that will shake "the criminal entity."

Ismail Haniyeh, one of **Hamas**' last remaining political leaders, said on the steps of Shifa Hospital: "This blood will not be wasted. We are not going to give up."

The killing of Yassin, the killing of Rantisi and - 72 hours earlier - U.S. President George W. Bush's endorsement of the Israeli leadership's plans for a unilateral solution to the crisis all became one in the official Palestinian reaction.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia called the assassination a "direct result of American encouragement," while legislator Hanan Ashrawi denounced the Bush administration policy as "complicit in Israel crimes."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said in choosing to assassinate, Israeli leaders are "setting themselves up as judge, jury and executioner. They are playing God."

In Washington, U.S. officials last night denied America had given the green light for the strike, saying the administration remains opposed to targeted assassinations.

"There's been no change in our policy. We think Israel should bear in mind the consequences of what it's doing and we also think the Palestinians should get a handle on terrorism," a State Department official said.

Last night, Isabelle Savard, a spokesperson for Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham, said: "The Government of Canada condemns (the) attacks, which can only impede progress toward a peaceful solution to the complex conflict in the Middle East."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw also condemned the killing as "unlawful, unjustified and counter-productive." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced the killing, saying the assassination could lead to more violence.

A spokesperson told Reuters: "(Annan) reiterates that extra-judicial killings are violations of international law and calls on the government of Israel to immediately end this practice."

Israel's two Arab peace partners, Egypt and Jordan, joined the European Union in condemning the assassination and cautioning such killings could destroy chances for peace.

Daniel Gillerman, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, brushed aside the criticism, calling Rantisi's death "good news for the freedom-loving world."

"This is a man whose gloating face appeared on television every time there was a suicide bombing that killed **women** and children and babies in Israel."

Yesterday, hours before Rantisi was killed, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, killing an Israeli border police officer and injuring three security workers. **Hamas** and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility.

A pediatrician by training, a politician by nature, a populist among Palestinians by dint of his forceful insistence that only violent resistance will free his people, Rantisi consistently denied a role in planning attacks.

**Hamas**, he maintained, operated very much like the Irish Republican Army, with mutually exclusive military and political wings. He would be Sinn Fein.

There was a time when Israel recognized such distinctions. But last summer, with the Palestinian uprising approaching a fourth violent year, such niceties vanished.

## Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism

Rantisi's assassination leaves **Hamas** with an acute leadership deficit.

Apart from Khalid Mashaal, who continues to lead the organization from exile in the Syrian capital of Damascus, nearly all of the movement's best-known leaders inside Gaza and the West Bank now are either dead or jailed.

In the wake of Yassin's killing, many Israeli analysts suggested a leaderless **Hamas** is the goal of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, to prevent the militant group from filling any political vacuum that might arise from his plan to withdraw troops and Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip.

Many Palestinian analysts warn that without strong leadership, **Hamas** threatens to devolve and fragment into uncontrollable militancy; with all bottom and no top, the movement could continue attacks heedless of pressure from the weakened Palestinian Authority or neighbouring Egypt.

In an interview last night with Al-Arabiya TV, Samir Mousharka, a senior member of the mainstream Fatah movement, underscored those fears.

"Look at me, Israelis, and do not rejoice. Sharon is creating a new generation of violence and hatred. Now revenge will be in the young hearts of thousands and thousands."

Rantisi's status as a firebrand dates back to 1982, when he was first arrested by Israeli police after he refused to pay his taxes as a gesture of defiance.

Two years later he was stripped of his medical licence by Israeli authorities because of his active role in the militant Islamic Brotherhood movement.

In 1987, Rantisi was among six men who, together with Sheikh Yassin, founded **Hamas**, shortly after the onset of the first Palestinian intifada.

He was arrested and jailed many times and was among more than 400 Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon in 1992.

**Hamas**' armed wing vows '100 retaliations' that will shake 'the criminal entity'

## Graphic

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AHMED JADALLAH reuters Angry Palestinians descend yesterday on the destroyed vehicle that was carrying **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi. He and two bodyguards were killed in a missile attack. SUHAIB SALEM reuters Mortally injured leader of **Hamas**, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, arrives at Gaza hospital yesterday after his car was attacked. SUHAIB SALEM reuters Mortally injured leader of **Hamas**, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, arrives at Gaza hospital yesterday after his car was attacked.

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2004

**16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't been erected, Foreign Ministry official says**

The Gazette (Montreal)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1341 words

**Byline:** AP; CP; The London Daily Telegraph and The Washington Post contributed to this report

**Dateline:** BEERSHEBA, Israel

## **Body**

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Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses almost simultaneously in this southern city yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in the first major attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The explosions, for which the **Hamas** militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm.

Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The barrier, which is about one-quarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area, where the bombers are believed to be from.

"They went into the soft belly of Israel where the fence has not been erected," said Gideon Meir, a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official. "The ultimate truth for the necessity of the fence was given today: Wherever there's no fence, it's easy to penetrate into Israel."

The first bomb went off in a single-decker bus as it neared a main intersection in the town centre. The driver of a following bus saw the explosion and immediately stopped, opened the doors and ordered his passengers off. Shortly afterwards the vehicle was rocked by a bomb blast. Passengers said the driver's actions had saved many lives.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

After the attacks, Sharon met with top security officials to plan a response, and more talks were scheduled later in the evening. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might," Sharon said, adding that he would push forward with the Gaza pullout. "This has no connection to disengagement," he said.

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew expressed "deepest sympathies" to Israel and condemned the bombing.

"Resorting to terrorism not only is inhuman and criminal, but it is holding back all Palestinians from their aspirations to peace and statehood," Pettigrew said in a statement. "I call on every Palestinian to reject terrorism and to seek an end to the conflict through a negotiated settlement."

"The Palestinian Authority has condemned the bombing, but this is not enough. It must immediately take meaningful steps to prevent violent acts against Israeli civilians, to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and to restore law and order in the territories under its control."

The attack was the deadliest since a female suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa. Militants hadn't carried out a suicide bombing in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Hamas has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths, but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army surrounded the homes of the two suspected bombers, Ahmed Qawasmeh and Nasim Mohammed Ali Jaabari, and questioned their relatives. Both men were from Hebron, the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba.

Hamas distributed a leaflet in Hebron claiming responsibility for yesterday's attack, but did not name the bombers.

"If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from Jihad, then you are dreaming," the statement said.

Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years, but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Israel has attributed the slowdown to its success in fighting militants and the West Bank barrier, not a lack of effort by armed Palestinian groups.

Israel has arrested or killed dozens of militants in recent months, maintains dozens of roadblocks in the West Bank and placed security guards near busy bus stops in Israeli cities. It also operates an efficient intelligence network in the Palestinian areas.



16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

But Israeli officials yesterday repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the No. 1 reason for the slowdown in attacks. "Unfortunately Israel has to lose more innocent civilians to prove to the world the necessity and justice of the fence," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Sharon.

Earlier yesterday, the Israeli army caught a Palestinian man with an explosives belt strapped under his clothing as he tried to cross into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Gaza is fenced off from Israel, and militants have had trouble reaching Israel from there.

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack and called for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks.

"The Palestinian interest requires a stop to harming all civilians so as not give Israel pretext to continue its aggression against our people," Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in a statement.

Sharon refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians. Instead, he has called for a unilateral withdrawal next year from the Gaza Strip and four isolated West Bank settlements. He says the moves will improve Israel's security.

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#### Palestinian Suicide Attacks

During four years of Palestinian-Israeli violence, 490 people have been killed in 114 bombings.

Aug. 31, 2004: Two bombers in buses in Beersheba, killing 16.

March 14, 2004: Two bombers at Ashdod port, killing 10.

Feb. 22, 2004: A bus in downtown Jerusalem, killing seven.

Jan. 29, 2004: A bus on Jerusalem's Gaza Street, killing 11 people.

Oct. 4, 2003: A seaside restaurant in Haifa, killing at least 19.

Sept. 9, 2003: Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem, killing seven.

Sept. 9, 2003: A bus stop near an army base outside Tel Aviv, killing eight Israeli soldiers.

Aug. 19, 2003: A bus in Jerusalem, killing 23.

June 11, 2003: A bus on Jerusalem's Jaffa St., killing 17.

May 18, 2003: A bus at Jerusalem's French Hill neighbourhood, killing seven.

March 5, 2003: A bus in Haifa, killing 17.

Jan. 5, 2003: Two bombers strike a pedestrian mall in

Tel Aviv, killing 23.

Nov. 21, 2002: A bus in Jerusalem, killing 11.

Oct. 21, 2002: A bus at the Karkur Junction in northern

Israel, killing 14.

Aug. 4, 2002: A bus at the Meron Junction, killing eight.

June 19, 2002: French Hill intersection in Jerusalem, killing seven.

16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

June 18, 2002: Patt Junction in southern Jerusalem, killing 19.

June 5, 2002: Bus near Megiddo Junction, killing 17.

May 7, 2002: A pool hall in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion, killing 15.

April 10, 2002: A bus in Haifa, killing eight.

March 31, 2002: A restaurant in Haifa, killing 15.

March 27, 2002: A hotel dining room at the start of Passover in the city of Netanya, killing 29.

March 20, 2002: A bus near Kfar Musmus, killing seven.

March 9, 2002: Jerusalem's Moment Cafe, killing 11.

March 2, 2002: Jerusalem's Ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim neighbourhood, killing 11.

Dec. 2, 2001: A bus in the coastal city of Haifa, killing 15.

Dec. 1, 2001: Two bombers strike Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, killing 11.

Aug. 9, 2001: Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem, killing 15.

June 1, 2001: The entrance of a seaside disco in Tel Aviv, killing 21, mostly teenagers.

Associated Press

## Graphic

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Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic);

Color Photo: BRENNAN LINSLEY, AP; Israeli police officers and rescue and recovery volunteers gather bodies in front of a destroyed bus in Beersheba yesterday.;

Color Photo: AHMED JADALLAH, REUTERS; **Hamas** supporters celebrate the twin suicide bombings at a rally in Gaza City yesterday.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

## *Palestinian leaders freeze charities' accounts*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AUGUST 29, 2003 Friday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A18

**Length:** 569 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Palestinian authorities said yesterday that they had frozen the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations funnel money to militants - the Palestinians' most striking action yet in a U.S.-sought clampdown on armed groups.

Israel welcomed the decision. But it pressed on with its hunt for militants, killing another member of the group **Hamas** in a missile strike in the Gaza Strip. The army also moved briefly into northern Gaza to destroy brush providing cover for rocket attacks by Palestinians.

The air strike in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis killed Hamdi Kalakh, 23, as he was driving a donkey cart along a residential street, Palestinian officials and witnesses said. At least three other people were reported injured. **Hamas** supporters said Kalakh was a member of **Hamas**' military wing.

The Israeli army said he was wanted for mortar, rocket and bomb attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. It said the air strike thwarted an attack on the nearby Gush Katif Jewish settlement, a few hundred yards from where Kalakh died.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities Sunday. The move became known yesterday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly checks at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked and turned them away.

About 2,000 welfare recipients marched to the offices of the monetary authority in protest.

Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, praised the shutdown. "There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for **Hamas**," he said. "Anything that serves this need [of stopping the flow of money] is a positive development."

## Palestinian leaders freeze charities' accounts

Abdel Maguid Mashrawi, a spokesman for the monetary authority, said the aim was to "monitor the money that is coming from outside, and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes."

Palestinian officials said the government was trying to find a way to monitor the money transfers so that the welfare payments could resume.

According to a copy of the order, the nine charities are Al Jamiya Al Islamiya, the Islamic Young Women's Association, As-Salah Association, the Social Care Committee, the Palestinian Student Friends Association, the Islamic Charity for Zakat, Al Mujamma Al Islami, Al Nour Charity Association, and Al Aqsa Charity Association.

In December, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, at the time No. 2 in the Palestine Liberation Organization, asked Saudi Arabia to divert donations for two of the charities - Al Jamiya Al Islamiya and As-Salah - to the Palestinian Authority. Abbas said he believed the two were fronts for Hamas, Palestinian officials said.

Hamas denied any links to the charities and said the Palestinian Authority was acting under U.S. and Israeli pressure.

President Bush, responding to the Aug. 19 bus bombing in Jerusalem that killed the suicide bomber and 21 other people, announced last week that the United States was freezing the funds of six senior Hamas figures in Gaza, Syria and Lebanon, as well as those of five charities he accused of funding Hamas.

Those five charities, four of which are based in Europe, are different from the nine operating in the Gaza Strip. But one of the nine - As-Salah - said it received funds from the four European charities on the U.S. list.

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2005

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End of Document

## **The New Assassins**

New York Sun (Archive)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 9

**Length:** 1145 words

**Byline:** DAVID TWERSKY

### **Body**

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Although Arab political and religious leaders have nearly all condemned the assassination of the **Hamas** leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the Israeli action takes a leaf out of their own book. Neither Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, nor Syria's Bashar Assad nor the youthful Hashemite king tolerate the level of Sunni Islamic political activity and violence that **Hamas** represents in the Palestinian territories.

In the Syrian case, army units led by Mr. Assad's uncle (and dominated by officers from the Alawi sect) slaughtered so many Sunni fundamentalists in a massacre two decades ago that they have not yet raised their heads again.

In Egypt and Jordan, "moderate" versions of **Hamas**, the Muslim brotherhood, rotate between stints in parliament and stays in jail.

So if Arab rulers felt compelled to denounce the attack, it wasn't because it was unfamiliar. The same can't be said of the American reaction, and certainly not of the European one.

Yesterday's New York Times reported that the killing sparked a "Wave of Anger Across [the] Arab World" and editorialized - "Death in Gaza" - that Yassin's "martyrdom will [not] make Israel any safer. **Hamas** will now redouble its efforts to send human torpedoes into Israel. The Palestinian Authority will be even less inclined to confront terrorists in its midst and less able to coax **Hamas** into observing a cease-fire." I do not think the Times knows whether or not **Hamas** was already "redoubling its efforts" to murder Jews, that is, even before Yassin's death. Every time there is a decisive Israeli attempt to punish these criminals, they bellow their threats (Ariel Sharon has opened the gates of hell) and promise to dispatch more suicide bombers. But they are always dispatching more suicide bombers.

Arguing that they will "redouble their efforts" now is like the moment in "The Sopranos" where Tony boasts of the privileges that come with his new life as a single man: He can come home whenever he wants, and share time with other **women**. "So what's the difference?" his friend asks.

As to the Palestinian Authority's alleged declining ability to woo **Hamas** into a cease-fire accord, gee whiz, this has been going on for a year and two Palestinian prime ministers already. What naif gives the PA any credit on this score and blames Israel for the continued failure of the so-called Palestinian moderates?

According to the Times, Yassin "was the group's spiritual leader," but Israel justified its assassination by accusing him "of responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks."

## The New Assassins

Yassin was the "spiritual" leader in the way that the Shiite radical Hasan Ibn al-Sabbah was the "spiritual" leader of the sect he founded,

the Hashishin (assassins). Much rests on the assertion that Yassin was on the spiritual, not military or operational-side of Hamas. Perhaps Times editors should read their own copy.

In the April 4, 2002 issue, the paper ran a front-page interview in which Hamas "political" leaders argued, in their own words, that they ran the "military" side of the operation.

In "Mideast Turmoil: Gaza; Arabs, Grief in Bethlehem, Bombers' Gloating in Gaza," by Joel Brinkley, Hamas political leaders boasted that they decide "when their followers should attack and when they should back off."

One "political" leader, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi - yesterday named as the new Hamas leader in Gaza - told the Times that he generates attacks by making public statements that are followed by the group's military wing, "because we are the political leaders."

According to the Times, "analysts here suggest that the leaders' roles are actually more direct. During the 45-minute interview in Sheik Yassin's compound, for example, aides twice brought him urgent news about developments in Ramallah, and he issued clear, direct orders."

The false distinction implied by designating Yassin a "spiritual" leader was not lost on the European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels, who denounced the Israeli action as contravening international law. The EU foreign ministers said the assassination was an "extrajudicial killing," a charge that is based on the assumption that Yassin was a noncombatant and therefore entitled to a trial rather than a summary execution.

While admitting that Hamas was guilty of "atrocities...which have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Israelis" and that Israel has the right to protect itself against terrorist attacks, an EU statement made clear that "Israel is not, however, entitled to carry out extra-judicial killings."

The British foreign secretary, Jack Straw, acknowledged "Israel's paramount need to defend itself" against terrorists, but said it would only receive "the full support of the international community," if it acts "within the boundaries set by international law."

Mr. Straw should explain why the coalition's hot pursuit of terrorist targets in Iraq, or in the Khyber Pass, is within the bounds of international law, while Israel's killing Yassin is not.

Such woolly headed thinking exists on this side of the lake, although it is, for the moment, farther from the seat of power. Howard Dean argued not long ago that America should capture Osama bin Laden alive because those in "positions of executive power" should not "prejudge jury trials."

Unlike the Arabs, who understood exactly what was going on, and the Europeans, who mistook Mr. Sharon for the criminal and Mr. Yassin for the victim, the Bush administration seems to have been confused.

Contradictory statements were issued all day, with what a senior Israeli figure told me was "sympathy for Israel's position," but also statements expressing the administration "deeply troubled."

The problem is that the administration doesn't know where Mr. Sharon is headed, and this isn't through any fault of its own. The administration appealed to both sides to let their tempers cool. If Mr. Sharon means to launch a slugfest, that's one thing, but if the tougher line on Hamas is meant to set the stage for the unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, well, that's a horse of a more welcome color.

A hawkish minister in Mr. Sharon's government, Uzi Landau, who opposes the prime minister's new policy, recently wrote that, "They don't understand Washington in Israel." Maybe so, but they don't understand Israel in Washington, D.C. either.

## The New Assassins

The Israeli official said that Yassin was dispatched "to paradise" after the top military and intelligence brass had reached the conclusion that he would never mend his murderous ways. "Paradise" was what Yassin promised his youthful "martyrs" before sending on their suicide bombing way.

Upon visiting the Hashishin redoubt at Alamut, Syria, in 1273, Marco Polo said of the "spiritual leader" of the assassins, "And when he wished to kill someone, he would take him and say: 'Go and do this thing. I do this because I want to make you return to paradise.' And the assassins go and perform the deed willingly."

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

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End of Document

## *Islamic charities frozen*

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

August 29, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Section:** WIRE;

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** By Ibrahim Barzak Associated Press

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Palestinian authorities said Thursday they froze the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations funnel money to militants -- the Palestinians' most striking action yet in a U.S.-sought clampdown on armed groups.

Israel welcomed the decision. But it pressed on with its hunt for militants, killing another **Hamas** fighter in a missile raid in the Gaza Strip. The army also moved briefly into northern Gaza to destroy brush providing cover for cross-border rocket attacks.

The airstrike in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis killed Hamdi Kalakh, 23, as he was driving a donkey cart along a residential street, Palestinian officials and witnesses said. At least three other people were reported injured.

**Hamas** supporters said Kalakh was a member of **Hamas**' military wing.

The Israeli army said he was wanted for mortar, rocket and bomb attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. It said the raid thwarted an attack on the nearby Gush Katif Jewish settlement bloc, a few hundred yards from where Kalakh died.

Earlier, Israeli bulldozers and tanks had moved into northern Gaza after a rocket struck near the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, the militants' deepest strike yet using the crude homemade projectiles.

It was the first Israeli foray into Palestinian-controlled land since the army withdrew from parts of Gaza in July under the U.S.-backed "road map" plan. Security officials said the raid was not a prelude to a major operation.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said **Hamas** was trying to hit a power plant just south of Ashkelon.

The rockets caused little damage or injury, but Israel considers them a strategic threat.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities on Sunday. The move became known Thursday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly checks at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked and turned them away.

Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, praised the move.



## Islamic charities frozen

"There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for Hamas," he said. "Anything that serves this need (of stopping the flow of money) is a positive development."

Palestinian Monetary Authority spokesman Abdel Maguid Mashrawi said the aim was to "monitor the money that is coming from outside, and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes."

Officials said the government is trying to find a way to monitor the money transfers so that the welfare payments can resume.

According to a copy of the order, obtained by The Associated Press, the nine charities are: Al Jamiya Al Islamiya, the Islamic Young Women's Association, As-Salah Association, the Social Care Committee, the Palestinian Student Friends Association, the Islamic Charity for Zakat, Al Mujamma Al Islami, Al Nour Charity Association and Al Aqsa Charity Association.

In December, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, at the time No. 2 in the Palestine Liberation Organization, asked Saudi Arabia to divert donations for two of the charities -- Al Jamiya Al Islamiya and As-Salah - to the Palestinian Authority. Abbas said he believed the two were fronts for Hamas, Palestinian officials said.

Hamas disputed any links to the charities and said the Palestinian Authority is acting under U.S. and Israeli pressure. The charities "have nothing to do with Hamas, and will not affect Hamas, but will affect the poor families," spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi said.

President Bush, responding to the Aug. 19 bus bombing in Jerusalem that killed 21 people, announced last week that the United States was freezing the funds of six senior Hamas figures in Gaza, Syria and Lebanon, as well as those of five charities he accused of funding Hamas.

Those five charities, four of which are based in Europe, are different from the nine operating in the Gaza Strip. But one of the nine -- As-Salah -- said it received funds from the four European charities on the U.S. list.

The cash-strapped Palestinian Authority has cut many welfare services in the past three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Private charities, including Islamic ones receiving large sums of money from abroad, have filled the void.

Amir Abu Omarein, director of Al Mujamma Al Islami, said the move will hurt the poorest Palestinians. He said his charity, set up in the 1970s by Hamas spiritual leader and founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, supports about 3,000 people, including the families of Palestinian prisoners, orphans, and those who were wounded in fighting with Israel.

About 2,000 welfare recipients marched to the headquarters of the Palestinian Monetary Authority in protest Thursday. "We are not terrorists. Freezing the bank accounts is a crime," read one of their banners.

Hanan Jaress, 45, a mother of 12, said she received the equivalent of \$190 each month from Al Mujamma Al Islami. "This step will make me unable to feed my children," she said. "The Palestinian Authority gives me nothing."

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said the move was "part of our mission to implement the law on all the Palestinian institutions. ... We are not going to close any institution or harm any Palestinian citizen."

Under U.S. pressure, Palestinian leaders are urging armed groups to renew a cease-fire.

Palestinian police have taken some action against militants, sealing several tunnels from Egypt and arresting suspected arms smugglers. But they have been unable to halt rocket fire from Gaza and have held back on arresting militants or seizing their weapons.

On Thursday, Palestinian police said they traded fire with militants who launched homemade Qassam rockets at Israel, and that the armed men ran away.

## Islamic charities frozen

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## *Gaza raid, threats undercut truce talks*

The Toronto Star  
June 26, 2003 Thursday  
Ontario Edition

Copyright 2003 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A03

**Length:** 712 words

**Byline:** Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

**Highlight:** Israeli forces kill four Palestinians Militants vow to continue attacks

### **Body**

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Like the recurring scene from the movie Groundhog Day, renewed tit-for-tat violence yesterday pushed back plans for an imminent Mideast ceasefire, leaving four Palestinians dead and some **Hamas** militants vowing another cycle of vengeance.

For a fleeting moment, the 1,000th day of the intifada appeared to be at a diplomatic crossroads, with Palestinian sources leaking news of a three-month truce agreement involving exiled leaders of the hardline **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad factions meeting in Syria.

Minutes after word of the ceasefire became public, Israeli helicopter gunships launched a missile attack on the outskirts of the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, injuring two men described as **Hamas** militants poised to carry out a rocket attack. Two Palestinians civilians travelling in a taxi behind the target car were killed and 17 others wounded in the strike.

The Israeli operation followed a mid-morning clash in which two **Hamas** operatives were killed in a failed attack on an Israeli military post outside the besieged northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun.

By day's end, **Hamas** leaders in Gaza were dismissing the truce reports as premature, vowing to continue attacks even amid ongoing ceasefire talks among militant groups.

"This (ceasefire) is a fabricated Israeli story to divert the attention of the Palestinians from the crimes committed in Hebron, mass arrest, mass deportation and the murder of innocent people in Khan Younis," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior **Hamas** spokesperson in Gaza.

"Our resistance is continuous, Israel's aggression is continuous. Until we reach a final agreement on a hudna (truce), this will continue."

**Hamas** spokesperson Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who survived an Israeli assassination attempt two weeks ago, turned aside the truce reports, saying negotiations are still under way.

"We have no idea about these reports. We are still in a process of consultation within the movement. Every time we near a decision, (Israel) slaughters more of our people," Rantisi told Reuters.

## Gaza raid, threats undercut truce talks

"A decision will be made in coming days. We will take all developments and the continued Israeli aggression into account."

With nothing to show for three weeks of peacemaking efforts since the dramatic promises of the Aqaba peace summit, U.S. officials are hoping a weekend visit by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice can be timed to take delivery on the long-awaited truce.

Already facing intense pressure to yield to international demands for a break from violence, **Hamas** was further isolated yesterday by U.S. President George W. Bush, who renewed a call for the group's military capabilities to be eliminated.

"I'll believe it when I see it," Bush responded when questioned on the reported ceasefire following meetings with European Union leaders.

"The true test for **Hamas** and terrorist organizations is the complete dismantlement of their terrorist networks, their capacity to blow up the peace process."

Israeli officials declined to comment on reports that jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti was participating in truce talks from his prison cell. Barghouti, a populist leader of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, is said to be helping broker arrangements in a show of support for Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, whose political fate depends on diplomatic advance.

Other key officials said to be embroiled in drafting terms of a planned three-month ceasefire are exiled **Hamas** leader Khaled Mashal and Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shalah.

Any truce pact would amount to a much-needed victory for Abbas, the Palestinian point man for the U.S.-backed "road map" to peace in the region.

The road map calls for the end of attacks against Israelis, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian areas, and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Israeli officials yesterday responded skeptically to the ongoing truce discussions, all the while defending continuing military operations in Palestinian areas as defensive acts.

"It can be a positive step only if it will lead to a complete and total cessation of all terrorist activities without a time limit," Israel's U.N. Ambassador Dan Gillerman told .

"Only when that happens and the terrorist infrastructure is completely dismantled will the way be paved for a true and hopefully successfully peace process."

## Graphic

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MOHAMMED BALLAS/AP Palestinian **women** try to persuade Israeli soldiers to let them bring food to Palestinian men waiting to be interrogated in a schoolyard in the West Bank village of Jalbon near the town of Jenin yesterday. Israeli troops rounded up all male residents for questioning.

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2003

**Palestinian Authority freezes funds of Islamic charities; Israel welcomes the move to probe for terrorism links**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 29, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 Woodward Communications, Inc.

**Section:** Pg. a8

**Length:** 933 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Palestinian authorities said Thursday they froze the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations funnel money to militants - the Palestinians' most striking action yet in a U.S.-sought clampdown on armed groups.

Israel welcomed the decision but threatened tough action after a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit near the coastal city of Ashkelon, the deepest strike since Hamas began firing Qassams toward Israel in November 2001.

Later Thursday, an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at a target in the Gaza Strip, killing a Hamas member and wounding at least three other people, officials and witnesses said. Palestinians identified the dead man as Hamdi Kalkha, 23, a member of Hamas' military wing. The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Israeli bulldozers and tanks earlier flattened brush just inside Gaza to rob militants of cover - the first foray into Palestinian-controlled land since Israel withdrew from parts of Gaza in July under the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan. Security officials said the move was not a prelude to a major military strike.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Hamas was trying to hit a power plant just south of Ashkelon. The rockets caused little damage or injury, but Israel considers them a strategic threat.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities on Sunday. The move became known Thursday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly checks at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked.

Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, praised the move.

"There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for Hamas," he said. "Anything that serves this need (of stopping the flow of money) is a positive development."

Palestinian Monetary Authority spokesman Abdel Maguid Mashrawi said the aim was to "monitor the money that is coming from outside, and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes."

Officials said the government is trying to find a way to monitor the money transfers so that the welfare payments can resume.

Palestinian Authority freezes funds of Islamic charities; Israel welcomes the move to probe for terrorism links

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Hanan Jaress, 45, a mother of 12, said she received the equivalent of \$190 each month from Al Mujamma Al Islami. "This step will make me unable to feed my children," she said. "The Palestinian Authority gives me nothing."

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Under U.S. pressure, Palestinian leaders are urging armed groups to renew a cease-fire.

Palestinian police have taken some action against militants, sealing several tunnels from Egypt and arresting suspected arms smugglers. But they have been unable to halt rocket fire from Gaza and have held back on arresting militants or seizing their weapons.

On Thursday, Palestinian police said they traded fire with militants who launched homemade Qassam rockets at Israel, and that the armed men ran away.

According to the Israeli army, militants have fired 24 Qassam missiles since announcing their cease-fire June 29, including 14 since the truce broke down last week, and have been working to edge up their range to 7.5 miles.

**Load-Date:** August 29, 2003

**Bombs and bloodshed hit peace hopes;  
23 killed in an hour of Israel violence**

DAILY MAIL (London)

June 12, 2003

Copyright 2003 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

**Section:** Pg. 28

**Length:** 447 words

**Byline:** Matthew Kalman

## **Body**

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HOPES of peace in the Middle East disappeared in an hour of bombing and bloodshed yesterday.

A Palestinian suicide bomber, who disguised himself as an ultra- Orthodox Jew, killed 16 Israelis in a Jerusalem bus attack.

Shortly afterwards Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets at a car carrying two **Hamas** militants in Gaza, killing them and five bystanders, and injuring another 30 people.

Late last night, a second helicopter attack killed two more Palestinians, also said to have been members of **Hamas**, in their car in Gaza City.

A hundred people were wounded in the Jerusalem bombing, which was to avenge an Israeli bid to assassinate a **Hamas** leader the previous day.

Thirty-five people had been hurt in the helicopter missile attack in Gaza.

The violence was a major setback for U.S. President George Bush's Middle East peace initiative. Only a week earlier he stood with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers as they pledged support for the 'road map' to peace.

But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon reacted to the bus attack with defiance, declaring war on Palestinian militants.

' The state of Israel will continue to pursue until the end the terrorists and those that send them,' he said.

President Bush also condemned the bombing, but added: 'I call upon all the free world, nations which love peace, to use every ounce of their power to prevent these attacks from happening in the future.' Foreign Secretary Jack Straw urged an end to the cycle of violence while Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat joined in the condemnation but also criticised Israel for 'targeting civilians and **women** and children' in Gaza.

The suicide bombing came a day after Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a convoy carrying Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a **Hamas** co- founder, who escaped with minor injuries.

Two bystanders were killed.

Bombs and bloodshed hit peace hopes; 23 killed in an hour of Israel violence

**Hamas**, which is opposed to President Bush's road map, had threatened bloody revenge.

Police said the bomb used on Jaffa Street, Jerusalem's main thoroughfare, was packed with nails for maximum effect. It tore a large hole in the left side of the red-and-white bus.

Less than an hour later, Israeli helicopter gunships fired two missiles at a small Fiat carrying two members of the **Hamas** military wing, Tito Massoud, 35, and Soheil Abu Nahel, 29.

The car was stuck in a rush-hour traffic jam and was driven on to the pavement in an attempt to get away.

Hundreds of people rushed to it, trying to put out the fire with blankets, only for the Israelis to renew their attack.

Israeli officials said there was no connection between the bus attack and the missile strike.

They said Massoud commanded **Hamas** cells who had fired home-made rockets at Israeli settlements.

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

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End of Document



## **CIVILIANS TO BE TARGETED IN THEIR HOMES**

The Scotsman

September 11, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

**Section:** Pg. 11

**Length:** 819 words

**Byline:** Ben Lynfield In Jerusalem

### **Body**

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IN A dramatic escalation of three years of fighting, **Hamas** yesterday threatened to target Israeli civilians in their homes after a failed Israeli attempt to kill the militant group's leader, Mahmoud Zahar, in his house in Gaza City.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Sharon is killing children, and every response is open," said Mr Zahar, the **Hamas** leader, who was slightly wounded in the air strike which killed his son, Khaled, and a bodyguard.

The attack came the morning after 15 Israelis were killed in two **Hamas** bombings, one at a bus stop near Tel Aviv and the other at a cafe in Jerusalem.

**Hamas**'s military wing said: "Targeting homes is violating all red lines."

And it added: "From now it has become allowed for them **Hamas** cells to target the Zionists' houses and buildings and to destroy them as retaliation for the enemy policy of targeting civilian houses."

The Israeli strike came hours before an announcement by Ahmed Qurie, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, that he would take up the post of prime minister.

"Israel must realise that security for its citizens will not come from the use of force but from recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and genuine co-operation with them," said Mr Qurie, a loyalist of the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat. He condemned the Gaza air strike as unacceptable and dangerous.

George Bush, the United States president, last night demanded that Mr Qurie state his opposition to terrorism and dismantle militant groups.

Mr Bush said he still believes in the US-backed peace process, the so-called "road map", calling for a Palestinian state by 2005, and said that "time will tell" whether he can work with Mr Qurie.

He said: "Mr Qurie's job, if he's interested in a two-state solution, is to consolidate power within his administration, to get the security forces under control, all security forces, and then to unleash those security forces against killers. And we can make progress if that's the case."

The half-tonne bomb used in yesterday's air raid levelled the two-storey house as the **Hamas** leader was sitting inside.

## CIVILIANS TO BE TARGETED IN THEIR HOMES

Among the 25 people wounded were Mr Zahar's wife and a daughter. Three women and five children were hurt. An ambulance driver who evacuated Mr Zahar, a physician and veteran spokesman of Hamas, said: "He screamed from pain in his back, but he was talking to us, saying, 'I'm okay, I'm okay'."

Israeli army officials said he had authorised Hamas attacks against Israeli targets.

In an interview with Abu Dhabi Television, conducted in secret after he was treated, Mr Zahar remained defiant.

Lambasting the European Union and the US for backing Israel, he said "satanic morality" prevails in the world, adding: "This is temporary because the unbelievers will go to hell." The resistance would go on "even if all the leadership is martyred", he continued.

Mr Zahar said his slain son was to have been married tomorrow. "He is a martyr, and martyrs are not dead."

Mr Qurie said he will appoint an emergency cabinet of five to eight members with security its top priority. He appears likely to steer clear of the kind of open confrontation with Mr Arafat pursued by his predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas.

"The top priority will be unification of the security services," he said. "They will be under a national security council and all will work on behalf of the national interest of our people."

He did not say the words that Israel wants to hear from him - namely that he will authorise the disarming of Hamas and other militant groups in accordance with the road map. Palestinian officials have repeatedly said a crackdown would start a civil war and that persuasion is the preferred means of stopping Hamas attacks.

Mohammed Hourani, an MP, argued the changes announced by Mr Qurie are unimportant compared with what he said is an urgent need for foreign intervention. He said: "We need third-party pressure to bring the sides to a real political track and to give the Palestinian people hope."

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, planned to cut short a visit to India and be back in Israel this morning for a meeting to weigh drastic steps. The two leading items on the agenda are expected to be whether to expel Mr Arafat and whether to launch a major military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Yuval Steinitz, an MP from Mr Sharon's Likud party, said Mr Qurie's backing of a ceasefire with Israel needed to be dismissed out of hand and the top Palestinian leadership deported.

"Talk of a ceasefire is a way for him to avoid dismantling the terrorist organisations and to preserve them for another round of violence against us," he said.

In the West Bank village of Rantisi, 20 relatives of two of the two Hamas members identified as Tuesday's suicide bombers were arrested by Israeli troops.

Villagers said the two, Ramez Abu Isleem, 24, and Ihab Abdel Kader Abu Isleem, 20, had disappeared last week.

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2003

#### **4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Home Edition

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## **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** News;

**Length:** 604 words

**Byline:** MARGARET COKER

### **Body**

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Erez Crossing, Israel --- After expressing a final wish to turn her body into "deadly shrapnel," a Palestinian mother blew herself up Wednesday at the heavily fortified border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing four Israelis and wounding seven Israelis and Palestinians.

The suicide bomber, identified as 22-year-old Reem al-Raiyshi, was the first **female** bomber to have been married with children. She left behind a 3-year-old son and 18-month-old daughter. The militant group **Hamas** said it was a new tactic in its war against Israel.

Cox International Correspondent

**Hamas** and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the two largest Palestinian militant groups, claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was in retaliation for Israeli army violence against Palestinians despite a lull in Palestinian militant activities in recent months.

**Hamas** had never used **women** in its numerous attacks against Israeli targets, although smaller militant groups have.

In the overwhelmingly male world of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Israeli security concerns and crackdowns are often focused on Palestinian men. Al-Raiyshi, a high school graduate who had been active in **Hamas**' youth wing, took advantage of that when she approached the Israeli security checkpoint at the Gaza border crossing at around 10 a.m.

Witnesses said al-Raiyshi faked a limp as she entered Erez, a sprawling complex where thousands of poor Palestinian workers maneuver through security in hopes of getting into Israel for work each day.

When she set off a metal detector, she told the guard it was because of a metal surgical implant in her leg, according to Israeli Brig. Gen. Gad Shamni, commander of the army's Gaza division. The male guard manning the detector, who is prohibited by custom from searching a Muslim woman, summoned a **female** soldier to conduct a hand search of al-Raiyshi.

## 4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber

"While she was waiting for the arrival of the woman soldier, [the bomber] apparently succeeded in penetrating a meter or two into the inspection hall, and blew herself up," said Shamni.

Three Israeli army soldiers were killed, along with one private guard. Several other guards as well as some Palestinian workers were wounded in the blast.

Israel intelligence and military officials say they have stopped dozens of would-be bombers thanks to diligent intelligence and the completion of part of a controversial 150-mile-long barrier that is designed to cut off Palestinian communities in the West Bank from Israel. A similar barrier was built around Gaza in the mid-1990s.

However, **Hamas** officials said that the Erez bombing proved that no security plan was foolproof and that militants could always find ways to breach security "obstacles."

"For the first time [**Hamas**] used a **female** fighter and not a male fighter and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Speaking in what Palestinians call a "martyr's videotape," something akin to a suicide note that is left by most bombers, al-Raiyshi's recorded message said that she loved her children but felt it was a higher calling to take part in the struggle against Israel.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists," said a smiling al-Raiyshi, who was wearing combat fatigues with a **Hamas** sash across her chest.

Israel responded to the bombing by closing the Erez crossing, meaning that Palestinian workers will not be able to reach their jobs for an undetermined number of days.

## Graphic

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Photo: A Palestinian mother who said that she wanted to "knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists," blew herself up at this checkpoint between Israel and Gaza on Wednesday, taking four other lives. / Knight Ridder Tribune

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

## **Palestinian Gunmen Attack Israeli Checkpoint in Gaza**

The New York Times

June 8, 2003 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

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

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** By GREG MYRE

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, Sunday, June 8

### **Body**

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Israeli security forces killed three Palestinian militants at dawn today in an intense firefight near the main crossing point to the Gaza Strip, military officials said. The Israelis also suffered multiple casualties, but Israeli officials refused to give details this morning.

The fighting marked the most serious outburst of violence since the summit meeting last Wednesday between President Bush and the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers in Jordan. At the very least, today's violence was certain to badly damage the sense of hope that had been created by that meeting.

Several Palestinian assailants wearing military uniforms approached the Erez crossing point in the northern Gaza Strip around 5 a.m., a military official said.

A major gun battle broke out in an industrial area near the crossing, where several thousand Palestinians work at Israeli-run factories, Israel Radio reported. Three Palestinians were shot dead, and there were also a number of Israeli casualties, the radio and military officials said. The military was searching the area to determine if there were additional attackers, an official said.

The Israeli Army declined to make an immediate comment, saying the shooting was still under investigation. No Palestinian group claimed responsibility.

The militant Islamic group **Hamas** announced on Friday that it was calling off cease-fire talks with the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, and that it would continue to attack Israelis.

The Palestinian leadership is required to rein in militants as part of the new Middle East peace plan, and Mr. Abbas, commonly known as Abu Mazen, called at the summit meeting for an end to the armed uprising.

But many Palestinians said he went too far in making concessions to the Israelis and received too little in return.

A senior **Hamas** leader, Abdul Aziz Rantissi, said the militant Islamic group would continue to carry out attacks against Israel, and that all negotiations were off. "We reject any meeting with Abu Mazen unless he retracts the statements he made at the summit," he told Agence France-Presse on Saturday.

## Palestinian Gunmen Attack Israeli Checkpoint in Gaza

After a Palestinian cabinet meeting on Saturday, ministers said they believed that they could resume negotiations shortly with Hamas.

"Having Hamas in the dialogue is a vital issue that we cannot ignore, and we hope that our brothers in Hamas will change their mind," Nabil Amr, the Palestinian information minister, said after the meeting.

Ziad Abu Amr, the Palestinian minister of culture, who was in charge of the cease-fire discussions with Hamas, said, "We hope in the coming days to resume the talks."

Dr. Abu Amr said he planned to travel to Gaza, where the Hamas leadership is based, either today or on Monday. Mr. Abbas was also prepared to go to Gaza in the coming days, but no date had been set, Dr. Abu Amr said.

In any event, this latest attack could undermine the recent moves to revive Middle East peacemaking. The current attempt to implement the peace plan is the most ambitious effort yet to halt 32 months of violence.

Hamas has said that Mr. Abbas's conciliatory remarks in Jordan, where he spoke of the suffering of the Jewish people, failed to address the most important Palestinian demands. These include ending the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, permitting Palestinian refugees to return home, and establishing the capital of a Palestinian state in Jerusalem.

Mr. Abbas told the cabinet on Saturday that he did not specifically address these issues because the peace plan calls for them to be negotiated in its third and final phase. The meeting was intended to generate momentum for the first stage of the plan, he told cabinet members, according to those present.

The peace plan seeks to establish a Palestinian state and resolve the Middle East conflict within three years.

On Saturday night, leading Palestinian political factions held talks among themselves in Gaza to discuss the summit meeting. The parties included Hamas, and the Fatah movement. The Palestinian Authority itself, however, was not represented. Palestinians said the talks were intended to prevent major rifts from developing among the factions.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Palestinian women, adorned in shawls bearing the colors of Hamas, graduated yesterday from a university in the West Bank city of Nablus. (Agence France-Presse)

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2003

## *Bomber died to atone for infidelity*

The Australian

January 20, 2004 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 8

**Length:** 432 words

**Byline:** Abraham Rabinovich

### **Body**

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\* Jerusalem

THE use of women as suicide bombers is now permitted by militant Palestinian group Hamas, Israeli intelligence analysts say, but only as a means of purifying women who have "desecrated family honour" -- a euphemism for having sex outside marriage.

The analysts, who closely monitor the evolving ideology of the Islamic extremist organisation, spoke to reporters in the wake of the first attack by a woman suicide bomber affiliated with Hamas last week in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli newspaper Yedioth Achronot reported that the woman, Reem Raiyshi, a 22-year-old mother of two, was compelled to carry out the attack, which killed four Israelis, as atonement for betraying her husband with another man.

MATP

According to the report, based on Israeli military sources, Raiyshi's husband is a Hamas operative who urged her to carry out the suicide mission.

Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin had long opposed the use of women suicide bombers while most other Palestinian militant groups condone it. Hamas had in the past referred women volunteering for suicide missions to other organisations such as Islamic Jihad.

In Arab society, women are often killed by their closest kin for such transgressions. A suicide attack is now increasingly seen as an acceptable way in which the woman can wipe out the stain she has caused for her family by her moral waywardness. Even here, according to the Israeli analysts, some Hamas leaders believe such women should be employed only in situations where they have a significantly better chance of success than men. In last week's incident, the explosive device strapped to Raiyshi's body had set off a metal detector alarm when she tried to pass through at the Erez crossing point where Palestinian workers enter Israel from the Gaza Strip. When security guards turned her back, she began to weep and said she had a metal support rod in her leg. A guard, disregarding standing orders, took pity on her and permitted the woman to pass through. Israeli officials say that would not likely have happened with a man. Raiyshi blew herself up inside the control point.

A new theology is emerging about woman suicide bombers among some Palestinian Muslim clerics. Male martyrs who blow themselves up in suicide attacks are promised a place in paradise alongside 72 dark-eyed virgins. It would be unseemly to have any comparable reward for female martyrs.

## Bomber died to atone for infidelity

Instead, according to Arab affairs analyst Ehud Yaari, the woman are promised to dwell forever alongside the husband or fiance they have left behind. In cases like Raiyshi's, that could be awkward.

**Load-Date:** January 19, 2004

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End of Document



## *Mideast road map suffers fresh blow*

Guardian Weekly

July 2, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 609 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

**Highlight:** US-led plan under threat after killing of Hamas leader

### **Body**

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Israel delivered another blow to the faltering road map to peace this week with the assassination of a Hamas leader, drawing threats of retaliation from the Islamic organisation and implicit criticism from the US secretary of state, Colin Powell.

Mainstream leaders of the Palestinians accused Israel of jeopardising the US-led peace process, after an undercover army unit shot dead Abdullah Qawasmeh in Hebron.

The Israeli government alleged that Mr Qawasmeh was responsible for organising suicide bombings that claimed more than 50 lives, including the recent attack on a Jerusalem bus in retaliation for another assassination attempt against a Hamas leader.

On Tuesday Israeli forces swept through Hebron and arrested more than 130 Palestinians. The roundup focused on the city's Hamas network, the army said. Palestinian residents said troops rounded up people with any Hamas connections, including relatives of Hamas members.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, praised the latest killing as "a vital action designed to provide security for Israel's citizens". But at a meeting in Jordan with the other powers responsible for the road map -- the United Nations, the European Union and Russia -- Mr Powell was more sceptical, even though he had called Hamas an "enemy of peace" during a visit to Israel last week.

On Monday Mr Powell warned that such killings could further impede the peace process. "I regret that we continue to find ourselves trapped in this action and counter-action, provocation and reaction to provocation. I regret we had an incident that could be an impediment to progress," he said. "It is a matter of concern. It is important to remain committed to moving forward."

A Palestinian cabinet minister, Yasser Abd Rabbo, said the attack in Hebron was evidence that Israel continued to assassinate its opponents, despite promising the Americans that it would only do so to prevent imminent terror attacks. "These operations are meant to obstruct any success of the dialogue to reach a truce," he said.

According to Palestinian witnesses, Mr Qawasmeh was unarmed and standing outside a mosque when he was shot. Israeli officials said he pulled a gun.

The violence came as the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, continued his attempts to persuade Hamas to agree to a ceasefire in its war against Israel.

## Mideast road map suffers fresh blow

Separate American efforts focused on hammering out the terms for an Israeli military withdrawal from all of Gaza except the Jewish settlements. The Palestinians want the lifting of road blocks and checkpoints, as well as an end to assassinations which claim many civilian lives.

At his weekly cabinet meeting Mr Sharon repeated his willingness to hand over responsibility for security in Gaza to the Palestinians, but he again demanded that Mr Abbas do what the Israeli army had failed to do and "uproot terror".

Mr Sharon underscored doubts that he is not serious about removing Jewish "outposts" and other settlements in the occupied territories by telling settlers last weekend to keep building. His comments came after one of his ministers proposed resolving the settler issue by moving them from the West Bank to less populated parts of Israel, such as the Negev desert.

The prime minister rejected the idea, saying that the settlements should go on expanding, but that settlers "should not celebrate the construction, should just build".

At the Middle East summit with President George Bush in Aqaba earlier this month, Mr Sharon committed himself to dismantling nearly 100 Jewish "outposts" in the West Bank. But only a dozen have come down, and about 10 more have been constructed.

[guardian.co.uk/palestinians](http://guardian.co.uk/palestinians)

## Graphic

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Photo, Palestinian women sit in the rubble of their house, demolished last week by Israeli troops, Said Khatib/AFP

**Load-Date:** July 8, 2003

## *Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict*

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 3, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. A19; OPINION

**Length:** 820 words

**Byline:** MONA ELTAHAWY

### **Body**

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When Yasser Arafat was sealing his historic peace deal with the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on a sunny Washington afternoon in September 1993, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, now the **Hamas** leader in Gaza, was living in a makeshift camp in no man's land in south Lebanon. Rabin had deported him there for a year in December 1992, along with 414 other suspected **Hamas** supporters. Clearly a lot has changed since then.

Rabin was assassinated; the peace accords are in tatters; and Arafat is now the exile, a virtual prisoner in his shattered Ramallah compound.

Washington Post

Rantisi, the former deportee, is very much alive and free.

Named **Hamas** Gaza leader after Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin last month, Rantisi assumes his new duties under tight security: Israel tried to kill him last year. Nevertheless, in a show of strength before thousands of **Hamas** supporters in Gaza's main soccer stadium, he promised all-out revenge on Israel.

"We will fight them everywhere. We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation," Rantisi said in his first public remarks after being named leader.

When I interviewed him in Gaza in 1997, he was equally strident.

"The world would be crazy if it thinks Palestinians, not only **Hamas**, will accept to lose a centimetre of Palestine, and by Palestine I mean from the (Mediterranean) sea to the (Jordan) river," he said.

That Rantisi and Israel's hard-line prime minister, Ariel Sharon, are the two leaders left standing in the tortuous Israeli-Palestinian conflict speaks volumes. Each man has marked the other for death: Israel has vowed to target all **Hamas** leaders, and **Hamas** has specifically threatened Sharon.

Sharon, too, has been consistent. What was his order to assassinate Yassin but the latest example in his long history of provocations? It cannot have escaped the minds of Israelis that Sharon is no Rabin, or that he has been unable to deliver security or peace.

Rantisi and Sharon are both predictably belligerent. One could argue forever over who has inflicted the most pain and who is to blame for the bloody spiral of the past 3 1/2 years, during which more than 2,700 Palestinians and nearly 1,000 Israelis have died.

## Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict

What more can Hamas, Islamic Jihad or al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades do to hurt Israel? Since September 2000, they have carried out 112 suicide bombings that have killed 474 people.

What more can Israel do to hurt Palestinians? It has rendered Arafat and the Palestinian Authority ineffectual; it has reoccupied Palestinian towns and has assassinated an old, wheelchair-bound man as he left a mosque after prayers. I understand Yassin's role in legitimizing suicide bombings, but in terms of impact and rousing rage, Israel would be hard put to top his assassination.

In the midst of a maze of violence it is but a small slight to be called a fool for urging moderates to step forward. Sixty prominent Palestinians urged their people last week not to retaliate for Israel's killing of Yassin but instead to transform the violent uprising into a peaceful protest for statehood.

I understand how difficult such a proposition sounds to many Palestinians in Gaza. A column condemning suicide bombings that I wrote recently for the London-based pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat filled my e-mail in-box with condemnations. But some wrote in support.

"We won the first battle during the first Intifada when it was a peaceful movement," a Palestinian man wrote. "We've got a piece of land and an Authority (regardless of good and bad) and now we're losing the second one. We became terrorists because we didn't understand what happened on September 11th, we didn't learn, and we don't want to."

I am not the only Arab to condemn suicide bombings or to call for nonviolent resistance, but how many in the U.S. or in the Arab world hear our voices? And, more important, who will want to hear us when Israel assassinates more Palestinian leaders?

Rantisi and Sharon -- their predictable belligerence cannot win. Suicide bombings and occupation and assassinations will not end this conflict.

The U.S. must bring Palestinians and Israelis back to the negotiating table. The world community, stung by fear and anxiety over terrorism, must exert moral pressure to guide Israelis and Palestinians out of the violence.

Shortly before I met Rantisi in 1997, he had embraced Arafat -- a controversial gesture -- during a "national unity meeting" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The two men, meeting for the first time, kissed each other on the cheek, as is common in the Arab world. Binyamin Netanyahu, who was then Israel's prime minister, told Arafat to choose whether to "embrace Hamas or embrace peace."

The same question is very much relevant today, but I would ask it of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Mona Eltahawy is managing editor of Arabic Women's eNews and a columnist for the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat.

## Graphic

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Photo: Abdel Aziz Rantisi, new Hamas leader (left) in Gaza, must be pressured into compromise so that peace is obtained in the Mideast, Mona Eltahawy writes.

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2004

## **SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 1061 words

**Byline:** GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** EREZ, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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A young Palestinian mother, feigning a limp and requesting medical help, blew herself up yesterday at the entrance to a security inspection center for Palestinian workers, killing four Israeli security personnel and wounding seven people.

The bomber, Reem al-Reyashi, 22, said in a video released after the attack, "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists." Reyashi left behind a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter.

Her attack in an industrial zone at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip was the first Palestinian suicide bombing to kill Israelis since a Dec. 25 blast at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv, which also left four dead. Middle East violence has declined recently, but the blast increased tensions and dealt another blow to peace efforts that have been stalled for months.

Israel responded by immediately shutting down the industrial zone and sending home the roughly 4,000 Palestinian workers employed in its factories.

"Palestinian terrorists are not only committed to striking Israelis at every opportunity, they are also bent on destroying their own economy," said David Baker, an official in the office of Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Palestinians have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings in the past three years of violence. But such attacks have been extremely rare in the fenced-in Gaza Strip, where Palestinian contact with Israelis is largely limited to security checks at such places as Erez.

Reyashi was able to carry out her bombing by momentarily deceiving the soldiers with her claim that she needed medical treatment inside Israel.

She joined the line where the Palestinians go through a security check each morning as they enter the industrial zone.

As she approached the building's entrance, which has a metal detector at the doorway, she was limping, the Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses said. She told soldiers she had a recent leg operation, and a metal pin had been implanted that the detector would register.

## SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

She was allowed to pass, and when the alarm sounded, the soldiers told her to wait while they called a female soldier to search her, the military said.

Seconds later, Reyashi detonated her bomb, estimated at about 10 pounds and packed with ball bearings and screws to make it more lethal, the military said.

The blast tore apart the simple structure, sending part of the roof skyward and leaving behind dangling strips of metal. The floor was sticky with blood and littered with body parts, and blood stains speckled the walls.

Two soldiers, a border police officer and a civilian security guard were killed, and seven people were injured, including both Israeli security personnel and Palestinians heading to work.

Reyashi, who came from a middle-class family in Gaza City, appeared in her video wearing combat fatigues, with an automatic rifle in her hands and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher on the desk in front of her.

"God gave me the ability to be a mother of two children who I love so," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people. I am convinced God will help and take care of my children."

After the bombing, her husband was seen crying outside the family home, and a relative said he had no knowledge of his wife's plans, the Reuters news agency reported.

Hamas, the Islamic movement, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a faction loyal to the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, claimed joint responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians.

"This was a distinguished operation," the Hamas spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, told reporters at his home in Gaza City. He said it was the first time Hamas had dispatched a female bomber -- though other groups have used them -- and he also praised the cooperation with the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

Al-Aqsa is loosely linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, but says it acts independently when carrying out attacks.

Arafat and the Palestinian leadership usually condemn suicide bombings inside Israel, but issued no such statement following yesterday's blast.

The Palestinian leaders rarely criticize attacks against Israeli soldiers or settlers in the West Bank or Gaza, land Israel has occupied since the 1967 Mideast war, and which the Palestinians are seeking for a future state.

Hamas, the group that has carried out the large number of bombings, had not carried out a suicide attack for the past four months. And senior Israeli military officials said last month they believed Hamas had temporarily suspended such attacks.

But Yassin said yesterday, "There is no truce, operations will continue."

Palestinian factions did not use women as suicide bombers at the beginning of the violence three years ago, and some Islamic groups raised questions as to whether it was permitted under Islamic law.

When Yassin was asked why Hamas had decided to send a female bomber, he cited purely practical concerns.

"It could be that a man would not be able to reach the target, and that's why they had to use a woman," he said.

Yesterday's bombing raised the prospect of an escalation in battles between Hamas and the Israeli military.

Last summer, Israel's military struck at four senior Hamas leaders, including Sheik Yassin, while the Islamic faction carried out several suicide bombings.

Yassin was lightly injured in an Israeli air strike on Sept. 6. Three days later, Hamas carried out two suicide bombings, killing 15 Israelis. The next day, another senior Hamas leader was wounded in an Israeli air strike.

## SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

Since then, Israel has pressed ahead with arrest raids targeting **Hamas** members, but has not tried to kill the group's senior leaders.

**Hamas** has frequently launched mortar and rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, but had not carried out any suicide bombings until yesterday.

Meanwhile, the jobs in the industrial zone are highly prized by residents of Gaza, where unemployment is rampant. And some Palestinian workers criticized the bombing, which could keep them away from their jobs indefinitely.

"It's not the proper place for such an operation because we could get killed," said Ibrahim Hiji, who was approaching the security building when it was blown up. "This is the place where we make money to feed our children."

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Lefteris Pitarakis/Associated Press: An Israeli army officer looks on as Palestinian workers lift their shirts to show that they are not carrying explosives as they leave their workplace at the Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: Undated photo: Reem al-Reyashi

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

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**Mideast violence fouls 'road map';  
Attacks by both sides claim 25 victims**

Philadelphia Daily News

June 12, 2003 Thursday 4STAR EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 09

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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The U.S. Middle East peace bid was in turmoil today after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 16 people on a Jerusalem bus and Israeli helicopters killed nine Palestinians in strikes on militants.

Watching his "road map" peace plan engulfed in a new round of killing, President Bush condemned the Jerusalem bombing and called on "all the free world . . . to use every ounce of their power to prevent them."

But promises of more attacks by the militant **Hamas** group, which claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem blast, and a vow by Israel to track down and kill more Palestinian militants bode poorly for U.S. hopes of rekindling its peace initiative.

The suicide bomber, disguised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew, also wounded more than 100 people when he blew himself up on a crowded bus in central Jerusalem during the afternoon rush hour.

One of the wounded in the bombing was the daughter of New Jersey State Sen. Robert Singer, R-Ocean County, according to Israel Radio. Her condition was not known.

The blast tore through the bus near the city's main open-air market.

Minutes later, Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car in Gaza City, killing two top **Hamas** militants and five bystanders. At around midnight, two more **Hamas** militants were killed in a similar strike.

**Hamas** said it had sent the bomber to avenge Israel's botched attempt to assassinate **Hamas** co-founder Abdel Aziz Rantisi in a missile attack on Tuesday.

Israel officials said that the bomber behind yesterday's attack had been sent before its attempt on Rantisi and that 10 suicide bombers had been arrested since the U.S.-brokered peace summit in Jordan last week.



## Mideast violence fouls 'road map'; Attacks by both sides claim 25 victims

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, undeterred by a rare rebuke from Bush for the attempt on Rantissi, vowed to pursue militants "to the fullest extent."

Bush launched the peace plan last week with Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in hopes of ending 32 months of bloodshed. But strike and bloody counterstrike have followed.

Shirli Rafael, 25, a municipal worker, described the scene of yesterday's bus bombing.

"I saw dead people. Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet. I saw a lot of women covered with blood; their skin was scorched. There was a headless body near the door."

Police said the bomb had been packed with nails for maximum effect. The vehicle's windows were shattered and its roof partly blown off.

Scenes of carnage also unfolded in Palestinian-ruled Gaza City, where Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car moments after the Jerusalem bombing.

**Hamas** identified one of the dead militants as Tito Massaoud, a leader of its military wing. An Israeli security source said he had been involved in the launching of home-made Qassam rockets against southern Israel and Jewish settlements in Gaza.

Palestinian sources said the second militant was a former bodyguard for Sheik Ahmed Yassin, **Hamas**' spiritual leader. \*

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

Associated Press

Bodies are lined up at the scene of a suicide bombing of a bus in Jerusalem yesterday.

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2005

**A Move to Save Road Map;  
After 5 violent days, tentative cooperation**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JUNE 14, 2003 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A01

**Length:** 819 words

**Byline:** Aaron Davis KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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After five days of violence, Israeli and Palestinian officials said late yesterday that they would hold immediate security talks to try to salvage a badly tattered peace process. The announcement followed a sixth Israeli air strike yesterday that killed a **Hamas** militant and more threats of violence that could overwhelm peace efforts.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan is expected to tell Israeli officials at a meeting tonight in Jerusalem that he is prepared to take over security control in the northern Gaza Strip and in parts of the Palestinian West Bank - a crucial first step to restarting the stalled peace process known as the road map.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israeli Army Radio last night that he would turn over security control in the embattled stretch of the Gaza Strip to Dahlan "immediately and without preconditions," despite the attacks and counterattacks this week that have left 56 dead.

After Mofaz's statement yesterday, Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat called an emergency meeting with Dahlan and the heads of the five security branches that Arafat still controls. Dahlan and Arafat reportedly agreed to take over security in Gaza, as well as anywhere else where Israel would relinquish control.

It remained unclear whether the tentative steps toward cooperation could reverse a week of violence that has undermined President Bush's drive to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In addition, Arafat's behind-the-scenes role was likely to rankle Washington, which has tried to sideline him for a year and instead is backing Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Dahlan and Abbas had previously balked at taking over security because their forces are depleted from three years of Mideast violence. In addition, the fledgling leaders feared that a failure to curb militants in the areas they control would provide Israel with grounds for reneging on obligations in the road map.

### A Move to Save Road Map; After 5 violent days, tentative cooperation

Palestinian sources said they now believed they had no choice but to take over security to keep the peace process from collapsing.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said yesterday in Washington that he was anxious to see restraint from both sides and a renewed focus on the goals of the peace process.

"We've got to punch our way through [the violence] and get on with the steps called for in the road map," Powell said.

A spokesman for Abbas said last night that Israeli and Palestinian officials had formulated a proposal - under pressure from U.S. and Egyptian officials - to end Israeli missile attacks on Hamas in exchange for a guaranteed cease-fire by Hamas, including an end to incessant homemade rocket fire by militants aimed at Sderot and other Israeli cities within firing range of Gaza.

Senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar denied last night that the group had agreed to any potential cease-fire, but he did confirm that the group had been involved in lengthy discussions with Palestinian officials yesterday - the first since Israel attempted to assassinate Hamas political leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi on Tuesday.

The announcement of today's planned meetings - the first good news for the peace process in more than a week - came after a day of intense mourning from Jerusalem to Gaza City as Israelis and Palestinians paused to bury dozens killed in this week's fighting.

The plan for Israeli-Palestinian security talks came, however, at the same time that Israeli officials warned that the violence would likely get worse before it gets better.

"It's very important to maintain the pressure on these terrorists and take them out before they can carry out murderous acts in Israel," said Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner. "We will forcefully continue our campaign to protect Israeli lives."

Israeli intelligence officials and military commanders acknowledged yesterday that they had been authorized to assassinate Hamas' spiritual founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Such an attack could have unimaginable consequences for the peace plan, since Yassin is considered far more important in the Palestinian street than Abbas or any Palestinian official pursuing peace.

In yesterday's attack that killed Hamas member Fuad Lidawi, 26, Israeli helicopter gunships fired at least two missiles, killing Lidawi less than a block from Yassin's home.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said Lidawi was on his way to carry out rocket attacks against Sderot.

Hours later, helicopters launched a second missile strike at a warehouse in Gaza that Israelis said held Hamas rockets.

The attack was the sixth Israeli missile strike on Hamas officials this week, and it came one day after Hamas issued a warning that all Israeli citizens - and foreigners - were potential targets. Pazner said the warning crossed "a moral red line."

"They admitted they were after women and children," said Pazner, the Israeli spokesman. "I don't think it gets any worse than that. It's unprecedented, even for terrorist groups."

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

A Move to Save Road Map; After 5 violent days, tentative cooperation

Yasir Arafat's role was likely to rankle Washington.

Mohammed Dahlan, Palestinian security chief.

Shaul Mofaz says Israel will turn over some security.

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2005

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End of Document

## **Bombers hit back at Israel: Fifteen die in suicide attacks on troops and nightspot**

The Guardian (London)

September 10, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

### **Body**

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Two **Hamas** suicide bombers killed at least 15 people in attacks yesterday on a busy Jerusalem cafe and on soldiers at a crowded bus stop near Tel Aviv. The blasts came just days after the Islamic organisation had said that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, had "opened the gates of hell" by targeting its leaders for assassination.

Members of Israel's security cabinet were meeting last night to decide how to respond to the attacks, with one official saying that some form of military strike was inevitable. Mr Sharon was expected to cut short a visit to India and return home to ponder his next move.

The explosion in west Jerusalem ripped through a popular nightspot after a security guard challenged the bomber outside a cafe. At least seven people were killed.

Hours earlier, another bomber, possibly disguised as a soldier, killed eight people and left several more fighting for their lives after he mingled with dozens of soldiers at a crowded bus stop outside one of Israel's largest military bases at Assaf Ha Rofeh, south of Tel Aviv. Most of the victims were believed to be troops, although the stop also serves a neighbouring civilian hospital.

**Hamas** claimed responsibility for both attacks. "We say to the Zionists, it is payback time for your daily crimes against Palestinians," it said.

Ahmed Qureia, nominated to be the next Palestinian prime minister, immediately condemned the bombing.

"We condemn all acts of killing that target innocents, whether they be Palestinians or the Israelis who were the victims of today's explosion," he said.

Neither blast was especially large by the grisly standards of the conflict here. But the impact is likely to be acutely felt as Israel makes good on its threat to "liquidate" the **Hamas** leadership, and in the midst of the political crisis in the Palestinian Authority.

President George Bush condemned both bombings as "vicious attacks" and said they underscored the need for the Palestinian leadership to break up terrorist groups.

The Jerusalem blast occurred shortly before midnight in an area of town popular with young people for its late night cafes and bars. "Everything went black," said Mike Kovach, who was sitting in a neighbouring cafe. "Then there

## Bombers hit back at Israel : Fifteen die in suicide attacks on troops and nightspot

was an incredible amount of screaming, and some people were running and some were stumbling about and some just lay there. It really was hell."

Another witness said he looked up after the blast to see a head lying in the street. A few feet away were two bodies underneath the cafe's shredded awning.

In the Assaf Ha Rofeh blast, the bomber targeted a crowd of soldiers waiting at a bus stop outside their military base. Eyal Schneider, a paratrooper who was treated for shock, said: "We were heading to the bus stop and we were just at the foot of the bridge when I heard the explosion. All I could hear was women screaming. There was smoke everywhere."

The bomber mixed nuts and bolts with explosive, producing horrific injuries. Pieces of metal, warped by the force of the explosion, were scattered among shards of flesh and a leg left behind long after the bodies of the victims had been removed, possibly because it belonged to the bomber.

Israelis had been braced for the bombings for three weeks after Hamas threatened revenge for the assassination of Ismail Abu Shanab, one of the four highest leaders of the Islamic resistance movement.

The likelihood of some form of retaliation grew after the Israeli army's botched attempt last week to kill Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who had previously been considered untouchable.

Mr Sharon said Hamas leaders were "marked for death" after the worst bus bombing of the past three years of intifada, when 22 people died in an attack on ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem in mid-August.

The Israeli army has killed at least 12 Hamas activists in targeted assassinations since the bus bombing. Yesterday, the army shot dead a man it said was a Hamas commander in Hebron, Ahmed Badr, after a standoff which saw a 13-year-old boy die from wounds inflicted by a tank shell.

The attacks will fuel pressure on Mr Sharon from some ministers to drive the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, into exile on the grounds that he is blocking the Palestinian Authority from combating "terrorist organisations". It may also provoke further Israeli raids into the Gaza strip, the Hamas stronghold.

Kevin Toolis, page 22

[guardian.co.uk/israel](http://guardian.co.uk/israel)

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2003

## WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

January 16, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 13

**Length:** 344 words

**Highlight:** AMBITION: Reem Raiyshi

### **Body**

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THE young mother-of-two suicide bomber who blew herself up killing four Israelis was given a martyr's funeral in Gaza city yesterday.

Thousands marched through the streets in the funeral procession of Hamas bomber Reem Raiyshi, 22, who left behind a daughter, aged 18 months, and a three-year-old son.

Masked gunmen from both Hamas and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the Hamas green flag, the first time the rival Palestinian militant groups marched together.

"It is not enough to call her a hero. Calling her a hero does not give the whole truth. This woman abandoned her husband and children in order to win paradise," said Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar in eulogy.

It was the first time Hamas had sent a woman on a suicide mission.

"She is not going to be the last attacker because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only on the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," promised Zahar.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

The military did not say why it had decided to return Raiyshi's body to the Palestinians.

Israel closed down the crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs, in response to a suicide bombing that killed four Israelis the day before.

Brigadier General Gadi Shamni, the Israeli military commander in Gaza, indicated Israel would retaliate for the attack.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing," he said.

The bomber was escorted into a room at the Erzes crossing to be checked after telling soldiers she had a metal plate in her leg that set off the metal detector.

Once inside, she blew herself up.

## WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY

In a video made before the attack, Raiyshi, wearing the traditional hijab covering for women, and holding an assault rifle. said: "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for."

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

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End of Document



## THE GATES OF HELL

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. B6; EDITORIAL

**Length:** 513 words

### **Body**

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#### MIDDLE EAST

IT'S HARD to work up much moral indignation over the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founding father of Hamas. Yassin was the "spiritual leader" of an organization that practices its spirituality by murdering innocent men, women and children in Israel.

Still, Israel should ask itself two questions: From a practical standpoint, are targeted killings effective in reducing the number of people killed by the terrorists? And, from a moral standpoint, can Israel still lay claim to moral superiority when it pursues a state-sanctioned policy of targeted assassinations?

The answer to both questions seems to be no. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's expansion of targeted killings has not provided Israelis with greater security. But it has eroded Israel's standing in the eyes of the world. On Monday, European leaders and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan joined in denouncing the killing as a violation of international law.

The United States reacted more mildly. The State Department said it was "troubled" by the bombing but didn't criticize it. Israel successfully deflected U.S. criticism by calling Yassin the Osama bin Laden of Hamas. It's an apt comparison. Just as the United States is justified in trying to kill bin Laden because he is an enemy combatant, Israel argues it was justified in killing Yassin.

The White House stressed Monday that the United States did not know in advance of the attack. But Hamas, which hasn't targeted U.S. interests in the past, said it would hold the U.S. accountable. By killing Yassin, Israel has "opened the gates of hell," Hamas said. In several capitals in the Middle East, demonstrators also blamed the United States.

There is no doubt that the quadriplegic minister was a murderous extremist. He rejected the right of Israel to exist and is believed to have controlled the ebb and flow of Hamas' terrorist attacks. Israel maintained that Yassin personally approved the June 1, 2001 suicide bombing that killed 21 young people at a Tel Aviv discotheque; the March 27, 2002 Seder bombing of a hotel dining room in Netanya that killed 30, and the June 18, 2002 bombing of a Jerusalem bus killing 19.

Yet, in the bizarre context of Palestinian extremism, Yassin was seen as something of a moderating influence. Control of Hamas is now likely to fall to more radical elements that favor even more indiscriminate terrorist attacks.

## THE GATES OF HELL

Complicating the moral equation is speculation that Mr. Sharon sees the killing of Yassin as a step toward Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Mr. Sharon is having trouble getting approval for the plan from his hard-line cabinet and doesn't want to appear to be retreating under fire.

If killing Yassin is a step toward a Palestinian state, then fine. But Israel must avoid perpetuating a cycle of mutual degradation with the Palestinians. Nahum Barnea, an Israeli columnist, has stated the dilemma: "Israel is beginning to imitate the Palestinians," he said. "It all turns into one bloody muddle, with no good guys and no bad guys, no smart guys and no stupid guys, no terrorists and no victims."

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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## **NO ONE'S SAFE**

The Sun

March 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** David Wooding, Whitehall Editor

### **Body**

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Middle East braced for more slaughter as **Hamas** AND Israelis vow to keep on killing.

A NEW wave of violence was set to hit the Middle East last night after Israel and **Hamas** pledged more tit-for-tat slaughter.

**Hamas** leaders said they would massacre thousands of Israelis in revenge for the assassination of Muslim terror boss Ahmed Yassin.

And Israel's top army chief said all Palestinian militant leaders were "in our sights", as the country's security forces were put on high alert.

Last night two Palestinian guerillas were killed in an Israeli air strike before they could fire rockets into Israel from southern Lebanon.

Fear gripped both sides of the divided region as appeals for calm from around the world fell on deaf ears.

New **Hamas** chief Abdelaziz Rantissi warned all Israelis were now targets for his supporters. And he threatened to take bloodshed to a chilling new level with a massive campaign of suicide bombings.

He said: "We say to these murderers, to the terrorists, war is opened. There will be no one revenge, it is an open war.

"We will fight them everywhere. We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation." His fanatical followers responded by chanting: "We will sacrifice our blood and souls for you."

Rantissi fired off his warning as he led thousands of mourners in a tribute to their fallen spiritual leader Yassin.

The wheelchair-bound cleric was executed in a dawn strike by an Israeli gunship in Gaza City on Monday.

Yassin -dubbed the Bin Laden of Palestine -had been blamed by Israel for sending out dozens of fanatics to kill **women** and children. But Rantissi warned that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his supporters "will never feel security or safety".

Israel responded by saying other **Hamas** leaders would be targeted.

Internal security minister Tsahi Hanegbi said: "Everyone is in our sights. There is no immunity to anyone."

## NO ONE'S SAFE

He put Israeli forces on high alert with a huge presence at cafes and on buses - key targets for suicide bombs. In the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian militants fired an anti-tank rocket at an Israeli army position, triggering a gun battle.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie called the killing of Yassin an "ugly crime committed by the government of murderers, the government of Israel".

US President George Bush last night insisted Israel had the right to defend itself against Hamas. And he revealed he may send a delegation to the region next week to revive the peace process.

Mr Bush said: "Israel has the right to defend herself from terror. And as she does so, I hope she keeps consequences in mind as to how to make sure we stay on the path to peace."

As tension in the region reached breaking point, Britain called for calm. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "All sides need to show restraint. Violence and military action will not achieve anything."

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israeli round-up of suspected militants a blow to peace effort*

Financial Times (London, England)

June 25, 2003 Wednesday

London Edition 3

Copyright 2003 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 10

**Length:** 461 words

**Byline:** By HARVEY MORRIS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israeli forces detained more than 160 suspects in the West Bank yesterday, a move that could complicate efforts to secure a ceasefire by militants that had appeared imminent.

A large-scale round-up in Hebron, which the army said was aimed at people suspected of links with Hamas, met no resistance. Witnesses said those detained included some women and teenagers.

In Nablus, five people were arrested after an exchange of fire between soldiers and gunmen.

The arrests came after expectations rose on Monday night that Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, might be close to an Egyptian-sponsored ceasefire deal with Hamas and other militant factions. Commenting on yesterday's West Bank round-up, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Palestinian cabinet minister, said: "These arrests are an attempt to sabotage the understanding with Hamas. Israel does not want a ceasefire."

Ahmed Maher, Egyptian foreign minister, said yesterday he expected the militant groups to declare a ceasefire within the next few days, but added that the truce would only last if Israel exercised restraint.

Israeli officials have expressed concern that a hudna - an Islamic ceasefire that can be declared for a limited period of time, perhaps a few months - would merely allow Hamas and other groups to reorganise and re-arm.

Mr Abbas, however, wants the ceasefire in place to smooth the transfer of security control in the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem from Israel to the Palestinian Authority.

The latest talks on the handover, which would help fulfil part of Israel's obligations under the US-backed "road map", ended without agreement on Monday night. The peace plan's sponsors and Israel see the proposed transfer as a test of the PA's willingness and ability to ensure security in areas under its control.

Ariel Sharon, Israeli prime minister, yesterday told the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee that Israel would pass on to the Palestinian Authority information on terrorist activities being planned in areas transferred to its control. If the PA failed to act, Israel would itself deal with the threat.

## Israeli round-up of suspected militants a blow to peace effort

Those arrested yesterday join an estimated 10,000 Palestinians already in Israeli detention. Mr Abbas has called for their release, while **Hamas** said earlier in negotiations that freeing them was a pre-condition of a ceasefire. After previous similar large-scale round-ups, most suspects have usually been released after questioning.

Also yesterday, in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, five leading members of the Arab-Israeli Islamic Movement went on trial on charges that include fund-raising abroad for a charity linked to **Hamas**. Two of the defendants are also charged with having contact with an Iranian intelligence agent who was seeking recruits to spy on Israel.

[www.ft.com/roadmap](http://www.ft.com/roadmap)

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2003

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End of Document

## *Israel to resume targeted killings as terror leaders go underground*

The Australian

August 22, 2003 Friday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** Abraham Rabinovich

### **Body**

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\* Jerusalem

ISRAELI troops moved into the West Bank city of Nablus before dawn yesterday after the Israeli cabinet approved a series of steps in response to the suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus on Tuesday night that killed 20 people.

The steps include a renewal of assassinations against terrorist leaders. Such attacks were suspended when the ceasefire declared by the Palestinians went into effect six weeks ago.

**Hamas** and Islamic Jihad activists were reported to have gone underground in anticipation of Israeli retaliation. MATP

In contrast to Israel's reaction when the Palestinian intifada broke out three years ago, the cabinet decided not to strike at the Palestinian Authority.

Officials in Jerusalem said they expected Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, to move against the extremists.

"This is the watershed for the moderates in the Palestinian camp who want to achieve a Palestinian state," said Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, a member of Israel's security cabinet. "A civil war is not pleasant but if they don't crack down, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad will never let the authority rule."

Mr Lapid had proposed that the Government refrain from action for 72 hours in order to see whether Mr Abbas and Mr Dahlan were serious about going after the militants.

The Government decided not to wait. The Israeli army destroyed the family home of the Palestinian teacher who blew himself up on the Jerusalem bus, military sources said. They said the army also demolished the homes of three other Palestinian activists in Jenin, Tulkarem, and the village of Haris, south of Nablus.

The level of military action is likely to increase in the coming days but its duration is expected to be limited. Israeli officials said that if the Palestinian Authority began to move against the militants, Israel would scale down its own activity.

Immigration Minister Tsipi Livni told Israel Radio the Israeli retaliation should be short and well aimed but that the army should then withdraw and let the Palestinian Authority move against the militants.

## Israel to resume targeted killings as terror leaders go underground

"The message to the authority should be clear -- we cannot move towards a Palestinian state if it will be a terrorist state."

The nature of the bus attack -- whose victims included women, children and babies -- determined that Israel would strike back hard.

But the Government has not declared an end to the peace process as outlined in the so-called road map drawn up by the international community.

For their part, Hamas and Islamic Jihad say that they consider the ceasefire still to be in effect but that they see themselves free to react to Israeli actions.

Mr Abbas finds himself forced to make an excruciating decision. If he cracks down hard on Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he faces the prospect of a civil war -- one in which he would not have a strong hand. If he does not crack down, he will likely see the peace process to which he is dedicated unravel.

His cabinet decided on Wednesday night to begin a crackdown including the impounding of weapons in the hands of the militants and the banning of armed demonstrations.

Unofficially, Palestinian officials said the authority would also aim to shut down Hamas and Islamic Jihad institutions. It remains to be seen whether these measures will be implemented.

Despite heavy pressure from the US, Mr Abbas and Mr Dahlan have refrained from declaring open war on Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But Palestinian Authority Information Minister Nabil Amr told an Arabic television station that the authority had made a strategic decision to break off talks with the Islamic militants. "Hamas and Islamic Jihad have knifed us in the back," he said.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2003



## **27 Israeli Reserve Pilots Say They Refuse to Bomb Civilians**

The New York Times

September 25, 2003 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

**Length:** 689 words

**Byline:** By GREG MYRE

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, Sept. 24

### **Body**

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Twenty-seven reserve pilots in the Israeli Air Force presented a signed petition tonight saying that they would not take part in "illegal and immoral" strikes in Palestinian areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The airstrikes, aimed at **Hamas** militants, sometimes kill Palestinian civilians.

"We refuse to participate in air force attacks on civilian populations," said the letter, which was sent to the head of the air force, Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz. "We refuse to continue harming innocent civilians."

The petition is similar to a letter signed by hundreds of reserve soldiers who have pledged not to serve in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Most of the pilots who signed the petition have not been on active duty in recent years, the air force said. It was not clear whether any had been involved in the strikes.

Israel calls the strikes "targeted killings." They have broad support among Israelis, with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government saying they are the most effective way to attack terrorists who hide among civilians.

The Israeli news media said one of the petition's signers was Yiftach Spector, a brigadier general in the reserves, who took part in the bombing of the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981.

In a sharp response to the pilots' letter, General Halutz said members of the military should not take political positions. "We do not choose our wars or missions," he said on Israeli television.

"We will continue to hunt terrorists," he said, adding, "We have no intention of harming civilians."

One recent Israeli target, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, emerged today for the first time since he was lightly wounded on Sept. 6 in the bombing of a Gaza City apartment where he was meeting with **Hamas** members.

In a news conference at a Gaza City mosque, the defiant sheik said **Hamas** was not prepared to call off its bombing campaign, and he accused President Bush of declaring war on Islam.

"Resistance and holy war are the only choices for victory," he said. "We promised God and we promised the people that we won't surrender and we won't raise white flags."

## 27 Israeli Reserve Pilots Say They Refuse to Bomb Civilians

"Bush today is declaring war on Islam. He has to understand that those who have faith are not afraid of threats, and that Islam is stronger than Bush."

The direct criticism of Mr. Bush was somewhat unusual; **Hamas** usually focuses on the conflict with Israel and avoids otherwise irritating the United States.

The remarks came a day after President Bush, speaking at the opening of the the United Nations General Assembly, defended American military action that toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

"He is going to lose in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine," Sheik Yassin said.

Until recently the top **Hamas** leaders appeared frequently in public, speaking at large rallies and granting frequent interviews.

But since Israeli forces began striking at the group's senior leaders, they have gone into hiding. Israel has struck at four of the top figures since June, killing one and wounding three.

Sheik Yassin said today that **Hamas** would keep attacking Israel and would not allow itself to be disarmed by the Palestinian government or anyone else. He said his movement would not take part in the new Palestinian government being formed by Ahmed Qurei.

After high school, most Israeli men perform three years of military service, while **women** serve for two years. After that, the men are liable for annual reserve duty of up to a month. Some of the soldiers who have refused duty have been jailed for the amount of time they were supposed to serve. The military says the number refusing to serve remains quite small in a country where service is so widespread.

The region has been relatively quiet for two weeks, but daily violence persists.

Israeli troops searching houses in Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, uncovered explosives in two homes and clashed with Palestinian gunmen before dawn today, the military said.

An 18-year-old Palestinian man was killed and at least 10 Palestinians were wounded, according to witnesses and doctors at the Rafah hospital. The Israelis demolished the two homes with explosives.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Sheik Ahmed Yassin of **Hamas** denounced President Bush. (Photo by Reuters)

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2003

## **Bus and airstrike carnage rock M-E**

Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

June 13, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 392 words

### **Body**

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THE US Middle East peace proces was in turmoil yesterday after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 16 people on a Jerusalem bus and wounded 100, and Israeli helicopter gunships killed nine Palestin- ians in airstrikes on militants.

Watching his 'road map' peace plan engulfed in a new round of bloodshed, US President George W. Bush condemned the Jerusalem bus bombing and called on 'all the free world . . . to use every ounce of their power to prevent them'.

But promises of more attacks by the extremist group **Hamas**, which claimed responsibility for the Jeru- salem blast, and a vow by Israel to track down and kill Palestinian terrorists bode poorly for US hopes of rekindling its peace bid.

Sixteen Israelis were killed and more than 100 wounded when a Palestinian bomber disguised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew detonated a nail-laced bomb on a bus near Jerusalem's main open-air market during the afternoon rush hour. The blast decapitated passengers, strewing the street with body parts.

"I saw dead people. Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet. I saw a lot of **women** covered with blood, their skin was scorched. There was a headless body near the door," said witness Shirli Rafael.

Minutes later, Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car in Gaza City, killing two top **Hamas** militants and five bystanders. About midnight, two more **Hamas** militants were killed in another helicopter missile strike.

**Hamas** said it sent the bomber to avenge Israel's botched attempt to assassinate **Hamas** co-founder Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi in a missile attack in Gaza a day earlier.

However, Israel officials said the bomber behind the bus attack was sent before its attempt to kill al-Rantissi and that 10 would-be suicide bombers had been arrested by Israeli forces since last week's US-brokered peace talks in Jordan. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat condemned both the Jerusalem bombing and the Israeli strikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, undeterred by a rare rebuke from Mr Bush for the strike on Rantissi, vowed to pursue 'terrorists to the fullest extent', but he also said Israel was deeply committed towards peace.

Mr Bush launched the peace plan last week with Mr Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, in the hope of ending 32 months of conflict.

Both the UK and France con- demned the Jerusalem bus blast.

Bus and airstrike carnage rock M-E

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

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End of Document

## **ISRAEL ROUNDS UP SUSPECTED MILITANTS IN WEST BANK**

The Independent (London)

June 25, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 278 words

**Byline:** MAZEN DANA IN HEBRON

### **Body**

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ISRAELI TROOPS rounded up more than 130 Palestinians in sweeps for suspected militants yesterday, prompting Palestine to accuse Israel of trying to sabotage any efforts to reach a ceasefire.

The raids in Nablus and Hebron, the two largest West Bank cities, added to tensions already surrounding faltering moves to implement a US-backed road-map for peace.

The Palestinian Prime Minister, Abu Mazen, has been trying to persuade Hamas and other militant groups to call a temporary truce with Israel.

But Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader wounded in an Israeli assassination attempt on 10 June, said: "We are facing a Zionist assault and it is not logical to ask us to accept a truce under these conditions."

Talks between senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials ended with no final agreement early yesterday morning on a proposed withdrawal of Israeli troops from the northern Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Within hours, Israeli forces launched raids in the West Bank in operations the army said were aimed at Hamas "terrorists and their helpers".

An army spokeswoman said that about 130 Palestinians, including suspected militants and people wanted for questioning, were rounded up in Hebron. She said five suspects were arrested in Nablus after clashes with gunmen.

Khaled Amayreh, a journalist who lives near Hebron, described many of those detained as Hamas sympathisers rather than activists. He said that they included elderly men, some women and young teenagers.

The Palestinian Authority says that such actions, including Israel's track-and-kill operations against militants, severely undermine its efforts to secure a truce. (Reuters)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2003

**Middle East crisis: Gaza: Dead, the people who tried to help: Furious crowds cry out for revenge in city streets**

The Guardian (London)

June 12, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 5

**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** Conal Urquhart in Jerusalem

## **Body**

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The news of the Jerusalem suicide bombing had not even hit the streets of Gaza City when between three and six missiles slammed into a line of slow-moving cars in the Saja'iyah district of the city.

Nobody expected a second Israeli rocket attack so soon after the previous day's failed attempted assassination of Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, a senior political leader in Hamas.

The streets were filled with people going to the market to buy food for their evening meals as Gaza City came to life again after sheltering from the mid-afternoon heat.

The market and the streets around it are among the busiest places in Gaza City. When the attack occurred, thousands of people were milling around and cars were jammed around the market place.

The target - part of Israel's ongoing operations against Hamas leaders - was a small Fiat car carrying Tito Massaoud, 35, a bodyguard of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and another Hamas member, Sohail Abu Nahel, 29.

Their car was in a traffic jam when it was hit by missiles from an Israeli Apache helicopter. Instinctively, crowds rushed to the burning wreck to see what had happened and to try to help.

Two more missiles hit the car or its immediate vicinity, killing three men and two women standing near it.

At this point, the crowds began running away from the burning wreck and the danger of more attacks.

The vehicle was stuck in a traffic jam, said shopkeeper Massoud Ramadan, 65, who witnessed the strike.

"When we started trying to evacuate them from the car, another missile attack took place while a huge number of people were gathering trying to help the wounded." Mr Ramadan, who was wounded by shrapnel, was among a number taken to hospital.

"Two missiles hit the car. I stopped my car to help them but the Israeli helicopters fired four more missiles at us," Mohammed, a Palestinian in his 40s who was wounded in the attack, said at a nearby hospital.

"When they took the bodies out of the car, I cannot tell you how they looked. It was terrifying," added Abu Raed Hmeid, who was one of the first to rush to the scene.

Middle East crisis: Gaza: Dead, the people who tried to help: Furious crowds cry out for revenge in city streets

"The helicopter fired missiles at a car and left it to burn," another witness said. "Pools of blood, cut-off body parts, cut-off heads - this is what I saw."

The wreck was unrecognisable as a car and the corpses were unrecognisable as human beings, said witnesses.

Hundreds of people, chanting for revenge, rushed to the scene as a fire truck poured water on the car. Many chanted: "No to Abu Mazen's peace, yes for resistance."

Jamil Hamdia, 35, cried as he carried his 11-year-old wounded cousin in the hallway of Shifa hospital. "Where is Abu Mazen to come and see?" wailed Hamdia, referring to the new Palestinian prime minister by his nickname. "Are we cheap, to be killed like this?"

Dr Moawiya Hassanain, director of Shifa hospital, told the Associated Press news agency that seven people were killed and 30 wounded in the missile strike. Among the wounded were eight children under the age of 14.

An Israeli official said the rocket attack was not in retaliation for the bus bombing, but was a planned effort to kill **Hamas** militants.

The Israeli official said Mr Massaoud, 36, was in charge of producing and firing homemade rockets into Israel.

Palestinian security sources said he was the commander of the **Hamas** military wing in northern Gaza and had served as a personal assistant to **Hamas** military leader Salah Shehadeh - who was killed by Israel last July - and masterminded several attacks against Israeli targets in Gaza and elsewhere.

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

**Truce possible in Mideast; Egyptian mediators try to salvage peace plan  
after week of violence**

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

June 16, 2003 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A1; NEWS

**Length:** 1100 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

## **Body**

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Egyptian mediators asked Palestinian militants yesterday to halt attacks on Israel in an effort to rescue a U.S.-backed peace plan that foundered after more than a week of violence. Israel's prime minister suggested he might accept a limited truce.

Palestinian officials said there were expectations that the current ceasefire efforts might succeed where others had failed, despite militia leaders' renewed assertions they will not lay down their arms.

In Maine, U.S. President George W. Bush said he was confident of eventual peace between the longtime enemies, with a Palestinian state existing in peace beside Israel.

Associated Press

After a weekend meeting between Israeli and Palestinian security officials, both sides said Israel was considering a gradual withdrawal from Bethlehem and parts of the Gaza Strip, leaving security to the forces of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

Addressing a cabinet meeting yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that if militants agree to a ceasefire, Israel would, for the most part, respect it.

"If no one fires on us, we will not return fire, except in cases of ticking bombs," a cabinet official quoted Sharon as saying.

Until now, Sharon had rejected the truce idea out of hand, demanding an immediate crackdown on the militants, including arresting their leaders.

However, Sharon's new comments appeared highly conditional. Until recently, the phrase "ticking bomb" defined a militant about to carry out an attack. Then the Israelis widened the definition after a botched effort to assassinate **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi last week, calling him a "ticking bomb." That indicated that even if **Hamas** agrees to a truce, its leaders might not be safe from Israeli strikes that could rekindle violence.

In a reflection of the unpredictable dynamic of the conflict, other hopeful signs emerged over the weekend for the so-called "road map" plan, which envisions an end to 32 months of violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.



## Truce possible in Mideast; Egyptian mediators try to salvage peace plan after week of violence

In talks Saturday with Israeli Maj. Gen. Amos Gilad, Dahlan proposed that Israeli troops withdraw from large areas of Gaza to positions held before the outbreak of fighting in September 2000. He asked Israel to pull out of the West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Ramallah, the Palestinians' administrative centre.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said yesterday he is considering a withdrawal from Bethlehem and parts of Gaza and said meetings with the Palestinians would continue.

In a first phase, Israel would pull out of the northern Gaza towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. Despite the talks, Israeli forces entered Beit Hanoun early yesterday, setting off a firefight that killed one Palestinian and wounded seven, doctors said.

And U.S. officials, underscoring their country's commitment to the peace plan, arrived in the region to monitor its implementation.

The two Egyptian mediators, assistants to Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, arrived in Gaza City yesterday for ceasefire talks with Palestinian militants, most importantly with the group Hamas.

They held a preliminary meeting with top members of Abbas' mainstream Fatah movement yesterday afternoon; Fatah also has carried out attacks, despite Abbas' call for them to stop.

Zakaria al-Agha, a senior Fatah leader, said a meeting with all Palestinian groups was planned for today.

"I am optimistic that all the Palestinian factions will work together," he said after yesterday's meeting.

The mediators then went for talks at Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin's house.

### NO DETAILS REVEALED

Afterward, Hamas spokesman Ismail Abu Shanab read a statement saying Hamas would consider some Egyptian proposals, but he did not give details or take questions.

"The Egyptians offered ideas supporting the Palestinian national cause," he said. "We promised to study the ideas and give them an answer soon."

The Egyptians left without speaking to journalists.

The renewed violence came after a bloody week in which dozens were killed on both sides in bombings, shootings and missile attacks.

The violence also spurred intense U.S. mediation to rescue the peace plan, which Bush launched at a June 4 summit in Aqaba, Jordan, with Abbas and Sharon.

Bush said yesterday the world must deal harshly with Hamas and other militant groups that he said were trying to sabotage the peace process.

He added: "I'm confident we can achieve peace. It's going to be a tough road, but I am determined to continue to lend the weight of this government to advance peace."

Dov Weisglass, a top Sharon aide, meets U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in Washington today. Secretary of State Colin Powell and other senior representatives of the road map sponsors -- the United States, the United Nations, Russia and the European Union -- plan to meet Thursday in Jordan.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Wolf, leading a team of American officials in the region to supervise implementation of the road map, will meet Israeli officials today and with Dahlan and Abbas tomorrow, Israel radio said.

Truce possible in Mideast; Egyptian mediators try to salvage peace plan after week of violence

The road map plan calls for Abbas to dismantle militant groups. Israel has demanded a crackdown, but Abbas said he preferred to negotiate a ceasefire, fearing a crackdown would lead to civil war.

Truce talks broke up a week ago, but Palestinian officials said they were optimistic an agreement could be reached. Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr quoted an Abbas envoy to the talks as saying progress had been made.

However, for now the Palestinian factions propose at best to halt attacks in Israel, but not in the West Bank and Gaza, al-Agha said.

**Hamas** officials in Gaza have been most vocal in rejecting a truce, particularly after Israel tried to kill Rantisi last week. A seven-year-old girl wounded in that air attack died yesterday.

### **HAMAS** STATES CONDITIONS

Sources close to the talks said **Hamas** leaders abroad are willing to consider a comprehensive ceasefire, provided Israel promises to halt targeted killings, incursions and other military strikes.

In other developments yesterday:

Israel said two British bombers sent to blow up a Tel Aviv bar April 30 were sent by **Hamas**. Three Israelis were killed when one of the bombers blew himself up. The other escaped and was found dead several days later. Until now, no link had been made between them and a local group, and **Hamas** did not claim responsibility.

The Israeli settlement watchdog group Peace Now said settlers have established four more outposts in the West Bank in recent days after the military last week dismantled 10 such enclaves, in line with the road map.

## **Graphic**

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Colour Photo: Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (left) and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are trying to get the road map to peace back on track.; Colour Photo: Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are trying to get the road map to peace back on track.; Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; **Women** peer from a window as Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas arrives at his office to attend a weekly cabinet meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2003

**Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing**

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 23, 2004

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**Section:** Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 23

**Length:** 637 words

## **Body**

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Ariel Sharon may not have felt he had crossed any red lines by ordering the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. The leader of **Hamas** had already been "marked for death" in January after the worst bus bombing in three years. Four months earlier, he escaped with minor injuries after two missiles had slammed into the wrong floor of his Gaza apartment block. The month before that, his deputy, Ismail Abu Shanab, was killed by Israeli helicopter gunships. So Mr Sharon may feel that "the gates of hell" have been opened before, and Israel has survived. The same calculation looks very different from the point of view of the Palestinian militants. The response they will unleash on Israel is bound to be qualitatively different. A total of 62 Palestinians have been killed in the last month by Israeli action in the Gaza and the West Bank, many of them **Hamas**. But Sheikh Yassin was different. Fire-breathing oaths of revenge and retribution are standard fare, but there was a real intensity about the scenes yesterday, when over 200,000 turned out onto the streets of Gaza City, 10,000 out on the streets in Cairo, 15,000 in Jordan, while thousands more marched in the Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen. Sheikh Yassin and the twisted remains of his wheelchair could, in death, be a far more potent symbol of Palestinian revolt than he was in life.

The question, as always is, why and why now? The dissenting voice in the Israeli cabinet, interior minister Avraham Poraz, said that Yassin had not been a "ticking bomb". Ahmed Qureia, the Palestinian prime minister, claimed Yassin was a "moderating" influence within **Hamas** and that his murder opened the door wide to chaos. If Yassin was being a "moderating" influence when he encouraged young Palestinian **women** to follow the example of a 22-year-old Palestinian mother of two who blew herself up at a checkpoint in Gaza killing four Israelis, then it would be good to know what course an immoderate **Hamas** leader would advocate. But with the death of Shanab and, to a lesser extent, Yassin, **Hamas** lost the two leaders associated with the emerging de facto Islamist acquiescence of a two-state solution: the acceptance of 22% of historical Palestine as an interim solution and the deferment of the armed struggle against Israel to "future generations". The timing of Yassin's assassination is also unclear. He lived openly in Gaza and could have been killed any time in the last five years. What does Israel gain from killing him now? Does it truly believe that beheading **Hamas** will make a pullout from Gaza easier? Or is Mr Sharon playing to a domestic audience, acting as the bulldog of Israel, when in fact he is about to make (in Israeli terms only) a large territorial concession?

Draw back from the calculus of killing in the Middle East, and the picture gets no clearer. The foreign secretary, Jack Straw, in an unusually forthright condemnation, described the targeted assassination of Yassin as, "unlawful unacceptable and unjustified". But Britain's denunciation of Israel is surely weakened by its acceptance of the same tactic of targeted assassinations, when the targets are suspected al-Qaida leaders, in Yemen, Afghanistan and Iraq. What is new about killing Islamic spiritual leaders? That is what the post 9/11 reality allows Israel to say. Who is Bin Laden, if not, in one sense, an Islamic spiritual leader? The answer is that everything is wrong with targeted assassinations if, as Peace Now says, the effect is to pour barrels of petrol on a fire that is already out of control. In the 1980s Israel supported **Hamas**, when it was the fledgling cultural movement countering Yasser Arafat's secular

Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing

Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel will one day have to negotiate with the enemy it helped create, but that day, after yesterday's killings, is further away than ever.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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## *Israel closes crossing after suicide bombing*

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** World; Pg. D5; Crime

**Length:** 293 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- The first ***female Hamas*** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral Thursday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip for a day to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone.

Associated PressThe workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become harder following the bombing -- but few were willing to openly blame militants for their new hardship.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time that ***Hamas*** dispatched a ***female*** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," ***Hamas*** leader Mahmoud Zahar said Thursday.

An Israeli closure shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs would be allowed to cross.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize ***Hamas***, questioned the wisdom of the target. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42, who works in a food factory near the Israeli town of Ashkelon.

Even such veiled criticism remains relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble in private about tighter travel bans or other hardships caused by the militants' actions. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

### **Graphic**

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Photo: Associated Press; Palestinian militants attend the funeral of suicide bomber Reem Raiysh in Gaza City, Thursday

Israel closes crossing after suicide bombing

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

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**THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE PALESTINIANS; At Gaza Funeral, Arab Anger Boils and Israel Tightens Checkpoints**

The New York Times

August 23, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1152 words

**Byline:** By FRANK BRUNI

**Dateline:** GAZA, Aug. 22

## **Body**

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Thousands of enraged Palestinians at the funeral here of a slain **Hamas** official vowed today to take sweeping revenge against Israel, which signaled that it would continue to hunt down the leaders of militant groups.

As tension built throughout Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Israeli troops opened fire on three Palestinian militants on the rooftop of a hospital in Nablus, on the West Bank, according to witnesses and the Israeli military.

Witnesses said one of the men on the rooftop was killed and two were gravely wounded; an Israeli military official said he could confirm only that several men were wounded. The official said the men were members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a violent group connected to the mainstream Fatah faction of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Far to the south, here in Gaza City, a sprawling crowd of what some observers estimated to be more than 10,000 Palestinians filled the streets around a mosque, then marched dozens of blocks to a cemetery. All the while, they chanted promises of martyrdom for Palestinian suicide bombers and death to Israelis in retaliation for the killing of Ismail Abu Shanab, a senior **Hamas** political leader, in an Israeli airstrike on Thursday. His remains were carried through the streets in a green **Hamas** flag.

"The response is coming in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, another **Hamas** leader, as he moved between the mosque and the cemetery.

All around him, loudspeakers on vans and trucks broadcast voices that swore revenge. To punctuate that point, some Palestinians fired rifles into the air.

Along the boundary between Gaza and Israel, the Israeli military seemed to be fortifying its forces. Palestinians said they expected an imminent incursion by Israeli troops.

Inside Gaza, the Israeli military established roadblocks along the main north-south highway, cutting Gaza into pieces and severely hindering residents' ability to move about. The removal of those check points during a relative lull in violence over the last two months had been seen as an important gesture by Israelis.

## THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE PALESTINIANS At Gaza Funeral, Arab Anger Boils and Israel Tightens Checkpoints

The Israeli military said it reestablished the checkpoints in response to the firing of rockets and mortar shells by Hamas at Jewish settlements in Gaza and at Israeli towns over the boundary. There were no reports of injuries.

Today's developments reflected the profoundly tense state of affairs toward the end of a tumultuous week.

On Tuesday night, a suicide bomber affiliated with Hamas killed 20 passengers aboard a bus in Jerusalem. That bombing and the killing of Mr. Abu Shanab and two of his bodyguards by Israeli forces plunged the American-backed peace plan, known as the road map, into uncertainty.

As Israelis braced today for more suicide bombings and large numbers of police officers reappeared in downtown Jerusalem, diplomats scurried to patch up the peace effort.

A special envoy sent by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt visited Mr. Arafat today in Ramallah, his West Bank headquarters. The envoy, Osama el-Baz, told reporters, "All sides have to take steps to avoid escalation and implement the road map."

Scott McClellan, the White House press secretary, echoed that appeal.

"All parties have a responsibility to do everything they can to end terrorism," Mr. McClellan told journalists traveling with President Bush in the United States. "I can't emphasize that point enough."

While the White House urged the two parties to work together, President Bush today ordered the Treasury Department to block and freeze the assets of six top Hamas leaders and five organizations that help finance the group.

Israeli officials have demanded that Palestinian leaders arrest members of militant groups and dismantle them, one element of the peace plan. Palestinian leaders said that they had intended to take such steps but that the killing of Mr. Abu Shanab had thwarted them.

Today, the Palestinian leadership repeated its promise to crack down on the militant groups if Israel suspends all military action.

Many Palestinians said in interviews today that any such action by Palestinian leaders would be unacceptable and could lead to a civil war among Palestinians. That emphatically stated position seemed to leave Palestinian leaders with limited room to maneuver.

It left Israel determined to do the work of striking against militant groups itself. "Either they destroy terrorism or terrorism will destroy them," said a senior Israeli official, referring to the Palestinians.

Over the last 24 hours, Israeli tanks and other armored vehicles moved through three West Bank cities, Jenin, Tulkarm and Nablus.

Among Palestinians in Gaza City today, the anger was palpable. Around noon, hundreds of Palestinians crammed an intersection outside a new house into which Mr. Abu Shanab had recently moved to pay tribute to him.

"Your blood won't go in vain," shouted a man thronged by cheering, chanting members of Hamas. "Hamas, you are the rocket, and we are the bullets."

In between his proclamations, the sound of wailing women could be heard from the house. Mr. Abu Shanab's flag-draped remains were brought out on an orange stretcher, and as members of Hamas carried it under a brutal sun more than a mile to the mosque, the procession of mourners swelled into the thousands.

A loudspeaker blared the declaration: "Our one constitution is the Koran. Jihad is our only road. The best ambition for us is to die as martyrs."



## THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE PALESTINIANS At Gaza Funeral, Arab Anger Boils and Israel Tightens Checkpoints

Around the mosque, representatives from militant groups, including Fatah and Islamic Jihad, gathered under their respective flags. Some militants wore camouflage uniforms and black hoods.

Children who appeared to be just 5 years old hoisted green **Hamas** flags that were nearly as big as they were. Vans and trucks were decorated with hastily made placards that bore photographs of Mr. Abu Shanab and his bodyguards and portrayed them as martyrs for the Palestinian cause.

Speaking at the funeral, Mr. Rantisi, who was himself wounded recently in an Israeli missile attack, said Israel would accomplish nothing by killing militant leaders. "They think that targeting leaders will stop jihad," he said, the Arabic word for a holy war. "They are mistaken."

Elsewhere in Gaza, Palestinians who went about their daily business said that they had lost what slender hope they had for the peace plan, and that they were braced for renewed, perhaps intensified violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

"There will be no truce," said a man who identified himself as Abu Hossam, 53, an ambulance driver. His voice was more sorrowful than truculent.

But Abu Emad Ammar, 31, a bakery worker, responded to a question about what might lie ahead with a fiery declaration of defiance.

"I'm not afraid," Mr. Ammar said. "What could be worse than our daily lives?"

He made one prediction, and it reflected the pessimism that deepened its roots here today: "We won't lose if they come and kill us. We will die as martyrs."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: Israeli tanks were massed yesterday at the entrance to the Gaza Strip near the Erez Crossing as Islamic groups proclaimed an end of the truce that was to have led to peace. (Photo by Reuters); An Israeli bulldozer yesterday put concrete blocks across a highway near Netzarim, a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. The action followed the threat by **Hamas** to take revenge for the killing of one of its leaders. (Photo by Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

**Load-Date:** August 23, 2003

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**Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination**

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

February 2, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A12; News

**Length:** 676 words

**Byline:** Josef Federman

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defence minister said yesterday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

The Associated Press

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. Hamas took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, and Hamas officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad -- often prompting a violent response. In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months. Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Ze'ev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

Hamas, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the past three years, also seemed to have scaled back its activities until a female suicide bomber killed four Israelis on Jan. 14.

Yassin encouraged kidnapping Israeli soldiers a day after Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners as part of an exchange with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah for a businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination

Yassin said it has become extremely difficult to capture soldiers, apparently trying to explain why Hamas has failed to free the 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Also yesterday, Israeli troops raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months, killing a Palestinian militant. The fighting forced many residents to stay indoors on the first day of Eid.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

There were no Israeli casualties, and the army withdrew in the afternoon.

The dead militant was Shadi Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades member from Jenin who apparently sought refuge in Jericho. Israeli security officials said Jaradat, 23, was planning a bomb attack inside Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel said the United States and individual European Union states are supporting its position in the upcoming case on the West Bank barrier before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. Israel maintains the court is not the proper forum for the issue.

Israel says the barrier is needed to protect against suicide bombers, while the Palestinians say the structure, which dips deep into the West Bank in some parts, is a seizure of their land.

The United Nations General Assembly, with Palestinian backing, has sent the case to the court for an advisory opinion.

However, the EU itself has not taken a position, say officials at its headquarters in Brussels.

"If the court takes this on ... then there is no end to what political disputes could reach the court, and this could politicize the court," said Alan Baker, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

The complex of trenches, fences, walls and razor wire is one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and both sides see the Feb. 23 court hearing as an important battleground for determining the project's fate.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2004

## MIDEAST TALKS ON AS ATTACKS CONTINUE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 955 words

**Byline:** AARON DAVIS, KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israeli and Palestinian officials said late yesterday that they would resume peace talks focused on security issues today for the first time since meeting in Aqaba, Jordan. The announcement followed a sixth Israeli airstrike yesterday that killed a Hamas activist and more threats of future violence that could overwhelm peace efforts.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan is expected to tell Israeli officials at a meeting today in Jerusalem that he is prepared to take over security control in the northern Gaza Strip, and in parts of the Palestinian West Bank -- a crucial first step to restarting the stalled road map peace process.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israeli Army Radio last night that he would turn over security control in the embattled stretch of the Gaza Strip to Dahlan "immediately and without preconditions," despite the attacks and counterattacks this week that have left 56 dead.

Following Mofaz's statement yesterday, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called an emergency meeting with Dahlan and the heads of the five security branches that Arafat still controls. The two reportedly agreed to accept the Israeli offer to take over security in Gaza, as well as anywhere else where Israel would relinquish control.

It remained unclear whether the tentative steps toward cooperation could reverse a week of violence that has undermined President Bush's drive to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In addition, Arafat's behind-the-scenes role was likely to rankle Washington, which has tried to sideline him for a year and instead is backing Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Dahlan and Abbas had previously balked at taking over security because their forces are depleted from three years of Mideast violence. In addition, the fledgling leaders feared that a failure to curb militants in the areas they control would provide Israel with grounds for reneging on obligations in the road map.

Palestinian sources said they now believe that they have no choice but to take over security to keep the road map process from collapsing.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday in Washington that he was anxious to see restraint from both sides and a renewed focus on the goals of the peace process. "We've got to punch our way through [the violence] and get on with the steps called for in the road map," he said.

## MIDEAST TALKS ON AS ATTACKS CONTINUE

A spokesman for Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas said last night that Israeli and Palestinian officials had formulated a proposal -- under pressure from U.S. and Egyptian officials -- to end Israeli missile attacks on Hamas in exchange for a guaranteed cease-fire by Hamas, including an end to incessant homemade rocket fire by militants aimed at Sderot and other Israeli cities within firing range of Gaza.

Senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar denied last night that the militant group had agreed to any potential cease-fire, but he did confirm that the group had been involved in lengthy discussions with Palestinian officials yesterday -- the first since Israel on Tuesday attempted to assassinate Hamas political leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

The announcement of today's planned meetings -- the first good news for the peace process in more than a week -- came after a day of intense mourning from Jerusalem to Gaza City as Israelis and Palestinians paused to bury dozens killed in this week's fighting.

The plan for Israeli-Palestinian security talks came, however, at the same time that Israeli officials warned that the violence would likely only get worse before it gets better.

"It's very important to maintain the pressure on these terrorists and take them out before they can carry out murderous acts in Israel," said Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner. "We will forcefully continue our campaign to protect Israeli lives."

Israeli intelligence officials and military commanders acknowledged yesterday that they've been authorized to assassinate Hamas' white-robed, spiritual founder, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin. Such an attack could have unimaginable consequences on the peace plan, since Yassin is considered far more important in the Palestinian street than Abbas or any Palestinian official pursuing peace.

In yesterday's attack that killed Hamas activist Fuad Lidawi, 26, Israeli helicopter gunships fired at least two missiles, killing Lidawi less than one block from Yassin's home. An Israeli military spokeswoman said Lidawi was on his way to carry out rocket attacks against Sderot.

Hours later, helicopters launched a second missile strike at a warehouse in Gaza, saying it held Hamas rockets.

Witnesses said they heard fighter jets streak over Gaza's Sabra neighborhood moments before the attack. Israel in the past has used jets to muffle the sound of approaching helicopters.

"I was getting out of the mosque when the car was hit, I didn't hear the sound of the helicopter," said Anter Slim, 19. "I heard a tremendous sound of the jets."

When the first missile hit, Lidawi's white Mazda "jumped in the air," said Ramez Doghmosh, 24. "I ran with other people. I saw a man with all his body burned."

The attack was the sixth Israeli missile strike on Hamas officials this week, and it came one day after Hamas issued a warning that all Israeli citizens -- and foreigners -- are potential terror targets. Pazner said the warning crossed "a moral red line."

"They admitted they were after women and children," Pazner said. "I don't think it gets any worse than that. It's unprecedented, even for terrorist groups."

Also yesterday, an Israeli settler was killed and two others were critically wounded in the West Bank in ambushes by the Palestinian militant group, al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade. Al Aqsa is the militant wing of Arafat's Fatah party.

## Graphic

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## MIDEAST TALKS ON AS ATTACKS CONTINUE

Photo: Oded Balilty/Associated Press: An ultra-Orthodox Jew walks between the graves at the Givat Shaul cemetery in Jerusalem after yesterday's funeral for Alen Beer, one of 17 people killed in Wednesday's bus bombing.

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2003

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## *The Killing of the Sheikh*

The Forward

March 26, 2004

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**Section:** Editorial; Pg. 6

**Length:** 918 words

### **Body**

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We do not celebrate this week. Israel has escalated the Middle East conflict into unknown and dangerous new territory with its killing of the *Hamas* leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. The rules, such as they were, have been upended. All leaders are now fair game. Palestinian rage and determination to attack Israel have been scaled up to new heights, if such a thing is possible. Hopes of an early end to violence and a return to diplomacy have never seemed more dim. Threats of retaliation against American and Jewish targets around the world only increase our sense of foreboding.

And yet it was in profound disbelief that we watched the global chorus of censure raining down on Israel after the killing. As though speaking from some distant planet where up is down and black is white, seemingly sober leaders rose in one capital after another to condemn the Jewish state for successfully eliminating the leader of one of the world's most active and implacable terrorist organizations. In tones of high moral dudgeon they mocked Israel for targeting "an 80-year-old man in a wheelchair," in the words of Jack Straw, Tony Blair's foreign minister, as though they weren't speaking of a man - age 67, by the way - who had masterminded a 17-year campaign of mass murder.

What was their objection? Primarily, it seems, that Israel's action was "contrary to international law," in the words of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. *Hamas* may be guilty of "atrocities," as the foreign ministers of the European Union acknowledged in a joint statement, but Israel nonetheless is not "entitled to carry out extra-judicial killings." The U.N. convened a special meeting of the Security Council, something it had not seen fit to do when its own human rights commissioner was assassinated in Baghdad last summer. Killing Yassin was a mortal blow to the peace process, we were told. And because he was revered as a spiritual leader by broad masses in Palestine and throughout the Arab world, his death heightened tensions worldwide.

But Yassin was no cloistered savant. He founded and led an organization that elevated the mass murder of civilians - men, *women* and children - to a political and religious duty. His negotiators had spent much of the past year foiling the efforts of Egypt and the Palestinian Authority to declare a Palestinian cease-fire, so that some sort of peace process might be revived. Only a week before his death he had launched, with the bombing in Ashdod's port, a new campaign of terror to accompany Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza. It was that new campaign that sealed his death warrant.

We do not weep for him. He spent his life in a self-declared state of war with Israel. Israel fought back. Yassin brought his death upon himself. Israel did not behave immorally.

Whether Israel behaved wisely is a different question. If the purpose of the killing was to defend Israel's citizens, as their leaders said repeatedly this week, then the true test is whether Israelis have been defended - that is, whether they are less likely to be killed by terrorists.

## The Killing of the Sheikh

The answer, in truth, is not self-evident. After all, Yassin was targeted once before, in a September 6 air raid. That was a response to the horrific August bus bombing in Jerusalem through which **Hamas** had torpedoed last summer's Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire. The failed raid on the sheikh caused a brief wave of outrage, and **Hamas** replied three days later with a pair of suicide bombings, killing 15. Immediately afterward, however, the field went quiet. **Hamas** didn't bomb again until late January. Israeli intelligence reported that the group's leadership had gone underground and shut down operations in hopes of avoiding assassination. It turned out that **Hamas**'s love of suicide ends at the management suite. It would be understandable if Israel were hoping to achieve the same effect this time.

It is a huge gamble, as this week's vows of spectacular revenge make clear. Nor are the stakes the same as they were last fall. What was at stake then was a U.S.-sponsored road map to peace that **Hamas** itself had savagely torpedoed, giving Israel a moral advantage. What's at stake now is Sharon's own disengagement plan, which requires some sort of Palestinian leadership to take charge after Israel leaves.

Disengagement holds out the possibility of a real separation, putting defensible barriers between Israelis and those who seek to kill them. If targeting **Hamas** forces other Palestinians to close ranks behind the extremists, Israel will be trapped in its current quagmire with no clear way out. It's the sort of high-stakes gamble Sharon has made a career out of. It's brought him and those around him to grief as often as victory.

In today's global environment, it's no longer just Israelis who stand to gain or lose from Sharon's gambles. Jews and Jewish institutions around the world have been targeted repeatedly in the past three years. If **Hamas** decides to take its fight international - something it has not done up to now - then we truly have been brought into a new stage. If that's to be the case, then American Jews need to speak up - not just about fighting terrorism, but about finding a way out of the quagmire.

If Israel's prime minister showed the same decisiveness in advancing his disengagement plan that he showed this week in striking back against the terrorists, he would enjoy more understanding and a good deal more freedom to act. But striking back is an essential part of any formula. Israel's critics must not forget that.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2006

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End of Document



## **SUICIDE BUS BOMB KILLS 17; SCORES MORE INJURED IN BLAST IN JERUSALEM**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 12, 2003 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 872 words

**Byline:** IAN FISHER WITH GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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A Palestinian bomber disguised as an Orthodox Jew detonated himself yesterday evening on a crowded bus, killing 16 other people, injuring nearly 100 and dealing another blow to the newly born American-led plan to find peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

The bomb exploded in an aisle next to the driver on the 14/A bus on Jaffa Road in central Jerusalem. Witnesses described a thunderous explosion on the busy street, which blasted out windows on the bus and on buildings 50 or more yards away. Several victims caught fire, and rescuers worked to extinguish the flames on their bodies with blankets, fire extinguishers, even their bare hands.

Last night, the militant Islamic group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the bombing, part of a new cycle of attack-and-revenge here that has followed a meeting in Aqaba, Jordan, of Palestinian and Israeli leaders with President Bush. They committed themselves, just a week ago, to the so-called "road map" to a peace settlement.

The bombing came a day after the Israeli army tried to assassinate Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a top **Hamas** leader, in retaliation for a **Hamas** attack over the weekend that killed four Israeli soldiers.

Israel attacked **Hamas** again yesterday in an operation it said was planned before the bus bombing. Helicopters fired missiles at a car carrying **Hamas** militants on a busy market street in Gaza, killing two militants inside the car and five bystanders, including two **women**. Eight children were among the more than 25 injured, the officials said.

Later last night, Palestinians said another two **Hamas** members were killed in their car in Gaza City in an assassination mission by Israeli helicopters.

The carnage in both Jerusalem and Gaza, with so many dead and injured civilians, made for one of the bloodiest days since violence resumed between Israelis and Palestinians 32 months ago. The killing has intensified as America's involvement in the quest for peace has grown.

In Chicago, Bush -- who on Tuesday issued a rare condemnation of Israel for the attempted assassination of Rantisi-- also condemned the bus bombing. He urged all sides, despite the violence, to move forward with the peace plan, which appears, at the least, to have lost much momentum in these last few days.

## SUICIDE BUS BOMB KILLS 17; SCORES MORE INJURED IN BLAST IN JERUSALEM

It was unclear what effect these latest attacks would have on the peace plan. Certainly, they appear to have weakened the position of the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who has pushed for conciliation.

"So what do we do now -- tell me!" said Esther Lopian, 53, who stood outside the barriers blocking off the charred bus, across the street from her husband's office.

"Every time there is a line of hope, we get socked in the teeth," she said, her voice a mix of desperation and resignation. "This is thank you, thank you for trying?"

For all her confusion and anger at Palestinians who have carried out attacks against Israelis, she still walked over to group of hardline Israelis and scolded them for chanting slogans and holding signs that advocated violence against Palestinians.

"Revenge against the Arabs!" they chanted in vocal groups around the fringes of the bus wreckage, as emergency workers swept up debris and body parts. One man held a sign in English reading: "Bush go to hell."

In a speech last night, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, said he remained committed to the peace plan, but that Israel would continue to attack any group that attacks Israelis.

The top leaders of the Palestinian Authority also condemned the suicide attack, calling for a cease-fire between the Israelis and the militant groups to give the peace plan a chance to move forward.

"Stopping this deterioration necessitates that all parties should comply to a cease-fire and end violence and to start serious efforts to implement the road map," said Abbas.

Perhaps the most immediate question about the peace plan's future is how the recent violence affects the ability of Abbas to reign in Hamas and other militant groups, as required in the new plan.

Many critics have argued in the last days that Sharon's attempt to assassinate the Hamas leader only weakened Abbas' position more, by angering ordinary Palestinians and increasing support for Hamas.

Last night, Israeli officials strongly denied that the attempted assassination provoked the suicide attack, defending the move as a necessary step against terror groups.

"It takes a couple of days to prepare such an attack," said Raanan Gissin, a top adviser to Sharon. "They planned it long before this. This really explains why we had to take that action."

The Israeli police said that the suicide bus bomber, dressed in the prayer shawl and black pants worn by Orthodox Jews, apparently boarded the bus near the Mahane Yehuda market with a bomb packed with ball bearings. He was identified by Palestinian officials later as Mohammad Shabani, 20, from Hebron in the West Bank.

The bus, which circles through Jerusalem, had gone about 20 or 30 yards when it exploded, buckling the bus' roof, blasting out the windows and sending flames and body parts skyward.

The area downtown has been the site of several suicide bombings, and many people in the area said they felt as if nothing had changed, even with the new peace plan.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Abid Katib/Getty Images: An injured Palestinian child is treated in Gaza City after an assassination mission by an Israeli helicopter killed two Hamas leaders, five bystanders, and injured 25.

## SUICIDE BUS BOMB KILLS 17; SCORES MORE INJURED IN BLAST IN JERUSALEM

PHOTO: Erez Carney/Flash 90: Rescue workers help a wounded a wounded Israeli girl from a bus in Jerusalem in which a suicide bomber killed 16 people and injured nearly 100.

PHOTO: Pier Paolo/Cito: The scene ion downtown Jerusalem yesterday, with the bombed bus at left and a row of victims' covered bodies at right.

INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC: Associated Press; ESRI: (From home to dispair)

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

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End of Document

## *Shoot-out in refugee camp leaves 3 dead in Gaza City*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 19, 2003 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A09

**Length:** 416 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Israeli troops clashed with **Hamas** militants yesterday, killing two of them and a bystander in a shoot-out in a refugee camp where Israel has been conducting raids for more than a week.

Another Palestinian was killed in the West Bank town of Tulkarm when Israeli soldiers fired on crowds of Palestinian youths who had thrown stones and a firebomb.

Meanwhile, a team of FBI explosives and forensics specialists continued its investigation of the bombing attack on a convoy of U.S. officials in Gaza that killed three Americans on Wednesday, U.S. Embassy spokesman Paul Patin said.

The team met Friday for several hours with Palestinian police commanders at an Israeli checkpoint near the border with the Gaza Strip as part of a joint investigation.

The Palestinians have detained seven members of a rogue militant group, the Popular Resistance Committees, and have briefed the U.S. team on the questioning of the detainees, but a senior U.S. official said cooperation from Palestinian security officials had been mixed.

In yesterday's predawn fighting in Gaza, Israeli troops fired on armed **Hamas** militants who were planting explosives along paths traveled by Israeli tanks in the Rafah refugee camp, the army and **Hamas** members said.

Tariq Abu Hussein, 39, a local field commander of the **Hamas** military wing, and another **Hamas** militant were killed. At least 10 people were wounded.

Several bystanders who had come to evacuate casualties in a car were fired on by a tank and machine guns, witnesses said. A woman in the car, Widad Ajrami, 28, was killed, and her husband and a brother-in-law were wounded, said a relative, Mohammed Ajrami. The car was riddled with bullets, and its seats were smeared with blood and littered with shards of glass.

An army spokeswoman said soldiers shot only at armed men and denied reports that troops fired a tank shell.

## Shoot-out in refugee camp leaves 3 dead in Gaza City

For more than a week, Israeli troops backed by helicopters and tanks have fought with Palestinian gunmen in Rafah, an operation meant to uncover tunnels used by Palestinians to smuggle weapons under the Egyptian border.

Fourteen Palestinians - including two children and a **female** bystander - have been killed since the operation began. Troops have uncovered and blown up three tunnels.

In Tulkarm, Israeli troops fired at several hundred stone-throwing youths - many of them students getting out of class for the day - killing a 17-year-old Palestinian and wounding five others, doctors said.

At least one firebomb was hurled from the crowd, witnesses said.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005

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## *After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 624 words

**Byline:** Mark Lavie ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israeli leaders warned Syria yesterday that it bears the blame for two suicide bombings by **Hamas** operatives because it harbors the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's blasts, which killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. However, Israel was looking further afield to assign the blame.

"The fact that **Hamas** is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The overall leader of **Hamas**, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria. Israel assassinated **Hamas**' founder and his successor in Gaza this year, throwing the group into temporary disarray. But major decisions are made by Mashaal, not by **Hamas** leaders in Gaza.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said yesterday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another extremist group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital. A day earlier, a **female** suicide bomber had blown up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Although Israel and Syria are bitter enemies, the air strike was a rare act of violence. Israel has held the Syrian government partly responsible for years of Hezbollah raids from southern Lebanon and has often threatened Syria. In practice, however, the Israelis hesitate to provoke a conflict with Syria, and their border has been calm for decades.

## After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel would go after local **Hamas** leaders and step up military patrols in the sparsely populated, barren southern part of the West Bank. The target of Tuesday's bombings was Beersheba, 15 miles south of the West Bank.

Sharon also pledged to finish the West Bank security barrier, which is aimed at keeping Palestinian suicide bombers from getting into Israel but has drawn international criticism. Palestinians object that it cuts into their territory and separates tens of thousands from farmland, hospitals and services.

"The fence will be completed according to the cabinet decision, and we are doing all we can to speed up the process as much as possible," Sharon said.

Israel did not impose travel bans across the West Bank in response to the bombings, as it has after previous attacks. Such blanket restrictions proved relatively ineffective in preventing attacks and mostly fueled more resentment against Israel. Israeli security forces are relying increasingly on pinpoint attacks on militant leaders, mass arrests and a network of informers.

Security officials said there was concern that a rash of Palestinian attacks could sabotage Sharon's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in 2005. Hard-liners have argued a pullback would make it easier for Palestinians to attack Israel.

Also yesterday, an Israeli helicopter fired three missiles into a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Gaza, wounding at least five people, residents and hospital officials said.

The residents said the aircraft targeted militant Palestinians at the edge of the Khan Younis camp who were planting a land mine as Israeli soldiers advanced. Israeli military officials said on condition of anonymity that the army was conducting an operation to crack down on Palestinian extremists in the area.

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN, Associated Press

On the first day of school, Palestinian students and residents cross the separation barrier into Jerusalem under the gaze of Israeli guards.

**Load-Date:** August 31, 2005

## *Peace push Powell to head for Jordan*

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 32

**Length:** 314 words

### **Body**

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NEW YORK -- US Secretary of State Colin Powell will spearhead a diplomatic push to try to stop the spiralling Arab-Israeli violence and salvage Washington's ailing peace plan for the region.

Following more killings yesterday, Mr Powell phoned the foreign ministers of Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and announced he would travel to Jordan on June 22 to meet co-sponsors of the peace plan, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union.

US President George W. Bush, who only a week ago vested his personal prestige by launching the peace plan in the region, will dispatch to Israel 33-year-old diplomat John Wolf to try to keep the so-called Road Map for Peace on track.

AAP

The plan calls for concessions from both sides and envisages separate Palestinian and Israeli states by 2005.

But the first week has been marked by slaughter on both sides, including the bombing of a Jerusalem bus on Wednesday which killed 16 and injured 70.

Yesterday, with Israel and terror group **Hamas** vowing to fight to the finish, an Israeli missile strike in the Gaza Strip killed seven people, including senior **Hamas** militant Yassir Taha, his wife and baby daughter.

Near the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli and Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian militants.

The violence brought to 37 the number of people killed in the past two days alone.

In a clear sign to expect more, **Hamas** official Mahmoud al-Zahar warned: "These are killers of children, **women**, innocent people. Let us wait and see who is going to destroy the other."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was equally defiant, saying **Hamas** would continue to be targeted in the assassination attacks.

He belittled Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, with whom he met in Jordan last week when President Bush launched the plan, and in whom the US has vested its hopes to curtail Palestinian violence.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2003



Peace push Powell to head for Jordan

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## *Yasser arafat fears he's next*

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

March 23, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Western Morning News

**Section:** News; Other; Others; Pg. 35

**Length:** 631 words

### **Body**

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Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat fears he is the next target for Israeli military assassination squads who yesterday killed **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike. PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat fears he is the next target for Israeli military assassination squads who yesterday killed **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike.

An Arafat aide said: "He feels his turn is next and he is sad and worried." The death of the blind, wheelchair-bound Yassin outside a Gaza City mosque unleashed threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States. Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting. His assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world and many European countries.

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags, flooded the streets for the funeral procession, the largest gathering in Gaza City in recent memory.

Mourners jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and **women** threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was carried to the grave between two rows of 200 militants each. The men were armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said **Hamas** official Ismail Haniyeh, a close Yassin associate.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass-murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies". Sharon said Israel will press ahead with its war on terror, signalling there will be more targeted attacks and raids. "The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's "hands are soaked in the blood of Israeli children".

In addition to Yassin, 12 Palestinians were killed yesterday, seven in the air strike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

## Yasser arafat fears he's next

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged both sides to show restraint. "It is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region," Rice said.

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City. The dead included several bodyguards and Yassin's son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons.

Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street.

Fearing reprisal attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities. The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt was also closed. Troops reinforcements were sent to Gaza, and security forces in Israel were placed on high alert.

The Yassin assassination was seen as a huge gamble by Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against **Hamas** ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, but risks triggering a dramatic escalation in bloodshed that could turn the public's mood in Israel against him.

Sharon's critics in Israel warned that it could be seen as an attack by Israel on Islam and unnecessarily widen the circle of conflict.

Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah were lowered to half-staff, and the Palestinian Cabinet held an emergency session. Yassin was Arafat's biggest political rival, but Arafat was always careful not to confront the **Hamas** leader openly.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

**Madonna cancels shows in Israel due to violence in the region**

Ottawa Citizen

May 26, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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**Section:** Arts; Pg. D7; News

**Length:** 208 words

**Dateline:** LOS ANGELES

## **Body**

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LOS ANGELES - Madonna says she has cancelled three Israeli stops on her Re-Invention tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group **Hamas**.

Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour in Los Angeles on Monday, told Access Hollywood that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of **Hamas**."

The Ottawa Citizen "It's not a good idea to go there and do concerts."

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3.

Asked by Access Hollywood if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me."

Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a **female** dancer.

The 18-city tour ends Sept. 5 in Paris with stops in Las Vegas, New York, Toronto, Manchester and London.

Israel's military killed the founder of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in March and the group's Gaza leader, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, in April.

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2004

## *U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death*

University Wire

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Daily Utah Chronicle via U-Wire

**Length:** 864 words

**Byline:** By Steve Gehrke, Daily Utah Chronicle; **SOURCE:** U. Utah

**Dateline:** SALT LAKE CITY

### **Body**

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The founder of **Hamas** was killed in a missile strike that was authorized by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and carried out by the Israeli military in U.S. Apache helicopters Monday.

Three missiles fell on a vehicle killing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, two bodyguards, one bystander and injuring 13 others, including two of Yassin's sons.

Sheikh Yassin's 70-year-old quadriplegic figure was somewhat misleading, hiding his capability and immediacy in influencing the social and political status of the Middle East.

Israel has faced additional criticism due to Yassin's disability and frail nature, but some say it was a minor detail.

Rabbi Yossi Mandel, a program director with Chabad Lubavitch of Utah, says he believes preventing further murders should be done by any means necessary.

"[Yassin] may have been bound to a wheelchair, but the words that came out still encouraged terrorism," Mandel said. "It's unfortunate that lives have become so cheap that we can politicize taking out the master terrorist."

In the eyes of supporters, however, Yassin was a spiritual leader—a view re-enforced by the fact that he was assassinated on his way home from dawn prayers at a mosque.

University of Utah student Anwar Arafat met Sheikh Yassin a few times in the past and said that he was a holy man.

"He can barely talk, but just his presence is so spiritually uplifting," Arafat said. "He didn't have anything to do with the military aspect at all—I know that for sure. **Hamas** political leaders don't even know the military leaders. They're two separate entities."

Through the lens of onlooking outsiders, however, Yassin was one of the most severe threats to the already meager prospects of a prosperous existence on Israeli and Palestinian soil.

"It's the death of a terrorist and a cause for rejoicing to any humane person," Mandel said.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice responded to the murder of Yassin on NBC's "Today" Monday saying, "Sheikh Yassin has himself, personally we believe, been involved in terrorist planning."

## U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

Israel says Yassin masterminded scores of suicide bombings that have killed a total of 377 people. Israelis and ministers have described him as the Palestinian Osama bin Laden, "his hands tainted with the blood of hundreds of Israelis, children, women and babies," according to the BBC.

The organization he established has become notorious for carrying out resistance attacks against Israel and has been put in the same class as organizations such as Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Jihad and the Martyrs Brigade by many.

Hamas literally means "zeal," but is also an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement.

Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have heightened since the incident, and prospects for peace seem to be growing even more slim.

"It's just a cycle. You never know what's going to happen," U political science professor Hakan Yavuz said.

Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi was chosen to be the new leader of Hamas in Gaza Tuesday.

Al-Rantisi declared to thousands of mourners, who were gathered in a Gaza soccer stadium, that Israelis "will not know security."

"We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation," he said.

Hamas supporters responded with a steady chant: "We will sacrifice our blood and souls for you."

Israel has not backed down in light of the threats, nor have they wasted any time in issuing their fair share of warnings against Hamas.

Israeli leaders have threatened to kill the entire Hamas leadership and implied that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could join the hit list in the future.

"They say when Sharon signed off on killing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, he signed off on killing hundreds of more Palestinians and Israelis," U student Anwar Arafat said. "I definitely think it will cause more death."

Mandel disagrees.

"You can't further tensions when one side desires to kill every single Jew, which Hamas and the PLO have called for," he said.

The Bush administration has expressed shifting views regarding the murder of Yassin.

Shortly after Rice's initial comments on the "Today" show condemning Yassin as a terrorist, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "We are deeply troubled by this morning's incident in Gaza."

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher added, "I think if you ask the Israelis, you'll find that they take these actions with full knowledge of the United States' positions, including our concern about some of these actions, our position on actions that have been taken in the past, but also knowing that we do not approve of actions like this."

Mandel says he believes the situation is an Israeli internal affair and that the United States should stay out of it.

"It is Israel's policy to hunt down terrorists," Mandel said.

"As the number of terrorists decreases, the violence will go down as well."

Anwar disagrees.

He says there is a difference between what the United States is doing and what it should be doing.

U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

"[Israel] had already tried to assassinate [Yassin] in September, so there's no doubt in my mind that America knew something was going on. America should take a firmer stance and not support Israeli occupation."

(C) 2003 Daily Utah Chronicle via U-WIRE

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

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## *Woman suicide bomber kills four Israelis*

The Advertiser

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 34

**Length:** 347 words

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY: Palestinian militant group **Hamas** has for the first time used a woman suicide bomber to counter Israeli security precautions and vowed to escalate their attacks.

"For the first time (**Hamas**) used a **female** fighter and not a male fighter and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin said, referring to the bomber, who struck at the Erez crossing point on the Gaza Strip boundary with Israel, killing four Israelis.

**Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, jointly claimed responsibility for the attack, identifying the bomber as a 22-year-old mother of two from Gaza City.

The Brigades and Islamic Jihad have used **women** bombers.

Witnesses said yesterday's bomber set off a metal detector at a terminal used to screen Palestinian workers en route to the Erez industrial zone. She told soldiers she had a metal splint in her leg and then detonated her explosives, witnesses said.

"Resistance will escalate against this enemy (Israel) until they leave our land and homeland," Yassin said.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, US forces moved a step closer to finding former vice-president Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the most wanted man in Saddam Hussein's regime, detaining four of his nephews in a pre-dawn raid in the central city of Samarra.

Hours later, a car bomb exploded in front of a police station in the central Iraqi city of Baqouba. Police said three people, including the bomber, were killed. The US military put the death toll at five and all the victims were Iraqis.

Two of al-Douri's nephews arrested yesterday are suspected of helping to hide their uncle, who is suspected of orchestrating insurgent attacks on US-led forces. The four men were detained when 40 military police raided two houses in a neighbourhood of Samarra after a tip-off.

They captured one of the targeted nephews and two of his brothers in one house. The second nephew was seized nearby.

The two "main targets" are believed to be in close touch with al-Douri, finding safe houses for him to hide in.



## Woman suicide bomber kills four Israelis

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israelis, Palestinians trade missile strikes*

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

**Section:** National/World; Pg. a5

**Length:** 234 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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An Israeli missile strike killed one Palestinian and wounded five early Saturday, hours after militants killed an Israeli-American woman in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in Gaza in four years of fighting.

The settlement attack, which came just before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year. The militant **Hamas** group claimed responsibility for firing two mortars at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A **Hamas** video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard - apparently the Israeli return fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a 4-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the **Hamas** mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two **women** who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the **women**, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, and the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

In the early hours Saturday, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a nearby refugee camp. Hospital officials said the dead and wounded were civilians.

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2004

**SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13;  
2 SEPARATE ATTACKS IN ISRAEL ALSO LEAVE MORE THAN 55 HURT**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 10, 2003 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 598 words

**Byline:** JAMES BENNET AND GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Two Palestinian suicide bombers killed at least 13 people in separate attacks yesterday, striking a popular cafe in Jerusalem and a bus stop crowded with soldiers near Tel Aviv.

The bombings, which were not immediately claimed by any group, came at a time of rising anger and despair among both Palestinians and Israelis, as the Bush administration's Middle East peace plan is foundering. The bombings came three days after a botched Israeli attempt to kill a founder and spiritual leader of the militant group **Hamas**.

In the first attack yesterday, during the evening rush hour in Tsfirin near Tel Aviv, a man carrying a leather bag detonated a bomb packed with hardware at a bus stop beside an army base.

He killed at least seven people and wounded 15 more, spattering blood against the ceiling of the shelter, some 30 feet high. All the dead and all but one of the wounded were soldiers, the Israeli authorities said.

Less than six hours later, another bomber blew himself apart after a guard confronted him just inside the door of Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem, the police said. The cafe is in the so-called German Colony, a neighborhood known as the city's most dovish, secular area.

Though there have been previous waves of suicide attacks during the three-year conflict, it is unusual for militant groups to conduct two bombings in one day.

Witnesses in Jerusalem described a powerful boom, followed by a moment of silence and then screams. Six people were killed and more than 40 wounded, the police said.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, was out of the country on a visit to India, and Israel did not immediately retaliate.

The attacks occurred despite intense Israeli military operations in West Bank cities and heightened restrictions on movement by Palestinians, and while Israeli ministers were already calling for action against Yasser Arafat, the top Palestinian leader.

## SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13; 2 SEPARATE ATTACKS IN ISRAEL ALSO LEAVE MORE THAN 55 HURT

Also yesterday, in a shootout after Israeli troops surrounded a seven-story apartment building in the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli soldiers killed what security officials said were two leaders of Hamas. Palestinian witnesses said that, during the gun battle, a 12-year-old boy was hit by shrapnel and died of his wounds. The Israeli army said it was investigating the boy's death.

Israel has declared it is in an "all-out" war on Hamas, since a Hamas bombing on a Jerusalem bus killed 22 people on Aug. 19.

On Saturday, Israel dropped a 550-pound bomb on a Gaza City apartment building where the Hamas founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was having lunch. He vowed retaliation, as did leaders of Islamic Jihad.

Since August 19, Israeli military strikes have killed 12 Hamas members and leaders and six Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Speaking after the first suicide bombing, Ahmed Qurei, whom Arafat has nominated to be the new Palestinian prime minister, expressed "our regrets and pain" for "innocent lives" lost in "as a result of violence and counter-violence." But Qurei, who has not yet accepted the nomination to the post, also said he had no chance of success unless Israel halted military operations.

"I want the Israelis to stop the assassinations," Qurei said. "I cannot continue while they are daily demolishing houses and buildings."

Tzachi Hanegbi, Israel's minister of internal security, said at the scene of the bus stop bombing near Tel Aviv that the previous Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was the "only hope that a dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians would lead to a solution." Abbas quit Saturday, saying that both Israel and Arafat had undermined his efforts.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Yoav Lemmer/Agence France-Presse: An injured women is carried to an ambulance after a suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem yesterday

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2003

## Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

The Times (London)

March 23, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Features; 29

**Length:** 1605 words

### **Body**

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Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, leader of Hamas, was born in 1937 or 1938. He died in an Israeli missile attack on March 22, 2004.

Founder of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist grouping whose ruthless methods put it at odds with the Palestinian Authority

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was the spiritual and political leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas. At the turn of the millennium this organisation gained infamy as one of the most savage organisations in the Middle East, responsible for a wave of suicide bombings that led to the death of countless civilians.

Confined to a wheelchair and speaking in small squeaks, Yassin had the demeanour of a fragile, pious sage. Yet he was possessed with an unswerving ruthlessness.

His fanaticism inspired sacrificial devotion among men willing to kill civilians in the cause of the destruction of Israel. His appeal to young Palestinians derived from his uncompromising stance and religious fervour: that no deal should be made with a state that had no right to exist.

To youths disillusioned with Yassir Arafat's more moderate -but, as they saw it, corrupt -Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yassin was an idol. Because of the adoration and loyalty he commanded, he became as much a threat to the nascent Palestinian Government as he was to the Israeli State. Yet such was the fidelity of his disciples that there was little that either government could do to remove him.

Along with several hundred thousand other Palestinians after the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, Ahmed Yassin found himself a refugee, in his case in the Gaza Strip, which had fallen under Egyptian control. Born in 1937 or 1938 in the village of Johra near the present Israeli port of Ashkelon, he spent his adolescence in the Shatti refugee camp in the Strip. As a boy he competed with other youths on the Gaza beachfront to see who could stand on his head the longest. He fell and damaged his spine, thereafter being almost paralysed and finding it hard to breathe or speak.

Yassin became a devout Muslim and moved to Egypt to study at a teacher training college. While there, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood, which had been given freedom to reorganise by the new Government of Colonel Gamal Abdel-Nasser. When the Brotherhood made an attempt on the life of Nasser, Yassin was briefly imprisoned, after which he returned to Gaza to find a job as a teacher, specialising in religious education. When the Gaza Strip was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of June 1967, the Muslim Brothers were permitted to resume their activities, as the new authorities classified them as primarily a religious network. Yassin spearheaded the organisation's revival and was elected its chairman.

### Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

In the following years, his reputation for honesty and modest living grew, enabling him, in 1973, to set up the Islamic Centre (Mujamma al-Islami), an organisation that gathered funds from home and abroad to distribute among the needy and do other charitable work. While he was outwardly non-political, his sermons against Israel -or "the Jews", as he invariably called the country grew more shrill. He began to send emissaries into the West Bank, where the local branch of the Brotherhood was a moderate gathering, working with Jordan.

Soon, the leadership of the Brotherhood there was also his, and he began to compete for influence with the PLO under Yassir Arafat. Inevitably, clashes occurred between the supporters of the two rivals, and Yassin's followers acquired a taste for violence. At times resorting to arson and murder, they captured the leaderships of many professional associations, nominated the faculties of universities and imposed strikes.

Yassin appointed his followers as clergy in numerous mosques and ruled them all with minute attention to detail while pretending to be only their "spiritual" leader. In contrast to Arafat's Arab nationalism, which claimed that a future, recovered state of Palestine would be shared by Arabs and Jews with equal rights, Yassin advocated an Islamic state in which a small minority of Jews would be tolerated if they paid a poll tax to the Muslim power as prescribed in the Koran.

The Israeli authorities continued, however, to turn a blind eye to the Brothers' activities, treating them still as a religious network. This gave rise to speculation that Israel gave them practical help in order to sow discord among the Palestinians. No evidence of any such help has come to light. Nevertheless, Yassin's gradualist approach to the abolition of the State of Israel enabled nationalists to accuse him of collaboration.

The balance of forces inside the West Bank was crucially changed by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. When the PLO lost its virtual stranglehold over southern Lebanon and was forced to transfer its headquarters from Beirut to far-away Tunis, disillusionment set in among Arafat's supporters in the occupied territories and more young men flocked to the ranks of the Mujamma.

Thus emboldened, Yassin's followers began to amass firearms in 1983 and use them to kill suspected collaborators and impose Islamic law on the streets. When, a year later, weapons were found in Yassin's own home, he was arrested and given a prison term of 13 years, despite his claim that the weapons were for defending himself against other Palestinians, not Israel. However, his detention lasted less than a year. He was set free in an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Marxist guerrilla group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command.

The following years saw a continued deterioration in the quality of life of the Palestinians, not least due to one of the highest birthrates in the world, and so rose further the status of those who were willing to resort to arms against Israel. This resulted in the founding of a number of secret guerrilla groups, including **Hamas**, the acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Yassin.

Thus when spontaneous riots broke out in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza in December 1987 and spread to other areas, becoming known as the intifada or uprising, Yassin faced a dilemma. If he ordered open attack on the occupation forces, he risked the dismantling of all his instruments of influence, including a vast charitable network that attracted millions of dollars in donations every year from abroad. On the other hand, if he did not compete with the other armed groups, they, particularly the PLO, would use the new chaos to reorganise and expand.

He opted for the latter strategy, but told **Hamas** members to distance themselves in any interrogations from the Muslim Brotherhood and the Mujamma. Officially, however, **Hamas** proclaimed itself a wing of the Brotherhood and its charter reflected the Brothers' slogans: "Allah the goal, the Prophet the model, the Koran the constitution and jihad the path." Elsewhere in the **Hamas** charter (article 12), the traditional attitudes of the Brotherhood and their preoccupation with the minutiae of Koranic dogma reveal themselves in such exhortations as: "**Women** need no permission from their husbands to jihad against (the non-Muslim) enemy, nor slaves the permission of their masters."

## Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

The strategy worked only partially. In May 1989 Yassin and a number of his senior commanders were arrested and tried for the kidnapping and murder of two Israeli soldiers. He was given two consecutive life sentences plus 15 years. His removal effectively paralysed Hamas and practically ended his rule over the organisation.

But by then his creation was so advanced that it could survive without him. Soon, some of his agents in the United States were brought home to reorganise the subversive cells, and the campaign of violence resumed with new ferocity.

A mistake was made by Israel in December 1992, when more than 400 leaders and activists of Hamas were dumped in southern Lebanon. There, they were financed by Iran and taught new, deadlier techniques of killing, such as the brainwashing of recruits as suicide bombers. When Israel allowed the exiles back a year later, they came with their new expertise.

Mistakes were also made by some Western governments. Britain's lax immigration laws enabled Hamas to situate its entire military leadership among London's large Arab community in 1992 and 1993. This enabled some Israelis to allege that "Arabists" who predominated in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office connived with Muslim terrorists. No evidence has been provided to prove the claim.

Sheikh Yassin's second incarceration also ended prematurely. In October 1997 Israel again freed him, in an exchange of prisoners with Jordan. But by then his function as the iron-fisted single ruler of Hamas had ended. Younger, even tougher men had taken his place in a collective leadership, and his function was now to be an inspiration and a spokesman only. He continued to say that Hamas would agree to a ceasefire with Israel if it withdrew from all the territories captured in 1967, especially east Jerusalem. But he made it clear that the arrangement would be temporary to enable the Islamic state to prepare for the final assault.

In 2001 and 2002, Yassir Arafat made two half-hearted attempts to arrest Yassin to placate the United States and avert pressure to give up the leadership of the Palestinian Authority in favour of a moderate figure. But both attempts were beaten back by Yassin's supporters who were expecting them. It can certainly be argued that the rivalry between the two men made both more intransigent than they might have been, and at times Hamas's resort to murder enabled Arafat to depict himself as the more reasonable of the two Palestinian leaders.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

## **FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA**

Sunday Express

April 18, 2004

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 1099 words

**Byline:** By Tim Shipman DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

### **Body**

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MI6 COULD take charge of peacekeeping in the Gaza Strip under secret plans that would see British spies working alongside members of terrorist groups like Hamas.

The controversial proposals may explain Tony Blair's relaxed attitude to Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, endorsed last week by President Bush.

The Secret Intelligence Service has been in talks with Hamas, the Fatah Tanzim and al Aqsa Brigades and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in a bid to quash violence when Israeli troops pull out. The early stages of negotiations with Hamas were conducted by former MI6 man Alistair Crooke, a veteran of secret talks with the IRA in the 1990s and the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

He was forced to flee the Middle East in fear of his life last September after a previous deal he brokered with Hamas broke down. But since then diplomatic and security sources in the UK and Israel say a new plan has been drawn up by MI6 that would work with the fanatics.

Mr Blair supported Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement that troops and settlers will pull out of Gaza as a way of kickstarting the "road map" peace process. But for the move to be a step forward, militants in Gaza will have to be controlled. Mr Blair yesterday appeared to confirm that Britain would get involved in security issues, when he said he would tell the Palestinians: "We will now help you, economically, politically and in security terms to build the beginnings of a Palestinian Authority capable of wielding power." The 40-page MI6 plan spells out how, in return for preventing suicide bombers passing into Israel, the Palestinian groups in Gaza would get a guarantee that their heavy weapons will not be confiscated.

Palestinian security chief Mohammad Dahlan, a key figure in the plan, has just returned to the Middle East from Cambridge, where he was attending a finishing school "to improve his English". But security sources say that was a cover for secret meetings with intelligence officers, who briefed him on their proposals for Gaza.

Shmuel Bar, senior research fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy in Herzliya, said: "The UK government is considering possible British participation in peacekeeping in Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal."

Mr Bar, who has close links with Israeli security officials, added: "UK diplomats and security officials have formulated a proposal for a new security plan for Gaza. The plan was drafted by officers of MI6 and was discussed during the meeting between Blair and the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei in London."



## FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

"The plan is based on co-opting of all factions into a Gaza security regime.

The quid pro quo for co-opting the militant factions would be a commitment not to attempt to disarm them or to decommission their heavy weapons."

A diplomat in London confirmed:

"There is an increasing footprint of British personnel on the ground in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The idea is to neutralise the militants by involving them. British guards are already helping to run one prison in Jericho, where six militants are held."

The Sunday Express was alerted to the proposal by a member of the Jewish community in London, who is uneasy about the close relationship between MI6 and terror groups that have murdered hundreds of women and children in suicide bomb attacks.

A member of Labour Friends of Israel said:

"There is a lot going on that the British public are unaware of. The Government ought to come clean about exactly what we are up to out there. Previous efforts in this direction have not been conspicuously successful."

The plans, which are strongly opposed by some senior figures in the American and Israeli governments, are just the latest attempt by MI6 to match Mr Blair's rhetoric about positive engagement in the Middle East peace process with positive action behind the scenes.

They come two years after MI6 set up two security offices in Jenin and Gaza.

They were shut down for lack of serious Palestinian cooperation.

They were the brainchild of Mr Crooke, 54, who was made security adviser to the EU's special envoy to the Middle East seven years ago because of his experience during the peace talks in Northern Ireland.

But his attempts to repeat his trick with the IRA, of bringing the terrorists into the political process, collapsed in failure when the truces he negotiated collapsed after Israel assassinated Hamas's military commander.

The activities of Mr Crooke, described by one Israeli newspaper as "brave to the point of madness", enraged the Israelis, since he did not try to persuade militant groups not to attack Israeli military targets or settlers. Tensions are now even higher after the killing of wheelchair-bound Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin last month.

Mr Crooke was also involved in negotiations to end the Israeli army's sieges of Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002.

THAT led to a British prison warder, who used to guard IRA men in the Maze, taking charge of six Palestinians in a Jericho prison. They are still there under British and US guard. Mr Crooke is understood not to be in Israel now, but the new plans follow the blueprint he left behind. They envisage joint British-Palestinian "situation rooms" and 12 task forces made up of the different Palestinian factions.

Mr Dahlan would then take charge of security. Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat's economic adviser, Mohammad Rashid, is also seen as a lynchpin, because he can "deliver Arafat". On the other side, once Israel has withdrawn from Gaza, Mr Sharon will agree not to attack members of the militant factions in the Strip.

The political wing of Hamas has indicated its willingness to participate in a Gaza security regime, which it hopes will lend it more international acceptability, but the plan seems certain to face fierce opposition in Washington and Tel Aviv, where leaders prefer confrontation to engagement with Hamas.

British diplomats are convinced that withdrawing from Gaza will not improve Israeli security unless the militant groups are dealt with.

FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

A leaked copy of Mr Sharon's plans, seen by the Sunday Express, states:

"The Gaza Strip will be demilitarised of weapons. Israel retains the basic right to self defence, including preemptive steps and response, with the use of force, against threats emanating from this area."

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at a Gaza checkpoint, injuring four security men. **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed joint responsibility.

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

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End of Document

## *Madonna embarks on world tour*

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 26, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 17

**Length:** 216 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Dateline:** LOS ANGELES

### **Body**

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LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Madonna says she has cancelled three Israeli stops on her Re-Invention tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group **Hamas**.

Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour this week in Los Angeles, told Access Hollywood that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of **Hamas**."

"It's not a good idea to go there and do concerts," she told the syndicated entertainment TV show in an interview.

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3.

Asked by Access Hollywood if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me." Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a **female** dancer.

The 18-city tour ends Sept. 5 in Paris with stops in Las Vegas, New York, Toronto, Manchester and London.

Israel's military killed the founder of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in March and the group's Gaza leader, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, in April.

### **Graphic**

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Photo: Associated Press; Madonna performs at the Great Western Forum in Los Angeles. ;

**Load-Date:** February 17, 2006

Madonna embarks on world tour

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## **Israel bus bombings kill at least 16**

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. C4

**Length:** 567 words

**Byline:** Associated Press; Canadian Press

**Dateline:** BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL

### **Body**

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BEERSHEBA, Israel (AP-CP) -- Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses almost simultaneously in this southern city Tuesday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in the first major attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The explosions, for which the **Hamas** militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 metres from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter, 50, a college lecturer.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

After the attacks, Sharon met with top security officials to plan a response, and more talks were scheduled later in the evening. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew expressed "deepest sympathies" to Israel and condemned Tuesday's bombing.

## Israel bus bombings kill at least 16

"Resorting to terrorism not only is inhuman and criminal, but it is holding back all Palestinians from their aspirations to peace and statehood," Pettigrew said in a statement. "I call on every Palestinian to reject terrorism and to seek an end to the conflict through a negotiated settlement."

The attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa. Militants hadn't carried out a suicide bombing in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. **Hamas** has pledged to avenge their deaths, but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army surrounded the homes of the two suspected bombers, Ahmed Qawasmeh and Nasim Mohammed Ali Jaabari, and questioned their relatives. Both men were from Hebron, the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba.

**Hamas** distributed a leaflet in Hebron claiming responsibility for Tuesday's attack, but did not name the bombers.

**Hamas** and other Palestinian militant groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years, but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Israel has attributed the slowdown to its success in fighting militants and the West Bank barrier, not a lack of effort by armed Palestinian groups.

## Graphic

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Photo: Associated Press; Israeli police officers and rescue volunteers gather bodies in front of a destroyed bus at the scene of a double-bombing Tuesday in Beersheba, Israel

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

*Cowen speaks out on barrier;*  
**NEWS BRIEF**

Irish News

January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

**Section:** Pg. 20

**Length:** 360 words

## **Body**

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THE Republic's minister for foreign affairs, Brian Cowen, yesterday criticised the separation barrier that Israel is building in the West Bank, weeks before the world court is due to look at the legality of the structure.

With the Irish government currently holding the rotating presidency of the EU, Mr Cowen said the union had not taken a position regarding the case before the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

But he said the EU was unhappy with the route of the controversial barrier.

Sections of the partially completed 400-mile long complex of razor wire, fences, concrete walls and ditches cut deep into Palestinian territory in the West Bank.

"We have a serious problem in relation to the direction of the fence inside the territories, " Mr Cowen said at a news conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, adding that he recognised Israel's "legitimate" security interests.

"The position of the European Union on that particular aspect has been made clear, " he said.

Israel says the barrier is needed to keep Palestinian suicide bombers from entering the country. But the Palestinians say the barrier will confiscate large portions of Palestinian land into Israeli control.

Meanwhile the young mother who blew herself up along with four Israelis on Wednesday was given a martyr's funeral in Gaza city yesterday.

Thousands marched through the streets in the funeral procession of **Hamas** bomber Reem Raiyshi (22) who left behind a daughter aged 18 months and a three-year-old son.

It was believed to be the first time that **Hamas** had sent a woman on a suicide mission.

Masked gunmen from both **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the **Hamas** green flag, the first time that the rival Palestinian militant groups have marched together.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

The military did not say why it decided to return Ms Raiyshi's body to the Palestinians.

## Cowen speaks out on barrier; NEWS BRIEF

Israel closed crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs. The Israelis said only humanitarian cases would qualify for crossing.

## Graphic

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FUNERAL PROCESSION: Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of **female** suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi through the streets of Gaza yesterday PICTURE: Hatem Moussa/AP

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2004

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## *Mother's only wish was to die a martyr*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 16, 2004 Friday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

**Length:** 351 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent, in Gaza

### **Body**

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Palestinian militant groups use suicide bombers as political currency, and usually their faces and praises are posterred all over their home towns within hours of their deaths.

Unusually, though, little is yet known about Reem Raiyshi, the 22-year-old mother who blew herself up in a Gaza industrial estate on Wednesday, killing four young Israeli guards and wounding seven other people, including four Palestinians. She is believed to be the first mother to carry out such an attack.

Immediately after the 10am attack, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** claimed her as the first woman suicide bomber to die on its orders although several other women have died for less conservative groups and set up the customary mourning tent near her home. But the traditional glossy posters of the "martyr" were absent and, even more unusually, so were her husband and much of her middle-class merchant family.

Her brother, who acted as chief mourner, refused to talk to reporters and local **Hamas** supporters warned them off approaching her home.

The dead woman's brother-in-law, Yusuf Awad, told Associated Press she and her husband had fought with the family a couple of months earlier and she had disappeared.

"We were not expecting that from her," he said, referring to the terrorist attack. "We would not have thought it possible."

Raiyshi left behind a three-year-old son, Obedia, an 18-month old daughter, Doha, and a video recorded just before her death. Cradling an assault rifle and flanked by green **Hamas** flags, the young woman said she had dreamt of martyrdom from the age of 13.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said, smiling. "That is the only wish I can ask God for."

She concluded: "God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them."

"Abu Jihad", a 22-year-old **Hamas** member attending her mourning tent, said he had not known Raiyshi but that sometimes she had come to the place where young men studied the Koran. "Really, I am jealous of her," he said. "I hope and I wish to be in her place one day."

Mother's only wish was to die a martyr

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

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## *Israel acts to end a road block to peace*

The Australian

March 24, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** FEATURES-TYPE- LEADER-COLUMN- LEADER; Pg. 14

**Length:** 798 words

### **Body**

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FOR a civilised state to use peacetime murder as an instrument of policy is deeply troubling. The ambivalence and antipathy that even friends of Israel feel over the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is understandable. While the world is long past the point where enemy leaders are off limits in wartime, using missiles fired from a helicopter gunship to kill an elderly cleric, confined to a wheelchair, looks like an exceptionally brutal act. Except when the cleric's stated goal was to destroy the state of Israel and when he had a terrorist organisation to do his bidding.

MATP

Israel's action will do its cause no good with people who focus on the killing of Sheikh Yassin, rather than the circumstances that led to it. The sheikh was the founder of Hamas, an organisation of terrorists with a single-minded dedication to slaughtering ordinary Israelis, and anybody else who gets in the way. Hamas is beyond the control of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, and in the murky, murderous politics of anti-Israel terror does pretty much what it likes. And this means suicide bombings, where young people destroy themselves and their victims in restaurants, on buses, at oil refineries and industrial plants, anywhere in Israel where they can kill and maim. Israel estimates Sheikh Yassin's followers have killed 350 people, a third of the total number of victims of terror attacks there since 2000. Rather than just condemn Israel, the opponents of Sheikh Yassin's execution should ask themselves why a government should have no right to defend its people, Jews and Muslims alike, against such an implacable foe.

Any argument that the sheikh should have been left untouched, free to promote Hamas's dream of the destruction of the Jewish state, is far more morally ambiguous than Israel's act. Sheikh Yassin wanted a Palestine that stretched from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, which inevitably means an end to Israel in any recognisable form. It is a fanciful goal: no combination of nations, certainly no band of terrorists in the Middle East, have the resources or skill to defeat the Israeli armed forces in a conventional conflict. But Sheikh Yassin was thinking for the long haul and did not care how many generations it took to destroy Israel. In the short term the organisation he led was happy to kill as many Israelis as it could and took apparent pride in using adolescents -- told that their acts of murder and suicide would bring divine reward -- to do it. Hamas's recent interest in encouraging young women to atone for so-called sexual infidelity by becoming suicide bombers demonstrates the medieval mind-set of this grotesque organisation.

Regardless of Israel's reasons, opponents of Sheikh Yassin's execution argue it will not stop the killing. They say violence will only beget violence and that it will sabotage the peace process. But as far as Hamas is concerned there is no possibility of peace because the organisation does not believe that Muslims should accept the Jewish state. Certainly Hamas and its confederates in terror will now likely retaliate by killing as many non-combatants as they can. While men who have built their careers on promising to destroy Israel dominate Palestinian politics there will always be dispossessed young people deluded into thinking that mass murder is God's work. And Israeli policy

## Israel acts to end a road block to peace

largely accepts this. The Sharon Government wants to leave the Gaza Strip altogether and withdraw behind the anti-terror wall, being built to incorporate all of Israel plus occupied Palestinian territory. This is a defensive strategy designed to reduce the butcher's bill that suicide bombings impose on the Israeli people. But it is not a complete defence and one way or another the bombers will always get through. Which is why Israel has little option but to decapitate organisations like **Hamas** by killing their ideologues and strategists.

While there is little chance that the killing of Sheikh Yassin will end the terror, the brutal reality is that Israel has nothing to lose. While Sheikh Yassin lived there was no reason to think the suicide attacks would stop. At worst his death will mean the attacks continue as before. But at best Sheikh Yassin's death will demonstrate Israel is not an inert target and that it will do more than try to catch the suicide bombers before they strike. His execution sends a clear message to the entire Palestinian leadership, especially Yasser Arafat, they can be held accountable for their actions in either encouraging or ordering terror attacks. Despite the denunciations of Israel's action, practical Palestinian politicians who know the Jewish state cannot be destroyed will not regret the death of Sheikh Yassin. His death is one small step along the path away from perpetual war.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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End of Document

**Israel air strikes after twin suicide bombings;  
Road map to peace blown up**

The Advertiser

September 11, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 31

**Length:** 483 words

**Byline:** By RISHON LETZION in Jerusalem

## **Body**

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THE Middle East peace plan is on the verge of collapse after two Palestinian suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis in back-to-back attacks yesterday.

A late-night attack in a popular cafe in west Jerusalem, killing seven, came just hours after a blast near a military base killed eight soldiers.

Three Australian **women** were lucky to walk away from the cafe suicide bomb blast. All suffered minor injuries.

Israeli authorities, which were on high alert after the militant **Hamas** movement vowed revenge for attacks on its leaders, retaliated late yesterday with an air strike on a **Hamas** leader's house.

Reports said the target, Mahmoud Zahar, was wounded in the leg and three family members were killed.

Police in Jerusalem said a security guard had tried to prevent the second bomber from entering a cafe about 11.20pm. He then blew himself up outside the building.

The day's violence underscored the collapse of US-backed peace efforts and came amid political uncertainty after the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Prime minister-designate Ahmed Qureia, the Palestinian parliamentary Speaker, condemned the bombings as a "murderous act" and called on Israeli leaders to "search for ways to end this killing".

The bombings came hours after two **Hamas** members were killed by the Israeli army in the West Bank town of Hebron, where a multi-storey residential building also was blown up by the Israelis.

While it had not claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings, the armed wing of **Hamas** hailed them, saying the "moment has come for Israel to pay for its crimes".

In one Gaza neighbourhood, about 100 Palestinians took to the streets in celebration after the attack on the Hillel Cafe. In the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, **Hamas** supporters celebrated by giving candies to families of those killed in previous violence.

Israel air strikes after twin suicide bombings; Road map to peace blown up

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has cut short his visit to India and will return to the region. Israel said the attacks showed the Palestinians had failed to honour their commitments in the "road map" on ending terrorism and warned they should act as a wake-up call to Mr Qureia, also known as Abu Ala.

"This is how the enemies of peace are welcoming Abu Ala," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Jonathan Peled said. "Now he sees what he has to face up to. Either he beats them or they beat him."

Mr Qureia expressed "our regrets and pain for the innocent lives (lost) as a result of violence and counter-violence" and called on Israeli leaders to "search for ways to end this killing".

Mr Qureia, a former top peace negotiator, has sought guarantees that if he accepts the post, Israel would do more to implement its obligations under the "road map."

Israel has not frozen settlement-building or withdrawn from most Palestinian towns, saying the Palestinians must first dismantle militant groups as called for by the peace plan.

PAGE 16: Atchison's view

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2003

## *Live by the sword ...*

Ottawa Citizen

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A12; Editorial

**Length:** 516 words

### **Body**

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Whether yesterday's assassination of **Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin was a good thing depends on the answer to two questions: 1) Is the world better off without Sheik Yassin? and 2) Was it in Israel's strategic interest to kill him? In both cases, the answer is yes.

Ahmed Yassin was among the most brazen killers that the modern Middle East has produced, which is quite an achievement when you look at the competition. His hands were stained with the blood of hundreds, and we aren't referring only to Israeli civilians who died in the Palestinian terror attacks he supervised. We're also thinking of the Palestinian children whom he taught to believe that death is preferable to life and that a good Muslim is one who immolates himself in a pizzeria or a discotheque.

The Ottawa Citizen

In interviews, you could see the old man take lascivious delight in the blood of his followers -- followers such as Reem Riyashi, a Palestinian who blew herself up in January, leaving her two children motherless. "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyrdom operation, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said in a videotaped message. Shortly after, Mr. Yassin ghoulishly confirmed that **Hamas** was now recruiting **female** bombers.

Clearly, the world is better off without Mr. Yassin. But should Israel have been the one to provide that service? The usual suspects, from Amnesty International to Canada's Foreign Minister Bill Graham, have condemned Israel for carrying out an "extra-judicial killing." Meanwhile, the Arab street is inflamed. In the best of times it's easy to find crowds chanting "Death to the Jews," but in Gaza some 200,000 took to the street. Could it be that the benefits of eliminating Mr. Yassin are outweighed by the costs, such as renewed terrorism and international criticism?

We don't think so. Killing Mr. Yassin hasn't made Israel more vulnerable to attack. For **Hamas**, the fact of Israel's existence was always sufficient motive. When Israel elects left-wing governments, **Hamas** sees it as a sign of weakness and calls for more martyrs. When Israel elects hawkish governments, **Hamas** sees it as provocation and calls for more martyrs.

The same applies to international opinion. In many quarters, dislike of Israel seems unconnected to any particular policy the Jewish state undertakes. In the 1980s, Israel was condemned for refusing to accept a two-state solution. In the 1990s, after accepting in principle a two-state solution, Israel was condemned for not acquiescing to national suicide and allowing Palestinian refugees to flood Israel proper. Israelis learned long ago that showing restraint in the face of terrorism earns them no favour, either with the United Nations or with the terrorists.

And so they decided to take the fight to Mr. Yassin directly. "Whoever is involved in the planning, orchestration, execution or leadership of terrorism must understand that Israel will not sit idly by and wait for the next suicide

Live by the sword ...

bomber to appear on the streets of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv," said the Israeli Foreign Ministry yesterday. It's hard to argue with that.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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End of Document



## *After Deadly Attack, Arab Rage and an Israeli Videotape*

The New York Times

October 22, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1006 words

**Byline:** By JAMES BENNET

**Dateline:** NUSEIRAT REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip, Oct. 21

### **Body**

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It is not unusual for Israelis and Palestinians to have opposing, vivid versions of reality.

But it is unusual for both sides to display the kind of concrete, if conflicting, evidence that they presented Tuesday for the violence that convulsed the main street here on Monday night.

The Palestinians had their grief and their rage, their seven dead and their many wounded. The Israeli Air Force had its videotape.

Palestinian witness after Palestinian witness told the same story: an Israeli rocket struck near a car; then, after two, three or perhaps five minutes passed, a second rocket hit near the same spot.

By then, according to this version, a crowd had gathered. Dr. Zain al-Abedin Shaheen, 29, had had time to run down the street from his clinic to help the wounded; Muhammad Baroud, 12, had had time to dash out of his house. Both, with others, died in the second blast, Palestinians here said.

"They are killers," Muhammad's father, Ziad, 42, said of the Israelis. Having been sent by his wife to retrieve his son after the first blast, Mr. Baroud was wounded in his right knee, left hip, left wrist and neck by shrapnel from what he said was the second rocket.

Dozens were reported wounded, and sirens wailed into the night on Monday as ambulances rushed the casualties north to Gaza City.

Yet, after the missile strike and four other air attacks in Gaza on Monday prompted unusual criticism from within Israel, the air force took the rare step on Tuesday of showing reporters parts of a videotape it said had been taken by a drone flying above the street. The tape presented a very different scene.

The black-and-white images, which the drone transmitted live to commanders directing the helicopter crew that fired the missiles, showed a first missile striking the hood of a car traveling an empty street.

The car, which Israel said contained ***Hamas*** militants, continued for about 50 yards until it appeared to bump a curb. Then it backed up almost to its original spot. A single person appeared to be approaching when the car was destroyed in a direct hit by a second missile. The strikes were a minute apart.

## After Deadly Attack, Arab Rage and an Israeli Videotape

It was at least 90 seconds after the second blast that dozens of people were seen leaving their houses to surround the wreckage. Moments later, the video presentation halted. A senior air force officer acknowledged that there was more tape but declined to show it, saying there was nothing more of interest to see.

"We would not allow any munition to be launched on a massive gathering of people," the officer said. "To fire into a crowd is not professional, it is not ethical and it's not moral."

Palestinian hospital officials reported on Monday night that eight people had been killed here. But seven bodies, including that of Muhammad, who was wrapped tight as a mummy in a green Hamas flag, were carried Tuesday by a chanting crowd of thousands through the missile-pitted street, past a blocklong "condolence tent" set up for the grieving families.

Inside the houses, weeping women mourned separately. Outside, gunmen fired semiautomatic rifles into the air. Against the cinder-block walls, masked Hamas militants armed with hatchets spray-painted tributes to the dead, claiming them as martyrs and heaping them onto their pile of grievances.

Hamas vowed to retaliate.

Alex Fishman, perhaps Israel's foremost military journalist, wondered Tuesday in the pages of the largest daily newspaper, Yediot Ahronot, what "red lines" Israel still imposed on itself. "How long can we hurt innocent civilians?" he asked. "Is it conceivable that somebody on our side has decided that all of Palestinian society is the target?"

He also asked if the military method used Monday "actually intensifies and broadens the circles of hatred for generations." He called this a "war without questions," in which any Israeli who questioned such military tactics was branded a traitor.

Israeli military officers say it is the militants who endanger Palestinian civilians by hiding among them, preparing their suicide bombings and rocket attacks. "There is no neat and clean way to fight terrorism that is harbored in urban areas," the senior air force officer said.

He said both missiles used Monday night carried only a "few" pounds of explosives, which he said should not be able to spray shrapnel more than five or six yards in any direction.

The videotape showed a much larger explosion during the second missile strike. The officer speculated that there might have been explosives in the car.

Of the five Israeli attacks on Monday, three were against two buildings in Gaza City that Israel said served as factories and warehouses for Hamas munitions.

In a fourth strike, Israel killed two Hamas members with a rocket fired at their car in Gaza City. The driver of the following car was also killed. Hospital officials reported a total of 30 people wounded in those four strikes.

The Israeli bombardment came after Hamas militants launched eight crude rockets over Gaza's fenced boundary on Sunday. The rockets did not cause casualties.

The Israeli action here was of a different nature. According to the Israeli Army, soldiers spotted militants trying to cross Gaza's fence. It said the soldiers opened fire, killing two men on the spot, while others escaped in a car.

It was that getaway car, the army said, that the helicopter gunships hunted down here. Two Hamas men died in the car, the army said.

Salah Muhammad Hamdan, a 50-year-old teacher, said he was walking home with his wife when he saw the first missile hit just in front of the car about 150 yards away.

### After Deadly Attack, Arab Rage and an Israeli Videotape

Several people were wounded, he said, but though they cried to him for help he concentrated on hurrying himself and his wife home. Then, after about two minutes, a second missile hit, he said, wounding himself and his wife. "I'm not a fighter; I'm a peaceful man," he said, as he lay in a hospital bed in Gaza City. "Why did they hit us?"

The videotape did not show any wounded people lying in the street after the first missile struck, or any couple hurrying along the sidewalk.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Fingers raised in the **Hamas** salute, Palestinians chanted "God is great!" yesterday outside the mosque at Nuseirat in the Gaza Strip during funeral services for victims of the Israeli rocket attacks on Monday. (Photo by European Pressphoto Agency)

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003

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**Envoy arrives in Jerusalem after upsurge in violence MIDDLE EAST ROAD  
MAP:**

Financial Times (London, England)

June 16, 2003 Monday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2003 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 6

**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** By HARVEY MORRIS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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International efforts were under way at the weekend to try to calm the situation in the Middle East after a week of Israeli-Palestinian violence that threatened to wreck the US-backed "road map".

John Wolf, President George W. Bush's special envoy, arrived in Jerusalem at the head of a US monitoring team. Diplomats said the career diplomat was a newcomer to the region, but would brief himself before beginning the task of overseeing implementation of the peace plan.

Fifty people on both sides were killed last week in an upsurge of violence linked to Israel's campaign to crush **Hamas**, the militant Islamic movement that opposes the peace plan.

Ariel Sharon, Israeli prime minister, told a cabinet meeting yesterday that Israel would continue to take action against "ticking bombs" - militants on their way to carry out attacks on Israeli targets.

The White House last week criticised Israel for extending its assassination campaign to **Hamas**'s political leadership with its failed attempt to kill Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, the movement's number two. But Mr Bush appeared to soften that line yesterday in Kennebunkport: "The free world and those who love freedom and peace must deal harshly with **Hamas** and the killers".

"That's just the way it is in the Middle East," he said.

Mr Rantisi said last week, after a **Hamas** suicide bomber killed 17 in Jerusalem: "The word ceasefire is not part of our vocabulary. We are defending ourselves and will continue to do so."

The government of Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian prime minister, nevertheless still hopes to persuade **Hamas** to abide by a ceasefire. An Egyptian team was due in the Gaza Strip yesterday, following a trip there last week by Omar Suleiman, the Egyptian intelligence chief, to try to negotiate with the militants.

Despite the violence, Palestinian and Israeli officials met on Saturday night to discuss a possible handover of security responsibility to the Palestinian Authority in at least part of the territories occupied by Israeli forces.

Envoy arrives in Jerusalem after upsurge in violence MIDDLE EAST ROAD MAP:

Palestinian officials said Mohammed Dahlan, the minister of state for security affairs, had told his Israeli counterparts that Israel's reliance on assassinations and assaults on civilians were violations of its obligations under the road map.

They said the Israeli side had agreed to study Mr Dahlan's demand for an Israeli handover of security control in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Dov Weisglass, Mr Sharon's chief of staff, travelled to Washington for talks with US officials, as Colin Powell, US secretary of state, said: "The United States will not get weary, we will not waver, we will not stop, we will not step aside."

Violence continued in the northern Gaza Strip, where Israeli soldiers shot dead a militant belonging to al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an offshoot of the mainstream Fatah organisation. In the West Bank, a soldier was killed by gunfire near the town of Jenin and two Israeli women were wounded when their car came under fire near Ramallah.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2003

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## *Israelis kill terror chief*

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 422 words

**Byline:** IBRAHIM BARZAK

### **Body**

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call to war

ISRAELI troops killed **Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque yesterday, prompting threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Sheikh Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags flooded the streets of Gaza City for the funeral procession.

Mourners jostled to touch Sheikh Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and **women** ululated and threw flowers. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said **Hamas** official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Sheikh Yassin.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz pledged that "the battle against **Hamas** will continue," suggesting there will be more air strikes and raids aimed at the militant group.

The United States urged both sides to show restraint.

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as the wheelchair-bound Sheikh Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City. Sheikh Yassin and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons.

Three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later yesterday, one while handling explosives and two by Israeli army fire, during a protest against the Yassin killing, Palestinian hospital officials said.

In a West Bank refugee camp, a Palestinian radio journalist covering clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian stone throwers was killed by army fire soon after wrapping up a broadcast, residents said.

The army said it had killed a gunman after coming under fire, but had no information on a reporter being shot.

## Israelis kill terror chief

Israel held Yassin responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a former general, was at his ranch in southern Israel at the time of the missile strike, and was briefed by phone throughout the operation.

"The Israeli air force this morning killed the mastermind of all evil, Ahmed Yassin, who was a preacher of death," said the army spokeswoman, Brigadier Gen Ruth Yaron. The Israeli Defence Minister said Yassin was the "Palestinian bin Laden."

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2004

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**POOLS OF BLOOD, BODY PARTS AND A PEACE PROCESS IN A CRITICAL  
STATE;  
ROAD-MAP IN JEOPARDY AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 16 ON  
COMMUTER BUS**

The Independent (London)

June 12, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1140 words

**Byline:** JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM Soldiers and rescue workers examine the wrecked bus, top left, as medics tend to the wounded, above Gali Tibbon; Goran Tomasevic; A girl and her brother at Shifa hospital, Gaza  
EPA

## **Body**

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A WEEK after George Bush's landmark summit in Aqaba, the violence in the Middle East is spinning out of control again and his "road-map" to peace appears to be in dire trouble.

The suicide bombing that killed 16 people and injured 93 on a packed commuter bus in central Jerusalem yesterday was quickly followed by an Israeli rocket attack on a traffic jam in central Gaza, which killed seven people.

If someone hoped to stop the peace process, they got exactly what they wanted.

Witnesses accused the Israeli helicopter of deliberately firing a second time on a crowd of civilians that had gathered.

The suicide bombing was forecast from the moment Israel tried to assassinate a leader of **Hamas**' political wing, on Tuesday, Abdel-Aziz Rantisi - an attempt that drew a sharp rebuke from the White House and made no sense, coming just as **Hamas** leaders were talking about resuming talks over a possible ceasefire.

The scene in Jerusalem was predictable: the bus, its roof torn aside like a crumpled tin can, roped off in Jaffa Street; body parts scattered on the pavements, the blood that Israeli teams were mopping up in the evening. From the moment the Israeli army tried to assassinate a Palestinian militant in Gaza on Tuesday, it was as predictable as it was sickening.

"Pools of blood, cut-off body parts, cut-off heads - this is what I saw," one witness said yesterday. That could have been a description of the scene in Jaffa Street. In fact, it was a Palestinian's description of Israel's retaliation in Gaza.

**Hamas** claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing. This was the "earthquake" **Hamas** had promised in response to Israel's attempted assassination of Mr Rantisi.



## POOLS OF BLOOD, BODY PARTS AND A PEACE PROCESS IN A CRITICAL STATE; ROAD-MAP IN JEOPARDY AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 16 ON COMMUTER BUS

The bomb was a chilling indication of how powerful the militant group remains despite years of pounding by the Israeli army, able to order a suicide bombing in the heart of Jerusalem within a day.

Yesterday evening, Jaffa Street, usually the busiest road in Jerusalem, was silent except for the wails of sirens. People stood, shock on their faces, trying to take in that the killing was back so soon after the optimism of the summit in Jordan.

President Bush, his anger visible, condemned the suicide bombing. "Today there was a terrible bombing in Jerusalem," he said. "To the people in the world who want to see peace in the Middle East, I strongly urge all of you to fight off terror, to cut off money to organisations such as Hamas, to isolate those who hate so much that they're willing to kill to stop peace from going forward." A day earlier President Bush was rebuking Israel for the attempted assassination of Mr Rantisi.

"It is clear there are people in the Middle East who hate peace," he said yesterday. "People who want to kill in order to make sure that the desires of Israel to live in security and peace don't happen, who kill to make sure the desires of the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority and others of a peaceful state, living side-by-side with Israel, do not happen." He added: "I strongly condemn the killings, and I urge and call upon all of the free world, nations which love peace, to not only condemn the killings, but to use every ounce of their power to prevent them from happening in the future."

As Hamas and the Israeli army traded violence yesterday, Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Prime Minister, was left to call in vain for both sides to stop the violence immediately and to return to the road-map. "Stopping this deterioration necessitates that all parties should comply to a ceasefire and end violence and to start serious efforts to implement the road map," said a statement issued by Abu Mazen's office.

The suicide bombing came during the afternoon rush hour. Jaffa Street has seen more suicide bombings than any other street in Israel - it is a sort of suicide bomber's alley. This time the bomber, disguised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew, got on bus number 14 near the Mahane Yehuda fruit market.

Moments later there was an explosion so powerful that some of those on board were thrown through the windows of the bus. The bomb, as usual, was packed with nails, which caused terrible injuries to passengers.

"I saw a girl, about 15 or 16, who was blown from the bus," said Chen Knafo, a security guard who was near by at the time. "I took her aside and gave her first aid until a medic came." His shirt was stained with blood.

Shirli Rafael, another witness, said: "I was around the corner when I heard the explosion. I ran to the scene and simply froze. My legs couldn't move. I saw dead people. Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet. I saw a lot of women covered with blood - their skin was scorched. There was a headless body near the door."

Minutes later the Israeli helicopter retaliated by firing missiles at a car carrying a senior figure from Hamas' armed wing in Gaza. The car was sitting in a traffic jam when the missiles hit. Witnesses said that the helicopter fired a second time, into a crowd of civilians. Massoud Ramadan, 65, who witnessed the attack, said: "When we started trying to evacuate them from the car, another missile attack took place while a huge number of people were gathering trying to help the wounded." If his account is true, the Israeli military deliberately aimed at civilians.

Two bodies were taken from the car. One had been decapitated. They were believed to be Tito Massoud, a senior Hamas leader, and Soffil Abu Nahez, also a member of Hamas. But five further people were killed by the rockets. They were believed to be innocent bystanders. And at least 30 people were injured.

Angry Palestinians vilified Abu Mazen in Gaza yesterday. "Where is Abu Mazen to come and see?" shouted Jamil Hamdia as he carried his wounded 11-year-old cousin through the hospital. "Are we cheap, to be killed like this? If that makes him a good leader I think his place is not among us."

But in international terms, Abu Mazen and his new Palestinian cabinet are the only ones to come out of this latest blood-spattered round of violence looking good.

POOLS OF BLOOD, BODY PARTS AND A PEACE PROCESS IN A CRITICAL STATE; ROAD-MAP IN  
JEOPARDY AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 16 ON COMMUTER BUS

President Bush's anger at **Hamas** was plain to see yesterday. His rebuke to Israel after the attempted assassination of Mr Rantisi was unusually sharp.

These events have happened against the backdrop of a report in Haaretz newspaper that quoted an "insider" at the closed-door meetings in Aqaba last week. It said President Bush had told Condoleeza Rice that Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, was a "problem" and that he had rebuked Mr Sharon and Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli Defence Minister, in a meeting with both sides. But Mr Bush is supposed to have told Ms Rice that he liked General Mofaz's Palestinian counterpart, Mohammed Dahlan, and that he believed Abu Mazen was incapable of lying.

Yesterday, Abu Mazen was the lone voice in calling for peace. His problem will be staving off internal opposition if the Israeli attacks continue.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

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## PALESTINIAN MILITANTS TALK TRUCE

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

June 26, 2003 Thursday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2003 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A19

**Length:** 215 words

**Byline:** Margaret Coker Cox News Service

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - The largest Palestinian militant organizations worked Thursday toward an agreement to end attacks against Israeli targets for three months, if Israel also halted military operations against the groups. While negotiations were under way, Israel launched an air strike in the Gaza Strip that brought threats of retaliation from Hamas and endangered the proposed cease-fire deal.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has worked for more than a month to convince militant groups to enact a truce. A truce deal is considered a necessary first step to push ahead with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

As officials from Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah were meeting in Gaza City Wednesday evening to hammer out a final statement, Israel tried and failed to kill Hamas member Mohammed Siyam, who was traveling through his hometown of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Instead, the Israeli pilots hit a taxi parked behind the targeted vehicle, killing the driver and a 20-year-old female passenger, hospital workers said. Siyam was wounded in the explosions, but his injuries were not life-threatening, hospital officials said.

The cycle of Israeli-Palestinian violence has sunk all previous attempts during the last decade to make a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

### **Graphic**

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PHOTO, MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/ASSOCIATED PRESS, PALESTINIAN SPECIAL FORCES recruits practice during a training session in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday.

**Load-Date:** June 27, 2003

**The real obstacle to peace is not terror, but sabotage by Sharon-backed army**

The Guardian (London)

June 20, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 1002 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Gaza City

## **Body**

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The Israeli fighter jets began their dance above Gaza City just as President George Bush's special envoy and his CIA team drew up at Mohammed Dahlan's office this week.

The Palestinian security minister smiled as he reflected on the incident in a rare interview the next day, after a week of spearheading attempts to get Hamas to end its attacks on Israel and the Israelis to stop assassinations in Gaza.

Mr Bush's envoy, John Wolf, wanted to discuss hostility to the peace process among ordinary Palestinians and the dangers posed by Hamas. But as the jets raced overhead, Mr Dahlan had only to raise his eyes to see what he believes is the real threat to the US-led road map to peace. His suspicion that the real obstacle is not "terrorism" was strengthened last week by Israel's botched assassination attempt against Hamas's political leader, Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

"It's the Israeli army that holds the key, at least on the streets," he said. "We were actually getting close to an agreement with Hamas but because the Israeli army rejects the idea that there can be an internal agreement (among Palestinians), they hit Rantissi. As long as they keep saying they are at war, then they will find justifications for 'mistakes' like killing children and women which create so much anger on the streets and make this whole road map process harder."

He said Israeli democracy was being subordinated to the will of the military, with Ariel Sharon providing the shield: "Sharon is giving them political cover. The army is using the politicians as camouflage to destroy the peace process."

The Israeli army's chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Moshe Ya'alon, gave added cause for concern this week when he told his soldiers that he did not care if the military "looks like lunatics", in its fight against Hamas. Israelis have begun to wonder about the intentions of the prime minister and his defence minister, General Shaul Mofaz, after the failed attempt to kill Dr Rantissi. In an opinion poll 40% said the attack, which set off a week of killing that led to nearly 70 deaths on both sides, had been aimed at derailing the road map.

Some Palestinian leaders privately say that Mr Sharon's intention, in league with the army, is to force a conflict between Mr Dahlan's forces and Hamas.

The real obstacle to peace is not terror, but sabotage by Sharon-backed army

"No one will force us into a conflict with Hamas," Mr Dahlan said. "Those who do not want a truce are Sharon and the Israeli army, and some leaders in Hamas. What do they want? They want to maintain the status quo because they have an interest in maintaining the status quo.

"I told Sharon this: 'Convince me you want peace. I understand that Hamas does not need a truce, assuming they don't want peace. And you?' He was silent. He didn't like the comparison."

The US secretary of state, Colin Powell, arrives in Israel today to mediate. It is a reflection of how swiftly confidence has sunk after the summit with President Bush in Aqaba a fortnight ago when the Palestinians and Israelis were hailing a turning point after 33 months of killing.

Mr Dahlan said he had faith in the Americans partly because of his encounter with Mr Bush there. Also in the room were Mr Sharon, Gen Mofaz and Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister.

Mr Dahlan gave a five-minute synopsis of the Palestinian view of the security situation and the difficulties he faces because the Israelis have destroyed much of the Palestinian security infrastructure. At the end of the briefing, Gen Mofaz, jumped in. "Well, they won't be getting any help from us; they have their own security service," he said. Mr Bush turned on Gen Mofaz. "Their own security service? But you have destroyed their security service," he said. Gen Mofaz remained firm. "I do not think that we can help them, Mr President," he said. Mr Bush replied: "Oh, but I think that you can and I think that you will." A similar confrontation followed with Mr Sharon.

Towards the end of the summit, Mr Bush is reported to have told Condoleezza Rice, his national security adviser, that he liked and trusted Mr Abbas and Mr Dahlan but Mr Sharon was "a problem".

But if Mr Bush trusts the two Palestinian leaders, the Palestinian people do not. Mr Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, was vilified at the end of the summit for calling an end to the intifada and for implicitly equating it with terrorism rather than a legitimate struggle against occupation. Mr Abbas believed that the Palestinians gained after Mr Bush put pressure on Mr Sharon to commit himself to a viable and contiguous Palestinian state. But Mr Dahlan conceded that ordinary Palestinians were seeing few benefits. "It's important to bring Palestinian people achievements. That's what we're trying to explain to the Israelis, that we have to have something to show our people. For example to stop the aggression, and to lift the closures and the sieges, and to give Palestinians some hope in life."

This week's scramble to rescue the peace process included a plan to make life easier for Palestinians in Gaza by ceding security control to Mr Dahlan. He had demanded that the Israelis scrap the roadblocks which curtail movement in the Gaza Strip. But Israel's military commander in the occupied territories, Major-General Amos Gilad, proposed that the main road running through the south of Gaza be given over exclusively for the use of 4,000 Jewish settlers and that Palestinians take back roads. Mr Dahlan was outraged.

"They are not serious. They are taking into consideration the settlers at the expense of the peace process," he said.

He admitted that the road map offered no guarantee of a just settlement, with Israel willing to hand over about half of the occupied land. But he said this would be no solution to the conflict: "We are risking our lives and offering our corpses because we don't want the next generation, our sons and daughters, to suffer in the way we did. But if the Israelis want to continue the same way, they will pay the price and we will all pay the price."

[guardian.co.uk/palestinians](http://guardian.co.uk/palestinians)

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2003

## *Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader*

Financial Times (London, England)

October 30, 2004 Saturday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2004 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 6

**Length:** 406 words

**Byline:** By WALID EL-GABRY and KIM GHATTAS

**Dateline:** SOUTH LEBANON

### **Body**

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Palestinian refugees huddled in front of the television yesterday to catch as many glimpses as possible of Yassir Arafat as he made his way to France.

**Women** shed some tears as they watched the pictures of the frail Palestinian leader being lifted into a helicopter and many of the men reminisced about the time they spent alongside Abu Amar (Arafat), during his time as a fighter in Lebanon.

"I love him, my wife loves him, we all love him deeply," said Khaled Aref, the camp commander of Fatah, Mr Arafat's faction in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I've known Abu Amar since the 1960s; we fought together. The last time I saw him was in 1990, in Baghdad, and I last spoke to him just two weeks ago. We all pray for his safe return. He is our father."

Mr Aref said that no one could replace Mr Arafat as a leader and a symbol for the Palestinian struggle but that everything was in place to take over the day-to-day business of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in his absence.

During previous visits to the camp, which houses about 70,000 refugees, people have often complained that Mr Arafat let them down; but yesterday there was no talk of the failings of the 75-year-old leader, only praise.

"What are we going to do without him, what will happen to us if he's gone?" asked Umm Mohammed, shaking her head. "The world will forget about us Palestinian refugees if Abu Amar isn't there. We all need to pray for his well-being."

Ain el-Helweh, the biggest of Lebanon's 12 Palestinian refugee camps, has representatives of all Palestinian factions, from **Hamas** to Fatah, to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the more fringe Islamist groups such as Jund el-Sham and Usbat al-Ansar.

Until a month ago, it was the scene of regular fighting between these groups, but with all eyes focused on Mr Arafat, disputes appear to have been set aside.

## Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader

"All the factions here know that the real enemy is Israel, we should not be fighting each other. There are Palestinian institutions in place to take care of things in case something bad were to happen to Abu Amar," said Abu Ahmad Fadl, the local **Hamas** leader.

Political sensitivities are difficult to hide, however.

Outside the Khaled ben Walid mosque, popular with members of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, posters of the late **Hamas** leaders Ahmad Yassin and Abdelaziz Rantissi covered the walls. There were no pictures of Mr Arafat and no mention of him during Friday prayers.

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance*

New York Sun (Archive)

August 21, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 5

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** Special to the Sun

**Dateline:** UNITED NATIONS

### **Body**

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Israel yesterday gave one last chance to the government of Mahmoud Abbas to begin dismantling the Palestinian Arab terror organizations, and opted to avoid a major retaliatory attack against Hamas and Islamic Jihad a day after they carried out the worst terrorist attack since the launch of the road map.

The Israeli cabinet decided to target several Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Brigades operatives, an Israeli source told The New York Sun last night. He said that some operations would be targeted for killing, but others might be arrested and their operations disrupted in other ways. The attacks would last several days but would be narrowly cast to avoid a major breakdown in talks with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Abbas ordered the arrests yesterday of suspects directly involved in the attack, but said he would not take broader action against militant groups without the backing of Yasser Arafat.

The two Palestinians and other top leaders met into the early hours today to discuss how best to respond. Participants said the talks were tense and occasionally erupted in yelling.

A diplomatic source told the Sun there was no American pressure on Israel to hold back military operations. President Bush placed a call yesterday to Prime Minister Sharon, and Israeli media reported that Mr. Bush's message was that Israel should be allowed to go after "killers of women and children."

But America also stressed that it put diplomatic pressure on the Palestinian Arabs, perhaps to avoid the all-out Israeli response that was prevalent after terror attacks in the past. Mr. Bush's point man, John Wolf, was rushed back to the region, carrying what Washington sources described as a "strongly worded message" to the Palestinian Arab leadership.

Israeli tanks reportedly arrived in Ramallah last night, surrounding the city where Mr. Arafat is confined to his headquarters, and where several known top operatives of Hamas, Jihad and Brigades are located.

At least 20 were killed in Tuesday's bus bombing, and over a hundred injured. Among the dead were seven Americans, including 43-year-old Goldie Taubenfeld, of Rockland County, and her baby of five months, Shmuel.

The terrorist cell that carried out the Jerusalem attack came from Hebron, according to an Israeli security source, and an Israeli raid is expected there as well. Except for northern Gaza and Bethlehem, the two cities where the



## Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance

Palestinian Authority recently resumed its security responsibility, Israel was expected to operate in any West Bank site, the source said.

Israel had been planning to turn over two other cities, Qalqilya and Jericho, to Palestinian Authority control. It planned to follow later with handovers of Hebron and Ramallah as well. Now those plans are on hold.

Some security sources in fact believed that the Hamas' operation, coming from Hebron, was meant to sabotage the return of that city to the Authority, as a way to undermine the peace process. If true, this would indicate a conscious decision by Hamas to end the cease-fire known as houdna, which was reached among Palestinian Arab factions on June 29.

An Israeli official told the Sun that the cabinet's decision last night was crafted to allow Mr. Abbas some room to show he is willing to crack down on terrorists. "Everything rests on Abu Mazen now," Justice Minister Yosef Lapid told the Jerusalem Post, referring to Mr. Abbas.

Israel Radio quoted Palestinian Arab sources who said that Secretary of State Powell told Mr. Abbas in a phone conversation yesterday that Israel would allow time for his security forces to crack down on the terrorist organizations. According to the report, operatives of major terrorist organizations went underground, fearing a crackdown from either Palestinian Arabs or Israel.

Mr. Powell also placed calls to European foreign ministers Jack Straw of Britain, Dominique de Villepin of France, Joschka Fischer of Germany and Ana Palacio of Spain. A Washington source told the Sun that the diplomatic round hoped to pressure Europeans to add the names of Hamas, the Jihad and Hezbollah to their lists of terror organizations - a move which would require all Europeans to act towards cutting those organizations' financial sources.

Reports from Gaza, where a cabinet meeting took place last night, said that Mr. Abbas discussed with his aides ways to confront the terror organizations. Some suggested shutting down offices of Hamas and Jihad, as well as the organizations' official publications.

Israeli right-wing cabinet member Avigdor Lieberman told reporters right after the Tuesday bombing that Israel should "erase the Muqata," as Mr. Arafat's headquarters are known. But an official told the Sun that a move against Mr. Arafat was beyond the scope of the limited decisions taken by the cabinet last night.

Israel however continues to believe that Mr. Arafat is working hard to undermine Mr. Abbas and the road map, walking a tight rope of small scale terrorist attacks on the one hand and political negotiations on the other.

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2003

## *16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;*

Irish News

September 01, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

**Section:** Pg. 20

**Length:** 604 words

### **Body**

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PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group **Hamas** as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

"People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running, " witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer, said.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

After the attacks, Mr Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Mr Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise.

They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

The attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

**Hamas** has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

Israeli radio reports tentatively identified one of the bombers as Ahmed Qawasmeh from the West Bank city of Hebron and soldiers later went to his home to question relatives.

**Hamas** distributed a leaflet in Hebron claiming responsibility for Tuesday's attack but did not name the bombers.

"If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from Jihad, then you are dreaming, " the leaflet read.

**Hamas** and other Palestinian militant groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Israeli officials yesterday repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the main reason for the slowdown in attacks.

The barrier, which is about onequarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area.

"Unfortunately Israel has to lose more innocent civilians to prove to the world the necessity and justice of the fence, " Dore Gold, an adviser to Mr Sharon, said.

## Graphic

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ATTACKS: Rescue workers examine the remains of a destroyed bus in Beersheba PICTURE: AP

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

## *Israeli soldiers clash with Palestinian protesters*

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

August 2, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

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**Section:** World; Pg. C14; News

**Length:** 574 words

**Dateline:** NABLUS, West Bank

### **Body**

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NABLUS, West Bank (AP) -- Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in the West Bank to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Earlier, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at demonstrators near a disputed security barrier, reportedly injuring at least 11 people.

Conflict over the prisoners and the barrier, which had its first 145-kilometre section completed this week, threatens to block the peace effort. Despite White House summits with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent days, progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" has stalled.

Associated Press

The protests, a day after a riot by Palestinian prisoners in an Israeli prison, underscored the growing tensions.

The barrier, planned to stretch along 600 kilometres of electric fences, trenches, concrete blocks and coils of razor wire, is designed to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen entering Israel. It has infuriated Palestinians because it cuts into the West Bank in some areas.

The pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement said soldiers fired rubber bullets at about 300 Palestinians and 60 foreign supporters who dismantled a barbed-wire barrier in front of a section of the fence near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank on Friday.

The group said three Palestinians and eight foreigners were injured.

The army said troops had used "non-lethal means of crowd-dispersal" against a group of violent protesters who threw stones at soldiers. A spokesperson said the army was investigating reports of injuries.

Later Friday, more than 10,000 Palestinians attended a rally organized in Nablus by the Islamic group **Hamas**, which declared a unilateral ceasefire on June 29 along with other militant organizations.

Dozens of militants with plastic machine guns paraded in front of the stage as speakers demanded Israel free the estimated 7,700 Palestinians, most of whom are held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism. Israel plans to release a few hundred.

Adnan Asfour, a **Hamas** political leader in Nablus, told the crowd that the ceasefire would be threatened if "Israel continues breaching and violating our rights."

## Israeli soldiers clash with Palestinian protesters

**Female Hamas** activists performed a skit depicting Israeli soldiers and settlers evicting Palestinian villagers from their land to build the security barrier. The mock fence was then blown up by **Hamas**, eliciting cries of "God is great" from the crowd.

In meetings with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a week ago and Israeli premier Ariel Sharon on Tuesday, U.S. President George W. Bush prodded both to meet their obligations under the road map.

Bush said the Palestinians must disarm militant groups, as stipulated in the road map, and expressed concern about the security barrier. The barrier and the prisoners issues are not mentioned in the road map, a blueprint for ending violence and creating a Palestinian state by 2005.

Abbas fears a crackdown on militant groups could spark civil war. Israel has said it will continue to build the disputed barrier and announced plans for 22 new housing units in a Gaza Strip settlement, despite a road map requirement that it freeze settlement activity.

In remarks published Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bush "doesn't like fences and he wished it wasn't there."

Although Israel insists the barrier does not mark a political border, Powell expressed concern that "the fence is producing a fait accompli with respect to what a (Palestinian) state might look like."

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Associated Press; Thousands attend **Hamas** rally Friday in Nablus

**Load-Date:** August 2, 2003

## LETTER: YASSIN AND THE MORALITY OF KILLING

The Independent (London)

March 24, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** First Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 258 words

**Byline:** JACK COHEN

### **Body**

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Sir: In the wake of the killing of Sheikh Yassin many outrageous statements have been made in the media, such as that peace prospects in the Middle East will now be set back.

How absurd.

If anyone can find any statement of Yassin in favour of peace with Israel I'd like to see it; he was the most vitriolic anti-peace leader amongst the Palestinians, and was responsible for organising suicide bombings. The recent Hamas use of women bombers was personally justified by Yassin in Islamic religious terms. The removal of Yassin makes the prospects for peace better in the longer run rather than worse.

Hamas is responsible for the murder of about 500 Israelis and 3,000 injured in the past three years. Should we in Israel just keep taking this terrible toll while doing nothing in response?

I have heard commentators say that Israel's act will result in increased terrorism. On the contrary, Hamas has been fully deployed to try to carry out a successful operation in Israel, and removing its leadership will only hamper its capability to respond.

Those who hypocritically criticise Israel for doing what they would be happy to do to their own terrorist enemies will in time benefit from this act. If a US marine had Osama bin Laden in his sights would he not pull the trigger? If a Spanish guardia civil similarly had the leader of the gang that blew up 200 Spaniards in Madrid last week would he not likewise be justified in shooting him? Let the EU and UK dry their crocodile tears and be glad at the removal of Yassin.

JACK COHEN

Netanya, Israel

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

## **ISRAEL HITS BACK AFTER BUS SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 13**

Birmingham Post

June 12, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** MATT SPINCK Rescue workers tend to victims of the Palestinian suicide bomber in Jerusalem; An explosives expert searches the suicide bomber's body

### **Body**

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A suspected Palestinian suicide bomber killed at least 13 people and injured more than 60 on a bus in Jerusalem yesterday.

The blast, which tore through a bus near a city centre market, came a day after an Israeli assassination attempt against a militant **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

It was followed almost immediately by an Israeli missile strike on a car in the Gaza Strip, which witnesses claim killed at least six people.

The bombing 'is a message to all the Zionist criminals that they are not safe and that the Palestinian fighters are capable of reaching them everywhere,' said Mahmoud Zahar, another **Hamas** leader, who all but claimed responsibility for the attack.

Palestinian militants had threatened revenge attacks after Israel tried to kill Rantisi, in a helicopter missile strike in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

Yesterday's explosion went off during evening rush hour on the number 14 bus on Jaffa Street - Jerusalem's main thoroughfare - near the Mahane Yehuda outdoor market which has repeatedly been targeted by Palestinian militants in the past.

US President George W Bush condemned the Jerusalem attack in the 'strongest possible terms,' said White House a spokesman.

The new cycle of bloodshed threatened to wreck a US-backed peace plan which was launched just a week ago by Bush during talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian premier Mahmoud Abbas in Jordan.

The 'road map to peace' had created a rare glimmer of hope after 32 months of IsraeliPalestinian violence.

'I heard the bomb and I came to help take people off,' one witness, Benny Peretz said.

'I opened the door and I saw the terrorist's head on the ground.'

Ambulances rushed to the area and medics pulled dead and wounded from the wreckage of the bus.

## ISRAEL HITS BACK AFTER BUS SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 13

'It was a suicide bomber,' Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy said.

Police officials and medics claimed at least 13 people were killed and 65 people injured.

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said: 'This was another example of unbridled Palestinian terrorism which must be stopped immediately by the Palestinian Authority.'

The spasm of violence came as Israel defended itself against a rare US rebuke for its attempted killing of Rantisi.

Sharon had ordered aides to turn over intelligence to US officials to back accusations that Rantisi, the public face of the radical Islamic group **Hamas**, had been co-ordinating attacks on Israelis.

Israel killed one of Rantisi's aides and a **female** bystander in Tuesday's attack. **Hamas** responded by firing rockets into a town in nearby Israel, prompting a second helicopter strike that killed three more Palestinians - all civilians.

Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman met Abbas and President Yasser Arafat and promised to try to restart talks with **Hamas** over Abbas's appeal for a ceasefire.

Bush expressed concern that the assassination attempt could weaken Abbas. 'I also don't believe the attacks helped Israeli security,' Bush said.

Sharon's aides said Bush's censure caught him by surprise but that he was standing firm. 'When it comes to (fighting) terror, there are no concessions,' a government official quoted Sharon as saying to his cabinet yesterday.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

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## *Israel has killed bid for peace: Arafat*

The Australian

September 4, 2003 Thursday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 6

**Length:** 396 words

**Byline:** \* Correspondents in Washington

### **Body**

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PALESTINIAN President Yasser Arafat yesterday declared the US-backed road map to peace was finished, and said Israel was to blame.

"The road map is dead, but only because of Israeli military aggression in recent weeks," he told CNN in an interview in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Mr Arafat said the US had let the plan die because of George W. Bush's preoccupation with Iraq and the upcoming presidential elections.

AFP

He told CNN that Washington had failed to ensure the implementation of the road map, which was drafted by the US, the UN, the EU and Russia.

The plan calls on Israel and the Palestinians to end nearly three years of violence, and allows for the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005.

The latest escalation of violence between the two sides was set off after Israel killed a leader of the militant **Hamas** group in a helicopter strike, prompting a revenge bus bombing in Jerusalem in mid-August in which 21 people died.

Since then, 16 Palestinians -- 11 militants and five civilians, including **women** and children -- have been killed in Israeli helicopter gunship strikes on the Gaza Strip.

After the first of the strikes -- which killed **Hamas** leader Ismail Abu Shanab -- **Hamas** and other Palestinian groups announced they were cancelling their seven-week ceasefire with the Israeli forces.

Mr Arafat said reports of a split between himself and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas were exaggerated.

The US has increased pressure on Mr Arafat to turn over the Palestinian security forces to Mr Abbas in an effort to crack down on militant groups like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher repeated the demand yesterday, saying Mr Arafat "needs to co-operate with the new Government, he needs to turn over security services that have remained under his control to the control of the new Government so there can be real and effective action against terrorist groups by the Palestinian Government".

## Israel has killed bid for peace: Arafat

The US sought clarification yesterday over Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz's threat to expel Mr Arafat from Palestinian territory.

Mr Mofaz said Israel had "made a historic mistake by not expelling him two years ago, but we are going to address this issue in the short term".

Officials in Washington said it was unclear whether Mr Mofaz was voicing his personal opinion or expressing the Israeli Government's position.

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2003

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## **ISRAEL DEFIES ROAD-MAP AND VOWS TO BUILD SETTLEMENTS**

The Independent (London)

June 23, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 555 words

**Byline:** JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JUST AS Colin Powell met with other members of the Middle East Quartet on the Jordanian shores of the Dead Sea yesterday to try to rescue the road-map peace plan, two unexpected moves from Israel have put the plan, backed by President George Bush, in more trouble.

First, there was the killing by Israeli special forces of Abdullah Kawasmeh, a senior member of the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** on Saturday night, which came soon after General Powell's talks with Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, on Friday, and despite intense pressure from the US on Israel to rein in its policy of assassinations to give the road-map a chance.

Israel said Kawasmeh was not assassinated, but was shot resisting arrest. A Palestinian witness said he was unarmed. The killing earned Israel a rebuke from General Powell, the US Secretary of State.

Then there were Mr Sharon's reported remarks to his cabinet yesterday, in which he was quoted as saying Israel should continue building in the occupied territories but keep quiet about it, even though the plan requires Israel to stop settlement-building.

Mr Sharon was said to have made the remarks during a stormy cabinet session. Israel's national infrastructure minister, Yosef Paritzky, came under attack from his cabinet colleagues for suggesting the government could move Jewish people living in settlements that have to be evacuated to underpopulated areas of Israel.

President Bush has said the settlements have to be "dealt with". They are built on occupied land in contravention of international law, on the remaining 22 per cent of British-mandate Palestine where the Palestinians want to set up the independent state they are promised. They cut the West Bank into swathes, making a state difficult to set up.

Under the plan, Israel is to dismantle and evacuate settlements and halt construction.

But Mr Sharon reportedly said that people living in settlements to be evacuated could stay in the West Bank and move to older settlements which do not have to be evacuated. He reportedly said new homes could be built, which appears to contravene the call for a freeze on construction.

The **Hamas** militant Kawasmeh was killed by Israeli ground forces, rather than the helicopter rockets Israel has used in recent assassinations in the Gaza Strip which have killed many innocent people, including **women** and children. This time no others were hit.

## ISRAEL DEFIES ROAD-MAP AND VOWS TO BUILD SETTLEMENTS

The operation was carried out by Israeli police special forces disguised as Palestinians. They hid in a van, with its windows blocked by boxes of nappies, to ambush Kawasmeh as he left a mosque in Hebron after evening prayers. Israel said the commandoes had not intended to shoot Kawasmeh but fired after he drew a gun. A Palestinian witness, Mohammed Nasser al-Din, said Kawasmeh was unarmed.

The response from **Hamas** was predictable: there would be an "immediate reaction", and Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, the most prominent leader of **Hamas'** political wing, said: "There will be a retaliation".

After Israel's attempt to kill Dr Rantisi two weeks ago, **Hamas** carried out a suicide bombing in central Jerusalem that killed 17 people. An Israeli newspaper poll found that 40 per cent of Israelis believed Mr Sharon had ordered the assassination to delay the road-map, and that 67 per cent wanted the killings to stop to give the road-map a chance.

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2003

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## **Israel shuts border to Gaza Strip until Sunday: Move is a reponse to suicide bombing**

Ottawa Citizen

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A8; News

**Length:** 288 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- As grieving relatives and friends buried four Israeli soldiers, a security official yesterday said the Israeli army sealed the Gaza Strip and would keep a border crossing closed through Sunday.

The move comes a day after a Palestinian woman blew herself up, killing the four Israeli border guards.  
The Associated Press

Top Israel army commanders met at the defence ministry yesterday to consider a response to the latest attack, the security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The army shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs could cross.

The closing prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become more difficult -- but few were willing to openly blame terrorists for their new hardship.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza marked the first time the Islamic terrorist group **Hamas** dispatched a **female** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence. The **female** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral yesterday.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar said.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize **Hamas**, questioned the wisdom of Wednesday's attack. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004