

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:07:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445393

## Documents (100)

1. New Presbyterian statement against anti-Jewish bias 'infused with bias'. Presbyterian Church document on Israeli - Palestinian conflict meets with across-the-board condemnation by Jewish groups

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

2. The right of self-defence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

3. Olmert calls for demolishing attackers' homes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

4. In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

5. Kicking away the gun

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

6. Top international stories of '07

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

7. OMM: Bobby GILLESPIE: SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE: The Primal Scream star tells Will Hodgkinson about the respect he has for Johnny Rotten and why he mobbed Link Wray

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

8. Bush denounces Democratic negotiation offers during Israel visit

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

9. Settlements: The road perilously travelled

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

10. SATELLITE CHOICE

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

11. First, refute the defamation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

12. Israel 's real friends are on the Right

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

13. DEATH WISH. Palestinian celebration of murder dooms hope for peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

14. Not winning

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

15. Don't mention the war as Israel lauded

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

16. U.S. must expose al-Qaida brutality

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

17. Al-Qaida's tactics mean it quickly wears out its welcome

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

18. Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

19. Letters: Readers Respond: Questions for al-Qaeda

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

20. Palestinians defy odds, make films

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

#### 21. Palestinian films defy the odds

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 22. Santa dons sunglasses to hand out presents in Bethlehem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 23. In Viewing the Debate, New Yorkers Tip Their Hands

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 24. Horowitz decries 'Islamo-fascism' during Princeton U. speech

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 25. End terror support

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 26. Horowitz decries 'Islamo-fascism' during Princeton U. speech



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 27. Horowitz decries 'Islamo-fascism' during Princeton U. speech

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 28. Islam's original feminist; A century after his death, Qasim Amin remains a man ahead of his time

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 29. Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti- Israeli tone at Durban 2

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

# 30. Britain is a hotbed of anti- Israeli sentiment Ron Prosor, the Israeli ambassador, says British academics are denying his country's right to exist as a democratic state

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 31. Survey of Israelis' Attitudes Toward Politics Finds Disgust and a Growing Apathy

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 32. Israeli politics in grip of a 'Roman' decay ANALYSIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 33. It's all about leverage

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 34. LEVERAGE NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

# 35. <u>International: Bush appeasement slur angers Democrats: Obama outraged by president's claim that talking</u> to US foes in Middle East is like negotiating with Hitler

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 36. Can democracy and Islam coexist?

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 37. Muslim Harvard students seek to carve identity in post-Sept. 11 world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 38. A democratic Islam?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 39. Being a good person doesn't excuse your words, actions

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 40. Hillary has a point

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 41. Presidential Candidates Eye the U.N.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 42. This time, the peace talks must succeed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 43. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 44. Sometimes you have to shout to be heard

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

## 45. Gaza's 1.5 million people face a demographic time bomb POPULATION-MIDEAST: Time Bomb Ticking

Away in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 46. Hizbullah's successful prisoner swap 'promotes armed struggle'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

#### 47. Matt McCarten: Parliament looks inwards while rest of the planet runs amok

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 48. It's All About Leverage

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 49. Iraqi Troops Begin Operation in South, While a Cleric's Movement Reorganizes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 50. The Last Debate

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 51. Willie Walsh 's nightmare in Groundhog Day at Heathrow

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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



#### 52. Sarkozy, Admitting Errors, Vows to Speed Up Change

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 53. Give Muslims time to find democratic feet

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 54. Thousands of Palestinians inside Israeli jails MIDEAST: In Prison, Who Knows Why

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 55. THE WORLD THIS WEEK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 56.\_THE WORLD THIS WEEK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 57. Land of prophets at a loss

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 58. Bush wants peace deal this year President lists specific goals for Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 59. Partners just as politic as chic

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 60. Alexandra Boulat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 61. Around the world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 62. Olmert urged to stand down over corruption claims

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

63. The Nintendo Brain Trainer -- is it racist?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

64. Bush gently touts democracy on undemocratic soil

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

65. Israel set for first female leader in 34 years

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

66. Rachel Corrie pulls no punches at PuSh; Controversial play set for run at Havana Theatre Jan. 24 to Feb. 2

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

67. Of ordinariness and occupation WHAT I LOVE ABOUT. . . RAMALLAH: This West Bank city is

characterised by Arab hospitality and resilient cultural activity, writes Sharmila Devi

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

### 68. Iran is greatest threat, Bush says in Mideast

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 69. Woman poised to lead Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

# 70. I have no respect or tolerance for Sharia

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 71. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 72. Palestinian Mayors Lobby for Christian Support

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

#### 73. Palestinian Rams Construction Vehicle Into Traffic, Killing 3

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 74. Blowing hard, but substance is needed in this wind of change

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 75. Around the world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 76. Bulldozer terror rampage \*Three killed before Israeli police shoot Palestinian driver

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 77. Obituaries: Alexandra Boulat: Photojournalist who recorded the injustices wrought on ordinary people by war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

# 78. A new 'road map' for Islam in Turkey; Reform-minded scholars to conduct modern reinterpretation of the words of the Prophet

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 79. Turkish scholars prepare to reinterpret Islam

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 80. The last journey of Pippa Bacca

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 81. The atrocity experiment

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 82. The atrocity experiment

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

83. This suffering must end the Wednesday essay Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans has just returned from a visit to Palestine and Israel as part of a fact finding mission with other Members of the European Parliament. This is her diary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

84. 'Neither shall they study war anymore'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

85. The Wrap: 'It's like having a fire in a cinema'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

86. Accept That the Regime in Iran Is Here To Stay The strategic Interest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

87. The Islamization of East Jerusalem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

#### 88. What will her opponents make of a dovish new woman leader?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

89. Kirk is strongest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

90. Losing the PR war and the Diaspora

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

91. Teen fails to save tragic infant from rottweiler's jaws

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

92. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

93. Who will guard human rights at the UN?

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 94. Compromise the only answer to Mideast impasse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 95. Interview with Gilbert Achcar Q&A: 'U.S. Politics Turning Communities Against Each Other'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

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

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

#### 97. Lighting the lamp of Arabic caricature in London

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

# 98. <u>'Enigmatic, intricate, unpredictable' Far from a dictatorship united in belligerence, Iran is a bubbling social</u> and political cauldron

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

99. A masjid grows in Brooklyn

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

100. There is only one man who can save America

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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



# New Presbyterian statement against anti-Jewish bias 'infused with bias'. Presbyterian Church document on Israeli-Palestinian conflict meets with across-the-board condemnation by Jewish groups

The Jerusalem Post June 16, 2008 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 770 words

**Byline:** HAVIV RETTIG

# **Body**

Many of American Jewry's largest religious and advocacy groups have lashed out in the past few days at the Presbyterian Church USA for a new document published by the church that warned against anti-Jewish bias in the church's pursuit of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The new document "does more to excuse anti-Semitism and foster anti-Jewish motifs then it does to dispel them," according to a strongly worded letter to church leader Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, the stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church, from Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism; Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; and Dr. Carl Sheingold, executive vice president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

The new version of "Vigilance Against anti-Jewish Bias in the Pursuit of Israeli-Palestinian Peace," placed on the church's Web site last week, replaces a previous version presented in May, which was welcomed by Jewish leaders and groups. It comes just days ahead of the June 21 opening of the 2008 Presbyterian Church General Assembly in San Jose, California.

Questioning with "deep suspicion" the "motivations" behind the new document, Yoffie, Epstein and Sheingold noted that the revision had dropped, among other things, the "acknowledgement of [the church's] complicity" in anti-Jewish bias, and replaced it with "a statement that is completely unbalanced in its appraisal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which contains veiled threats of 'divestment,' and which completely undoes much of the positive language and progress that were presented" in the earlier document.

While affirming the legitimacy of "denunciation of injustices the State of Israel has committed or may commit," the May version included a warning against "demonization of Israel and the Jewish people and its echoes of ancient Christian anti-Judaism" in Palestinian liberation theology. This concern was absent in the June revision. The May document also included the now-excised statement, "we are aware and do confess that anti-Jewish attitudes can be found among us."

The Jewish movement leaders wondered particularly at the motivation for dropping the sentence: "We Presbyterians aspire to build positive and respectful relations with our neighbors in the Jewish community," which disappeared in the revision.

New Presbyterian statement against anti-Jewish bias 'infused with bias'. Presbyterian Church document on Israeli - Palestinian conflict meets with across-the-bo....

But concern came not only from religious leaders. A statement condemning the revised Presbyterian Church document was signed by over a dozen of the largest mainstream American Jewish organizations, including umbrella groups of rabbis and synagogues, large <u>women</u>'s groups such as Hadassah, advocacy organizations like the ADL and the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the policy arm of the federation system.

The umbrella Jewish statement recounted several years of tension between the Jewish community and the Presbyterian Church: "A 2004 policy stated that Israeli occupation is 'at the root of evil acts committed against innocent people on both sides of the conflict.' A 2007 church teaching resource claims a two-thousand-year continued Christian presence in the Holy Land, but writes Jews out of the history until the middle of the twentieth century. A 2008 church statement termed the rockets that <u>Hamas</u> has fired into Israeli civilian areas as 'provocative acts of retaliation.'"

Meanwhile, reads the Jewish statement, the revision dismisses "anti-Israel and anti-Jewish terror that has killed and maimed Israeli civilians in buses, restaurants, and markets," and describes Israel as "the oppressive force in the Israeli-Palestinian situation."

Finally, the letter took exception at the recommendation of "targeting corporations for 'engagement' as a viable approach to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. No recent church policy has caused greater harm to Presbyterian-Jewish relations. In contrast, the church has yet to take any action to 'engage' corporations that foster anti-Israel terrorism through investment in state sponsors of terror, including Iran and Syria. This demonstrates a continued one-sided and distressing approach to peacemaking."

No response could be obtained over the weekend from the Presbyterian Church USA, nor was any church response made public since the controversy began last week.

Meanwhile, say the Jewish movement leaders, Jewish- Presbyterian relations have suddenly plummeted to "a new low point." Rather than explain how to avoid anti-Jewish bias, they complain, the new document "reads as a blueprint for how to engage in anti-Israel activity without being accused of anti-Semitism."

Load-Date: October 4, 2011

**End of Document** 



# The right of self-defence

Ottawa Citizen

June 21, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B6; David Warren

Length: 779 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

## **Body**

It will be recalled, by readers who follow world news, that the President of Iran has on many occasions unambiguously declared both the desire to annihilate Israel, and the expectation that Israel will soon be annihilated. It will also be recalled, that on the balance of evidence, the Iranian state has been working assiduously to acquiring the means for this act of genocide. Iran is in direct defiance of UN resolutions to stop enriching uranium, and playing Saddam-like games with UN inspectors.

If a man were threatening to kill you, and declaring that you will soon be dead, while reaching for a gun, I think most readers would allow you were within your rights to kick that gun out of his reach.

The word "genocide" -- which has been seriously cheapened and abused by rhetorical posturing in the "culture wars" of the West -- does have a meaning. It is an awkward word, with the Latin for "kill" tacked onto the Greek for "tribe," but it acquired a reasonably precise definition in international law when the convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was promulgated through the United Nations in 1951 (after a little watering down to appease the Soviet Union).

And while that Convention was obviously inspired by the Holocaust in which at least six million European Jews were annihilated by Nazi Germany, work towards it had begun much earlier. Curiously enough it had not borne fruit in the days of the League of Nations, owing to the need felt in the 1930s to appease the demands of Nazi Germany.

The examples then were the huge massacres of Armenian Christians, across what is now Turkey, of Assyrian Christians, in what is now Iraq, and of Greek Christians along the Black Sea coast, in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, during the First World War. To this day all these events are disputed in Turkey, and elsewhere in the Muslim world, but the weight of evidence is overwhelming. At least two million died in the death marches, obviously designed not to relocate, but to eradicate these ethnic groups, whose loyalty to the Ottoman cause was profoundly doubted.

The relativist phrase "One man's terrorism is another man's freedom struggle" has been popularized by the Left, and could as well be paraphrased, "One man's genocide is another man's self-defence." This playing on words, while avoiding the things the words signify, has become a commonplace of "political correctness" at the present day. A wanton confusion between "genocide," which is clear and factual and very bloody, and "hate speech," which is entirely interpretive, has by now been written even into various western criminal codes, including Canada's.

#### The right of self-defence

In international law "genocide" means specific acts intended to physically destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These range from outright massacre, down to imposing conditions in which the group cannot reproduce itself, or its members are forcibly indoctrinated, its children kidnapped, its <u>women</u> systematically raped.

"Hatred" is an emotion. It should not even come into the discussion of what genocide means, and is only brought into the discussion to confuse the issue -- to use all the emotions associated with the Holocaust for the purpose of advancing some other dark agenda.

The Iranian state is officially represented not only by President Ahmadinejad, but also in similar statements made by other leading ayatollahs, promising the utter annihilation of Israel. Iran openly arms and funds Hezbollah and *Hamas*, which likewise publicly promise to annihilate Israel.

Actual command of a state, or at least a large paramilitary force, is moreover entirely necessary to make the threat of genocide meaningful. For an attempt at genocide requires the means. Some adolescent neo-Nazi, raving on an Internet thread, is not in a position to attempt genocide. President Ahmadinejad is in such a position.

Israel recently rehearsed a military operation over the eastern Mediterranean, on a scale and of a kind to foreshadow a raid on Iran's nuclear installations. Little attempt was made to conceal it, and we can only conclude it was meant to send a breeze up the ayatollahs' skirts. But rather than condemn the Israelis, reflexively and neurotically, for "war-mongering," we should confront the cold, hard reality.

Under the Genocide Convention, as currently received, Israel would be entirely within her rights to launch such a raid on Iran -- to, by analogy, "kick away that gun." Alternatively, Iran must demonstrably withdraw those genocidal threats, and unambiguously recognize Israel's permanent right to existence.

David Warren's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday.

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**End of Document** 



# Olmert calls for demolishing attackers' homes

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

July 4, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 723 words

Byline: The Associated Press

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

# **Body**

A day after a Palestinian construction worker's deadly rampage in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday called for reviving the practice of demolishing the homes of attackers' families, and his chief deputy proposed cutting some Arab neighbourhoods off from the rest of the city.

Israeli Jews expressed anxiety about security, and Palestinians wondered what the violence will mean for their already tenuous position in society.

A day earlier, a Palestinian drove a huge earth-moving vehicle over cars and into buses, killing three Israelis and leaving a swath of wreckage on a main Jerusalem street before security forces shot him to death.

The attacker, Hussam Dwayat, 30, of east Jerusalem, had no problem moving around the Jewish part of Jerusalem. After Israel captured the Arab section of the city in the 1967 war, it gave residency and Israeli ID cards to the Arabs who lived there, giving them freedom of movement around Israel.

The attack brought calls to reconsider at least some of the benefits the 250,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem receive from the Israeli government.

"I think we have to be tougher in part of the measures that we take against terrorists, especially terrorists who are part of our internal fabric of life," Olmert told an economic conference at the Red Sea resort of Eilat. "If we have to demolish houses, we will demolish houses. If we have to revoke social rights, we will revoke social rights. It's inconceivable that we are slaughtered and they will have all the privileges that our society grants our citizens."

Israel had in 2005 stopped the practice of demolishing the homes of Palestinian attackers after the military determined that it did not work as a deterrent.

Deputy Prime Minister Haim Ramon proposed cutting off the attackers' home village and others in east Jerusalem, where about 50,000 Arabs live, by rerouting the West Bank separation barrier to put the villages outside Jerusalem's boundaries. It was a rare call by a senior Israeli official to effectively redivide Jerusalem, reflecting concern that preventing attacks by Jerusalem's Palestinians is virtually impossible.

Four months ago, a Palestinian from a neighbouring village shot and killed eight young students at a rabbinical school in Jerusalem.

#### Olmert calls for demolishing attackers' homes

On Thursday, police forbade Dwayat's family from setting up a mourning tent at his home in the village of Sur Baher.

A group of men sitting under a eucalyptus tree said some of Dwayat's relatives had been questioned by police. Dwayat's widow, Jamileh, sat on a sofa, wearing a long black dress and head scarf, biting her fingernails and greeting well-wishers with dark, sad eyes. Her two children had been sent to a cousin's house.

"He was a martyr," said one <u>female</u> visitor as she kissed Jamileh Dwayat on the cheeks in reference to the honorary title given to Muslims killed in attacks on Israelis. The attacker's father, Taysir, had earlier forced mourners to stop shouting "martyr" at the home, insisting to Israeli reporters that his son was under the influence of drugs during the rampage, was not motivated by hate, and that the family supported coexistence.

Police said the attacker apparently acted alone. He had a criminal record, police said, and had been ordered to demolish his home in 2005 because it was built illegally.

Residents of Sur Baher expressed concern about their jobs.

"I have always worked in Israel and I have great relations with my boss," said a man who would give only his first name, Moussa, for fear his Jewish employer at a west Jerusalem hotel would disapprove.

Meron Benvenisti, deputy mayor of Jerusalem from 1967 to 1979, said the vast majority of Palestinians in the city value the benefits linked to Jerusalem residency.

"The majority cherish their status. They would not try this (such an attack)," he said. "There is no way you can generalize, but the majority of east Jerusalemites would like the status quo to continue."

Many Jews in Jerusalem said all Arab residents of the city should be kept out of the Jewish side.

In another development, Palestinian militants fired a rocket at Israel, violating a June 19 truce, the military said. No one was hurt, but Israel's Defence Ministry decided to close Gaza crossings Friday in response, cutting off vital supplies. The *Hamas* government in Gaza called the closure a breach of the ceasefire.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Associated Press; An Israeli man stands on an earthmover with his handgun after shooting dead a Palestinian attacker in Jerusalem on Wednesday.;

Load-Date: July 4, 2008

**End of Document** 



# In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead

The Jerusalem Post June 20, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 723 words **Byline:** ABE SELIG

# **Body**

A warm dawn haze lifted over the desert, but the moon was still out, and it dimly lit a group of soldiers in the distance - dots of green against the dark, barren landscape - charging silently towards the village.

Within minutes the silence was shattered. Gunfire, smoke and the low boom of grenade explosions echoed through the early morning, as regular infantry outfits mixed with occasional long-haired reservists advanced on their targets, yelling out commands.

"Cover me, I'm moving ahead!" yelled one private, lifting himself up from the ground and bee-lining to a small house on the village outskirts. His comrades followed, one after the other, as rays of sunlight and the neon green light of mosque minarets began to better illuminate the scene

The soldiers moved boldly, pushing forward in clear, decisive steps. Their mission: Enter the large Arab village in pursuit of a terrorist cell and engage in intensive house-to-house combat. Each section of the built-up area would need to be cleared.

We could have been in Gaza, the West Bank or Lebanon. But the "fighting" that took place early Thursday morning was actually a training exercise outside Beersheba, and the guns were firing blanks.

Dozens of infantry companies, mainly from the Givati Brigade, stormed the large "village" set up in the desert, at the start of another day's instruction at the IDF's Ground Troop Training Center.

Built a year and a half ago, the GTTC is a mock Arab village complete with outlying rural areas, a downtown district and a winding maze of streets and alleyways, pregnant with the constant risk of an unexpected close encounter with the enemy.

During Thursday's drill, that enemy was a company of <u>female</u> soldiers, dressed in khaki pants and camouflage jackets - a nod to the garb of choice among <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah gunmen. Equipped with machine guns, Humvees mounted with rocket-launchers and a steady hold on key positions in the village, the "enemy" soldiers' resemblance to the IDF's most potent recent threats extended far beyond clothing.

Explosions continued rocking the town as the sun began to show itself completely, and soldiers, some of whom lay "wounded" or hunkered-down under enemy fire, were forced to deal with a range of volatile factors in the battlefield. As the drill progressed, dozens of officers monitored their troops, looking for flaws and weaknesses that on a real battlefield, in a real conflict, would mean real casualties.

In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead

"What are you doing?" barked one company commander as his troops barreled their way into the courtyard of a home. "Do you want to die? You have to move in better than that if you want to do it right."

Troops were seen evacuating their wounded comrades to safety as others focused heavy gunfire at buildings where "terrorists" had been trapped and were firing in volleys at approaching soldiers.

Designed to train combat units for urban warfare, the GTTC village aims to replicate situations that soldiers may encounter in an urban combat situation. While Thursday's drill highlighted basic familiarity with the buildings and other logistical factors in such an environment, other drills feature civilians, media personnel and a central market area filled with people and goods.

Additionally, the GTTC has made the implementation of lessons learned from the Second Lebanon War a top priority. Concepts such as the maneuverability of infantry forces and greater collaboration with the Air Force are heavily stressed, with an emphasis on creating a light, fast-moving fighting force that suffers minimal casualties - a tacit acknowledgement of key mistakes made in the summer of 2006.

Soldiers seemed to be adjusting well on Thursday morning, and commanders, who refused to be interviewed, seemed pleased with their troops' performance and hard work.

As the drill ended, smoked billowed over the village and the sun was rising red behind a hulking minaret. From that point, commanders were taken to a debriefing room outfitted with the latest digital equipment, to review snapshots, analyze video clips and make recommendations for improvements.

Soldiers were seen taking a break from combat, smoking cigarettes and sitting down in the sand as they relieved themselves of vests and stretchers. The village stood empty in the morning light. And preparations for the next drill were likely already under way.

# **Graphic**

2 photos: A RECONSTRUCTION of an Arab village at an IDF base near Beersheba is allowing soldiers to practice the kind of alleyway warfare they may encounter in the future. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

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**End of Document** 



# Kicking away the gun

Windsor Star (Ontario)

July 2, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL/OPINION; Pg. A6; David Warren

Length: 776 words

Byline: David Warren, Ottawa Citizen

## **Body**

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The word "genocide" --- which has been seriously cheapened and abused by rhetorical posturing in the "culture wars" of the West -- does have a meaning. It is an awkward word, with the Latin for "kill" tacked onto the Greek for "tribe," but it acquired a reasonably precise definition in international law when the convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was promulgated through the United Nations in 1951 (after a little watering down to appease the Soviet Union).

And while that Convention was obviously inspired by the Holocaust in which at least six million European Jews were annihilated by Nazi Germany, work toward it had begun much earlier. Curiously enough it had not borne fruit in the days of the League of Nations, owing to the need felt in the 1930s to appease the demands of Nazi Germany.

The examples then were the huge massacres of Armenian Christians, across what is now Turkey, of Assyrian Christians, in what is now Iraq, and of Greek Christians along the Black Sea coast, in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, during the First World War. To this day, all these events are disputed in Turkey, and elsewhere in the Muslim world, but the weight of evidence is overwhelming. At least two million died in the death marches, obviously designed not to relocate, but to eradicate these ethnic groups, whose loyalty to the Ottoman cause was profoundly doubted.

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David Warren is an Ottawa Citizen columnist.

Load-Date: July 2, 2008

**End of Document** 



Pittsburgh Tribune Review January 1, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 4132 words

Byline: staff and wire reports

# **Body**

The top 10 international stories of 2007:

#### 1. Iraq troop surge

It was in the face of stiff opposition and contrary public opinion -- 70 percent opposed the surge, and just 32 percent gave the president their approval in an AP-lpsos poll the next day -- that President Bush on Jan. 10 ordered an increase that would eventually total 28,500 in the number of U.S. troops deployed in Iraq.

Anti-war legislators responded with a protracted push to tie war funding to a timetable for withdrawal.

Even as the troop surge was brought into effect, once-staunch ally Britain announced Feb. 21 its intent to withdraw many of its troops and to redeploy the rest in training and support. Similar moves by lesser allies including Australia and Denmark followed throughout the year.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told Congress on Sept. 10 that the boost in personnel produced enough progress that it could be reversed, with a reduction of 30,000 troops, to about 130,000, by July 2008.

On Nov. 6, the military announced the toll on U.S. troops was the highest for any year.

Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnston, who in July called Bush's optimism about the surge "delusional," made an about-face after a trip to Iraq during Thanksgiving recess: "I think the surge is working," he said Nov. 29.

Democratic leaders persisted into December in efforts to attach conditions to about \$200 billion sought by the Pentagon to fund the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan through September 2008.

#### 2. Iran's nuclear program

The United Nations decided in December 2006 that Iran would enter the new year with new sanctions over its nuclear program.

Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hardly backed down, announcing Jan. 3 his nation's impending production of nuclear fuel on an industrial scale. By month's end, the nation tested missiles and was installing centrifuges for uranium enrichment in the face of a bolstered presence in the Persian Gulf by the United States.

By May 24, Iran's technological progress led International Atomic Energy Agency Director Mohamed ElBaradei to say the nation could enrich enough uranium to build a bomb in three to eight years. A separate estimate in September predicted a one-year timeline.

President Bush's efforts to curb Iran's atomic efforts were hamstrung as Russia and China, both resistant to pursuing sanctions, seized on his 2002 allegations of an advanced Iraqi nuclear program that eventually proved unfounded.

On Oct. 18. Bush raised the stakes.

"We've got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel," he said. "So I've told people that, if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Donald Kerr, deputy director of national intelligence, told Congress on Dec. 6 that "one of the most well-sourced" intelligence assessments ever produced deemed that Iran mothballed its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

In spite of the report, the Bush administration held fast to its assertion that Iran's nuclear program still posed a danger.

#### 3. Oil prices skyrocket

On Oct. 18, the price per barrel of crude oil topped \$90 for the first time. Prices approached \$100, topping out at \$99.29 on Nov. 21, with the spike attributed to -- among other things -- tension in Iran, the subprime mortgage crisis driving investors to commodities including oil and unprecedented weakness of U.S. currency.

Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said at an OPEC summit in November that a U.S. attack on his country or Iran would mean "oil would not be \$100 but \$200 (per barrel)." With that, the leader of the No. 4 supporter of oil to the United States made fuel into a weapon. And Iran's ability to choke off almost 40 percent of the world's oil supply adds bite to Chavez's bark.

By November's end, the price per barrel was back below \$89, and a Dec. 5 OPEC meeting concluded that the market needed no further production.

Nonetheless, a year that began with prices below \$59 per barrel its first week had prices about 50 percent higher as 2008 approached. Moreover, many experts predicted that a spring boost in demand could bring a season of new record highs.

#### 4. Turmoil in Pakistan

President Pervez Musharraf needed a victory Sept. 29 before Pakistan's Supreme Court even to be eligible for his nation's Oct. 6 election. Opponents contended his second job, as chief of Pakistan's army, ought to have precluded him from re-election. He won a new five-year term in an overwhelming victory -- but one in which 40 percent of the eligible electorate sat out in protest.

As the year pressed on, Musharraf faced more challenges on the political battlefield. On July 20, the Supreme Court voted unanimously to reinstate Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, an adversary Musharraf suspended from the bench four months earlier.

Two former Pakistani premiers and Musharraf rivals, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, made moves to return to Pakistan. Sharif's Sept. 10 return resulted in summary exile.

The immensely popular Bhutto returned Oct. 18, apparently having reached a power-sharing deal with Musharraf. She was greeted after eight years in self-imposed exile with a suicide attack that killed 136 near her procession.

After the attack, the seeming alliance crumbled before Musharraf declared a state of emergency Nov. 3. He suspended the constitution, sacked Chaudhry, rounded up hundreds of political opponents and blocked private television.

The bold move was made as Musharraf became aware that the Supreme Court was poised to declare him ineligible to remain president.

On Nov. 28, after weeks of working toward conciliation, the leader resigned from the military. On Dec. 15, he lifted emergency rule, though keeping in place curbs on the media and judiciary. Those he says he will lift after a Jan. 8 parliamentary vote, when Pakistan will supposedly return to normalcy.

#### 5. Sarkozy elected leader of France

In his bid to succeed Jacues Chirac as France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy took stances sure to alienate many of his nation's people.

In perhaps the biggest bombshell, he vowed to boost the torpid economy by loosening labor laws, not a favored sentiment among a citizenry that treasures its five-week minimum vacations and 35-hour workweeks.

He favored improved relations with the United States, when much of the French populace still fumed over the Iraq war. This position cost him points with many voters, though he called the war "a historic error."

And he became reviled among ethnic minorities for his tough stance as interior minister on race-fueled 2005 riots and his voiced intent, though himself the son of an immigrant, to tighten France's borders.

Nonetheless, he defeated Socialist rival Segolene Royal in May. In a parliamentary election June 17, Sarkozy's party and right-wing allies kept a majority in the National Assembly, but lost seats to the Socialists.

In mid-October, he faced a pair of setbacks, with a tabloid-fodder divorce from his wife, Cecelia, that was announced the same day as a one-day transit strike that aimed to sink pension reforms sought by Sarkozy. In November, a nine-day reprisal of the strike ended with unions capitulating to Sarkozy's plan.

#### 6. Putin's power play

Term limits compel Russian President Vladimir Putin to step down from his post after a March 2 vote picks his successor. But as 2007 drew to a close, it seemed inevitable he'll be back at the helm in 2012, without sacrificing any power in the interim.

A parliamentary vote Dec. 2 was widely framed as a referendum on Putin. The result was a landslide victory for his party, United Russia, giving Putin what he earlier labeled a "moral mandate" to maintain his influence from his next station, possibly prime minister.

A big part of Putin's power play is oil wealth that has expanded the Russian economy by an average of 26 percent each year since 1999 -- his entire tenure at the top.

But likely as important was a year of saber-rattling and showdowns with the West that recalled the Cold War, and displayed a renewed potence and spirit of independence for Russia.

Putin put himself at odds with the United States over Iran's nuclear program and assailed a U.S.-proposed missiledefense system in Europe.

Two days before the parliamentary vote, he signed a law extricating Russia from an arms treaty limiting military deployment in Europe.

And the Russian "bear" revealed new teeth. Oil proceeds permitted a seven-year, \$200 billion plan to bring the military up to date, and the August inception of aircraft sorties near foreign airspace had Britain and Norway scrambling fighters.

#### 7. Violence in Afghanistan

When Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Dec. 13 sought a larger contribution of troops and resources in Afghanistan from European allies, it signaled to many experts that the United States recognized a personnel shortfall similar to one that spurred a troop surge in Iraq this year. The seeming lack of necessary manpower had long been a concern, but was drawn to center stage in a late-October push in U.S. media by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to curb coalition air strikes.

Coalition forces, mostly in air strikes, killed about as many Afghan civilians as did Taliban militants. The strikes, considered necessary in lieu of vast troop buildup, put a dent in the image of allied forces, opening up an opportunity for insurgents to spread their influence. A poll released Dec. 3 indicated 42 percent of Afghans rate U.S.-led efforts in the country positively, down from 68 percent in 2005.

An uptick in violence showed the Taliban capitalized on their chances. In 2007, the conflict in Afghanistan was bloodier than any year since the October 2001 U.S. incursion into the country. More than 6,200 died in insurgency-related attacks, including at least 111 U.S. troops, also the largest such toll. An ABC News analysis released in November called Afghanistan more dangerous than Iraq for American troops, citing a fatality rate twice that of the toll in Iraq.

At the same time, al-Qaida's presence in Afghanistan -- the chief reason for the 2001 invasion -- seemed to shrink further as the terror group reportedly established safe haven and a chain of command in neighboring Pakistan. The conflict heads into 2008 with a significantly higher cost and somewhat more nebulous goals.

#### 8. North Korea's nuclear shutdown

After an October 2006 test of a nuclear weapon by North Korea, the U.N. moved to impose broad and unanimous sanctions, and the United States, China, Japan, Russia and South Korea moved quickly to re-establish six-nation talks that had been dormant for a year during a North Korean boycott.

On Jan. 16, the United States opened direct talks with North Korea, a milestone for the Bush administration, which shunned such contact with the "Axis of Evil" state.

By Feb. 13, six-party talks reached an accord in which North Korea agreed to "shut down and seal" its Yongbyon nuclear facility as well as another reprocessing plant, and to invite monitors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct verification. In return, the United States and Japan would work toward full diplomatic relations with the North, dropping sanctions. Moreover, America and regional powers agreed to an energy assistance package worth \$240 million.

After months of stalemate, North Korea on June 17 admitted U.N. inspectors to monitor its reactor shutdown. On July 14, Pyongyang told U.S. officials it shut down its Yongbyon facility, saying it would move to permanently disable the facility if sactions were lifted and its U.S. designation as a terror sponsor was expunged.

In December, U.S. envoy Christopher Hill said North Korea was on schedule with the disabling of its nuclear facility, which was slated to be all but completed by year's end.

#### 9. Middle East peace talks

The move toward peace in the Middle East suffered a major setback in June when the Palestinian Authority essentially was split in two. <u>Hamas</u> forces seized control of the Gaza Strip, leaving President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party in charge of the West Bank.

The United States hosted a November Summit in Annapolis, Md., as a prelude to the first formal peace talks since 2001. Abbas and Israeli counterpart Ehud Olmert announced their intent to reach a peace settlement by the end of 2008.

Many observers are pessimistic about the chances for such an agreement, considering the prerequisites include the halting of Israeli settlements -- even as talks began, Israel was moving forward on plans to build 300 homes in East Jerusalem -- and the halting of attacks on Israelis by Palestinians. What progress can be made on these and other concerns is complicated by the fact that Abbas has no influence in Gaza, where one-third of the population of the Palestinian Authority resides. <u>Hamas'</u> leaders assert that Abbas' does not have the legitmacy to negotiate on Palestinians' behalf.

Support for <u>Hamas</u> in economically troubled Gaza, which has been largely cut off from the world since the <u>Hamas</u> takeover, was made clear Dec. 15, when perhaps as many as 250,000 showed up at a rally to mark the organization's 20th anniversary.

On Dec. 17, a conference in Paris netted \$7.4 billion in promised funds from international donors to prop up the financially struggling Palestinian government during the next three years. Almost all of the resources are slated for use in the Fatah-controlled West Bank.

#### 10. Darfur's humanitarian crisis

For the Sudanese region that suffers what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis, 2006 ended on an ominous note: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana stepped down to be replaced by Ban Kimoon. South Korea's Ban said before taking office that there was no military solution to be had in a crisis Congress labeled the first genocide of the 21st century. Diplomatic efforts produced few results to that point.

The government in Khartoum stonewalled in early 2007 against U.N. efforts to send a peacekeeping force of 22,000 to the Darfur region in western Sudan, where at least 200,000 are said to have perished in the violence and about 2.5 million have been driven into refugee camps since 2003.

Then, on April 16, the government agreed to allow 3,000 U.N. peacekeepers equipped with attack helicopters join a 7,000-strong African Union force in the region. And on June 12, it agreed to a joint U.N.-A.U. force totaling 20,000. And Aug. 1, Sudan endorsed a U.N. resolution to send 26,000 troops -- its largest peacekeeping mission -- to Darfur. But none of these agreements bore any fruit.

Ban headed to Sudan in early September for a tete-a-tete with Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir, with the payoff that just days later the Sudanese government resumed airstrikes on Darfur.

On Oct. 27, the Sudanese government declared a cease-fire as talks with rebel leaders opened in Libya. The U.N. mission was slated to take over peacekeeping duties from the African Union on Jan. 1, but on Dec. 1, the force's commander warned that only 6,500 peacekeepers would be deployed as 2008 begins, most of them holdovers from the A.U. force.

The conflict pits black, Christian rebels against the government and the Janjaweed militia, which is ethnically Arabic.

#### 2007 CHRONOLOGY

A chronology of international events in 2007.

#### **JANUARY**

- Jan. 3: Crude oil prices open the year at \$58.32 a barrel.
- Jan. 4: U.S. forces stage airstrikes against suspected al-Qaida fighters in Somalia in the first offensive there since 18 American soldiers were killed in 1993.
- Jan. 10: President Bush says he takes responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announces an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence.

Jan. 20: Twenty-five U.S. troops are killed in Iraq, including 12 in a helicopter crash in Baghdad and five in a sophisticated sneak attack in Karbala.

#### **FEBRUARY**

- Feb. 22: Britain's Ministry of Defense says Prince Harry will be deployed to Iraq but later reverses the decision because of insurgent threats.
- Feb. 27: A suicide bomber strikes Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan within earshot of Vice President Dick Cheney, who was rushed to a bomb shelter.

#### MARCH

- March 6: A State Department report says the ongoing genocide in Sudan's Darfur region was the world's worst human rights abuse last year.
- March 23: Iran seizes 15 British sailors and marines in the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway between Iran and Iraq.
- March 28: Iranian state TV shows video of the seized sailors and marines, and the lone <u>female</u> captive is shown in a white tunic and a black head scarf saying the British boats had "trespassed."

#### **APRIL**

- April 4: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gleefully announces the release of 15 captive British sailors and marines, who leave Tehran the next day.
- April 6: A panel of international scientists says millions of poor people will suffer from hunger, thirst, floods and disease unless drastic action is taken against global warming.
- April 12: A suicide bomber breaches security in Iraq's parliament and blows himself up amid lawmakers having lunch in the dining hall; a Sunni parliament member is killed.
- April 18: Four bombings penetrate the security net around Baghdad, including one attack at a Shiite market that kills more than 120 people.

#### MAY

- May 6: Conservative Nicolas Sarkozy wins the French presidency with a mandate to make economic reforms.
- May 12: A U.S. patrol is attacked south of Baghdad, and five Americans and an Iraqi interpreter are killed; two soldiers are still missing.
- May 21: Israel launches new airstrikes against Palestinian rocket squads in the Gaza Strip, killing five militants. An Israeli woman is killed by a rocket fired from Gaza.
- May 30: A Saudi held at the Guantanamo Bay prison since 2002 is found dead of an apparent suicide.

#### JUNE

- June 6: Powerful Cyclone Gonu strikes Oman with 100 mph winds, causing at least 49 deaths.
- June 14: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declares an emergency after the <u>Hamas</u> militant group effectively took control of the Gaza Strip.
- June 27: Gordon Brown succeeds Tony Blair as British prime minister.
- June 30: Two men crash an explosive-laden Jeep at Glasgow Airport, two days after two cars rigged as bombs were found in London.

#### **JULY**

- July 3: Japan's defense minister resigns amid outrage after he suggested the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were inevitable.
- July 7: A truck bomb devastates the public market in Armili, Iraq, killing at least 115 people.
- July 10: China executes the former head of its food and drug agency for approving untested medicine in exchange for cash.
- July 11: Pakistani army commandos capture the Red Mosque in a 35-hour battle; the cleric who led the mosque's violent anti-vice campaign is among those killed.
- July 14: North Korea shuts down its sole operating nuclear reactor after receiving a South Korean oil shipment.
- July 16: A strong earthquake in northwestern Japan causes malfunctions at the world's most powerful nuclear power plant, including radioactive water spilled into the Sea of Japan.

#### **AUGUST**

- Aug. 2: Two Russian submarines complete a voyage below the North Pole where they planted the country's flag on the Arctic Ocean floor.
- Aug. 14: Suicide bombings target the Yazidis sect in northern Iraq; 500 are thought to have died.
- Aug. 15: Magnitude-8 earthquake strikes Peru, killing more than 500 people.
- Aug. 21: Category 5 Hurricane Dean strikes Mexico's coast.
- Aug. 22: A U.S. helicopter crashes in Iraq, killing 14 soldiers.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- Sept. 4: Hurricane Felix slams into Nicaragua's coast, the first time two Category 5 Atlantic hurricanes hit land in the same year.
- Sept. 7: Osama bin Laden appears in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they want the war in Iraq to end.
- Sept. 12: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, hospitalized for a stress-related illness, says he will resign just a year after taking office.
- Sept. 13: President Bush orders gradual reductions in U.S. forces in Iraq but rejects calls to end the war.
- Sept. 17: Iraqi government revokes license of Blackwater USA security firm after civilians are shot.
- Sept. 25: Myanmar bans large assemblies after escalating protests by Buddhist monks and sympathizers.
- Sept. 25: Japan's lower house of parliament elects Yasuo Fukuda prime minister.
- Sept. 26: Myanmar starts violent crackdown on protests, beating and dragging away dozens of monks.

#### **OCTOBER**

- Oct. 6: Pakistani leader Pervez Musharraf wins presidential election boycotted by most opponents.
- Oct. 18: Bombers strike near former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on her return to Pakistan after eight years in exile; more than 140 people are killed but Bhutto escapes unhurt.

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Nov. 3: President Pervez Musharraf declares state of emergency in Pakistan.
- Nov. 6: 2007 becomes deadliest year for U.S. troops in Iraq, with at least 853 military deaths.
- Nov. 6: Suicide bombing kills six parliament members in Afghanistan; a U.N. report later says some of the 77 total victims were killed by gunfire from panicked bodyguards, not the bomb.
- Nov. 10: Six U.S. troops die in an insurgent ambush, making 2007 the deadliest year for American forces in Afghanistan since 2001.
- Nov. 15: Cyclone Sidr strikes Bangladesh with 150 mph winds, killing more than 3,200 and leaving millions homeless
- Nov. 27: Israel, Palestinians agree to formally restart Mideast peace talks.
- Nov. 29: A British teacher in Sudan is convicted of insulting Islam for letting her students name a teddy bear Muhammad; she's sentenced to 15 days in prison but later pardoned.

#### **DECEMBER**

- Dec. 2: President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party wins election that gives it control of 70 percent of seats in parliament; opponents say the election wasn't fair.
- Dec. 3: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez narrowly loses a constitutional referendum that would have enabled him to remain in power for life.
- Dec. 11: Two truck bombings strike the U.N. offices and a government building in Algeria's capital, killing at least 37 people, 17 of them U.N. employees.
- Dec. 15: President Pervez Musharraf lifts a six-week state of emergency he says was imposed to save Pakistan from destruction from an unspecified conspiracy.
- Dec. 15: U.N. climate conference adopts plan to negotiate a new global warming pact.
- Dec. 17: Iran receives its first nuclear fuel from Russia, paving the way for the startup of its reactor in 2008.
- Dec. 27: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto is assassinated in Pakistan after a campaign rally; violence in the immediate days afterward claims dozens of lives across the country.

#### THE YEAR IN QUOTES

- "One cold war was quite enough."
- -- Robert Gates, Defense secretary, referring to comments by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who blamed U.S. policy for forcing other countries to seek nuclear weapons.
- "I didn't lecture him, he didn't lecture me."
- -- Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, on her talk with Syria's foreign minister, the first high-level diplomatic contract between the countries in more than two years.
- "The cost of inaction will far outweigh the cost of early action."
- -- Ban Ki-moon, U.N. secretary-general, speaking to leaders from more than 150 nations on climate change.

#### Top international stories of '07

- "I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, then it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."
- -- President Bush, on the implications of a nuclear-armed Iran.
- "If the United States attempts the madness of invading Iran or attacking Venezuela again, the price of oil is probably going to reach \$200, not just \$100."
- -- Hugo Chavez, from the Venezuelan president's opening address of a rare OPEC summit.
- "He's the cockiest guy I have ever met in my life."
- -- Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico, who makes a number of unflattering comments about President Bush in his book, released in September.
- "Why don't you shut up?"
- -- King Juan Carlos, the Spanish leader to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at a November summit in Chile.
- "In Iran, we don't have homosexuals like in our country."
- -- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian president was speaking to a crowd at Columbia University.
- "I am very sorry to leave Sudan. I had a fabulous time. It is a beautiful place, and I had a chance to see some of the countryside."
- -- Gillian Gibbons, a high school teacher arrested and ordered out of the country after allowing students to name a teddy bear "Muhammad."
- "I think the French people are angry because their European welfare state-ism may be in jeopardy. ... Maybe they're actually going to have to work just a little bit harder for a living, and not rely so much on ... the social welfare state in France."

Neil Boortz, offering foreign policy analysis upon France's election of Nicolas Sarkozy and subsequent protests.

Load-Date: January 1, 2008



# OMM: Bobby GILLESPIE: SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE: The Primal Scream star tells Will Hodgkinson about the respect he has for Johnny Rotten and why he mobbed Link Wray

The Observer (London)
May 18, 2008

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## **The Observer**

Section: OBSERVER MUSIC MAGAZINE; Pg. 6

Length: 643 words

Byline: Will Hodgkinson

## **Body**

THE RECORD THAT MADE ME FORM A BAND

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS THE SEX PISTOLS (1977)

It was Johnny Rotten who made me want to be in a band. Rotten was opinionated, intelligent, working class. . . he said the things I felt. You would look at adults and think, 'They're all acting.' Rotten was ripping through the cinema screen of a fake reality. It sounds pretentious, I know, but his version of reality made sense to me. He had a poetic anger. The first time I saw Jamie Reid's Sex Pistols poster of the Queen with her eyes ripped out, I thought, 'My God, somebody hates those bastards as much as I do.' I was transfixed.

WHEN I JOINED THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN

I NEVER LOVED HER THE STARFIRES (1965)

In 1983 this guy in Glasgow sent me a tape with four songs on one side: 'Inside Me', 'Never Understand', 'In a Hole' and 'Upside Down', all by the Jesus and Mary Chain. I was like, 'Where the fuck is this coming from? It's incredible.' There was a number on the tape, and it was for [bass player] Douglas Hart's mum's house. Douglas then sent me another tape with 'I Never Loved Her' on it. I love it. But my favourite band of that era is the Chocolate Watchband, who sound like the Rolling Stones added to a nuclear bomb. I love the energy of those garage bands.

WHEN WE FORMED PRIMAL SCREAM

SIGNED DC LOVE (1966)

We were obsessed by Love. Forever Changes is very elegant, but very dark - maybe LA has always been an evil place and [lead singer] Arthur Lee picked up on that before anyone else. Like Johnny Rotten, he could see beyond the version of reality sold to us and could describe things as they are in poetic terms. There's a malevolence to

OMM: Bobby GILLESPIE: SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE: The Primal Scream star tells Will Hodgkinson about the respect he has for Johnny Rotten and why he mobbed Link Wray

Arthur Lee that I love, and 'Signed DC' is one of his heaviest songs. We hung out with him at the Chateau Marmont in LA one night. He taught me to play 'Signed DC' around the pool. That was in 1993, before he went to jail.

#### WHEN I FIRST WENT TO LA

#### **BUBBLE GUM KIM FOWLEY (1968)**

Kim Fowley came backstage after our first time in LA and told us stories of managing the Runaways, of leaving love bites on Joan Jett's inner thigh when she was 15. He's a wild genius and this is one of my favourite songs, from the album Outrageous. It's a dirty, sleazy rock'n'roll record: he's obsessed with jailbait and is the kind of guy who could be the head of a cult if he hadn't chosen rock'n'roll. I don't think he ever took drugs; his drug was young <u>women</u>. Apparently 'Teenage Head' by the Flamin' Groovies is about Fowley. He's an outsider.

#### WHEN I MET MY HERO

#### BEANS AND FATBACK LINK WRAY (1973)

If I could play the guitar the way I'd like to, it would be in a style between Johnny Thunders and Link Wray. Both of them play reckless, dirty, sexy rock'n'roll. I saw Link play in London at the time Mani joined Primal Scream. He was doing all his hits, and we mobbed him afterwards because he blew our minds. He's known for his instrumentals that sound like being slashed by a switchblade, but Beans and Fatback is almost experimental. He's singing on it, too, which he doesn't on his early records. He only had one lung, but I love his voice.

## STRANGE AND POSSIBLY TRUE

- 1 Bobby Gillespie named his second son Lux after Lux Interior, the singer of horror rockers the Cramps.
- 2 Gillespie attracted controversy during Primal Scream's set at the 2005 Glastonbury Festival for insulting the crowd with a Nazi salute. He later claimed he did it because a hippy stole his ale.
- 3 Though Gillespie once defaced a 'Make Poverty History' poster so that it read 'Make Israel History', he does not support *Hamas*. 'No,' he said in 2006, 'I support Celtic.'
- 4 He was a roadie for the Eighties band Altered Images and the drummer for the Jesus and Mary Chain before forming Primal Scream.
- 5 Gillespie owns a bow tie formerly owned by Johnny Thunders.

A new Primal Scream album is released in July. The band play T in the Park, Bestival and V Festival in the summer

Load-Date: May 19, 2008



## Bush denounces Democratic negotiation offers during Israel visit

Guardian.com

May 15, 2008

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Length: 758 words

## **Body**

President George Bush used a visit to Israel today to denounce Democratic offers to negotiate with America's enemies in the Middle East as comparable to appearement of Hitler.

Although Bush did not name any Democrat, Barack Obama has offered to open negotiations with the Iranian leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and with the Syrian president, Bashar Assad.

Obama and other Democratic leaders expressed outrage at the comparison with Nazis, especially during a visit to Israel. They also condemned he president for breaking a long-time convention against using foreign visits to make domestic political points.

Obama described it as a "false political attack", saying he had never advocated talking to terrorists, while Joe Biden, Democratic chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said: "This is bullshit."

The Democratic leader of the House, Nancy Pelosi, described Bush's comments as "beneath the dignity of his office".

Speaking during a visit to the Knesset, where he was attending celebrations to mark Israel's 60th anniversary, Bush said it was a foolish delusion to think it was possible to negotiate with extremists and terrorists.

"As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared: 'Lord, if only I could have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided.' We have an obligation to call this what it is - the false comfort of appearsement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history."

Bush did not say whether he was referring to Obama's offer to meet the Ahmadinejad or former president Jimmy Carter's meeting with <u>Hamas</u>. The White House spokeswoman, Dana Perino, denied that it was directed at Obama but, asked if the president's comments included Obama, she said that was for Bush to answer.

Obama's campaign team accused Bush of abusing his office to help the Republican White House candidate, John McCain.

McCain, in a conference call with bloggers, used similarly emotional language as Bush and repeatedly accused Obama of being naive in his willingness to negotiate with the Iranian leadership.

#### Bush denounces Democratic negotiation offers during Israel visit

"If Senator Obama wants to sit down across the table from a country that calls Israel a stinking corpse and comes to New York and says he wants to wipe Israel off the map, what is it that he wants to talk about with them." McCain said.

Earlier, McCain bowed to anti-war sentiment by setting a date for withdrawal of US forces from Iraq in 2013 in an attempt to boost his chances of winning the White House.

The withdrawal date marked a U-turn for McCain, who had based his run for the White House on his willingness to keep US forces in Iraq for up to 100 years.

McCain's setting of a date for withdrawal came in spite of having berated his Democratic rivals for the last 12 months for demanding a firm withdrawal date from Iraq, saying it would lead to chaos and genocide. But McCain's strong support for keeping US troops in Iraq was proving costly for his campaign, with feelings against the war running as high as 63% in a USA Today-Gallup poll last month.

Obama has promised to have most US troops out of Iraq by December next year.

McCain rolled out his new vision for Iraq in a speech in the swing state of Ohio. He anticipated that by January 2013, "America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and <u>women</u> who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom.

"The Iraq war has been won. Iraq is a functioning democracy, although still suffering from the lingering effects of decades of tyranny and centuries of sectarian tension. Violence still occurs, but it is spasmodic and much reduced."

The address was part of a concerted effort by McCain to win over independent and moderate Democratic voters by distancing himself from the unpopular policies of Bush.

Republican fears that they could lose both the White House and Congress in November rose on Tuesday when they were defeated in a previously safe congressional seat in Mississippi.

"John McCain will not be elected on Republican votes alone. He is going to have to defeat Obama decisively with independent voters as well, which is why he is beginning to talk about a date certain for withdrawal," said Frank Luntz, a Republican strategist who has warned his party they face disaster next November.

Judith Kipper, a Middle East specialist at the Washington-based Institute of World Affairs, said that McCain's reference to 100 years in Iraq was a "phrase that is going to haunt him throughout the campaign" and said that his speech yesterday was designed to provide a position that was more acceptable to the electorate.

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



## Settlements: The road perilously travelled

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

May 5, 2008 Monday

National Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A11; Matthew Fisher

Length: 713 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, National Post

Series: Israel At 60 !@AKW=Commentary

## **Body**

By far the most emotive of the political fracture lines that exist in Israel on the eve of its 60th birthday this week is the seemingly interminable struggle between the Jews and Muslims over how to share the land between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean.

A lot of attention has also been given to the bloody differences of opinion between Islamist <u>Hamas</u> and secular Fatah over how or whether to deal with Israel and the contours of a future Palestinian state.

However, as complex and as vital as these two issues are, some Israelis on the left and on the right worry that the country's future may be imperilled by growing doctrinal differences between secular Israelis and religious Zionists here.

Part of their dispute has been over laws regarding marriage and divorce and who exactly should be considered Jewish. But the biggest gap in their thinking has been over the settlements that have mushroomed in the West Bank since Israel's lightning conquest of these territories during the 1967 Six-Day War.

"We speak a different language with a different culture and different values," said Rabbi Benny Lau, an influential religious Zionist who leads an Orthodox Jerusalem synagogue.

Lau likened these differences to driving on a very narrow road "where we have to find space for both" streams of traffic. Wincing, he joked that Israeli drivers were famous for not wanting to give way.

This clash of ideas was brought into sharp focus when former prime minister Ariel Sharon successfully ordered about 9,000 settlers out of the Gaza Strip (or Gush Katif, as Israelis called the settlements there) in the late summer of 2005. These were dark days for religious Zionists because it was the first time the state had been against them.

As with almost every other issue in Israel, opinion about the West Bank settlements is not monolithic. A lot of secular and most religious Zionists don't consider the 170,000 Jews who live in three large settlements to the north, east and south of Jerusalem to be settlers at all. Where the two sides are worlds apart has been over the presence of 90,000 settlers on the far side of the security barrier that Israel has built in the West Bank to prevent Palestinian suicide bombers from reaching Israeli population centres.

#### Settlements: The road perilously travelled

The settlers' departure from Gaza caused a deep rupture between secular and religious Zionists that has been partly healed by time as well as by a general acknowledgement that the withdrawal did not bring about the desired peace with Gazans but rather emboldened them there to launch rocket attacks on nearby Israeli communities. Nevertheless, the issue is sure to become a flashpoint again because any peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians is almost certain to call for those remote settlements, where relations between Jews and Muslims are punctuated by bursts of violence, to be abandoned.

Religious Zionists think that allowing the Palestinians to control any part of Eretz Israel (Greater Israel) would be dangerous. They believe that Jews have a historical religious and moral right to be in what most Israelis call Judea and Samaria rather than the West Bank because it is part of Eretz Israel, which God gave to the Jewish people as the heart and backbone of the their homeland.

This is an idea that hardly resonates at all among the millions of secular Israelis who make their homes in the densely populated coastal strip that runs north and south from Tel Aviv. Some of them freely use words like "lunatics," "maniacs" or "members of a cult" to describe the religious settlers, who are easily identified by the males' knitted wool yarmulkes or skullcaps, the <u>females</u>' modest clothing and by the orange or yellow streamers they fly on their cars.

Fed up by what they regarded as the injustice of the withdrawal from Gush Katif, settler youths have become more radical than their parents. "It has become a bit like a war and it shouldn't be like that," said Rabbi Lau who, with other Orthodox leaders, has been trying to moderate the views of young settlers. But the rabbi also wishes young secular Jews knew the Bible and Jewish history better than they do.

Asked to how to proceed, the rabbi said: "Slowly, slowly. The first step is to learn to live together. In another 60 years I hope it will be another picture."

Load-Date: May 5, 2008



## SATELLITE CHOICE

Daily Mail (London)

April 30, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 60

Length: 728 words

**Byline: ROBIN WIGGS** 

## **Body**

THE latest match from the Indian Premier League. Virender Sehwag captains the home side, and he can call on such players as New Zealander Daniel Vettori and Australian bowler Glenn McGrath as they take on the Challengers.

FOOTBALL: CHELSEA V LIVERPOOL, 7pm, Sky Sports 2 RUGBY UNION: ULSTER V MUNSTER, 7pm, Setanta Sports 2 LIVERPOOL and Chelsea lock horns again in this second leg of their Champions League semi-final. Not only will this be an excellent advert for the Premier League, it will also showcase some of the best players in the England team. No doubt, England manager Fabio Capello will be in the stands to keep an eye on Liverpool players such as Steven Gerrard and THE Scandinavium in Gothenburg hosts the climax of the World Cup season. This annual event features some of the planet's best riders and horses, and as the very first World Cup final was staged here in 1979, this year's competition is something of a homecoming.

THE Ulstermen take on the Red Army at Ravenhill in this Celtic League game that was postponed from January to yesterday, then rescheduled again because of Munster's Heineken Cup semifinal at the weekend.

SHOWJUMPING: WORLD CUP FINAL, 5.25pm, British Eurosport IPL CRICKET: DELHI DAREDEVILS V BANGALORE ROYAL CHALLENGERS, 3.20pm, Setanta Sports 1

SEX AND THE CITY, 9pm, Fiver MUCH lighter than Candace Bushnell's original book, the Manhattan dramedy dominated many <u>women</u>'s viewing habits from the late Nineties, lasting for six seasons. Stylistically, it is brilliant one wonders if the new movie (out on May 28) will live up to the show's trendsetting ways. Here, Miranda, Charlotte, Samantha and Carrie (Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Peter Crouch, while Chelsea boast the larger contingent of Ashley Cole, John Terry, Joe Cole, Shaun Wright-Phillips and Frank Lampard. This is the third time in four years these clubs have met at this stage, with Chelsea losing on both previous occasions. Will it be third time lucky for the Blues?

THE special forces outfit are in Israel in this new episode, seeing if ancient tactics can be used to deter suicide bombers when a romantic dalliance exposes a <u>Hamas</u> bombing plot. Curiously, it is claimed that the Hebrew equivalent to 'falling head over heels', is to 'fall off a camel'. Did the writers make that one up? Davis, Kim Cattrall and Sarah Jessica Parker, pictured from left) begins a rerun from the start.

THE UNIT, 9pm, Virgin 1 THOSE WERE THE DAYS, 9pm, ITV3 THE slice-of-history series continues with more 'I remember where I was when' reminiscences, this time based around the marriage of Charles and

#### SATELLITE CHOICE

RICHARD PRYOR LIVE IN CONCERT, 10pm, FX UK RICHARD PRYOR was wilder and perhaps smarter than Chris Rock, whom he greatly influenced, but while Pryor's (pictured) subject matter is generally darker, it is not necessarily funnier. Some of the finest moments in this stand-up show come from his impressions of animals such as the German shepherd that comforts him when his monkey dies while other subjects include the white man's Diana on July 29, 1981, watched by more than 750 million viewers (and the 600,000 who lined the streets). Angela Rippon recalls anchoring the coverage, while PC Steve Richards recalls the preceding riots in Toxteth, Liverpool..

ANOTHER chance to catch this haunting drama based on the diaries of Nella Last, a participant in the Government's Mass- Observation project during World War II. Victoria Wood stars as the downtrodden spouse whose life acquires a new purpose with the outbreak of war, a role for which she won two deserved Baftas.

STRONGMEN are put through their paces in a biomechanics lab 'fit for Hercules' in this new show, which analyses how muscles are used beyond normal limits.

Re-creations display just how a strongman pulls a truck, and while the narration frequently states the obvious, the odd interesting fact does slip out.

THOUGH it boasts a headily impressive cast (Jude Law, Robin Wright Penn, Juliette Binoche), Anthony Minghella's romantic thriller becomes mired in a need to set out its themes so completely.

The story of an urban architect (Law) whose life is changed by his encounters with a young thief, it's thoughtful, if slightly unsatisfying.

inability to cuss properly and Pryor's heart attack.

HOUSEWIFE, 49, 10pm, ITV3 PICK OF THE DAY SUPERHUMAN, 10pm, National Geographic FILM: BREAKING AND ENTERING, 10.20pm, Sky Drama

Load-Date: May 1, 2008



## First, refute the defamation

The Jerusalem Post April 21, 2008 Monday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 767 words

**Byline: ANDREA LEVIN** 

Highlight: Nothing in the war of ideas and images takes the place of the all-important work of refuting slander. The

writer is Executive Director of CAMERA, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.

## **Body**

Almost simultaneously in early April, separate news stories underscored Israel's public opinion quandary. A new BBC poll of more than 17,000 people in 34 countries reported only Iran ranked worse than the Jewish state in having a "mainly negative influence in the world." North Korea, Pakistan and China rated more favorably.

Another report told of conflicting public relations endeavors by Israeli governmental departments; the tourism ministry argued for its campaign to disseminate positive images via YouTube to attract visitors, while the Foreign Ministry contended graphic photos of the terrorist attack on Merkaz Harav had to be displayed to communicate what Israel endures.

At the same time, a new UN World Health Organization report entered the information stream, harshly condemning Israel for allegedly inhumane conduct toward Gazan Palestinians - the very kind of ostensibly objective study by an international body that has incrementally helped undermine Israel's global reputation.

The 54-page document is familiar fare from the UN in its lack of neutrality and fairness, its disregard for Israeli concerns and scapegoating of that country for difficulties Palestinians themselves have plainly caused. An introduction entitled "Collective Punishment of the Weakest" by Ambrogio Manenti, head of the WHO's Gaza and West Bank office, enumerates factors relating to Palestinian difficulties gaining admission to Israeli hospital care. It omits completely the ongoing rocket attacks and terrorist assaults on crossing points by Gazans that kill and maim Israeli civilians and necessitate Israeli countermeasures, including close monitoring of the entry of Palestinians even those in ambulances.

(Nor, obviously, is there any hint of irony in the WHO's excoriating Israel for not doing a better job in caring for the medical needs of a people whose leaders are sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state.)

WHAT IS notable about the WHO story in the context of Israel's struggle to communicate the facts about its actions, is that media coverage of the UN report greatly benefitted from swift and effective response by Israeli officials. The New York Times, for example, noted in its second paragraph that "Israeli officials rejected the [WHO] findings on Wednesday. They said that the people who had compiled the report had never asked them about the cases, that Israeli officials had no records of entry permits being sought in some of the cases and that details of other cases were inaccurate."

#### First, refute the defamation

Col. Nir Press, commander of the Israel Defense Forces' Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration, was heavily quoted debunking the report. The Times, Associated Press, Chicago Tribune and others cited various of his statements. He responded specifically to a WHO claim that Israeli delays had caused the death of a critically ill boy. Disputing the charges, Press said Israel approved an application for the patient's transfer to an Israeli hospital the same day it was received, but that delay ensued at the behest of a Palestinian doctor seeking to stabilize the boy's condition before moving him.

Many of the news stories also included Press's reminder that delays in admitting Palestinian patients are unavoidable for security reasons. The Tribune reported: "Press said in May 2007 two Gaza <u>women</u> who received permits to travel for treatment were discovered under interrogation to have been sent to carry out suicide bombings. In June 2005 a woman allowed into Israel for medical care was discovered in a border security check to be wearing explosives." Elsewhere, Press was quoted saying: "They [<u>Hamas</u>] use humanitarian needs to attack us. We have to check every request."

Much more can and should be said about the shoddy, indefensible WHO report. (A haphazard chronology for one patient is suggestive of the careless attention to accuracy. A woman is said - in the study dated April 2008 - to have died on November 11, 2008 after a fall on September 24, 2007 for which she sought treatment on September 6, 2007.)

But Press's rejoinders and their reverberation in the media's coverage of yet another distorted attack on Israel are a reminder that nothing in the war of ideas and images takes the place of the all-important work of refuting defamation. One day perhaps journalists will interject a caveat whenever writing about a UN study on Israel cautioning readers that the contents are very likely propagandistic and unreliable. Meanwhile, Israeli officials should follow Press's example and respond rapidly and in detail to false, poisonous claims against the Jewish state from any source.

## **Graphic**

Photo (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## Israel's real friends are on the Right

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

May 5, 2008 Monday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A14

Length: 770 words

Byline: Theo Caldwell, National Post

Series: Israel At 60

## **Body**

As the world watched former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, embrace terrorists from <u>Hamas</u> and lay a wreath at the grave of Yasser Arafat recently, it is worth considering which side of the ideological divide includes Israel's real friends.

For more than a generation, even before Republican president Richard Nixon prevented the Soviets from entering the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel's allies and defenders have most commonly been found on the right, among the ranks of conservatives and Christians.

On the left, meanwhile, it is received wisdom that Israel is an oppressor, and the country is often likened to the worst regimes in history.

Consider the title of Carter's recent book, Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, and its implicit equivalence between Israel and segregated South Africa. It speaks volumes that the most frequent foreign visitor to Democrat Bill Clinton's White House was, in fact, Arafat. Whatever his other foreign policy shortcomings, Republican President George W. Bush declined to host or meet with the PLO terrorist even once.

The affinity of folks on the right for Israel ranges from religious to political to purely practical.

For Christian communities, Israel and the Jewish people are revered as a nation favoured by God, and out of which came the Messiah, Jesus. For conservatives, Israel stands as an isolated democratic state, surrounded by hostile regimes in a vital region, and its defence makes strategic sense. Finally, if none of these rationales appeals to a would-be Republican leader, the very fact that Israel's cause matters deeply to his voting base should be sufficient to secure his support.

In 2003, expanding upon Bush's treatment of Arafat, David Frum observed, "Why did Bush take the stance he did? Not -- as the European press insinuated -- because of the 'Jewish lobby' ... He would not need Jewish votes in 2004, and he certainly would not need Jewish political donations ... If Bush had a political worry, it was his own political base: conservatives, both religious and secular."

Of course, Bush and other conservatives have for years advocated the creation of a Palestinian state. This position is perfectly consistent with a staunch defence of Israel, and serves to advocate a practical, humane step toward

#### Israel 's real friends are on the Right

peace in the Middle East. Corralled and contained by Israelis and fellow Arabs, the Palestinian people live in poverty and fall prey to indoctrination. A state of their own, founded and maintained on the condition of Israel's right to exist, would give these unfortunate folks a shot at a proper life and, one hopes, dispel much of the hatred and misinformation that spurs their young people to terrorism.

But the will and the means to make this happen has come more from conservatives and Republicans than from Democrats, international intellectuals or even the Palestinians' own leadership. While his people languished in poverty, Arafat presided over a personal fortune in the billions of dollars, the residue of which provides his widow, Suha, a lavish life to this day.

This is the same Suha Arafat who, during a panel discussion in Gaza in 1999, accused Israeli forces of daily and extensive use of poison gas against Palestinian <u>women</u> and children. Sharing the platform with Ms. Arafat when she made these remarks was then-first lady and current Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Ms. Clinton's reaction was to embrace and kiss Ms. Arafat right there on the stage.

Even when Israel takes upon itself hard tasks to the benefit of other free nations, such as destroying Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981 or eliminating the Syrian-North Korean nuclear project this past September, elite opinion invariably lines up against the Jewish state. Jay Nordlinger of National Review aptly notes that when Mohamed El-Baradei, Egyptian Nobel Peace Prize winner and head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, blasted Israel for the September strikes, he neglected to utter any criticism of Syria or North Korea.

Israel, like any nation, is imperfect, and its allies are not altruists above reproach. But 60 years in the most dangerous part of a dangerous world have shown Israel who its true friends are.

<u>theojpcaldwell@yahoo.com</u> - Theo Caldwell, president of Caldwell Asset Management, Inc., is an investment advisor in the United States and Canada.

#### **ALL THIS WEEK**

Essays by Hillel Halkin, Daniel Pipes, Jeet Heer, Gershom Gorenberg and others --as well as more from Benny Morris' new book, 1948: The First Israeli War. Listen to our Israel debate pod-cast, explore photo galleries and read our complete Israel at 60 series at nationalpost.com/israel

Load-Date: May 5, 2008



## DEATH WISH. Palestinian celebration of murder dooms hope for peace

Daily News (New York)

March 9, 2008 Sunday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 27

Length: 716 words

Byline: BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

## **Body**

The pictures from Jerusalem were horrifying: Dead and injured students being wheeled out of a Jewish religious school after an Arab gunman went on a rampage. Other images were disturbing in a different way: These were the pictures of Palestinians celebrating the massacre.

They shouted jubilantly from cars and danced in the streets of Gaza. Men fired bursts of automatic weapons skyward. Some kneeled on the ground to pray. In Lebanon, crowds of Palestinians also rejoiced, with a Reuters photo showing a man holding a startled looking child in one hand and a pistol in the other.

We have gotten so numbed to the endless violence in the Mideast that we often close our minds as well as our eyes. If we have any response at all, it is something like, "Why can't those people just get along?"

The answer lies in the sickening contrast of Thursday's massacre and celebration. They can't get along because too many Palestinians embrace a culture of death. It is a culture stuck in the Dark Ages of ancient hatreds and unspeakable violence.

The evidence lies in missing pictures. Why no photos of Palestinians marching to condemn the massacre? Where are the Palestinian young people sympathizing with dead and maimed students their own age? Where are the Palestinian parents grieving for the Israeli parents who lost their children?

Unfortunately, those are the easiest questions to answer: There were no pictures of sad Palestinians because there were no marches or wide expressions of sympathy. Apart from the obligatory disapproval mumbled by the government, there was no condemnation. More typical was a message from <u>Hamas</u>, the terror group: "We bless the operation. It will not be the last."

Every society has its madmen, its gangsters and killers. But in functioning societies, they are shunned and punished as an example of how not to behave.

#### DEATH WISH. Palestinian celebration of murder dooms hope for peace

Not so in Palestinian society or in too much of the Muslim world. Celebrations of death, as they did Thursday, soon become odes to martyrs. In less than a day, pictures of the lone gunman in the massacre appeared on posters glorifying his death. Behind his clean-shaven, ordinary face were a mosque and messages of heroic defiance.

In fairness as well as fact, most Palestinians were not in the streets celebrating. They were silent. Perhaps these "good" Palestinians are too frightened to express their disapproval of the terrorists. Or perhaps even they secretly approve of such heinous acts in the bizarre hope that they will somehow lead to peace.

Either way, how is Israel supposed to make peace with them? This is, after all, a society that perverts Mickey Mouse into a hate-spewing children's character. It turned a cuddly rabbit character into a monster who says he will "eat the Jews."

Both of those images were broadcast recently on mainstream Palestinian television. Other shows glorify songs and dance about jihad and martyrdom. Children are taught that it is their religious duty to kill themselves and as many Jews and other "infidels" as possible.

You can't really make peace with that culture. You can, as the Israelis and Americans have and must, try to broker a deal with those who nominally renounce violence and who profess a desire to live in mutual peace. It is an effort embodied in the road map and the American policy over several administrations to create a Palestinian state.

You try to forge that state, if you are the Israeli and American governments, despite the civil war between Islamic extremists and the more secular Palestinians. You try despite the barrage of rockets that come from Gaza and slam into Israeli border towns every day. You try even when the rockets get larger and slam into major Israeli cities, a literal rain of terror on civilians.

You understand the Israelis must retaliate, using their air force and superior firepower to demolish buildings where the terrorists hide among <u>women</u> and children. And you grieve when some of those innocents are caught in the line of fire.

Above all, as an American and an Israeli of good will, you never give up and you never give in. Because to do so is to turn the world over to those who would destroy it. That much you know.

But on days like Thursday, peace seems hopeless. For try as you can, you can never understand a culture that celebrates death.

mgoodwin@nydailynews.com

## **Graphic**

Palestinians in southern Lebanon are jubilant after the savage killing of eight Israeli students in Jerusalem.

Load-Date: March 11, 2008



## Not winning

The Nation (AsiaNet)

March 5, 2008 Wednesday

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Length: 737 words

Byline: MOWAHID HUSSAIN SHAH

## **Body**

Opinions differ on the 'war on terror'. But most agree on one point: the US is not winning.

Why? The paramount issue is presented to be one of Islamic 'extremism'. It is pertinent, therefore, to inquire what inflames and exacerbates this perceived brand of 'extremism'. Here, it is not just Afghanistan or Iraq which matters. Kashmir matters, Palestine matters, Chechnya matters, and the Balkans matter. And so, too, matters the Western mind-set and policies. It is the latter which is most responsible for the inexcusable re-eruption of the cartoon controversy in Europe.

The cartoon issue is not freedom of speech but the freedom to insult and injure. The issue itself is enwrapped in hypocrisy. For example, in Germany, France and Austria, it is a crime to deny the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust of the Jewish people. British historian David Irving spent a prison term in Austria for doing precisely that.

Just recently, the Israel Deputy Defense Minister, Matan Vilnai, threatened the Palestinians with "Shoah" - the Hebrew word for Holocaust. For Israelis to countenance the use of this word against the background of the Nazi Holocaust of Jews is itself indicative of a Pharaonic mind-set. These words were followed up by a brutal assault by the Israeli armed forces on the coastal enclave of Gaza, where 1.5 million Palestinians dwell.

In the ensuing slaughter, over 120 Palestinians were killed, including many <u>women</u> and children. According to Time magazine, "If anything, the Israeli assault has steeled Gazans' support for <u>Hamas</u>." It highlights even more the failure of the International Mideast Conference convened by President Bush in Annapolis, Maryland, during November 2007. To date, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has refused to press Israel for a ceasefire.

In this entire scenario, the OIC, the UN, and the European Union remain virtual bystanders. In the disinformation game, the term 'Islamo-fascism' is yet another canard. Fascism originated in the European hinterland of Mussolini's Italy. It was picked up by Hitler's Nazi Germany. Franco of Spain and Salazar of Portugal emulated it. It had nothing to do with Islamic teachings. Yet, 'Islamo-fascism' is the fashionable flavour on the tongue of many Western politicians who equate today's tensions with the Muslim world to the Allied conflict against the Axis powers in World War II. Here, the meekness and incapacity of the Muslim liberal intelligentsia to counter Western bigotry against Islam has left ample space for zealotry to flourish.

While Pakistan has lost over 1,000 soldiers along side the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders, America's much-touted European allies have shown aversion for battle in Afghanistan. This European ambivalence has elicited a deep disquiet among leading US policy-makers. Beneath the façade of the 'war on terror' is a lot of discord and disunity.

#### Not winning

US policy-makers are not helping their cause by encouraging the Indian presence in Afghanistan. This is one sure way to raise red flags in Islamabad.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chaired by Senator Joe Biden, US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte described Pakistan as a "vital country" and US ties with it to be a "long-term relationship with a sustainable basis." He also said that "Pakistan is the third largest recipient of US aid and deservedly so."

Juxtaposed against this background, the policy of forging an Indo-US nuclear deal, at variance with applicable international and US law, appears even more unwise given the inseparable US stakes in Afghanistan and Pakistan. And, this, too, in an arena defined by US policy-makers as vital to the well-being and security of American soil.

Therefore, encouraging India into Afghanistan simply exposes the glaring lack of knowledge of the field. These US actions promise to make the problem worse.

Already, the Afghan people have paid a horrific humanitarian price for the Pakistan-phobic policies of Afghan governing elites which had, in the past, foolishly embraced Indo-Soviet dispensations in the region, forcing Pakistan to respond with its own counter-balancing measures.

A 2007 hit Hollywood movie, 'In the Valley of Elah', graphically depicts the severe distress which the Iraq imbroglio has inflicted on the psyche and mental health of returning US troops who have served there. A key casualty of the 'war on terror' may be the US itself. It is a war no-one is winning.

Load-Date: March 6, 2008



## Don't mention the war as Israel lauded

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 8, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 39

Length: 751 words

Byline: Alan Ramsey

## **Body**

You might recall Labor's Julia Irwin and her efforts 51/2 years ago to debate Israel's theft of what used to be the Palestinians' half of Palestine. On September 26, 2002, Irwin gave formal notice that she wanted Parliament to debate Israel's continued military occupation, in defiance of the United Nations, of the West Bank and Gaza for 35 years. Despite thuggish efforts to shut Irwin up, the Howard government allowed her four-point motion to go ahead in the House of Representatives six weeks later but restricted debate to six MPs, each given only five minutes' speaking time.

As a "debate" of the core malignancy convulsing the Middle East ever since the UN partition of Palestine in 1948, it was a travesty. It was also one of those extremely rare occasions that the easily intimidated Australian Parliament, ever mindful of Jewish financial support of party coffers, has debated the Middle East at all.

Kevin Rudd, as busy as ever, apparently intends to change that. Two days ago, the Melbourne-based support group <u>Women</u> for Palestine circulated an email based on reports in The Australian Jewish News that Rudd proposes introducing next Wednesday a parliamentary motion, seconded by the Opposition's Brendan Nelson, "honouring Israel's 60 years of independence". Wrote the <u>Women</u> for Palestine's Sonja Karkar: "Such a motion is unprecedented in our Parliament's history. It completely ignores the record of Israel's ethnic cleansing that began with the 1948 Palestinian dispossession which is continuing to this day. For 60 years the Palestinians have been denied their rights, their freedoms and their nationality while Israel continues to expropriate their land to build illegal Jewish-only settlements in defiance of international law and all human rights conventions."

Karkar's email spurred the Sydney-based media ginger group, the Australian Committee for Truth in the Middle East, to respond on the web: "Mere weeks after our Prime Minister made a long overdue and widely supported apology to our indigenous people, he is preparing to reverse his position on indigenous rights by making a public statement supporting Israel's treatment of the Palestinians ...

"Israel has lived the life of a spoiled brat for the past 60 years. Even more unfortunately, if Israel continues on its present path (and there is no indication of change) it will continue in this manner of throwing a tantrum whenever the international community indicates that a bit of adult, civilised behaviour would not go amiss. The current tantrum is the killing of 126 Palestinians in Gaza in response to the relative pinpricks of [homemade] <u>Hamas</u> rockets fired into territory illegally occupied by Israeli settlers ... "

#### Don't mention the war as Israel lauded

Last week, after The Australian Jewish News first disclosed the proposed Rudd/Nelson parliamentary motion, the head of the so-called Palestinian Delegation in Canberra, Ali Kazak, who has spent years banging on the doors of our politicians in support of Palestinian rights, wrote: "The policy of appeasement. How low politicians can go. Is Kevin Rudd from now on going to deliver a parliamentary motion to congratulate every country on its national day? Why is Israel special? Is it because of the petty cash the ALP and the Liberals receive from Jewish businesses for their election campaigns?

"Australian politicians should not forget Australia has a moral and historic duty towards the Palestinian people [because of Australia's 1948] support of the establishment of Israel in Palestine on their blood, bones and tears. How far are politicians prepared to go in damaging Australia's international reputation and standing for the sake of Israel and some petty cash?"

The website of The Australian Jewish News shrilly reported the emails of the two pro-Palestinian lobbies as "groups hostile to Israel are launching a media blitz to coincide" with next Wednesday's parliamentary motion.

It is, you'd have to think, a very wee media "blitz". A couple of emails, a proposed newspaper ad if <u>Women</u> for Palestine can raise the money, and a whack from Ali Kazak that has gone utterly unreported, until now.

So what is our Kevin doing?

His office says yes, Rudd does propose introducing a motion in Parliament concerning the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel (which is not actually due until May 14). And yes, he proposes doing this next Wednesday. But what it will say is still being worked on. And no, Brendan Nelson has not, as yet, been consulted, although he will be.

What might it say about the Palestinians?

Load-Date: March 7, 2008



## U.S. must expose al-Qaida brutality

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

January 30, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A11

Length: 702 words

Byline: GARY ANDERSON, Washington Post

## **Body**

The conventional wisdom is that al-Qaida is making a comeback from its rout in Afghanistan. Many point to its success in killing Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan and to its support of Islamic insurgents there as evidence.

Not so.

Al-Qaida is waning. Its decline has less to do with our success than with the institutional limitations of the al-Qaida organization. Simply stated, to know al-Qaida closely is not to love it.

Every place where al-Qaida has gained some measure of control over a civilian population, it has quickly worn out its welcome. This happened in Kabul and in al-Anbar province in western Iraq. It may well happen in Pakistan as a reaction to Bhutto's assassination.

No one likes to be brutalized and dominated by foreigners. The weakness of al-Qaida is that everywhere it goes, its people are strangers. This is no way to build a worldwide caliphate.

We may not be loved in Iraq and Afghanistan, but compared with the deliberately brutal methods of Osama bin Laden's associates we become a palatable alternative. This is particularly true because, like visiting grandchildren, we will eventually go home.

Bhutto once responded to a friend who was concerned about her safety by saying, "Muslims don't kill <u>women</u>." She was only partly right; real Muslims don't do that, but al-Qaida does. Its members have killed more Muslim civilians than have misdirected coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. The difference is that the Americans and their allies regret and investigate such incidents; al-Qaida plans and celebrates them.

Why, then, are we supposedly losing the information war in the Muslim world, and why has there not been more of an outcry among Muslims over this slaughter of innocents? A big part of the reason is that we spend too much time wanting to be liked rather than turning Muslim anger on our enemies.

We preach some values that are viewed as alien and threatening to the traditional order of things. Our popular culture is seen as decadent at best and downright threatening at worst in traditional cultures. Our message isn't selling. We can't change what we are, nor would we want to. No matter how much the government may disapprove, the government's official propaganda will be overwhelmed by the deluge, both positive and negative, from the

popular media. We need to accept this fact and move on, rather than waste more millions on strategic communications "charm campaigns."

What we can do is to expose our Islamic extremist enemies for what they are. The people of Afghanistan and al-Anbar found this out the hard way and threw the rascals out. But when al-Qaida kills scores of innocents, we report it as a statistic without context. We may see weeping relatives and bloodstained bodies from a distance, on video or in photographs, but they are depersonalized, and people quickly become desensitized to anonymous images.

Ironically, Stalin was right: One death is a tragedy; millions are a statistic. We need to help Muslims understand how these people really treat other Muslims.

The original Islamic movement spread its doctrine by a combination of military action and compassion. Charity was a key tenet. This is largely why <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah gain a degree of popular support in the areas they control. That ingredient is missing in the al-Qaida/Taliban approach to the world.

To them, winning hearts and minds means, "Agree with us or else." That is largely the reason that the U.S. government dropped its early "for us or against us" approach. It has taken us some time, but we seem to be recovering from that approach.

If I were directing the U.S. strategic information campaign, I would spend my dollars on collecting photos of the Muslim innocents al-Qaida has killed and putting below them quotations from the Qu'ran decrying such practices. These advertisements would appear in every newspaper and TV station in the Muslim world where I could buy print space or air time.

We may not be losing the war on terrorism, but we are not doing all that we can to win it.

Gary Anderson, who led a study of al-Qaida from 2003 to 2005 for a U.S. Defence Department contractor, lectures on The Revolution in Military Affairs at George Washington University in Washington.

## Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, Hundreds of Jordanians take to the street as part in an anti-terrorism rally in 2005 after al-Qaida attacks on three Western hotels in Amman killed 56 people.

Load-Date: January 30, 2008



## Al-Qaida's tactics mean it quickly wears out its welcome

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

January 16, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A11

Length: 686 words

Byline: GARY ANDERSON, Washington Post

## **Body**

The conventional wisdom is that al-Qaida is making a comeback from its rout in Afghanistan. Many point to its success in killing Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan and to its support of Islamic insurgents there as evidence. Not so. Al-Qaida is waning. Its decline has less to do with our success than with the institutional limitations of the al-Qaida organization. Simply stated, to know al-Qaida closely is not to love it.

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Gary Anderson led a study of al-Qaida from 2003 to 2005 for a Defence Department contractor.

## **Graphic**

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, U.S. army soldiers escort suspected al-Qaida members in Baqouba, Iraq, in July 2007. Al-Qaida's tactics may be harming the extremist organization.

Load-Date: January 16, 2008



## Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran

The Jerusalem Post January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 776 words

**Byline: BENJAMIN WEINTHAL** 

## **Body**

BERLIN - While German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Germany's Federal Parliament commemorated the victims of the Nazi regime on Holocaust Remembrance Day, and an expert international forum debated ways of combating anti- Semitism, a non-governmental German organization shone an uncomfortable spotlight on German-Iranian relations during a two-day conference last weekend at Humboldt University in Berlin entitled "The West and the Iranian War Against Israel."

The Coalition Against Appeasement argues that Germany in particular, and Europe in general, are contributing to a dangerously "cooperative approach to the mullahs" at the expense of the security of Israel and the entire Middle East.

"We want to make a point that Iran remains a threat. Iran has already set in motion its war against Israel and the West through its support for <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah. The publication of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report does not diminish the threat," Tobias Ebbrecht, a spokesman for the coalition, told The Jerusalem Post.

The NIE report asserts that Iran discontinued its nuclear weapons program in 2003. Israeli intelligence believes Iran continues to enrich uranium for a nuclear bomb.

The conference, which began on Friday and ran through Saturday evening, focused on German and European political, economic and cultural support of Iran's regime while ignoring its widespread human rights violations. Political scientist Alexander Gruber noted that the most dramatic wave of executions in Iran since 1984, when then-ayatollah Ali Khomeini ordered the deaths of thousands of imprisoned political opponents, was currently unfolding. Gruber also highlighted the persecution and murders of homosexuals and members of religious minorities in Iran.

A number of Iranian exiles, including the Iranian Green Party's European speaker, Kazem Moussavi, addressed the radical anti-Zionism of the Iranian regime, which, he stressed, could not be divorced from anti-Semitism.

The persecution of Iranian <u>women</u> was also a key topic of the conference. Fathiyeh Naghibzadeh, who fled Iran in 1985 and now lives in Germany, spoke about the situation of the nation's <u>women</u>. In February, she is scheduled to screen her documentary film Head Scarf As System, about the head scarf as a form of <u>female</u> oppression in Iran, in Israel.

German-Iranian conferences generally focus on either promoting business relations between the two nations or cultural exchange. Germany remains Iran's most important European Union trading partner, and Germany's import trade from Iran increased 50 percent this past year.

#### Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran

Moussavi closed the conference with a demand that "the global community and Iranian opposition stand firmly on the side of the Israelis and their country" and appealed for an end to the flourishing trade relationship between Europe and Iran.

The increasing cultural exchanges between Germany and Iran were both the topic of a panel discussion and a cause for protest. Following the final panel, roughly 50 conference participants walked to one of Berlin's most famous theaters, the Berliner Ensemble near Berlin's government quarter, and distributed flyers against the decision of theater director Claus Peymann to travel to Iran on February 11 and stage Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage And Her Children.

Protesters claimed Peymann's theater group legitimized the anti-Semitism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his regime. Journalist Tjark Kunstreich stated that Peymann - who commented in a television interview that "Bush and Sharon have brought darkness" - "would rather travel to Teheran than Tel Aviv."

Berliner Ensemble spokeswoman Laura Diehl declined to answer several telephone queries. However, the theater forward an e-mail to the Post, stating that the troupe would perform between February 12 and 14th at the Vahdat Hall in Teheran.

The Berliner Ensemble theater is heavily subsidized by the Berlin state government, and its repertoire includes a drama based on the diary of Anne Frank. The theater also commemorates Berlin's Jews who were deported during the Holocaust.

Demonstrators questioned the Berliner Ensemble's solidarity with "dead Jews," saying this tradition was at odds with the theater's focus on a regime "which plans a continued mass murder" of Jews. A representative of the theater, who refused to be named, told the protesters that the performance of Mother Courage was "a sign of solidarity with Iranian artists."

Hermann Pegg, a visitor from Vienna, said that he thought "it's good that [the planned performance is] not just being accepted." In contrast, Alexandra Taket of Berlin said that "art is independent" from political situations.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## Letters: Readers Respond: Questions for al-Qaeda

The Philadelphia Inquirer
January 16, 2008 Wednesday
CITY-D Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Inq Opinion & Editorial; Pg. A14

Length: 740 words

## **Body**

Al-Qaeda's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced last month that people who wished to interview him had until today to submit questions. Al-Qaeda strategy and goals Why does al-Qaeda promote a culture of death based in the seventh century instead of a 21st-century vision of hope?

## Alison B. GrahamWynnewood

Describe the world order you envision, as it relates to religion, social order, countries, if al-Qaeda had the power to bring about changes?

Julianna CsongorKing of Prussia juliecpam@comcast.net

If al-Qaeda had its own territory, would it abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

#### Howard GarfinkelSwarthmorehoward1718@gmail.com

Can you define the righteousness of jihad against America, in contrast with killing between Sunni and Shia Muslims and the Palestinian factions *Hamas* and Fatah?

## Ron BarrasPhiladelphiarbarrasjr@vzw.blackberry.net

The West has defeated the Nazis and Communists before you. How do you think al-Qaeda will conquer the civilized world?

## Anthony J. FrascinoCherry Hill

Seeking peace What effect would there be on al-Qaeda if the United States and other Western nations found alternative energy and were no longer so heavily reliant on Mideast oil?

**Luke Lee**Philadelphia What political, economic and social changes should Americans consider making if they want to "get along" with Muslims?

**Charles Bauerlein**West Chester<u>chuckdad69@aol.com</u> What would it take for al-Qaeda to reach an agreement with the West in solving the Middle East conflict without the annihilation of Israel?

James F. MurphyMediajmurphy114@comcast.net

Letters: Readers Respond: Questions for al-Qaeda

What are your grievances with our country and others, and what would it take to end hostilities, bloodshed and destruction to thus have peace?

## Rev. David W. LongWest Chester davidwarrenlong@comcast.net

Politics and President Bush At what point do you realize that you are no different from our president for sending people to die in Iraq?

#### Mickey GlantzMaple Glen

Given that, on average, one-third to one-half of a population is not responsible for its leadership, why attack civilians rather than the decision makers?

## Brian J. Cahill Philadelphia

Is President Bush correct when he says al-Qaeda wants to kill us because you hate our freedoms?

## Mary ShawNorristownmary@maryshawonline.com

Which political groups in America does al-Qaeda feel closest to: the irreligious, disorganized liberals or the deeply religious, authoritarian conservatives?

## Richmond L. GardnerHorsham<u>rlg3526@ix.netcom.com</u>

How does torturing your prisoners fit in the universe of a compassionate god? Do you think that you and President Bush might generate a list of tortures acceptable to all deities?

## Kenneth GorelickNewtown Square pulmon@comcast.net

Religious beliefs and Islam Is it morally justifiable to torture and execute <u>females</u> for not covering their skin, for infidelity or premarital sex, or for other violations of Sharia law?

#### Jack Minster Malvern

What do you believe God's response will be to members of al-Qaeda who have killed and seriously injured so many innocent people?

#### John LoganBlue Bell

Why do you kill and injure people who are at worship in mosques?

#### Mary Jane Hershey Harleysville

If someone is a nonbeliever, why is it necessary to kill him? Why not make every effort to convert him to the true faith?

**John Browne**HaddonfieldDo you foresee a time when all of mankind will follow Islam? If so, when? What becomes of those who refuse to follow?

#### Richard RandoMoorestown

Getting personal Where can we find you?

#### Alex MorzeWest Chester

How come you have not strapped on a suicide belt and conducted a martyrdom operation?

#### Mark Westphal Yardley

Letters: Readers Respond: Questions for al-Qaeda

What will you tell your children and grandchildren about your organization's reasons for killing nearly 3,000 innocent Americans on Sept. 11, 2001?

## Rick LippinSouthampton ralippin@aol.com

What do you love that you believe Westerners and Christians of good will also love?

## Pamela HainesPhiladelphia

Why do you think people care what you have to say after you've taken responsibility for the murder of thousands of people?

## Barry Adams Downingtown

As a medical doctor, don't you think someone should look at that mark or bump on your forehead?

#### Wade PetrilakWarminster

Would you really make Pamela Anderson wear a burka? Could you force Rosie O'Donnell to wear one?

#### Jerry KomarCollingswood

Instead of killing innocent people, could you pressure editors not to pose inane questions such as "What would you ask al-Qaeda's leadership?"

Bill DingfelderBala Cynwyd

## **Graphic**

Photograph by: Feed Loader

Load-Date: January 16, 2008



## Palestinians defy odds, make films

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

January 5, 2008 Saturday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 757 words

Byline: Diaa Hadid Associated Press

## **Body**

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- In a flip-flop of reality, a surly Palestinian soldier guards a West Bank checkpoint, as a line of haggard Israelis wait to have their ID cards examined.

The scene reversing the roles of occupier and occupied is from a satirical Palestinian film -- one of three full-length feature films, along with a few shorts, that were shot in the West Bank this year.

It's the most movies ever made in one year in a place more accustomed to seeing news cameras filming scenes of bloodshed.

"Each Palestinian film made is a miracle," said George Khleifi, co-author of a book on the subject.

The films tell stories through Palestinian eyes, trying to get beyond the simplicity of news coverage, which the artists say often reduces Palestinians to either militants or victims.

"Humor, passion, beauty, all of it is overlooked," said director Najwa Najjar, who just completed shooting a feature-length film about a *female* Palestinian dancer whose husband is sent to an Israeli prison.

While Palestinian films range from intense realism to oddball surrealism, most highlight the experience of life under Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Like a signature, almost every Palestinian film features an Israeli checkpoint.

This year, Palestinians shot three feature films with relatively large budgets. Annemarie Jacir, director of "Salt of this Sea," shot in the West Bank this year, obtained European funding of about \$1.2 million. Although modest in global terms, that amount was exceptional here.

"There's a generation of young directors reaching maturity who are becoming big enough to access large funds," said Khleifi.

It helps that Palestinian filmmakers have notched up some success abroad. Most recently, Hani Abu-Assad, the Israeli-born director of the 2005 film "Paradise Now," earned a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for his tale of two Palestinian men who decide to become suicide bombers.

In one scene from Enas Muthaffar's short film, "Occupazion," Israeli protesters angrily wave blue-and-white Israeli flags while they demonstrate against Palestinian rule. One of them, wearing a blue-and-white headscarf in a parody of the Palestinians' signature black-and-white checkered headdress, shouts in heavily accented English, "it is time to accept the end of the Palestinian occupation!"

#### Palestinians defy odds, make films

"I want, I need, to tell a story," Muthaffar, 30, said after a recent screening of "Occupazion." Audiences laughed through the low-budget movie, screened twice in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. Too many people turned up to fit in the 40-seat room where it opened.

Although the film asks Israelis to stand in Palestinian shoes, few of them will ever see it. Muthaffar, like most Palestinian artists, refuses to screen her film in Israel, to protest Israel's occupation.

"I'm not saying Israelis can't watch my film," Muthaffar said -- just not in Israel. Like many Palestinians, Muthaffar does not recognize east Jerusalem as a part of Israel. East Jerusalem was captured in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed to Israel, but the move is not internationally recognized.

While many Palestinian artists refuse to show their work in Israel, local Palestinians are equally unlikely to see the films.

There were at least 10 cinemas throughout the West Bank and Gaza, but nearly all have been burned down by angry youths or simply closed since the 1987 outbreak of the first Palestinian uprising.

People believed cinema was a "frivolous hobby," when arrests, deaths and curfews marked daily Palestinian life, said Amjad Batta, a Palestinian cinema buff. Even after the fighting died down, cinemas stayed closed as a rising tide of conservative Islam replaced angry nationalism.

Only Ramallah, with a large middle class, has a cinema, the Kasaba. Some of its films show nudity, and a nearby bar serves beer -- reflecting the theater's progressive audience in an otherwise conservative society.

There's little official support for filmmakers.

The Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, which runs the West Bank, doesn't fund movies. The militant <u>Hamas</u> movement, which runs the Gaza Strip, has been hit hard by an international embargo and is unlikely to finance productions that don't bend to its own conservative Muslim worldview.

Khleifi says that all the absurdities involved in Palestinian filmmaking -- Israel's occupation, the self-imposed boycott of Israeli audiences, the single cinema and rising Islamic conservatism -- make the end product all the more important.

"Cinema allows us to look at ourselves and open a dialogue with ourselves and others," he said.

Load-Date: January 5, 2008



## Palestinian films defy the odds

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

January 7, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 757 words

Byline: Diaa Hadid Associated Press

## **Body**

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- In a flip-flop of reality, a surly Palestinian soldier guards a West Bank checkpoint, as a line of haggard Israelis wait to have their ID cards examined.

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#### Palestinian films defy the odds

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Load-Date: January 7, 2008



## Santa dons sunglasses to hand out presents in Bethlehem

The New Zealand Herald

December 5, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 740 words

## **Body**

BETHLEHEM - In biblical Bethlehem, Santa makes his rounds in cool shades.

The dark sunglasses are a Palestinian addition to Santa's traditional garb of red suit and black boots, meant to ensure that children in the tiny, tight-knit Christian community in Jesus' traditional birthplace do not recognise the man bringing them presents.

Each year, volunteer Santas fan out across Bethlehem and the nearby West Bank Christian communities of Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour to deliver presents to the homes of children in the community. And for a change after years of conflict, there is a spirit of optimism, with tourism boosted by Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking efforts.

One of this season's Santas is Khaled Rishmawi, 21, a Greek Orthodox Christian. He said he volunteered "to give back the joy Santa gave me as a child."

"Every child must feel the joy of Christmas because they don't have much joy. Their joy is when Santa Claus brings them a present," he said.

Rishmawi is delivering about 50 presents purchased at Yasmine's Gift Shop in Beit Sahour, owned by a distant relative, Hana Rishmawi. Popular items include Lego blocks, remote-controlled cars for boys and dolls for girls.

For the shopowner, these are good times. Tourism was ravaged by seven years of fighting between Israel and the Palestinians. But this year, the number of visitors is up following last week's pledge to resume of peace talks.

In Rishmawi's shop, families spend up to \$66 on each gift, even if they have to pay in installments.

He said his business grows a little every year, a small miracle considering that Christians are a diminishing minority - just 2 per cent of the West Bank's 2.4 million residents. Economic hardship - the result of years of Israeli-Palestinian conflict - and growing Muslim fervor have fueled the Christian exodus.

In October, 40,000 tourists entered Bethlehem, the highest number in years, in buses passing through a checkpoint gate in the separation barrier. Although tourists don't stay long - an average of two hours - it's still one of Bethlehem's better years since the second Palestinian uprising began in 2000.

"If the politics goes to ruin, tourism goes to ruin," said George Juha, a local restaurant owner.

This year's mini-boom has given Hana Rishmawi a dose of holiday cheer, but it also has been a source of stress. For the past 20 years, he dispatched about six Santas to deliver presents to more than 100 children. He said the operation has become so complicated that he's thinking of scaling back.

#### Santa dons sunglasses to hand out presents in Bethlehem

Rain wets the presents - and it always seems to rain on Christmas, residents say. It also muddies the roads and causes aging cars to get stuck or break down. Once they reach the children's houses, Santas are often shooed away because "the children are asleep, can you come back later?"

"It's a headache," he sighs.

A tired Hana Rishmawi has already told parents that they can choose between a home-delivered present, or his preference: picking up the gift from a hall decked-out with Christmas decorations, where his son will play cheery music, and a Santa will be on hand to take photos with the kids.

While the red-suited Santa is largely a Western custom, it has become one of the most beloved Christian traditions in the West Bank.

Bernard Sabella, a 62-year-old social activist, said when he was a child, he'd wake up to candied nuts, chocolates and balloons on Christmas.

"When we'd ask where the presents came from, our parents said Baba Noel, but we never saw him," Sabella said, referring to Santa by his Arabic name. Father Marwan Deidis, 33, had a visit from Santa throughout his childhood Christmases.

Most of Rishmawi's Santas have been young male relatives, though there have been a few <u>women</u> and Muslims in the bunch.

Santas follow strict rules: They're expected to ring a hand-held bell, call the children's names, take a photo, and - occasionally - remove the fake beard and dark sunglasses to reassure teary children that there's nothing to fear.

The government of Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad says it will spend \$134,000 decorating Bethlehem and nearby villages - double what rival *Hamas* spent on the town when it was in power last year.

The prime minister also promised a \$1600 cash bonus to broke shopkeepers to keep their stores open for the next six months, starting with Christmas season. The arrangement will begin in Bethlehem, and spread to other West Bank towns, said Khuloud Deibas, the tourism minister.

- AP

Load-Date: December 5, 2007



#### In Viewing the Debate, New Yorkers Tip Their Hands

The New York Times
September 27, 2008 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 715 words

Byline: By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

Daryl Khan, Daniel E. Slotnik and Karen Zraick contributed reporting.

#### **Body**

New Yorkers preoccupied by the nation's financial crisis gathered in public places Friday night to watch the presidential debate on foreign policy, though many hoped to hear about issues closer to home.

But while the first third of the debate between Senator John McCain, the Republic nominee, and Senator Barack Obama, his Democratic counterpart, was a discussion of the economy, much of the rest of the evening naturally focused not on hometown companies that have collapsed in recent months -- like Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers -- but on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and tensions with Iran, Russia and North Korea.

Mike Kelly, a 25-year-old business student, said he remained undecided after watching the debate with friends at a bar on Amsterdam Avenue on the Upper West Side. "The war in Iraq is clearly important and must be ended, and we all agree on that," he said, "but I found myself getting distracted at times because they were talking about things that seemed of secondary importance to me, especially given how the economy is disproportionately affecting people in the city.

"Iran, Al Qaeda, Hamas. Got it. O.K. What about jobs? And is my money safe in the bank?"

A few miles south, at the Downtown Community Television Center, more than 200 people stood shoulder-to-shoulder and spilled onto the sidewalk for the center's debate-viewing party. Comedians performed beforehand, including Joe Quint, the author of the book "72 Things Younger Than John McCain."

As was true at other public gatherings in heavily Democratic New York City on Friday night, Senator Obama's points were often greeted with applause, while Senator McCain's were typically met with jeers.

The center was hot and sticky as a crowd of people in their 20s drank Budweiser out of cans and Brooklyn beer out of bottles. In the back of the room, bloggers typed away on laptops, updating Web sites and Facebook pages.

"It's been a rough week emotionally," said Kaiser Sandwipi, 39, who lives in Park Slope and works in the financial services industry. "We need to hear some details about the financial plan. There has to be some kind of accountability."

#### In Viewing the Debate, New Yorkers Tip Their Hands

At the Apollo Theater in Harlem, a racially diverse crowd watched the hour-and-a-half debate on a giant screen that had been set up on the venue's famous stage.

The group cheered when Mr. Obama said that everyone deserved access to a college education, and again when he criticized Mr. McCain's support of the war in Iraq. They booed lustily when Mr. McCain referred to his running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska.

Billy Hemmans, 54, a building manager from Harlem, was wearing a black-and-gold Obama T-shirt and a wristwatch that featured Mr. Obama's face. "It's going to be a landslide," he said about the November election.

"It's going to be worse than when Boston beat L.A. in the Finals," he added, referring to the N.B.A. championship series this year.

At a Republican gathering in Midtown Manhattan, 75 people crowded into a wood-paneled room at Public House, staring intently at one of two large flat-screen televisions showing the debate as they sipped beer and drank cocktails. Each time the door was opened, pop music could be heard coming from a party elsewhere in the building.

When Mr. McCain said that "our best days are ahead of us," the gathering let out a sustained cheer. Among the crowd were several *women* who wore buttons supporting Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And a few people snuck out of the room at regular intervals to find a television tuned to another ongoing drama -- the Mets, who are in a tight race for a wild card spot, and their game against the Florida Marlins. (The Mets lost.)

"I've got two horses in the race tonight," said Brett Joshpe, 28, who helped organize the viewing party. Mr. Joshpe said he was trying to re-energize the city's Republicans, who have fared poorly in local elections and are outnumbered by a large margin in the city.

"I'm trying to rebuild the brand," he said, "because the brand has been damaged in recent years."

Owen Heslin, vice president of the New York Young Republicans Club, liked what he saw: "I think McCain owns him tonight -- I really do -- and I hate McCain. He answered the questions well, and he threw in a few zingers."

http://www.nytimes.com

# Graphic

PHOTO: Many in the crowd at the Apollo Theater in Harlem cheered Barack Obama and booed John McCain's reference to Sarah Palin. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB BENNETT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

From left, Kate Pentkowski, Megan McElroy, Taylor Swift and Margaret Bigelow at a Republican party on the East Side. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN MARSHALL MANTEL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Load-Date: September 27, 2008



#### University Wire

October 17, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 The Daily Princetonian via U-Wire

Length: 737 words

Byline: By Maxwell Weidmann, The Daily Princetonian; SOURCE: Princeton

Dateline: PRINCETON, N.J.

#### **Body**

Controversial conservative writer David Horowitz delivered an address on the dangers of modern Islam and what he calls a "genocidal" and "barbaric" Muslim culture to a large student audience in McCosh 10 at Princeton University Tuesday night.

Though he focused on Islamo-fascism, the name some conservative commentators give to a brand of Islam they deem similar to the fascist movements of 1930s Europe, Horowitz also talked about what he called the injustice of ad hominem arguments by the political left, reverse discrimination against white males and open academic debate within universities.

"There is a lot of hate coming at me and other leaders with similar opinions coming in a large part from the political left," he said. "I think people reading my writing on issues pertaining to universities will find that they are quite liberal, whereas I have been termed by the left as a far right-wing radical."

Horowitz denounced the *female* abuse and oppression that he said is rampant throughout Islamic states.

He went on to describe the intensity of Islamic hatred for Jews, citing a number of radical Muslim leaders and organizations such as Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and *Hamas*, the Palestinian militant group, who he said want to exterminate the Jews.

"Jew hating is not only rampant," he said, "but has become a religion in the Muslim world ever since the Nazis made a pact with radical Islamists."

Horowitz attributed what he perceives as the widespread anti-Semitic violence in Islamic states to fundamental religious and cultural aspects of Islamic life, including the lack of separation between religious institutions and the state in Islamic countries.

"I don't think there has been another religion that has made saints out of murderers, had children of age two thinking they should blow up carloads of Jews," Horowitz said.

"If you have a system of belief that controls how you live your daily life and a government that has the power to execute these things, that is a combination that will result in a totalitarian state. That is Islamo-fascism."

While listeners maintained a tense silence during Horowitz's forceful speech, the question-and-answer period that followed revealed audience members' equally powerful antagonism to his remarks.

"He was a pretty poorly chosen speaker, he wasn't even supporting the ideas of the right, and every two minutes he would change topic," said Anton Khabbaz, an associate research scholar in the molecular biology department. "He had no coherence, and he said many racist things."

Horowitz frequently rebuked the "hatred" he said was directed at him because of his beliefs as behavior inappropriate to an academic discussion. He opened the lecture with a colorful acknowledgement of the explosive reactions commonly seen in response to his opinions.

"I'm sure that some of you are coming here as though you are coming to a NASCAR event, to see a crash," Horowitz said.

Wyatt Yankus '09, vice president of the College Republicans, who sponsored the event, introduced Horowitz with a statement encouraging students and the University to maintain open academic discussion.

"[Horowitz] expresses an opinion not usually expressed on college campuses, but it is our duty to make sure that such opinions can be expressed at places such as our University," Yankus said.

Horowitz has had a controversial past at Princeton and at other peer institutions.

In March 2001, Horowitz submitted a controversial advertisement condemning slave reparations titled "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Is a Bad Idea -- and Racist Too," to college papers including the Brown Daily Herald, the Duke Chronicle and The Daily Californian at UC-Berkeley. Some papers ran the ad, while others did not.

The Daily Princetonian ran Horowitz's ad on April 4, but also published a staff editorial that called it "an offensive piece of work" and promised to donate the ad's revenues to the Trenton chapter of the National Urban League, saying that the paper "[did] not want to profit from Horowitz's racism."

He, in turn, refused to pay the 'Prince' for the ad, explaining his rationale in a Salon.com column: "After flaming me in public -- so easy for an irresponsible press where even the purchase of ad space merits an ad hominem attack -- the princes will not get to donate my money."

Instead, he said, he would donate the money to a cause of his own choice.

(C) 2007 The Daily Princetonian via U-WIRE

Load-Date: October 17, 2007



#### End terror support

The Nation (AsiaNet)
October 10, 2007 Wednesday

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Length: 735 words

Byline: IFTIKHAR AHMAD

# **Body**

Some time back the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution demanding that Pakistan should cease its cooperation in the War on Terror in case of any unilateral, unprovoked US-NATO military strikes across the country's border. The committee urged the US to review and reassess its policy in the Muslim world so that the gap between its policies and the popular perception (about its double standards) in the region could be bridged.

Agreed that the clash of civilizations theory has been disproved. However, as writer and analyst Jonathan Kay, puts it, the clash is within a single civilization, the Islamic civilization. This is evident from the state of affairs in the Muslim world, including Africa, the Middle East, South and Central Asia, particularly the events since after 9/11, leading to destruction of Afghanistan and Iraq where the aggression of the west still continues and hundreds of people, innocent <u>women</u> and children included, are being killed everyday. If there is civil war condition in Iraq the responsibility for such a sorry state is that of the US Administration which has divided the people on the basis of religious sects and playing one group against the other.

The policy of divide and rule is nothing new that people are not aware of. The US has its policeman in the Middle East which is the mother of all conflicts and destruction of peace in the region. If the Americans believe in the power and value of the ballot and have respect for democratic norms and procedures why did the US authorities and Israel reject *Hamas*. These double standards speak loud of the real intentions and the mindset of the crusaders.

What is happening in Afghanistan is a reflection of this mindset. And its fallout is badly affecting life and prospects of peace in Pakistan. Since after the "Operation Silence" law and order situation has gone from bad to worse, particularly, in the NWFP and tribal areas. The federal capital is insecure in the background of the war on terror and the situation across the border, in Afghanistan. American and NATO forces on Pak-Afghan border are least concerned about the security of people on the Pakistani side.

Jonathan Kay is not wrong in observing that there is polarization in the Muslim world and that the clash is within the Islamic civilization. Putting this statement in a realistic perspective would mean that there may not be a clash of civilizations as such but a clash of all civilizations against one civilization, namely, the Islamic civilization. Jonathan Kay says, 'with every passing month, Muslim violence becomes more self-directed'. This is true. But if seen in realistic perspective, this kind of violence is a reaction against rulers who are playing in the hands of the crusaders and proxy crusaders of the United States of America. And let this be put across to the prejudiced mind, anywhere in the world, that using the terms such as "Islamic Bomb", "Shiite Bomb" etc and arousing sentiments of people of one Muslim country against another Muslim country is outright deliberate act of aggression.

#### End terror support

Those supporting democracy and world peace would rather desist from such an approach. If Americans (and for that purpose other nations) have an ideology of life, they should, in all fairness, not interfere in other peoples belief system and values. If they do justice and recognize the rights of other people there should be no reason for conflicts. These conflicts arise when you are out to ignore others' rights and make use of force and violent means to get hold of something that is not yours.

As the US cares for its own civilians and army personnel it should also look into the consequences of Indian state terrorism, for example in Kashmir, which kills people by dozens every day, every week, every month. When the oppressed people of the Indian held Kashmir protest they confront Indian state terrorism and are labeled as terrorists and Jihadis.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh talks of peace prospects where as the Hindu writers, such as sumit Ganguly, do not give any impression that India can ever extend a hand of friendship and cooperation to Pakistan. Sumit Ganguly writes with all his prejudice, "the dispute over Kashmir may end up being settled not by negotiation but by Pakistan's exhaustion." This is a most unkind remark. Is it not?

The writer is a former Director NIPA

E-mail: iftahmad786@hotmail.com

Load-Date: October 18, 2007



#### University Wire

October 17, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 The Daily Princetonian via U-Wire

Length: 737 words

Byline: By Maxwell Weidmann, The Daily Princetonian; SOURCE: Princeton

Dateline: PRINCETON, N.J.

#### **Body**

Controversial conservative writer David Horowitz delivered an address on the dangers of modern Islam and what he calls a "genocidal" and "barbaric" Muslim culture to a large student audience in McCosh 10 at Princeton University Tuesday night.

Though he focused on Islamo-fascism, the name some conservative commentators give to a brand of Islam they deem similar to the fascist movements of 1930s Europe, Horowitz also talked about what he called the injustice of ad hominem arguments by the political left, reverse discrimination against white males and open academic debate within universities.

"There is a lot of hate coming at me and other leaders with similar opinions coming in a large part from the political left," he said. "I think people reading my writing on issues pertaining to universities will find that they are quite liberal, whereas I have been termed by the left as a far right-wing radical."

Horowitz denounced the *female* abuse and oppression that he said is rampant throughout Islamic states.

He went on to describe the intensity of Islamic hatred for Jews, citing a number of radical Muslim leaders and organizations such as Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and *Hamas*, the Palestinian militant group, who he said want to exterminate the Jews.

"Jew hating is not only rampant," he said, "but has become a religion in the Muslim world ever since the Nazis made a pact with radical Islamists."

Horowitz attributed what he perceives as the widespread anti-Semitic violence in Islamic states to fundamental religious and cultural aspects of Islamic life, including the lack of separation between religious institutions and the state in Islamic countries.

"I don't think there has been another religion that has made saints out of murderers, had children of age two thinking they should blow up carloads of Jews," Horowitz said.

"If you have a system of belief that controls how you live your daily life and a government that has the power to execute these things, that is a combination that will result in a totalitarian state. That is Islamo-fascism."

While listeners maintained a tense silence during Horowitz's forceful speech, the question-and-answer period that followed revealed audience members' equally powerful antagonism to his remarks.

"He was a pretty poorly chosen speaker, he wasn't even supporting the ideas of the right, and every two minutes he would change topic," said Anton Khabbaz, an associate research scholar in the molecular biology department. "He had no coherence, and he said many racist things."

Horowitz frequently rebuked the "hatred" he said was directed at him because of his beliefs as behavior inappropriate to an academic discussion. He opened the lecture with a colorful acknowledgement of the explosive reactions commonly seen in response to his opinions.

"I'm sure that some of you are coming here as though you are coming to a NASCAR event, to see a crash," Horowitz said.

Wyatt Yankus '09, vice president of the College Republicans, who sponsored the event, introduced Horowitz with a statement encouraging students and the University to maintain open academic discussion.

"[Horowitz] expresses an opinion not usually expressed on college campuses, but it is our duty to make sure that such opinions can be expressed at places such as our University," Yankus said.

Horowitz has had a controversial past at Princeton and at other peer institutions.

In March 2001, Horowitz submitted a controversial advertisement condemning slave reparations titled "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Is a Bad Idea -- and Racist Too," to college papers including the Brown Daily Herald, the Duke Chronicle and The Daily Californian at UC-Berkeley. Some papers ran the ad, while others did not.

The Daily Princetonian ran Horowitz's ad on April 4, but also published a staff editorial that called it "an offensive piece of work" and promised to donate the ad's revenues to the Trenton chapter of the National Urban League, saying that the paper "[did] not want to profit from Horowitz's racism."

He, in turn, refused to pay the 'Prince' for the ad, explaining his rationale in a Salon.com column: "After flaming me in public -- so easy for an irresponsible press where even the purchase of ad space merits an ad hominem attack -- the princes will not get to donate my money."

Instead, he said, he would donate the money to a cause of his own choice.

(C) 2007 The Daily Princetonian via U-WIRE

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(C) 2007 The Daily Princetonian via U-WIRE

Load-Date: October 17, 2007



# <u>Islam's original feminist; A century after his death, Qasim Amin remains a</u> man ahead of his time

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

July 5, 2008 Saturday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A19; Robert Fulford

Length: 765 words

Byline: Robert Fulford, National Post

#### **Body**

Advocates of even mild feminism were thin on the ground in 19th-century Egypt. But in 1899, the Cairo newspapers announced the appearance of at least one citizen who held outlandishly modern opinions on the subject. His much-reviled book, The Liberation of *Women*, created a controversy that remains alive today in certain corners of Islam.

The heretic in question, Qasim Amin (1863-1908), a young judge from a prominent family, was hard to ignore. He was well connected among Egyptian intellectuals and a founder of Cairo University. He based his argument on patriotism. As a nationalist, he insisted that the independent Egypt of his generation's dreams would need a new kind of woman, educated and (relatively) free.

Today, no one would call him a feminist. He emphasized that improving <u>women</u>'s position would make them better mothers and wives. Boys were growing up in an a tmos p h e r e of ignorance because their mothers were ignorant , he argued. Amin believed that Egypt's future would depend on mothers giving their sons the beginning of an education.

The author also claimed that freedom for adult <u>women</u> would make them hap-pier spouses. He wanted fair divorce laws; he felt <u>women</u> should be less burdened by the demand to veil themselves; and he even suggested they should be able to go out of their houses unescorted.

Having created this scandal in 1899, Amin returned to the subject in a second book a year later, this time going farther. He suggested that <u>women</u> could become teachers and doctors, and he seemed on the brink of advocating something like full citizenship.

One gets a sense of his increased boldness from reading The Liberation of <u>Women</u> and The New Woman: Two Documents in the History of Egyptian Feminism, published in 2000 as a single book by the American University in Cairo Press. It seems that after his gently diffident proposals were criticized in 1899, he decided he might as well set forth even more radical views.

Since Amin's death at age 45, Arab scholars, many of them marginal within their own societies, have continued to make him the focus of <u>women</u>'s-rights discussions. He's never become a national hero in Egypt, but his ideas have continued to reappear through more than a century of changing intellectual fashions and regimes.

Islam's original feminist; A century after his death, Qasim Amin remains a man ahead of his time

Too often, unfortunately, Amin's ideas get revived only so that another defender of orthodoxy can try to bury them. In 1999, when the government of Egypt recognized the author's place in history by organizing a six-day international conference about him in Cairo, one of the 150 scholars taking part reflected on how little had changed since Amin's time: It was as if "time has not passed in the Arab world" for a full century.

There are those who like it that way. Consider Azzam Tamimi, a prominent London-based Palestinian activist who supports <u>Hamas</u> and expresses admiration for jihadist suicide bombers. Tamimi believes that Amin, a Muslim who made all the required references to Allah and the Prophet in his writing, was eager to abandon Islam. Tamimi claims he was influenced by Christian Arab scholars who advocated secular principles. Their goal, as Tamimi sees it, was to weaken local religious institutions, make secularism "a tool of domination" and render Muslims "colonizable and controllable."

Secularists were wrong, Tamimi says, to think that Arabs needed freedom from spiritual authority, the way people in the West did. Actually, he points out, Islam

has always been free. Its aims are "establishing justice and equality, encouraging research and innovation, and guaranteeing freedom of thought, expression, and worship." Can't argue with that.

Meanwhile, back in Cairo last month, after five weeks of debate, parliament finally passed a law making <u>female</u> ci rcumci sion punishable by two years in jail. The Muslim Brotherhood, a group of Islamists that essentially constitutes

the country's political opposition, bitterly fought that measure, and so did at least one non-Brotherhood opposition member, said to be secular. He brought his three young daughters to parliament, all of them holding banners that denounced the law. Two of the three, he said, were already circumcised.

But Cairo's mild commitment to equality doesn't get reflected in foreign policy. In June, Egypt voted at the United Nations Human Rights Council against allowing discussion of the warped effects of shariah law (stoning of <u>women</u>, for instance, and "honour killing"). Egypt's delegate stressed that "Islam will not be crucified in this Council." A century after his death, Amin remains a man ahead of his time.

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# **Graphic**

Black & White

Photo:; Qasim Amin;

Load-Date: July 5, 2008



# <u>Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti-</u> Israeli tone at Durban 2

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

June 24, 2008 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 750 words

Byline: John Ivison, National Post

**Dateline: OTTAWA** 

#### **Body**

OTTAWA - An internal caucus revolt has forced NDP leader Jack Layton to revise his party's position for a second time on Canada's participation at the United Nations conference on racism, to be held in Geneva next year.

A delegation of eight angry MPs told Mr. Layton the NDP's call for Canada to take part in an event critics fear will degenerate into an anti-Semitic hatefest risks alienating the party's traditional blue-collar voting base.

The NDP initially supported the Conservative government's boycott of the event, dubbed Durban 2 after its predecessor in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The first conference ended in acrimony after a number of resolutions critical of Israel were adopted.

The NDP position shifted after Mr. Layton received assurances from UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour that there would be no repeat of Durban 1 at next year's event. The new position was hailed by Muslim groups and roundly criticized by Jewish organizations, who suggested the revised decision was a cynical ploy to win Muslim votes. However, opposition from a group of senior NDP MPs, including deputy leader Thomas Mulcair and Winnipeg MP Pat Martin, has forced Mr. Layton to backpedal.

"It caused an uproar. A number of us went apes--t," said one MP.

The party is set to release a third position on Durban 2 in the next few days, in which it says Canada should not go unless it receives ironclad guarantees the conference will not become "hateful, anti-Semitic or Islamophobic."

"We cannot sit idly by and condone what happened in 2001, nor can we abandon international anti-racism work," said Brad Lavigne, the NDP's director of communications. "Jack Layton is always looking for solutions when there's an impasse. In this case, he suggests we set out the guarantees Canada would need to see Canada participate. We must denounce the anti-Semitism from the first conference and set clear conditions that it never happen again."

Mr. Mulcair, whose wife is Jewish, did not return calls but he is understood to have been extremely upset with the decision to advocate Canada attend Durban 2, arguing that he would lose his Montreal riding of Outremont at the next election unless the position was reversed.

Layton backtracks on UN racism conference; Senior NDP MPs fear anti- Israeli tone at Durban 2

It is also understood there is discomfort in caucus with the candidacy of Samira Laouni, a Moroccan with a doctorate in international economics from the Sorbonne in Paris, who is running for the NDP in the Montreal riding of Bourassa.

Ms. Laouni is Quebec project manager for the Canadian Islamic Congress, an organization that deems Israel to be an "apartheid regime" guilty of genocidal crimes and calls for the Canadian government to remove Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> from a list of designated terrorist organizations.

Her riding association president until recently was Hayder Moussa, who is also vice-president of the Association des Jeunes Libanais Museulmans de Montreal. The association's Web site has links to a number of radical Shiite ayatollahs, including Hezbollah's spiritual leader, Sayed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. The Web site has also featured the Hezbollah war anthem Ya Ashraf An Na (United We Stand), which calls on Muslims to fight the tyrant because victory is promised by God.

Mr. Lavigne said Mr. Moussa was asked to resign from his position with the NDP some weeks ago after the party learned of a controversial poem he had written, in which he was accused of labelling non-Muslim <u>women</u> as promiscuous drunks. Neither Ms. Laouni nor Mr. Moussa could be reached for comment yesterday.

Mr. Martin said he is satisfied that a compromise has been reached on the Durban issue but says he remains concerned the party is abandoning its base in the search for votes.

"I'm very pro-Israel and I can't understand how we've got offside on this subject.

"We just seem to gain some credibility and then we do something goofy," he said.

Other MPs who are said to have backed the call for Mr. Layton to think again include Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Dave Christopherson, Brian Masse, Peter Stoffer, Dawn Black and Penny Priddy.

Mr. Layton is said to be enthusiastic about luring Muslim voters, alienated by the Liberal party's support for the extension of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan and the staunch pro-Israel position of Bob Rae, the new foreign affairs critic.

But there are growing concerns from some veteran New Democrats that the party's trawl for new votes is importing views that are antithetical to the NDP's traditional positions.

One MP said the party was in danger of being "hijacked."

# **Graphic**

Black & White

Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters; Opposition from the likes of such NDP MPs as Thomas Mulcair, right, has caused party leader Jack Layton, left, to backtrack on his position on the UN racism conference.;

Load-Date: June 24, 2008



# Britain is a hotbed of anti-Israeli sentiment Ron Prosor, the Israeli ambassador, says British academics are denying his country's right to exist as a democratic state

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

June 10, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Comment; Pg. 23

**Length:** 786 words **Byline:** Ron Prosor

#### **Body**

Throughout its modern history, Britain has prided itself on its liberal society, which cherishes human rights and values civil liberties. That pride was well founded, both in the international arena, when Britain stood alone in Europe facing the dark forces of the Third Reich, and in the domestic field, when Britain led the way in establishing a national health service, granting <u>women</u> the right to vote and protecting the basic social rights of the working class.

During a previous posting to Britain, I developed a keen admiration of this record, and of the core British values of fairness, decency and common sense.

Since returning to these shores as Israel's ambassador last November, however, I have been dismayed to find that, as far as Israel is concerned, these values are under threat. Fairness is all too frequently absent in a debate that has been hijacked by extremists.

Israel faces an intensified campaign of delegitimisation, demonisation and double standards. Britain has become a hotbed for radical anti-Israeli views and a haven for disingenuous calls for a

"one-state solution", a euphemistic name for a movement advocating Israel's destruction.

Those who propagate this notion distort Israel's past while categorically denying Israel's right to exist as a liberal Jewish-democratic state. No other country in the world is constantly forced to justify its own existence.

At the end of last month, members of the University and College Union (UCU) passed a motion that in effect called for a boycott of the Israeli academia.

The concept of an academic boycott is a ludicrous oxymoron, undermining the democratic principles of free speech and free debate. Academics, who are supposedly society's guardians of knowledge, objectivity and informed debate, have seen their union held hostage by radical factions, armed with political agendas and personal interests.

British academia has built its reputation on freedom of expression and the pluralistic exchange of ideas. Alarmingly, these values are under threat in an institution that should be safeguarding them.

Britain is a hotbed of anti- Israeli sentiment Ron Prosor, the Israeli ambassador, says British academics are denying his country's right to exist as a democrat....

The boycott campaign, which has been gathering force since 2002, is a licence to harass, humiliate and victimise purely on grounds of nationality. In recent years, cases of discrimination have included two Israeli academics being ousted from the editorial board of a journal and an Israeli postgraduate who was refused doctoral supervision because he had served in the Israeli army.

Over-simplifications,

half-truths and lies have been swallowed as reality and disseminated as truth. Israel has been cast as a pantomime villain. A climate of hatred is fomented on campuses. The complexities of the situation are overlooked, as are the responsibilities of other actors in the region.

The pattern is exacerbated when coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is routinely tainted with bias and a surprising lack of context.

Double standards are rife. Israel's military reaction to the attacks it faces is given in-depth, microscopic coverage. Yet the attacks to which Israel is responding are often ignored. Terror attacks, ambushes, suicide bombings, the constant barrage of rockets being fired on Israeli citizens are frequently disregarded.

The average British citizen is painfully unaware that, since <u>Hamas</u> seized control of Gaza last year, 1,400 rockets and 1,500 mortar bombs have landed on Israeli soil. No government in the world would tolerate such a sustained attack without taking action.

Israel is a democracy under fire, but when this context is neglected, it clears a path for the unhealthy, unacceptable demonisation of Israel. While Israel faces many challenges, it is still the only functioning democracy in the region, and the only state in the area that offers minorities full civil equality and freedom of speech.

One of my greatest sources of pride is the open discourse conducted within my country. Critical debate thrives and Israelis scrutinise every aspect of our policies. We are not afraid of criticism. I am concerned, however, that in Britain the most extreme elements of the debate have been allowed to hijack the mainstream. Those who share the values on which British democracy is built must say "no" - no to the delegitimisation of Israel, no to the demonisation of Israel and no to the double standards to which Israel is subjected.

I implore the British public to prevent the radical fringe from monopolising British-Israeli discourse. It is vital that British values of fair play and even-handedness are brought to the debate. The time has come for the silent majority to speak up and say "yes"; yes to context, yes to democracy and yes to an understanding of the challenges Israel faces as a democracy under fire.

Load-Date: June 10, 2008



# <u>Survey of Israelis' Attitudes Toward Politics Finds Disgust and a Growing</u> <u>Apathy</u>

The New York Times

June 10, 2008 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 843 words

Byline: By ISABEL KERSHNER

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

#### **Body**

A third of Israelis expressed feelings of nausea, revulsion, depression or despair when asked what they felt or thought about the word "politics," according to a new survey. Another third said they instinctively associated politics with corruption, betrayal or deceit.

The survey, the annual Democracy Index, being published on Tuesday by the Israel Democracy Institute, an independent research organization, also found that only about 60 percent of the public reported any interest in politics, a drop of 15 percentage points from the 2006 survey. Trust in public institutions has eroded significantly, with the army topping the list as the most trustworthy and the prime minister and political parties ranking last.

Early this year, 1,201 adults were queried in Hebrew, Arabic or Russian for the survey, which has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. It was conducted before a new political scandal broke involving Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Morris Talansky, a 75-year-old Long Island fund-raiser and financier who testified in May that he had given an estimated \$150,000, mostly cash stuffed into envelopes, to Mr. Olmert over a period of 13 years.

The findings reflect what some experts call a general crisis of public trust in leadership that affects much of the developed world. But in Israel, a country that was intensely politicized and that still faces acute questions of war and peace each day, the trend is arousing special concern.

"The rise of antipolitical sentiment reaches the point of delegitimizing the political and decision-making processes," said Arye Carmon, the president of the institute. "It is not only about this person or that -- it is the entire system. The Israeli public is turning its back on politics."

Voter turnout has dropped to an average of 63 percent in 2006 from an average of 77 percent over the last five decades. Some researchers expect that turnout in the next election may not exceed 50 percent.

It is not that Israelis are turning against democracy. Despite the negative feelings revealed by the survey, other indicators show that the public's commitment to the principles of a democratic system remains strong.

#### Survey of Israelis' Attitudes Toward Politics Finds Disgust and a Growing Apathy

"The irony," said Ari Shavit, a columnist for the liberal newspaper Haaretz, "is that Israel as a society is the most democratic I know. It is open and free, yet politics went into such decay."

On the eve of the 2006 elections, about 15 lawmakers from the departing 120-seat Parliament had been indicted or convicted or were under investigation. Just in the governing Kadima Party, which was set up in late 2005, Haim Ramon, a former justice minister, was convicted of forcibly kissing a <u>female</u> soldier; Tzachi Hanegbi, a former public security minister, is standing trial over a political appointments case; and Abraham Hirchson, Mr. Olmert's ally and former finance minister, was recently indicted on embezzlement charges.

The latest law enforcement inquiry into Mr. Olmert, in which Mr. Talansky testified in advance of a possible indictment, is one of several involving the prime minister, who has denied any wrongdoing.

As in other developed countries, growing transparency and the scrutiny of politicians by the news media are factors in the antipolitical trend, said Yehuda Ben Meir, a former politician who runs a public opinion project at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

At the same time in Israel, traditional ideologies have been on the wane. Politics here used to be clearly divided between left and right. For decades, two-thirds of Parliament was composed of two main parties, the dovish Labor and the hawkish Likud.

The lines became blurred by the breakdown of the peace process with the Palestinians in 2000 and the subsequent outbreak of the anti-Israel uprising known as the intifada.

The previous prime minister, Ariel Sharon, who was also no stranger to police investigations, pulled Israeli troops and all Jewish settlers out of Gaza while he was still leader of Likud. Then he went on to found Kadima, a hybrid centrist party that gathered members from both sides of the divide.

Today the issues on the agenda are as pressing as ever. The government is engaged in new negotiations for a peace accord with the Palestinians and indirect talks with Syria, and there are pending decisions on how to deal with *Hamas*, the Islamic militant group that now rules Gaza; the Lebanese Hezbollah; and a potentially nuclear Iran.

But now that politics and ideology have lost their fervor, the focus on corruption has gained. Integrity is seen as the main strength of Tzipi Livni, the foreign minister and vice prime minister, who is a front-runner to succeed Mr. Olmert as leader of Kadima, should he go.

"It is an unfortunate situation where being decent becomes such an important characteristic," said Dan Meridor, a former Likud justice and finance minister who left politics with his reputation for honesty intact. "That should be the most basic requirement of being a politician."

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 10, 2008



#### Israeli politics in grip of a 'Roman' decay; ANALYSIS

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 7, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 18

Length: 795 words

Byline: Jason Koutsoukis

#### **Body**

People are increasingly angered and disillusioned by the conduct of their leaders.

A SHAWARMA vendor in Jerusalem's busy Ben-Yehuda shopping mall seemed as good a person as any to ask about the wretched state of Israeli politics.

"I am disgusted!" shouted a sweaty Avi Meir, slicing with added vigour into a massive roll of roasting chicken meat.

"Up there in the Knesset," Meir said, pointing his carving knife towards the Israeli Parliament, "it's like a Roman orgy. When I was a kid I had heroes for politicians. Now I have criminals."

Sixty years into its turbulent history, many Israelis fear that unless the state undertakes major political reforms it won't make it to 100.

Read through the list of recent scandals and Meir's nod to the decadence of imperial Rome sounds more like understatement than hyperbole. Here's just a sample:

- · In July last year, Israel's eighth president, Moshe Katsav, was forced to resign after 10 **women** accused the career politician of various degrees of sexual assault ranging from rape to harassment.
- · Katsav's predecessor, Ezer Weizman, was booted out after it was revealed he had received hundreds of thousands of dollars in "gifts" from a French millionaire while serving as an MP.
- · In January last year, former Israeli justice minister Haim Ramon was found guilty of sexual assault after molesting a woman soldier at a ministerial soiree where he forcibly French-kissed her. He has since been reappointed to cabinet as vice-premier and minister in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for state policy.
- Tzachi Hanegbi is still a member of the Knesset but had to resign as minister for internal security in 2006 when he was indicted on charges of fraud, bribery and lying under oath. His trial is ongoing.
- · Omri Sharon, the son of former prime minister Ariel Sharon, was briefly a member of the Knesset until he was imprisoned in 2006 for corruption and perjury offences.

On Wednesday, this list grew when a Tel Aviv court charged former finance minister Avraham Hirschson - a protege of the current Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert - with crimes including aggravated theft, fraud, embezzlement and obstruction of justice.

Which leads to Olmert himself, who since assuming the prime ministership in January 2006 has been the subject of five investigations.

The latest centres on allegations that from the time he was elected mayor of Jerusalem in 1993 to when he was a senior minister in the Sharon government, he accepted up to \$520,000 in illegal campaign contributions and bribes from New York businessman Moshe Talansky, much of it supposedly delivered in brown paper bags.

In lurid testimony at the Jerusalem District Court, Talansky described how Olmert would tap him for money to pay for his bar tab, luxury holidays in Italy, or first-class air tickets to the United States.

Judging from the pictures of Olmert seated with American President George Bush in the Oval Office this week, waving happily to the voters back home, he seems oblivious to the damage his tenure is causing.

Since the latest scandal broke a month ago, Olmert has put handing over the Golan Heights back on the table in high-level talks with Syria, and been behind active efforts to broker a truce with the Islamist political movement *Hamas*.

In his weekly column in The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday, Isi Leibler, the founder of Australia's Jetset Travel who emigrated to Israel a decade ago, said that while most Israelis would welcome Olmert's departure, the problems would not end there.

"Let us not delude ourselves," Leibler wrote. "The rot extends far beyond the person of the Prime Minister. Leaders of both Labor and Likud, either directly or via their acolytes, have brazenly indulged in illegal fund-raising. Accepting 'personal gifts' from both wealthy diaspora Jews and Israelis has become the accepted norm."

So where to now? According to Amotz Asa-El, adjunct professor at the Shalem Centre, a privately funded research institute, Israel must abandon its system of extreme proportional representation, where MPs are accountable only to the party bosses who select their position on national voting lists and where small, special interest parties end up holding the balance of power in fragile coalitions, often subverting the national interest for their own.

"We have a very serious and alarming crisis of political leadership in this country," Asa-El told The Age. "The problem at its heart is the electoral system, and unless we change it, the state of deterioration we are suffering now will only get worse."

Asa-El says the only way out is to adopt a system where at least half Israel's MPs are directly elected from residential districts. "But first we have to convince the politicians to change a system that suits them. It's not going to be easy."

# **Graphic**

PHOTO: Israeli soldiers carry a blindfolded Palestinian, detained in a military operation in the Gaza Strip, onto a truck. PICTURE: REUTERS

Load-Date: June 6, 2008



#### It's all about leverage

The International Herald Tribune
June 2, 2008 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 794 words

Byline: Thomas L. Friedman - The New York Times Media Group

# **Body**

Barack Obama is getting painfully close to tying himself in knots with all his explanations of the conditions under which he would unconditionally talk with America's foes, like Iran. His latest clarification was that there is a difference between "preparations" and "preconditions" for negotiations with bad guys. Such word games do not inspire confidence, and they play right into the arms of his critics. The last place he wants to look uncertain is on national security.

The fact is, Obama was right to say that he would talk with any foe, if it would advance U.S. interests. The Bush team negotiated with Libya to give up its nuclear program, even after Libya had accepted responsibility for blowing up Americans on Pan Am Flight 103. Those negotiations succeeded, though, not because Bush was better "prepared," but because, at the time, shortly after the invasion of Iraq, Bush had leverage. Iraq had yet to fall apart.

Obama would do himself a big favor by shifting his focus from the list of enemy leaders he would talk with to the list of things he would do as president to generate more leverage for America, so no matter who we have to talk with the advantage will be on our side of the table. That's what matters.

Bush was also right: Talking with Iran today would be tantamount to appeasement - but that's because the Bush team has so squandered U.S. power and credibility, and has failed to put in place any effective energy policy, that negotiating with Iran could only end up with us on the short end. We don't have the leverage - the allies, the alternative energy, the unity at home, the credible threat of force - to advance our interests diplomatically today.

As I have argued before: When you have leverage, talk. When you don't have leverage, get some. Then talk.

Right now Iran & Friends - Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Syria - have a strategy that has produced leverage for them, and the next U.S. president is going to have to think afresh how to counter it. The "Iran & Friends" strategy is built on five principles:

Principle No. 1: Always seek "control without responsibility." In Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq, Iran & Friends have veto power over the politics, without being held fully responsible for the electricity.

America's allies, by contrast, tend to have "responsibility without control."

Principle No. 2: Always insist on being able to both run for political office and bear arms. In Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq, America's opponents are both in the government and have their own militias.

#### It's all about leverage

Principle No. 3: Use suicide bombing and targeted assassinations against any opponents who get in your way. One suicide attack on a major official in Iraq can neutralize superior U.S. power.

Principle No. 4: Use the Internet as a free command and control system for raising money, recruiting and operations.

Principle No. 5: Cast yourself as the "resistance" to Israel and America, so any opposition to you is equal to support for Israel and America and so no matter how badly you are defeated the mere fact that you "resisted" means you didn't really lose.

Do the pro-American Arab moderates have a counterstrategy with leverage? I just got the new book, "The Arab Center," by Marwan Muasher, the former foreign minister of Jordan. Retired Arab statesmen don't often write books about their time in office, but Muasher has, and his argument is a powerful one: Arab moderates have been on the defensive because they have been "one-dimensional moderates," focused only on moderate proposals for making peace with Israel, while ignoring other issues important to Arab citizens: good governance, political reform, economic well-being, **women**'s rights and religious and cultural diversity.

"For the Arab moderates to have credibility, they have to assume more responsibility," says Muasher. America could help by delivering on the Arab moderates' main issue - a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

But, ultimately, he said, if the Arab center is to shape the future and rid "itself of the image its opponents paint of an apologist for the West or a compromiser of Arab rights," it will have to meet the challenge of building "a robust, diverse, tolerant, democratic and prosperous Arab society."

There has been some promising moderate push back against extremists in Iraq, Lebanon and the West Bank lately. It's definitely worth watching, but is still very frail. America's leverage will be limited as long our key allies do not have a strategy, with weight, to counter the hard-liners. Here's hoping that once the primary silly season is over, the McCain and Obama camps will stop jousting over whether to talk with our enemies - which we must - and will start focusing instead about how we and our friends get more chips to bargain with - which we lack.

Load-Date: June 4, 2008



# LEVERAGE; NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 3, 2008 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B-7

Length: 814 words

Byline: Thomas L. Friedman

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The fact is, Mr. Obama was right to say that he would talk with any foe, if it would advance U.S. interests. The Bush team negotiated with Libya to give up its nuclear program, even after Libya had accepted responsibility for blowing up Americans on Pan Am Flight 103. Those negotiations succeeded, though,not because President Bush was better "prepared," but because shortly after the invasion of Iraq, Mr. Bush had leverage. Iraq had yet to fall apart.

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#### LEVERAGE NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH

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"For the Arab moderates to have credibility, they have to assume more responsibility," says Mr. Muasher. America could help by delivering on the Arab moderates' main issue -- a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal. But, ultimately, he said, if the Arab center is to shape the future and rid "itself of the image its opponents paint of an apologist for the West or a compromiser of Arab rights," it will have to meet the challenge of building "a robust, diverse, tolerant, democratic and prosperous Arab society."

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#### **Notes**

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

Load-Date: June 3, 2008



# International: Bush appeasement slur angers Democrats: Obama outraged by president's claim that talking to US foes in Middle East is like negotiating with Hitler

The Guardian - Final Edition

May 16, 2008 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 17

Length: 769 words

Byline: Ewen MacAskill and Suzanne Goldenberg, Washington

#### **Body**

President George Bush used a visit to Israel yesterday to denounce Democratic party offers to negotiate with America's enemies in the Middle East as comparable to appeasement of Hitler. Although Bush did not name any Democratic politician, the party's presidential contender Barack Obama has offered to open negotiations with the Iranian leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad.

Obama and other Democratic leaders expressed outrage at being compared to the Nazis, especially on a visit to Israel. They also condemned Bush for breaking a long-time convention against using foreign visits to score domestic points.

Obama described it as a "false political attack", saying he had never advocated talking to terrorists, while Joe Biden, the Democratic chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said: "This is bullshit." The Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, described Bush's comments as "beneath the dignity of his office".

Speaking during a visit to the Knesset, where he was attending celebrations to mark Israel's 60th anniversary, Bush said it was a foolish delusion to think it was possible to negotiate with extremists and terrorists. "As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared: 'Lord, if only I could have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided,'" Bush said.

He added: "We have an obligation to call this what it is - the false comfort of appearement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history."

The president did not say whether he was referring to Obama's offer to meet Ahmadinejad or to former president Jimmy Carter's meeting with <u>Hamas</u>. The White House press spokeswoman, Dana Perino, denied that the comments were directed at Obama.

International: Bush appeasement slur angers Democrats: Obama outraged by president's claim that talking to US foes in Middle East is like negotiating with Hitle....

Obama's campaign team accused Bush of abusing his office to help the Republican White House candidate, John McCain.

McCain, in a conference call with bloggers, used similarly emotional language as Bush and repeatedly accused Obama of being naive in his willingness to negotiate with the Iranian leadership. "If Senator Obama wants to sit down across the table from a country that calls Israel a stinking corpse and (whose president) comes to New York and says he wants to wipe Israel off the map, what is it that he wants to talk about with them?" McCain asked.

Earlier, McCain bowed to anti-war sentiment by setting 2013 as the date for withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, in an attempt to boost his chances of winning the White House. He said he expected the war to be over by that date. The comment marked a U-turn for McCain, who had based his run for the White House on his willingness to keep US forces in Iraq for up to 100 years.

McCain's retreat came despite having berated his Democratic rivals for the last 12 months for demanding a firm withdrawal date from Iraq, saying it would lead to chaos and genocide. But his strong support for keeping US troops in Iraq has proved costly for his campaign, with feelings against the war running as high as 63% in a USA Today-Gallup poll last month.

Obama has promised to have most troops out of Iraq by December 2009. McCain rolled out his new vision for Iraq in a speech in the swing state of Ohio. He anticipated that by January 2013 "America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and **women** who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure.

"The Iraq war has been won. Iraq is a functioning democracy, although still suffering from the lingering effects of decades of tyranny and centuries of sectarian tension. Violence still occurs, but it is spasmodic and much reduced." The address was part of a concerted effort by the presumptive Republican nominee to win over independent and moderate Democratic voters by distancing himself from Bush's unpopular policies.

Republican fears that they could lose both the White House and Congress in the November election increased on Tuesday when they lost a previously safe congressional seat in Mississippi. Frank Luntz, a Republican strategist who has warned that the party faces disaster in November, said: "John McCain will not be elected on Republican votes alone. He is going to have to defeat Obama with independent voters as well, which is why he is beginning to talk about a date certain for withdrawal."

Judith Kipper, a Middle East specialist at the Washington-based Institute of World Affairs, said that McCain's reference to 100 years in Iraq was a "phrase that is going to haunt him throughout the campaign", and that his speech yesterday was designed to provide a position that was more acceptable to the electorate.

Leader comment, page 36 >=

Load-Date: May 16, 2008



# Can democracy and Islam coexist?

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

April 22, 2008 Tuesday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A17

Length: 846 words

Byline: Daniel Pipes, National Post

### **Body**

There's an impression that Muslims suffer disproportionately from the rule of dictators, tyrants, unelected presidents, kings, emirs and various other strongmen - and it's accurate. A careful analysis by Frederic L. Pryor of Swarthmore College in the Middle East Quarterly (Are Muslim Countries Less Democratic?) concludes, "In all but the poorest countries, Islam is associated with fewer political rights."

The fact that majority-Muslim countries are less democratic makes it tempting to conclude that the religion of Islam, their common factor, is itself incompatible with democracy.

I disagree with that conclusion. Today's Muslim predicament, rather, reflects historical circumstances more than innate features of Islam. Put differently, Islam, like all pre-modern religions is undemocratic in spirit. No less than the others, however, it has the potential to evolve in a democratic direction.

Such evolution is not easy for any religion. In the Christian case, the battle to limit the Catholic Church's political role was painfully long. If the transition began when Marsiglio of Padua published Defensor pacis in the year 1324, it took another seven centuries for the Church fully to reconcile itself to democracy. Why should Islam's transition be smoother or easier?

To render Islam consistent with democratic ways will require profound changes in its interpretation. For example, the anti-democratic law of Islam, the Shari'a, lies at the core of the problem. Developed over a millennium ago, it presumes autocratic rulers and submissive subjects, emphasizes God's will over popular sovereignty and encourages violent jihad to expand Islam's borders. Further, it anti-democratically privileges Muslims over non-Muslims, males over <u>females</u> and free persons over slaves.

For Muslims to build fully functioning democracies, they basically must reject the Shari'a's public aspects. Turkey's first president Mustafa Ataturk frontally did just that in his country, but others have offered more subtle approaches. Mahmud Muhammad Taha, a Sudanese thinker, dispatched the public Islamic laws by fundamentally reinterpreting the Koran.

Ataturk's efforts and Taha's ideas imply that Islam is ever-evolving, and that to see it as unchanging is a grave mistake. Or, in the lively metaphor of Hassan Hanafi, professor of philosophy at the University of Cairo, the Koran "is a supermarket, where one takes what one wants and leaves what one doesn't want."

#### Can democracy and Islam coexist?

Islam's problem is less its being anti-modern than that its process of modernization has hardly begun. Muslims can modernize their religion, but that requires major changes: Out go waging jihad to impose Muslim rule, second-class citizenship for non-Muslims and death sentences for blasphemy or apostasy. In come individual freedoms, civil rights, political participation, popular sovereignty, equality before the law and representative elections.

Two obstacles stand in the way of these changes, however. In the Middle East especially, tribal affiliations remain of paramount importance. As explained by Philip Carl Salzman in his recent book, Culture and Conflict in the

Middle East, these ties create a complex pattern of tribal autonomy and tyrannical centralism that obstructs the development of constitutionalism, the rule of law, citizenship, gender equality and the other prerequisites of a democratic state. Not until this archaic social system based on the family is dispatched can democracy make real headway in the Middle East.

Globally, the compelling and powerful Islamist movement obstructs democracy. It seeks the opposite of reform and modernization -- namely, the reassertion of the Shari'a in its entirety. A jihadist like Osama bin Laden may spell out this goal more explicitly than an establishment politician like Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but both seek to create a thoroughly anti-democratic, if not totalitarian, order.

Islamists respond two ways to democracy. First, they denounce it as unIslamic. Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna considered democracy a betrayal of Islamic values. Brotherhood theoretician Sayyid Qutb rejected popular sovereignty, as did Abu al-A'la al-Mawdudi, founder of Pakistan's Jamaate-Islami political party. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Al-Jazeera television's imam, argues that elections are heretical.

Despite this scorn, Islamists are eager to use elections to attain power and have proven themselves to be agile vote-getters; even a terrorist organization (*Hamas*) has won an election. This record does not render the Islamists democratic but indicates their tactical flexibility and their determination to gain power. As Erdogan has revealingly explained, "Democracy is like a streetcar. When you come to your stop, you get off."

Hard work can one day make Islam democratic. In the meanwhile, Islamism represents the world's leading anti-democratic force. - Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum and the Taube/Diller Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. ©All rights reserved by Daniel Pipes. www.danielpipes.org

# Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Abid Katib, Getty Images; A Palestinian woman votes during local council elections in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in 2005.;

Load-Date: April 22, 2008



# Muslim Harvard students seek to carve identity in post-Sept. 11 world

#### University Wire

December 7, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Harvard Crimson via U-Wire

Length: 1758 words

Byline: By Nini S. Moorhead, Harvard Crimson; SOURCE: Harvard

Dateline: CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

#### **Body**

Michael J. Sandel, who teaches the popular moral reasoning course "Justice," recently posed an essay question to his students: Imagine you are a soldier behind enemy lines on a secret mission and unarmed civilians discover you. Should you kill them?

Harvard University students struggled with the issue, some looking to philosophy and international law for answers. But a small group tackled the dilemma in a different framework.

Muslim students in the Harvard Islamic Society (HIS) met for a halaqa, or discussion circle, to debate Sandel's question through a religious lens.

"Taking a life is one of the biggest crimes in Islam, so we looked at it through various interpretations within Islamic law," said HIS Vice President Hasan K. Siddigi '08.

The halaqa provides a small window into the larger story of HIS, a religious group that stands at a crossroads amid the aftershocks of the Sept. 11 attacks and what members see as pervasive cultural ignorance at Harvard about Islam.

Conversations with HIS members over the past month revealed that the organization is engaged in intense soul-searching. The group remains committed to its role as a support system for Harvard's Muslim students, while also grappling with how to heighten its activism to defend what members believe is a much misunderstood faith.

As it looks forward, HIS aims to heighten its visibility on campus by possibly building an Islamic student center and recruiting more Muslims to Harvard. The group has also debated weighing in on Muslim political causes, like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We have to become more active and more vocal because Islam is under attack across the world," said A. Rauda Tellawi '08, who became the group's second <u>female</u> president last year. "It's especially important at Harvard, where we have some of the future leaders of this country."

Controversy in a post-9/11 world

HIS, which boasts 146 members, has a two-fold mission: provide for the religious and social wellbeing of the Muslim community and spread awareness about Islam on campus.

Founded in 1955, the group sponsors a prayer service every Friday, maintains a musalla, or prayer space, in the basement of Canaday, and organizes the breaking of the fast called an iftar each night during the holy month of Ramadan.

Members say the organization plays a critical role in their religious lives and often provides the core of their social network.

But since Sept. 11, HIS members have grown frustrated by what they see as a cloud of misconceptions about Islam. Members point to a string of anti-Muslim incidents in the last several years that they say were not handled properly by Harvard and highlight a need to educate the campus community about Islam.

A flurry of controversy emerged in 2002, when former HIS president Zayed M. Yasin '02 proposed "American Jihad" as the title of his Commencement speech. Students protested Yasin's use of the word "jihad," and Yasin later modified the title to "Of Faith and Citizenship: My American Jihad."

But critics of the address decried Yasin's right to speak at Commencement altogether, pointing to his support while HIS president of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development-an NGO which the U.S. State Department alleges has ties to <u>Hamas</u>, a Palestinian militant movement.

Though the speech went forward, HIS members criticized the administration's lukewarm defense of Yasin.

More recently, a former HIS member wearing a headscarf was the victim of a verbal assault when a group of <u>women</u> allegedly screamed a cultural slur at her in 2005. While the Harvard Foundation, which promotes cultural pluralism on campus, met with the student, several HIS affiliates said they were not satisfied with the response.

"This was a hate crime. The community was worried and felt a real threat. There wasn't a call. The administration did not express concern for our safety," said HIS President Shaheer A. Rizvi '08.

Several months later, HIS members grew upset after The Harvard Salient republished Danish cartoons that had sparked protests across the Muslim world for their parodies of the Prophet Muhammad.

HIS members criticized an e-mail sent to the Salient by Associate Dean of the College Judith H. Kidd that warned that "some segments of the campus and surrounding communities may be sufficiently upset by the publication of the cartoons that they may become dangerous."

Kidd later formally apologized for the e-mail, saying it was not her intent to characterize the Muslim community as dangerous.

Building ties, facing friction

HIS members praise Harvard's recent efforts to make campus a more comfortable environment for Muslims. Over the past few years, dining halls have increased the availability of food that conforms to Muslim dietary laws, the College renovated the Canaday musalla, and administrators have heard student petitions for time to pray during January exams.

Members say the group's relationship with administrators has improved over the past few years.

When Hebah M. Ismail '06, a graduate adviser to HIS, first arrived at Harvard as an undergrad in 2002, discussions with high-level Harvard officials were rare, she said.

"There was a lot of tension at that time," said Ismail, now a first-year student at the Law School. "But since then, we've had very good ties."

Nevertheless, Muslims on campus report friction with some faculty members and bemoan the lack of courses about Islam at Harvard.

Indo-Muslim languages and culture professor Ali S. Asani '77, who teaches the popular course Foreign Cultures 70, "Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies," described a "religious and cultural illiteracy" about Islam at Harvard, which he said extends to segments of the faculty and administration. He said students have complained to him about discrimination and prejudice from professors.

"It's hidden, not overt, but it's there," said Asani, who serves on the faculty advisory committee to the Harvard Foundation.

Kidd said she has not encountered student concerns about cultural insensitivity toward Muslims, but she said College officials and advisers are available to hear complaints.

#### Looking inward

Members say HIS has shifted its focus in the past five years to building stronger internal bonds. By sponsoring more social events and informal gatherings, HIS has become what many Muslim students call a "comfort zone" and a "family."

"It's very much a social network," said Sarah H. Arshad '09, who helped coordinate social events last year and identifies ethnically as Pakistani.

"I need people to hang out with on a Friday night when other people are drinking and doing other things I can't do," she said, referring to the Islamic prohibition on alcohol.

But while HIS provides an important community for some, members said they want to be more inclusive in the future. They hope to bring more Muslims to Harvard and are exploring the option of building an Islamic center on campus.

Some students who identify as Muslim choose not to participate in HIS because they are intimidated or discouraged by the group's deeply religious image, members said.

"It troubles me when people don't feel accepted within the Muslim community," Rizvi said. "We want HIS to be a comfortable place for Muslims to come together."

The group's ethnic make-up is currently heavily South Asian, a region home to some of the largest Muslim populations in the world in countries like Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh.

Chaima A. Bouhlel '11, a Tunisian expatriate who grew up in Saudi Arabia, said she had concerns about joining HIS.

"I've never really interacted with South Asians, so I don't really know how they think about Islam," Bouhlel said. "I thought because I come from Saudi Arabia, they may look at me in a certain way. But it's not like that at all."

This year, HIS members are launching efforts to recruit students over winter break at mosques and Islamic schools in their hometowns. In the future, members hope to raise funds to travel to lower-income Muslim communities in the United States and Muslim-majority countries like Indonesia which they are underrepresented at Harvard.

The group also hopes to build an Islamic center that would include a mosque and dining area to cater to Muslim students and serve as a resource about Islam for the Harvard community. The building would be similar to existing religious centers, including Hillel and the Catholic Student Center.

#### Big questions, big dreams

HIS members report the group still feels the reverberations of the 2002 "American Jihad" controversy, especially the accusations that HIS supported an organization reportedly linked to <u>Hamas</u>.

Tellawi, the former HIS president, said she believed HIS grew more cautious after the shake-up.

"[The accusation] stopped all HIS political activities because it was seen as disrupting our relationship with the outside community and sometimes even within the Muslim community," she said.

Recently, HIS members have debated whether to reengage in politics and take a stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The group ultimately decided this year to abstain from organized political involvement after concerns arose that activism-even concerning what are seen as "obvious" Muslim issues-would devalue the range of views in the Islamic world.

"In a case like Israel-Palestine, there is a diversity of opinions about what should be done. One state? Two states?" said HIS member Na'eel A. Cajee '10, who plans to travel to Israel during intersession. "But it is very important for individual members to be involved. When people are dying, you can't just stand around."

Some within HIS see their organization as sowing seeds for a stronger and more integrated Muslim community in the United States.

"HIS is nurturing future Muslim leaders-not necessarily religious leaders, but leaders who are informed and motivated by their Islamic identity," Rizvi said. "It gives me hope for the American Muslim community."

Classical art and archeology professor David G. Mitten, faculty adviser to HIS of 12 years, said he believes interfaith collaboration underpins the country's future and proudly cited the organization's connections with Hillel, the Interfaith Council, and other student religious groups.

"There are differences of opinion and emotions get high, but several more generations of Muslims go through Harvard and elsewhere, and we're going to see change," said Mitten, who converted to Islam 38 years ago. "Islam will move into the center of things like Christianity and Judaism, and there will be more understanding and cooperation."

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Load-Date: December 7, 2007



#### A democratic Islam?

The Jerusalem Post April 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 16

Length: 808 words

**Byline: DANIEL PIPES** 

Highlight: The writer is director of the Middle East Forum and the Taube/Diller Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the

Hoover Institution of Stanford University.

#### **Body**

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The fact that majority-Muslim countries are less democratic makes it tempting to conclude that the religion of Islam, their common factor, is itself incompatible with democracy.

I disagree with that conclusion. Today's Muslim predicament, rather, reflects historical circumstances more than innate features of Islam. Put differently, Islam, like all pre-modern religions is undemocratic in spirit. No less than the others, however, it has the potential to evolve in a democratic direction.

Such evolution is not easy for any religion. In the Christian case, the battle to limit the Catholic Church's political role lasted painfully long. If the transition began when Marsiglio of Padua published Defensor pacis in the year 1324, it took another six centuries for the Church fully to reconcile itself to democracy. Why should Islam's transition be smoother or easier?

To render Islam consistent with democratic ways will require profound changes in its interpretation. For example, the anti-democratic law of Islam, the Shari'a, lies at the core of the problem. Developed over a millennium ago, it presumes autocratic rulers and submissive subjects, emphasizes God's will over popular sovereignty, and encourages violent jihad to expand Islam's borders. Further, it anti-democratically privileges Muslims over non-Muslims, males over **females**, and free persons over slaves.

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#### A democratic Islam?

Islam's problem is less its being anti-modern than that its process of modernization has hardly begun. Muslims can modernize their religion, but that requires major changes: Out go waging jihad to impose Muslim rule, second-class citizenship for non-Muslims, and death sentences for blasphemy or apostasy. In come individual freedoms, civil rights, political participation, popular sovereignty, equality before the law, and representative elections.

Two obstacles stand in the way of these changes, however. In the Middle East especially, tribal affiliations remain of paramount importance. As explained by Philip Carl Salzman in his recent book, Culture and Conflict in the Middle East, these ties create a complex pattern of tribal autonomy and tyrannical centralism that obstructs the development of constitutionalism, the rule of law, citizenship, gender equality, and the other prerequisites of a democratic state. Not until this archaic social system based on the family is dispatched can democracy make real headway in the Middle East.

Globally, the compelling and powerful Islamist movement obstructs democracy. It seeks the opposite of reform and modernization - namely, the reassertion of the Shari'a in its entirety. A jihadist like Osama bin Laden may spell out this goal more explicitly than an establishment politician like Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but both seek to create a thoroughly anti- democratic, if not totalitarian, order.

Islamists respond two ways to democracy. First, they denounce it as un-Islamic. Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna considered democracy a betrayal of Islamic values. Brotherhood theoretician Sayyid Qutb rejected popular sovereignty, as did Abu al-A'la al-Mawdudi, founder of Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami political party. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Al-Jazeera television's imam, argues that elections are heretical.

Despite this scorn, Islamists are eager to use elections to attain power, and have proven themselves to be agile vote-getters; even a terrorist organization (*Hamas*) has won an election. This record does not render the Islamists democratic but indicates their tactical flexibility and their determination to gain power. As Erdogan has revealingly explained, "Democracy is like a streetcar. When you come to your stop, you get off."

Hard work can one day make Islam democratic. In the meanwhile, Islamism represents the world's leading antidemocratic force.

# Graphic

Photo: TURKISH PRIME MINISTER Recep Tayyip Erdogan. 'Democracy is like a streetcar. When you come to your stop, you get off.' (Credit: Bloomberg)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



#### Being a good person doesn't excuse your words, actions

#### University Wire

March 26, 2008 Wednesday

Copyright 2008 Washington Square News via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 761 words

Byline: By Anthony Marek, Washington Square News; SOURCE: NYU

Dateline: NEW YORK

#### **Body**

Let's stop for a minute to put the situation in context - just look at all the good he's done for his community!

On Monday, Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was charged with perjury, misconduct in office and, for good measure, obstruction of justice for firing would-be whistle-blowers who were aware of the affair between Kilpatrick and his chief of staff.

It's not the first time Kilpatrick's unscrupulousness has been aired; in 2005, a Lincoln Navigator leased with public funds was found to have been driven by the mayor's wife.

Yet apologists trotted onto Frank Beckmann's radio show endeavoring to appear objective. The mayor's defense attorney cleverly demanded a definition for the word "romance" (in court, Kilpatrick denied having a "romantic relationship" with his chief of staff). One caller didn't even respond to the charges, asking instead that we consider all the positive aspects of his tenure.

It's the second time in less than a month that this weasel reasoning has been dropped to achieve a sort of smokeand-mirror effect. It hardly matters if the people using the phrase believe it. What does matter is that it is politically helpful to them.

"God bless America" isn't Jeremiah Wright's cup of tea; he's a "God damn America" type of guy. Among his other beliefs are that America brought the Sept. 11 attacks upon itself, that Zionism is racism - so far, so standard - and that the government spreads AIDS in a deliberate (and hopelessly failed, it would seem) attempt to exterminate black people.

Obama is a blank-slate candidate, by which I mean one sees in him what one wants to see. How else could a speech on race in America be so lauded by some and written off by others?

Whatever his speech was, it answered little. Some swooned at the transcendence and originality of the words, but unfortunately for Obama, most of those people were already going to vote for him. Everyone else was less than impressed, to the point that a national poll of 1,700 likely voters had McCain leading Obama by nine points - two more than McCain's margin over Clinton.

True to form, Wright's church played the helpless victim, even exploiting the media firestorm to implore its parishioners for extra donations to keep the white man at bay.

#### Being a good person doesn't excuse your words, actions

Fact: Obama is as liberal as they come. Fact: Some Europhilic liberals, not all, disparage the United States in a backwards attempt to give themselves the moral high ground.

Still, Obama doesn't subscribe to his pastor's yammering. Nor is he a Gen-X iteration of Al Sharpton or Charles Barron. What this episode has shown, though, is that as national politics go, he is a political rookie.

At the same time, it's exposed the typical posturing politician in him. "I don't want to be ... encouraging in any way of the kind of ... unbelievably offensive statements that were made just a few days ago," Obama once said. Of the man who made the statements in question, he proclaimed, "[He] wouldn't be working for me."

That man wasn't Jeremiah Wright, but Don Imus, who last April referred to the Rutgers <u>women</u>'s basketball team on air as "nappy-headed hos." To Obama, who undoubtedly by then already had presidential seals for eyes, there just wasn't the time for "context" or looking at all the "good" he's done. Off with his head.

Obama cozied up to Wright to earn his admission ticket to the seventh circle of hell that is Chicago politics - and forgot to sever his ties from a church that reprinted in its newsletter a pro-terrorism op/ed by a *Hamas* official. To his credit, Obama called the piece "outrageously wrong." And so he tiptoed away from, well, any bad stuff Wright might ever have said.

But talk is cheap, if you'll pardon the cliche (Obama supporters don't seem to mind). Obama is a questionable choice for president not because he endorses Wright's outlandish beliefs, but because he seems to lack the basic good judgment to publicly denounce his caustic mentor - not to mention because he insulted voters' intelligence by hinting that he wasn't present for the most incendiary comments, then hinted he was, then topped it all off by doing the "can't we just talk about race in America?" two-step.

Were I a terrorist, I'd be mighty pleased that America's next president was spiritually guided by a guy who's on my side. However much George W. Bush's policies may be suspect to you, this is not presidential judgment.

Yesterday, Hillary Clinton said, "He would not have been my pastor. You don't choose your family, but you choose what church you want to attend." Your move, my liege.

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Load-Date: March 26, 2008



## Hillary has a point

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)
February 23, 2008 Saturday
National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A23; David Frum

Length: 743 words

Byline: David Frum, National Post

### **Body**

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is collapsing, a victim of this one unsolveable problem: Hillary's opponents hate her -- but her supporters do not much like her.

As the Democratic primaries have stretched, former Hillary supporting constituencies have one by one dropped away.

African-Americans -- supposedly so Clinton loyal? They were the first to defect to the charismatic challenger with the odd name and the exotic personal history. Then went younger white men. Then older white men. Then upper-income white **women**.

In the Feb. 19 Wisconsin primary, Obama beat Clinton in virtually every demographic category, including whites with only high-school diplomas and whites earning less than \$50,000 a year: till now core Clinton groups.

Since last fall, Hillary Clinton has plunged from a 20 point lead over Obama to trailing behind him.

Only two elements of the Democratic party electorate still remain faithful: poor white <u>women</u> and Latinos. And even if she holds those groups, that will not be enough. Thanks to the arcane rules of the Texas primary, it is very possible that Hillary could win an outright majority of the state's vote -- and still lose the delegate count to Obama. What ails the Clinton candidacy?

Over the past eight years, Hillary Clinton has compiled a relatively moderate record in the U.S. Senate. She famously voted to authorize the Iraq war, but in other ways too she has moved away from her image as a hard-left ultra-feminist toward the national centre.

Her party's liberal base has noticed -- and resented the shift. Her opponents have not. And so Clinton suffers the worst of both worlds: Conservatives oppose her because they think she is a liberal. Liberals oppose her because they suspect she is not. Add to that her husband's scandals and the larger Evita Peron problem posed by a First Lady running to succeed her husband and the result is ...free fall.

Meanwhile, Obama has managed to soothe many conservatives into imagining him as a unifying figure, despite his own clear record as the most consistently liberal member of the U.S.

Senate. It's a good trick, so long as it lasts -- but it gives every sign of lasting just long enough.

### Hillary has a point

Yet there is a reality here beyond the image. Hillary Clinton has given every indication of being a more responsible potential commander-in-chief than Obama. She has refused to pledge unconditional and immediate withdrawal from Iraq, as Obama has done. He has offered to meet Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez and Raul Castro without preconditions. Hillary has declined to offer America's enemies such a PR coup. Her foreign policy advisors include level-headed people like Richard Holbrooke. His are led by the most dovish of the former Clinton hands, including Anthony Lake. Obama has even accepted advice from Robert Malley, the most prominent U.S. advocate of engagement with *Hamas*.

Obama talks about "building bridges." And certainly his style seems less angry than Hillary Clinton's. He does not seem to hate his enemies the way she does, does not engage in loose talk of vast right-wing conspiracies against him. That's all to the good. Yet it is Clinton who has compiled the better record of bipartisan co-operation in the Senate.

Obama's supporters react angrily against Hillary's claim that she offers action, Obama only words. But she has a point: Not in a long time has a candidate sought the presidency on the basis of a record as slight as Barack Obama's. His supporters compare him to Abraham Lincoln, who served only a single term in Congress before winning election as president. A better analogy might be William Jennings Bryan, who won the Democratic nomination in 1896 on the power of a great convention speech. Obama too gave a great speech in 2004. Beyond that, there is only guesswork, hope and fantasy.

Supporters of a strong American foreign policy will of course prefer John McCain to either Democrat. But if a Democrat it must be, Hillary Clinton seems the better choice for a national security voter. Largely for that very reason, Clinton's party has chosen otherwise.

If Obama does win the nomination and the presidency, he will face some very difficult realities with very little preparation. At that point, many Democrats -- and not a few Republicans -- may find themselves recalling Hillary Clinton's prophetic warnings that there is all the difference in the world between making speeches and effective government.

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## **Graphic**

Black & White Photo: Jessica Rinaldi, Reuters; Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama at the end of their debate on Thursday.;

Load-Date: February 23, 2008



## Presidential Candidates Eye the U.N.

New York Sun (Archive)
January 28, 2008 Monday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 6

Length: 795 words

**Byline:** BENNY AVNI

## **Body**

The Security Council may or may not comment this week on Gaza events that are developing much too fast for this slow moving body. Meanwhile, Senators Obama and McCain took public positions on this issue, presenting a window into the two parties' attitudes toward Turtle Bay.

Governor Huckabee frequently uses a comic throwaway line on the trail, as he did last week during a Florida debate, illustrating how his approach to the economy is unique among Republicans. "You all were acting like I was the only one at the U.N. without a headset," he told the other candidates. In this joke, the "U.N." is used as a butt of a cartoonish joke, well illustrating the party base's suspicion toward Turtle Bay.

The cartoon Democrat, on the other hand, reveres the United Nations and ascribes to it more importance than it deserves. "It is conferences like this that compel governments and people everywhere to listen, look, and face the world's most pressing problems," the American first lady, Hillary Clinton, told fellow participants in a 1995 U.N. conference on <u>women</u> in Beijing. But as last week's letters demonstrated, there are much more nuanced positions on both sides than these cartoonish portraits. There may also be differences between what candidates say on the hustings and what they do once elected.

Both letters, in essence, conveyed the same message: America should not allow the Security Council to single Israel out for wrongdoing in Gaza. But where Mr. Obama's letter urged valence, Mr. McCain's advocated a hard American line. Some knee-jerk anti-Israel U.N. denizens, incidentally, were disappointed with Mr. Obama, saying they expected more of him than of Mr. McCain. On the other hand, Mr. Obama's letter may not be enough to clear suspicions about him among some pro-Israel voters. In meetings with Mr. Obama, "I was left with the impression that he was not entirely forthright with his thinking," Israel's former ambassador to Washington, Daniel Ayalon, wrote in a Jerusalem Post op-ed last week, criticizing Mr. Obama's instincts on Iran and Israel. If a Democratic November victory is followed by a Labor win in Israel, will the Barack v Barak headlines dominate our foreign policy?

"All of us are concerned about the impact of closed border crossings on Palestinian families," Mr. Obama wrote the American U.N. ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad. "However, we have to understand why Israel is forced to do this," he added.

"As you know, U.N. statements have often served as platforms for rhetorical attacks against Israel by various member states," Mr. McCain wrote to Secretary of State Rice. "I urge you to ensure that this pattern does not repeat itself." Ms. Rice certainly needed some urging. Hobnobbing with the sophisticates of Davos last week, she

### Presidential Candidates Eye the U.N.

instructed the American U.N. mission to "engage" with the 15 members of the council, even as Jerusalem lobbied other administration allies to prevent the council from taking any action.

By the end of last week, America proposed a council statement that, if passed, would be, like most U.N.compromises, very uncomfortable for any Israeli government. While turning its condemnation to the rocket launchers, the American proposal would limit Israel's ability to pressure Gaza, and "encourage" agreements with the Palestinian Authority, including on sensitive issues like Fatah-*Hamas* cooperation.

Luckily, the Arab group at the U.N. is likely to shoot even this compromise down, but for Ms. Rice and the Bush administration, it represents a long journey from the days the Texas governor and his Stanford guru introduced to the world their policy so vilified as "unilateral." The world view from the White House is always different than from the campaign trail. When Governor Romney vowed to withdraw America from the Human Rights Council, his instinct was correct, but with no State Department aides, he failed to recognize that America has already declined to run for a seat on that discredited body. In Foreign Affairs essays, the candidates laid some more nuanced positions, and Ms. Clinton showed she is cognizant of the U.N.'s limitations, criticizing Russia's Security Council stance on Kosovo. At Turtle Bay, some veterans are as uncomfortable about the return of the hard-charging Richard Holbrookes and James Rubins as some Americans are about a third Clinton White House stint.

My favorite position is that of Mr. McCain, who vowed to create an organization of "like-minded nations working together for peace and liberty" in the mold of Theodore Roosevelt, rather than Woodrow Wilson. But, he added in Foreign Affairs, "This League of Democracies would not supplant the U.N. or other international organizations but complement them." Competition. Now there is an idea whose time has come.

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Load-Date: January 28, 2008



## This time, the peace talks must succeed

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

December 20, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A11

Length: 833 words

Byline: MUSTAFA BARGHOUTHI, Baltimore Sun

### **Body**

As one who for decades has supported a two-state solution and the nonviolent struggle for Palestinian rights, I view the recent Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Md., with a great deal of skepticism -- and a glimmer of hope.

Seven years with no negotiations -- and increasing numbers of Israeli settlers, an economic blockade in Gaza and an intricate network of roadblocks and checkpoints stifling movement in the West Bank -- have led us to despair and distrust. Any commitment must be made not only to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008 but also to end Israel's occupation.

The Palestinians must also heal their internal divisions. This must include institutional reform to root out corruption and nepotism. The first step in that process is democratic elections at all levels of government.

We must rid ourselves of the false dichotomy between Fatah and <u>Hamas</u>. These are not the only options. My movement, the five-year-old Palestinian National Initiative, offers an alternative emphasizing democratic elections, transparent government and institution-building. Our goal is to democratize and engage the Palestinian national movement in a unified strategy to confront Israel's ongoing occupation and seizure of our land and resources. We strive to achieve national rights in our homeland and establish social justice to uphold the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized, including <u>women</u> and children.

Our movement's firm commitment to democracy and non-violence can be seen, for example, in our peaceful demonstrations against Israel's apartheid wall. For more than two years, we supported the popular -- and, so far, successful -- struggle of the West Bank village of Bilin to remove the wall from its land. We are replicating these nonviolent activities, with the support of international solidarity groups, in towns and villages throughout the West Bank.

But the full democracy, real reform and unity our people deserve cannot flourish under conditions of occupation. The national unity government collapsed this year when the government was unable to pay its workers after Israel withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes owed to the Palestinian Authority.

Far too many innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians have suffered and died because of the persistence of Israeli military occupation of our lands. Our daily experience worsens as we are continually squeezed into ever-smaller land reserves and Israel continues to encircle Jerusalem with illegal settlements that segregate it from the West Bank. The number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, has grown from 268,000

### This time, the peace talks must succeed

to more than 420,000 since the Oslo peace accords were signed. Even today, Israel is refusing its commitment, under the U.S.-sponsored "road map" to peace, to freeze all settlement activity.

We acknowledge the painful history of our Israeli neighbours. The suffering endured by Jews in Christian Europe was terrible. But today, Israel has the most powerful military in the Middle East, and Palestinians are the ones who suffer most.

Palestinians participated in Annapolis in good faith. But we cannot simply abandon the rights of our people, including refugees. We seek for them no more than they are due under international law, and a way must be found to address these inalienable rights.

We have made our most generous offer in agreeing to establish our sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza, together only 23 per cent of historical Palestine. This is roughly half of what the United Nations allocated for us some 60 years ago. We already have more than made our historical compromise with Israel. Compromising the compromise risks leaving us with a shell state.

And a meaningless and empty state is no basis upon which to build substantive peace. A state in name only will not be enough. A state requires sovereignty. A state requires free movement and a free economy. A state requires a democratically elected government that can govern independently, without interference from Israel.

Annapolis represented an opportunity -- perhaps the last before the possibility of a two-state solution vanishes. The Palestinian people will agree to two states as long as Israel withdraws its settlements and removes the wall, ends its brutal military occupation of the Palestinian territories it captured in 1967, acknowledges the rights of refugees and agrees to share Jerusalem as the capital of both states.

However, if the two-state solution becomes impossible, future Palestinian leaders might be compelled to demand equal rights within one state. It behooves Israel to hasten toward a two-state solution.

The basic question Palestinians have for Israelis is: Will we be treated as equal human beings, with equal rights and equal dignity? If the answer is yes, there will be a two-state solution. There will be peace.

Mustafa Barghouthi, a physician, is a member of the Palestinian parliament and former candidate for president of the Palestinian Authority.

## **Graphic**

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, A Palestinian demonstrator confronts an Israeli soldier at the Israeli-built barrier near the West Bank village of Bilin last week.

Load-Date: December 20, 2007



## **News Summary**

The New York Times

November 22, 2007 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 824 words

## **Body**

### **INTERNATIONALA3-16**

Foreign Fighters in Iraq Are Traced to U.S. Allies

Saudi Arabia and Libya, two American allies in fighting terrorism, were the source of about 60 percent of the foreign fighters who went to Iraq in the past year, officials said.A1

Iraqi policemen found a mass grave with at least 40 bodies.A8

**Profiting From Migration** 

As a money transfer company, Western Union has become a force in development economics, a player in American immigration debates and a target of contrasting attacks. A1

Big Privacy Breach in Britain

The British government struggled to explain its loss of disks containing personal information on 25 million Britons.A3

Rice Builds Up Mideast Talks

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pushed back against critics who say the Annapolis peace conference may be just a photo opportunity.A12

Israel will allow the export of some agricultural produce from *Hamas*-controlled Gaza. A12

China to Examine Dam Issues

China announced plans to confront environmental and geological problems around the Three Gorges Dam.A14

A Chinese warship is on its way to Japan for the first port visit by China's Navy since the end of World War II. A14

A Cyclone's Continuing Toll

Cyclone Sidr has devastated parts of Bangladesh not through death and destruction, but by upsetting its water. A16

### **News Summary**

Pakistan's Emergency Rule

A dissident lawyer was arrested while Pakistan's government claimed it was taking steps to ease emergency rule.A8

NATIONALA20-26

Luck and Planning Improve Thanksgiving Day Travel

The confluence of good luck and better planning made a surprisingly smooth day for holiday travelers at many airports across the country, travelers, airline executives and employees say. A1

Law Increases Price on Pills

In health centers at hundreds of colleges and universities, young <u>women</u> are paying sharply higher prices for prescription contraceptives because of a change in federal law. The higher prices have also affected about 400 community health centers nationwide used by poor <u>women</u>. A1

Possible End to Stem Cell War

If the stem cell wars are indeed nearly over, no one will savor the peace more than James Thomson. His laboratory was one of two that in 1998 plucked stem cells from human embryos for the first time, touching off a divisive national debate. A1

**New Hampshire Sets Primary** 

New Hampshire officially scheduled its first-in-the-nation presidential primary for Jan. 8, helping solidify what has been a chaotic primary calendar that moves the nominating process closer to the start of the year. A24

Court Rejects Offender Law

The Georgia Supreme Court unanimously struck down a state law that limits where registered sex offenders can live, ruling the law unconstitutionally deprived the offenders of their property rights. A20

Student Killing Stirs Campus

Students stood in a circle on the campus quadrangle at the University of Chicago and held slender white candles as they remembered a gentle graduate student from Senegal who was killed earlier this week. A20

**NEW YORK/REGIONA28-29** 

'The Grinch' Must Go On, Judge Rules

A New York judge granted an injunction forcing the St. James Theater to open for performances of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical," despite a stagehand strike. The show was the first to be struck because of its 11 a.m. start time, lending it a symbolic importance to the strike itself.A28

**BUSINESS DAYC1-11** 

Investors Flee Wall St.

Widespread worries about expensive oil, a sagging dollar and a gloomy outlook of the credit crisis prompted a late sell-off that sent stock markets down sharply, putting the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index into negative territory for the year. C1

Citizens as Safety Police

### **News Summary**

The most recent recall of lead-tainted products was prompted by a New Yorker and his 10-year-old daughter, who are among a growing number of consumers involved in safety testing. C1

Islamic Banks on the Rise

Rising oil wealth is expanding demand for financial services that adhere to Islamic law. Many wealthy Arabs are investing closer to home, in part to avoid increased scrutiny, but they are also eager to capitalize on Asia's breakneck growth. C1

New Plans for Retirees

Baby boomers, born from 1946 to 1964, are far less likely to have traditional pension plans, and they risk outliving their assets. Mutual funds have started to introduce new products to manage the savings of those future retirees and parcel it out to them. C3

Business DigestC2

**OBITUARIESA27** 

Merle A. Sande

A leading infectious-diseases expert whose early recognition of the looming public health crisis posed by AIDS led to the development of basic protocols for how to handle infected patients, he was 68.A27

EDITORIALA30-31

Editorials: Congestion relief; trying to save Lebanon, again; Ms. Paulose departs; Verlyn Klinkenborg on Thanksgiving at the grown-up table.

Columns: Gail Collins and Roger Cohen.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: November 22, 2007



## Sometimes you have to shout to be heard

Ottawa Citizen
October 24, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A16; David Warren

Length: 818 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

This is "Islamo-Fascist Awareness Week" in the U.S. To Canadian eyes that will sound a little confrontational -- we've always been better at walking the walk, than talking the talk. But let me assure my reader, that even if our media are not much reporting it, the thing is happening.

On more than 100 university campuses across the United States, from Berkeley to George Washington in the U.S. capital, speakers are directly confronting crowds of very loud and angry campus leftists and Islamists, to make politically incorrect points about radical Islam, backed by a range of panel discussions, book stalls, and supporting exhibits.

The organizers -- all the usual suspects from a left or Islamist point of view -- are doing these things on the argument that students in American universities need to know about, and need to be able to discuss openly, matters that cannot be raised in <u>women</u>'s studies programs, or in Saudi-subsidized Middle Eastern studies departments. Ditto, the public at large.

According to the organizers: "By the end of the week millions of people will have heard our message that we will no longer turn a blind eye to the violence directed against <u>women</u>, gays, and 'infidels' in Islamo-Fascist regimes. This homicidal intolerance, and the conspiracy of silence that protects it on America's campuses, will no longer be accepted."

Attempts to disrupt the events have thus far largely played into the organizers' hands. For they are trying to get attention, and disruptions help. And since the protesters from various campus radical cells do a good job of illustrating the very points the organizers are making -- trying to silence people by intimidation -- people can see the main point in action.

But how do they get anyone to listen? An account by Peter Collier of one of the events, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where David Horowitz was speaking specifically on the fate of <u>women</u> under radical Islam, gives some idea. Before he had even started, the noise and hostility was rising to cancellation levels.

But on a large screen he flashed up a photograph of a woman in burka on her knees being shot in the back of the head. Into the sudden stunned silence, Mr. Horowitz began: "Everyone in this photograph is a Muslim. There is a helpless victim. There are the perpetrators of murder. This photograph is why we're here tonight."

### Sometimes you have to shout to be heard

"I left the Middle East because there was no freedom of speech and now I am here and there is fascism," Nonie Darwish shouted at the demonstrators trying to drown her out at Berkeley on Monday. Protected by a bodyguard, and with the help of campus police, who removed (but did not arrest) the most aggressive hecklers, she was nevertheless able to continue, against the background noise of the campus fascisti beating on the doors and walls outside the lecture hall.

Mrs. Darwish is the daughter of a famous Egyptian general, Mustafa Hafez, who was in charge of conducting terror raids into Israel from Gaza in the early 1950s. He was doing then, under the Nasser regime, what <u>Hamas</u> is doing today. His "total score" was 400 Jews killed, before he himself became the victim of Israel's first targeted assassination. At his state funeral, Gamal Abdul Nasser himself asked little Nonie and her siblings, "Which one of you will avenge your father's death by killing Jews?"

She is thus an unlikely founder of the organization, "Arabs for Israel." The story of her progress from her father's daughter in Gaza, through education in Cairo and emigration to the States, is an interesting one that can be linked through Google. Since 9/11, she has been a major Arab voice -- carried sometimes even on al-Jazeera -- condemning not only Islamic extremism but the silence of Muslim non-extremists.

And her "core message" coincides precisely with that of the organizers of Islamo-Fascist Awareness Week. It is not a protest against international terrorism, for events which make a staple of our media coverage speak for themselves. The focus is rather on the way in which jihadist organizations are gaining power, and becoming the uncontested spokesmen for Muslim communities, not only across the Islamic world, but within the West. And on the success they have had, over many decades, in poisoning Arab and other Muslim societies with dogmatic hatred towards Jews, Christians, Hindus, and others both abroad and in their midst.

To this we can add their success, more recently, in getting the old radical, secular left -- in both the Muslim world and in the West -- to make common cause with them on all the old Marxist fronts: anti-bourgeois, anti-American, anti-Christian, and so forth.

As I hinted above, the instinctive Canadian response to something like an Islamo-Fascist Awareness Week is to condemn anyone who is "confrontational." But in the service of truth, a little confrontation is sometimes necessary.

David Warren writes Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Load-Date: October 24, 2007



## Gaza's 1.5 million people face a demographic time bomb; POPULATION-MIDEAST: Time Bomb Ticking Away in Gaza

### NoticiasFinancieras

July 10, 2008 Thursday

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**Length:** 873 words **Byline:** Mel Frykberg

### **Body**

We are looking at a political and socio-economic breakdown as financial deprivation and desperation, combined with political instability continue to rise in Gaza,' Masshoor Basisy, director general of planning at the Palestinian Authority (PA) Ministry for *Women*'s Affairs told IPS.

Basisy said a combination of cultural, social, political and historical factors was behind the continuing high birth rate despite the endemic poverty and lack of opportunity.

' What is needed is governmental intervention by the PA to reverse this crisis. But the PA doesn't have the courage to tackle this issue which is taboo here, ' he said.

Osama Abu Eta, spokesman for the UN Population Fund in Gaza, confirmed to IPS that there were no government birth control programmes in the Palestinian territories but only ones related to post and pre-natal health.

According to the CIA, the population growth rate for the Gaza Strip is 3.66 percent. This compares with an international growth rate of 1.14 percent. The median age of Gaza's population is 16.2 years for males and 16.1 years for <u>females</u>. More than 47 percent of the population is below 14. The average family in Gaza has 5.51 children.

Gaza's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) stood at just over 5,000 dollars in 2006. This was before the sanctions and embargo took hold, further decimating an already weakened economy. Unemployment stands at around 50 percent, according to Oxfam, while 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the UN.

International studies have proven a correlation between <u>women</u>'s access to education, and employment opportunities, and a declining birth rate. Palestinian <u>women</u>, however, generally have higher rates of education than Arab <u>women</u> in the surrounding countries where birth rates have been slowly declining, partly due to government intervention.

Dr Samir Awad, a doctor of science from Birzeit University's law faculty on the West Bank says there are political considerations in the Palestinian territories. 'In the cases of Gaza and the West Bank, large families are regarded as a form of Palestinian patriotism,' he told IPS.

The late Yasser Arafat, former president of the Palestinian Authority, said in a speech in 1987 that the Palestinian woman was a 'biological bomb'.

Gaza's 1.5 million people face a demographic time bomb POPULATION-MIDEAST: Time Bomb Ticking Away in Gaza

' Palestinian society has been brainwashed into having many children as a political and national duty. Not only for more fighters for the cause but to outnumber the Jews. If the PA tried to introduce birth control programmes, they would be attacked by both religious and political figures, not to mention earn the scorn of our society in general, ' said Basisy.

This has not been lost on the Israelis, who have tried to establish facts on the ground by ensuring a Jewish majority in Jerusalem and large Israeli settlement blocks in the West Bank as a bulwark against future claims by a nascent Palestinian state.

Israeli fears were outlined in 2002 when Israeli Haifa University professor Arnon Sofer caused a national furore by sending a letter to then Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, arguing that in light of the ' Palestinian demographic threat' Israel needed to urgently withdraw from the Palestinian territories if it was to remain a ' democratic Jewish state.' The implication was that if Israel extended its domain, Jews could one day become a minority in Israel.

But cultural factors too, have encouraged Gazans to have many children. Gaza's United Nations Development Fund for <u>Women</u> (UNIFEM) programme coordinator, Hiba Zayan, who is involved in <u>women</u>'s grassroots organisations, has been regularly chastised for not increasing her family of two daughters or trying for sons.

Dr Abdel R. Omran, who teaches at the University of Maryland and George Washington University, states in his booklet, 'The Middle East Population Puzzle', that 'Middle Eastern culture, religion and politics tend to encourage large families.'

'But despair, coupled with no resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has also led many Gazans, and the **women** in particular, to a state of apathy in regard to birth control,' says Zayan.

'I've asked some <u>women</u>, with unemployed husbands, who have eight children but are pregnant yet again, why they keep having more children. They just shrug their shoulders and ask, 'What does it matter, we have no future', or tell me, 'God will provide'.&#39;

The current conflict has also disempowered <u>women</u> from asserting themselves in regard to their reproductive rights as they are low down in the pecking order in a society that is being torn apart at the seams, said Zayan.

Kartin and Schnell concur that a political resolution is a necessity, and only the existence of a Palestinian state enjoying financial stability and political legitimacy from its constituents, with an effective leadership, can bring about change in regard to birth control.

But as Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> leadership struggles with existential issues such as shortages of food, fuel, water and medicine, it is unlikely that a feminist agenda or the rights of <u>women</u> will figure in the conservative Islamic leadership's list of priorities in the near future. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: July 10, 2008



## Hizbullah's successful prisoner swap 'promotes armed struggle'

The Daily Star (Lebanon)
July 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 848 words

Byline: IRIN News.org

## **Body**

Hizbullah's claim to victory over Israel in its July 16 prisoner swap undermines moderate Arab states and leaders, and may encourage armed struggle across the region at a time of upheaval in the relations between the West and the Middle East, a number of observers have said.

NAQOURA: Hizbullah's claim to victory over Israel in its July 16 prisoner swap undermines moderate Arab states and leaders, and may encourage armed struggle across the region at a time of upheaval in the relations between the West and the Middle East, a number of observers have said.

"This sends a very dangerous message that Israel only makes concessions if you use violence against it," said Amal Saad Ghorayeb, an expert on Hizbullah, the Lebanese Shiite political party. "The exchange has also laid bare that, in Lebanon at least, national power is not in the hands of the state, but with a non-state actor."

Speaking to a crowd of thousands of ecstatic supporters in the southern suburbs of Beirut on July 16, Hizbullah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, making his first public appearance in a year, said the release of Samir Kontar and four Hizbullah fighters marked the dawn of a new era.

"The era of defeats has ended and now we embark on an era of victories," said Nasrallah, who has become a revered leader - in a region beset by corrupt and ineffectual politicians - since Hizbullah fighters drove Israeli forces out of Lebanon in 2000.

An overwhelmed looking Kontar, jailed for nearly 30 years in Israel for the murder of three Israelis during a 1979 raid, told the crowd he had "returned from Palestine, only to return back to Palestine" and said he looked forward to the destruction of Israel.

"The resistance has turned into a power that will never be defeated," said Kontar, an icon of armed struggle in the Arab world, but reviled in Israel for allegedly bludgeoning a 4-year-old girl to death.

"The resistance's weapons have become a culture that will build a country of resistance. This is the culture of the next generation that will fulfill our dream to destroy this oppressive entity."

### Hizbullah's successful prisoner swap 'promotes armed struggle'

Ahmad Moussalli, professor of political science at the American University of Beirut (AUB), said Hizbullah now represented a regional fighting force whose integration into the Lebanese state security services could only come from a regional settlement.

"Hizbullah is bigger than Lebanon and the issue of its weapons can now only be dealt with through a regional settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict," said Moussalli.

In scenes unthinkable just two months ago when a threatened crackdown on Hizbullah by the US-backed government brought the country to the brink of civil war, Prime Minister Fouad Siniora stood at Beirut's military airport shoulder to shoulder with Naim Qassem, Hizbullah's deputy leader, to greet Kontar and the four Hizbullah fighters captured during the summer 2006 war with Israel.

Israel launched the July-August 2006 war in response to a cross-border raid by Hizbullah fighters who captured two Israeli soldiers, whose bodies were returned to Israel in the July 16 exchange.

Israel's aerial strikes of South Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs killed 1,200 Lebanese, mainly civilians. Also killed were 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers who invaded South Lebanon.

The prisoner exchange also included the return to Lebanon of seven dead Hizbullah fighters and the remains of Dalal Mughrabi, a famous *female* Palestinian fighter, and four of her team who died in a 1978 raid into Israel.

Nearly 200 other bodies of Lebanese and Palestinians, as well as militants from Tunisia to Yemen, captured or killed fighting Israel between the 1970s and 2000 were also returned to Lebanon, underlining Hizbullah's credibility as a regional force.

A poll of nearly 4,000 non-Palestinian Arab respondents in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, published on July 16 by the Brookings Institution in Washington, found Nasrallah to be the most admired leader by Sunni and Shiite Muslims, as well as members of other faiths.

Some observers saw Hizbullah's successful deal-making with Israel as a major blow to moderate Arab leaders, such as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is pursuing failing US-backed peace talks with Israel. "Peace talks have led to nothing tangible, but force has," said AUB's Moussalli. "There is a mood among the new generation that Israel can be taken on and defeated. Islamist movements will see their recruitment increase."

<u>Hamas</u>, the Palestinian Islamist movement controlling Gaza, said the Hizbullah deal strengthened its own hand in demanding freedom for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured by the group in June 2006.

Bassam Kontar, Samir's brother, told IRIN the prisoner exchange would boost the credibility of armed resistance across the region. "This exchange will raise the big question: Is resistance a way to liberate land, to secure sovereignty and, at least in Palestine, to negotiate with some power in your hands in order to reach your goals? The answer is yes." - IRIN

Load-Date: October 23, 2008



## Matt McCarten: Parliament looks inwards while rest of the planet runs amok

The New Zealand Herald June 22, 2008 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; General

Length: 827 words

### **Body**

Last week, a tentative peace broke out in the Middle East, with <u>Hamas</u> calling a truce with Israel. George Bush is on his final farewell around Europe. He belatedly regrets how he became so gung-ho about war after opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of Europeans believe the US is the most dangerous country in the world - oh, and that Bush is an idiot.

The US Supreme Court also ruled this week that the so-called terrorists detained at Guantanamo have a right to be tried in civilian courts. A prominent Army general said that the camp practises war crimes and charges should be laid against senior politicians: as well as the point that most of the inmates are innocent.

Zimbabwe has further descended into a political farce and other despots are running amok in the world, as well. But our politicians are too distracted on important domestic matters to focus on anything happening outside New Zealand.

This week, for example, Labour's whip, Darren Hughes, introduced a new anti-tagging and vandalism bill, to the overwhelming support of Parliament. This initiative will apparently wipe the scourge of graffiti from our land. Hughes proudly announced that the maximum fine for tagging would skyrocket from \$200 to \$2000. What's more, juveniles under 18 would not be able to buy cans of spray paint. The law passed by an overwhelming 107 to 10. The only sceptics were the Greens and the Maori Party who know that the new law won't make any difference.

Our mainstream politicians would have us believe that this new law will make taggers think twice about spraying because fines have increased. As for buying it, the kids will get their older mates to get it for them.

But then, this law has nothing to do with stopping graffiti. It was a political, knee-jerk reaction after a tagger was killed in South Auckland.

It seems our parliamentarians think that as long as they look like they're doing something to fix the problem, it should suffice. I would have thought the initiative overseas of forcing taggers who are caught to spend their weekends in bright pink jumpsuits cleaning graffiti would have been more of a deterrent than pretending a raise in fines will do it. Does anyone believe these taggers will pay a fine, anyway?

Another major news obsession in Parliament this week was our Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters berating his Pacific Island counterparts for not promoting enough <u>women</u> into positions of power. Our new champion of <u>women</u>'s rights doesn't mention the fact that NZ First has only one woman in its caucus of seven. Nor did Peters mention that when he was Deputy PM the seven NZ First ministers were men.

Matt McCarten: Parliament looks inwards while rest of the planet runs amok

National had a couple of big scoops this week too. Bill English revealed to a no-doubt-shocked Parliament that the tax department has withdrawn a KiwiSaver brochure because it might be too political.

Apparently, emails from within the department showed that our boffins were nervous about publishing anything that could be deemed political in election year.

Given Labour's president telling his party's conference to give the brochures to voters, I would have thought this was responsible risk management by civil servants rather than a political scandal.

Fellow National MP Tau Henare also joined in with a scandal of his own, revealing that a quarter of a million dollars had been spent by the Ministry of Maori Development on hui over the past year. It clearly is too high but that ministry spends most of its time consulting iwi and Maori organisations as part of its role, so I'm not sure it is quite the scandal he would have us believe. As I recall, this department was a cot case when Henare was Maori Affairs Minister. I'm told by insiders that compared to his tenure, Maori Affairs is now run like a well-oiled machine.

But now that the Budget has been delivered, all politics for the rest of the year will be small potatoes. For obvious reasons, the Government has no intention of putting up any major legislation before the election.

So while all these matters were preoccupying our politicians and the media, a new international report came out on Friday which showed that the earth's oceans are heating up 50 per cent more than is predicted by the most pessimistic.

There is now real evidence that much of the world's ice in both poles will melt in 40 years. Tagging will be the least of our worries if our urban areas are under water.

The world being threatened on a scale which should scare the bejesus out of us. New political leadership in the world needs to come to the fore and this may happen if Barack Obama becomes US President and appoints Al Gore as an environmental tsar.

Despite the increasing challenge of oil running out and the impending environmental catastrophe, it seems our politicians would rather distract us with anti-tagging legislation, retracting KiwiSaver brochures, paying too much for hui and using <u>women</u> as a cynical election gimmick.

Our politics is rather sad and pathetic really, isn't it?

Load-Date: June 21, 2008



## It's All About Leverage

The New York Times
June 1, 2008 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 834 words

Byline: By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

## **Body**

Barack Obama is getting painfully close to tying himself in knots with all his explanations of the conditions under which he would unconditionally talk with America's foes, like Iran. His latest clarification was that there is a difference between "preparations" and "preconditions" for negotiations with bad guys. Such hair-splitting word games do not inspire confidence, and they play right into the arms of his critics. The last place he wants to look uncertain is on national security.

The fact is, Mr. Obama was right to say that he would talk with any foe, if it would advance U.S. interests. The Bush team negotiated with Libya to give up its nuclear program, even after Libya had accepted responsibility for blowing up Americans on Pan Am Flight 103. Those negotiations succeeded, though, not because Mr. Bush was better "prepared," but because, at the time, shortly after the invasion of Iraq, Mr. Bush had leverage. Iraq had yet to fall apart.

Mr. Obama would do himself a big favor by shifting his focus from the list of enemy leaders he would talk with to the list of things he would do as president to generate more leverage for America, so no matter who we have to talk with the advantage will be on our side of the table. That's what matters.

Mr. Bush was also right: talking with Iran today would be tantamount to appeasement -- but that's because the Bush team has so squandered U.S. power and credibility in the Middle East, and has failed to put in place any effective energy policy, that negotiating with Iran could only end up with us on the short end. We don't have the leverage -- the allies, the alternative energy, the unity at home, the credible threat of force -- to advance our interests diplomatically today.

As I have argued before: When you have leverage, talk. When you don't have leverage, get some. Then talk.

Right now Iran & Friends -- Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Syria -- have a strategy that has produced leverage for them, and the next U.S. president is going to have to think afresh how to counter it. The "Iran & Friends" strategy is built on five principles:

Principle No. 1: Always seek "control without responsibility." In Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq, Iran & Friends have veto power over the politics, without being held fully responsible for the electricity. America's allies, by contrast, tend to have "responsibility without control."

### It's All About Leverage

Principle No. 2: Always insist on being able to both run for political office and bear arms. In Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq, America's opponents are both in the government and have their own militias.

Principle No. 3: Use suicide bombing and targeted assassinations against any opponents who get in your way. In Lebanon, Syria is widely suspected to have been behind the spate of killings of anti-Syrian journalists and parliamentarians. One suicide attack on a major official in Iraq can neutralize superior U.S. power.

Principle No. 4: Use the Internet as a free command and control system for raising money, recruiting and operations.

Principle No. 5: Cast yourself as the "resistance" to Israel and America, so any opposition to you is equal to support for Israel and America and so no matter how badly you are defeated the mere fact that you "resisted" means you didn't really lose.

Do the pro-American Arab moderates have a counterstrategy with leverage? I just got the new book, "The Arab Center," by Marwan Muasher, the former foreign minister of Jordan. Retired Arab statesmen don't often write books about their time in office, but Mr. Muasher has, and his argument is a powerful one: Arab moderates have been on the defensive because they have been "one-dimensional moderates," focused only on moderate proposals for making peace with Israel, while ignoring other issues important to Arab citizens: good governance, political reform, economic well-being, <u>women</u>'s rights and religious and cultural diversity.

"For the Arab moderates to have credibility, they have to assume more responsibility," says Muasher. America could help by delivering on the Arab moderates' main issue -- a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal. But, ultimately, he said, if the Arab center is to shape the future and rid "itself of the image its opponents paint of an apologist for the West or a compromiser of Arab rights," it will have to meet the challenge of building "a robust, diverse, tolerant, democratic, and prosperous Arab society."

There has been some promising moderate push back against extremists in Iraq, Lebanon and the West Bank lately. It's definitely worth watching, but is still very frail. America's leverage will be limited as long our key allies do not have a strategy, with weight, to counter the hard-liners. Here's hoping that once the primary silly season is over, the McCain and Obama camps will stop jousting over whether to talk with our enemies -- which we must -- and will start focusing instead about how we and our friends get more chips to bargain with -- which we lack.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 1, 2008



# <u>Iraqi Troops Begin Operation in South, While a Cleric's Movement</u> Reorganizes

The New York Times

June 15, 2008 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

Length: 858 words

Byline: By ANDREW E. KRAMER; Alissa J. Rubin contributed reporting from Baghdad, and an Iraqi employee of

The New York Times from Amara.

Dateline: BAGHDAD

## **Body**

Aiming at a power base of a rival Shiite leader, Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki sent troops into the southern city of Amara on Saturday.

The operation in Amara, a city that is dominated politically by the radical Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr, was the fourth initiative this year in which Mr. Maliki has sent troops into a city dominated by Shiite or Sunni militias.

The launch of the operation came a day after Mr. Sadr announced that he was reorganizing his Shiite movement.

In a statement read by aides during Friday Prayers, Mr. Sadr said the movement would be divided into two branches. One group will remain armed and operate as an underground force, continuing to oppose the presence of American troops. The other branch would concentrate on politics and providing social services to Iraqis.

The armed wing, he said, will be drawn from experienced Mahdi Army fighters and be limited in size. Mr. Sadr said that fighters would have to have his written permission to carry weapons.

Mr. Sadr is a mercurial figure who leads a movement that is at once a guerrilla group fighting Americans and an important political force in the parliamentary democracy that the United States hopes to help create as a lasting government in Iraq.

The decision to divide the Mahdi Army into political and armed wings recalled similar evolutions in movements like *Hamas* in the Palestinian territories and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In Amara, residents awoke Saturday to helicopters thudding overhead, dropping leaflets that told them to stay indoors and to cooperate with Iraqi soldiers who would be arriving shortly.

Amara is the capital of Maysan Province, the only province in Iraq where the local government is run by politicians aligned with Mr. Sadr, whose movement competes with other Shiite parties.

Several experts speculated that Mr. Sadr was acting to formally separate his political movement from the militias in anticipation of electoral laws likely to ban parties from having armed wings.

Iraqi Troops Begin Operation in South, While a Cleric's Movement Reorganizes

The military operation, planned for weeks, did not appear related to Mr. Sadr's decision to remake his organization. But both actions reflected less tolerance in Iraq for the mixture of politics and guns outside a better trained military.

For months, Mr. Maliki has been cracking down on what he calls "criminal elements," many of which have ties to Mr. Sadr, but it is not clear if he is working against Mr. Sadr himself.

An Iraqi general said the operation in Amara would unfold along the lines of an initiative this year against Shiite militias in the nearby city of Basra. There, Iraqi soldiers entered but relied on air support from the American military and small teams of American advisers.

Then, as now, commanders took pains to clarify they were targeting rogue elements of the Mahdi Army rather than Mr. Sadr's supporters in the general population.

With a population of about 350,000 people, Amara is smaller than Basra and the sites of other operations initiated by Mr. Maliki: the predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, in Baghdad, and Mosul. But Amara is tactically important as a suspected conduit for weapons smuggled across marsh lands along the border with Iran.

The Iraqi soldiers assembled at an airport six miles to the northeast of Amara, and at a local stadium, a local police official said.

By early evening, the troops had fanned out in the city center. The district police chief said security forces raided 68 homes in the province and found ammunition and explosives.

In the early months after the United States invaded Iraq, rival militant groups engaged in frequent gun battles in Amara, sometime overrunning government buildings. The militias seized control of the city, over which the central government in Baghdad had limited control.

Gen. Hameed Nabeel, the commander of the Iraqi Army First Brigade, which is garrisoned in Maysan Province, said in an interview that the purpose of the operation was to serve court-issued arrest warrants.

He said soldiers would try to detain militants who had fled north to Amara from the earlier fighting in Basra.

"This operation will be just like the operations in Basra and Mosul," General Nabeel said.

But a senior Sadr official, Luaa Smaisem, the head of the movement's political commission, said he believed the operation would go beyond targeting militia fighters. He said it would be used to weaken the Sadrists politically before provincial elections in the fall.

"Unfortunately, the executive system is used by political parties to strike the Sadr movement," he said.

In violence on Saturday, a <u>female</u> suicide bomber blew herself up in a village market in Diyala Province, where people had gathered to watch the Iraqi national soccer team defeat China 2-1 in a World Cup qualifying match.

At least 25 people were wounded, 12 of them critically, a police official said.

Because police officers and soldiers are reluctant to search <u>women</u>, <u>female</u> suicide bombers have succeeded in slipping into gatherings where male bombers might have been stopped.

Insurgents have been turning increasingly to the use of *female* suicide bombers.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 15, 2008



### The Last Debate

The New York Times

May 21, 2008 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Length: 760 words

Byline: By MAUREEN DOWD

## **Body**

"What do you want? Please, Sweetie, would you just tell me what you want?"

"Don't Sweetie me, Twiggy. You know what I want."

"Besides that, Hillary. Seriously, you don't want your delusion to put John McCain in the White House. Or maybe you do. You have no shot. I'm 60 delegates away from nomination nirvana. You should stop stalking me. I come down to Florida for a victory lap and you follow me down here and call for a recount. Look what that did for Al Gore. If you show a shred of common sense and take a powder now, the party will put you on a pedestal."

"Pedestals are for losers. You're on a pedestal. I've never been a loser. I refuse to lose. I won the West Virginia and Kentucky derbies, and I'm not going to end up like Eight Belles."

"Hillary, you've been a great candidate, better than your train-wreck campaign. You're Churchillian in your indomitable tenacity. You've inspired <u>women</u> all over the country. In fact, you've inspired some of them to hate me. But now it's time for you to try to muster a gracious exit."

"Forget it, Bones. Once Harold Ickes works his dark magic on the delegate rules to count Michigan and Florida, I'll have the popular vote. And then the superdelegates will grovel back. They know in their hearts that they don't want to go on a blind date with a guy who's going to be BFF with Cuba, *Hamas*, Iran and retired Weathermen. You can bet your white turban that I'm not raising the white flag."

"Like hell you aren't, sister."

"Sexist!"

"Racist!"

"Speaking of whites, you can't win without them. And if you think your Secretary of Hairdressing, John Edwards, is going to help, you're more delusional than I am."

"Hillary, when are you going to realize that these whites you consider your pawns are so sick of the Republicans that they're going to vote for anybody who has the 'D' next to their name, and it's going to be me. So cool it with the White Fright. Now what do you want? Debt relief?"

### The Last Debate

"Bill and I don't need your Netroots arugula moolah. We don't need your stinking \$20 donors. We've got Burkle, the Saudis, the Kuwaitis and Kazakh uranium loot on tap."

"Settle down, Hillary. What if I let you write the health care plank in the party platform?"

"Wow, you're so-o-o generous. Can I also write the plank on switchgrass?"

"I switched from grass a long time ago."

"Listen, rookie, we're gonna have to share this thing."

"Fine, you can have the 3 a.m. shift on the White House switchboard."

"Oh, you're so witty with all your stupid rallies with 75,000 people and spending \$100 million on ads to promote one puny word: Change. I've made sacrifices in this campaign. While you've been fake-eating and losing weight, I've had to stuff myself with all that greasy working-class junk food and chase it with Boilermakers."

"What about me? I've come from nowhere, with a single mother on food stamps and a funny name."

"Oh, you're so inspiring. For the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country."

"Don't mock Michelle. I would be polite and ask you to be my vice president, but you'd accept, just the same way Lyndon Johnson sandbagged Bobby Kennedy, so I can't. You and Bill are just too much drama for me. Bill is off-the-charts crazy."

"Tell me about it. But he'd be way over on Massachusetts Avenue, a completely different ZIP code than the White House. And Cheney built that underground bunker there, so we'd always have someplace to stash him. If you don't put me on the ticket, I'll signal my faithful to vote for John McCain. He's more fun than you, anyhow."

"Hillary, I don't trust you. And Michelle hates your guts. Look, the Senate is a wonderful place. I enjoyed my two months there. You've never made the most of the experience because you were so busy using it as a launching pad."

"Back at ya, Skeletor."

"Can you stop talking, Hillary? Is that even possible?"

"No, I won't, Mr. Never-Convened-Your-European-Affairs-Subcommittee. I don't want to go back. It's boring. And why should I work with all those self-hating, so-called feminists who stabbed me in the back, like Claire McCaskill and Amy Klobuchar?"

"Look, Hillary, a few years back in the Senate helping me move my world-changing agenda will help you repair some of those relationships. In Barack Obama's Washington, there will be no more game-playing, mud-slinging or back-stabbing."

"Hey, Senor Appeaser, there's another primary in 2012. Bill and I are already gearing up for it."

"You're not likeable enough, Hillary."

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Load-Date: May 22, 2008



## Willie Walsh's nightmare in Groundhog Day at Heathrow

Irish Independent April 4, 2008 Friday

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## Independent.ie

Section: ANALYSIS Length: 823 words

## **Body**

I got you babe," Sonny's voice whined over the loudspeaker. Willie Walsh, chief executive of British Airways, blinked in disbelief.

He had not slept in a week. Around him, lay the disaster of the newly opened Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport. His temples felt as if a small nuclear bomb had recently detonated behind his forehead, and the blast was still trying to find a way out.

This should have been his great moment of glory since he arrived from Aer Lingus to take over one of the greatest airlines in the world; for this was the new terminal that was going to change the fortunes of British Airways, and in due course, himself. ("Arise, Sir WilliamWalsh," as the sword touched his shoulder).

Instead, everything had gone wrong from the opening seconds, when one luggage-line had blocked, causing a falling domino of chaos to reach from the handling areas into the runways, the check-ins and the car-parks.

On the first day alone, 70 flights had been cancelled and unknown thousands of passengers stranded.

He sensed his assistant beside him.

"How many BA bags are currently missing?" he asked her.

"Seventeen thousand three hundred and twenty-two, that we know of, chief," she replied. "But with the computers down, and the mutiny at Gate B13, it's hard to say."

"Mutiny? Mutiny? What mutiny?"

"We kept it from you, chief. Pilgrimage to Lourdes -- always a tricky bunch. Had to call in the Brigade of Guards. A magical bayonet charge at nightfall: a Somme-enchanted evening. The bodies are in the airport morgue."

Willie Walsh lowed like a cow seeing a particularly beloved calf gambolling off for a brief career in wiener schnitzel.

"There's some good news on the baggage front. You know that priceless Inca vase on its way back to Bolivia that we thought was lost? Well, it's not!"

### Willie Walsh 's nightmare in Groundhog Day at Heathrow

Willie Walsh heaved his first sigh of relief since the calamity had begun: the vase was the oldest known Pre-Columbian artefact ever discovered. "Where is it?"

A heavy silence supervened before his assistant could bring herself to answer. "In Mongolia, mostly. The handles are in Congo-Brazzaville, and the ceramic base is in Seattle, where it's a saucer."

Willie Walsh stared wanly over the glories of the new Terminal 5. It resembled the Haj in Mecca -- except at that moment there was a gunfight over at Gate 11B, and near Starbucks, a British Airways official was being roasted on a spit.

Overhead dangled the corpses of three BA check-in girls, a BA luggage-handler and the Bishop of Killaloe, who had always disdained ecclesiastical titles. He had gone to the aid of a BA hostess -- who lay wounded in no-man's land -- crying: "Stand back, stand back: I am Willie Walsh!"

Within a minute, he had been cassocked, cotta'd, mitred and slain.

The sole surviving Willie Walsh intoned hollowly: "What else?"

His assistant cleared her throat.

"You know the all-orphan Riverdance dance troupe to Kansas you asked us to take care of? We took care of it. It was shot this morning in North Korea."

Long pause. "Is that it?"

"No. We had incoming stuff too, chief. A stowaway from Nigeria trying to get to New York inadvertently ended up here. After two days of that" -- the assistant gestured out of the window at the vast, sleepless, battling throng below -- "he begged to be returned to Lagos.

You should have seen his happy little face as he boarded his plane, bound for forcible circumcision, hunger, poverty and Shariah law."

"Thank God! A happy ending!"

"Not quite chief. We put him on the wrong plane. He was eaten two days ago by polar bears in Anchorage duty-free. Our people were only able to save a toe, which we sent to his family in Nigeria. Toe last heard of, in Hong Kong."

Willie Walsh thought for a while. "There must be some good news."

His assistant smiled brightly. "Good news? Yes, chief, there is. The feminist lesbian who'd been accidentally crated with a Siberian he-tiger and we thought had been devoured -- why, she's alive!"

"Alive? Alive? Praise be, hallelujah!"

"And better still, expecting some tiger cubs in the autumn. Bad news is, she's suing."

"Us?"

"The tiger. Left before dawn. Never wrote. Never rang. Not even a text-message. Then got her girlfriend pregnant. Typical. Men."

There was the rattle of gunfire from <u>Hamas</u> at Gate 36C. ETA were holed up in McDonalds. Overhead, Peruvian commandos were dropping on ropes from the gantries.

Outside the toilets, three <u>women</u> were kicking one another to death over the last piece of toilet paper in the entire terminal. Beside Burger King, a caravan of stranded camels loped into view.

Page 3 of 3

Willie Walsh 's nightmare in Groundhog Day at Heathrow

Suddenly, there came the announcement that there was one spare seat on the last ever flight to Dublin.

Willie Walsh cried ecstatically: "Dublin Airport! SIPTU! Wildcat strikes! Michael O'Leary! Paradise! I'm off!"

It was just as he boarded that final Aer Lingus flight for Dublin, that Willie Walsh, yet again, snapped awake.

"I got you babe," Sonny's voice whined over the loudspeaker.

Load-Date: April 4, 2008



## Sarkozy, Admitting Errors, Vows to Speed Up Change

The New York Times
April 25, 2008 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 848 words

**Byline:** By STEVEN ERLANGER

**Dateline: PARIS** 

## **Body**

Acknowledging mistakes of both substance and image, President Nicolas Sarkozy on Thursday still vowed to accelerate his controversial program of systemic reform, arguing that France would sink in power and influence unless it changes its ways.

"We must start the necessary changes so France can remain a major power in the world," Mr. Sarkozy said. The only strategy, he said, is "to put in place the changes that others have made and we have not."

After a difficult and much-criticized year in power, Mr. Sarkozy answered questions on live television for an hour and 45 minutes, saying that he had been elected "to rehabilitate work" in a country where "salaries are too low and taxes are too high," and 55 percent of the state budget goes to civil servants and pensions.

He was at turns aggressive, contrite and defensive, admitting serious mistakes, but saying that an overly strong euro, rising oil prices, the subprime crisis and sudden news events, like the Chinese crackdown in Tibet, had made his job much harder.

With his poll numbers low, Mr. Sarkozy, 53, worked to refocus attention on the country and its problems and away from his personal life, which has featured a quick divorce, a quicker marriage and widespread criticism of his flashy habits, quick temper and frenetic style. His interviewers did not press him, allowing him to shut off discussion on his personal life by saying that "everything in my personal life is in order" and that "tonight I want to talk about France."

He talked repeatedly about the weight of responsibility on his shoulders and said it was absurd to expect him to fix the problems of 30 years in a few months.

He understands criticism, he said, but added, "If I stopped because high school students are unhappy, unions aren't happy -- in France someone is always unhappy.

"There is always a good reason not to do things, and the more we defer them, it costs a lot more, and it's much harder."

He made no major announcements, but defended his capacity and that of his prime minister, Francois Fillon, to deal with the challenge. He repeated his strong defense of adding 700 troops to Afghanistan, characterizing French

### Sarkozy, Admitting Errors, Vows to Speed Up Change

involvement there as being "on the side of the Afghanis" faced with an insurgency from a Taliban that persecuted **women**.

Asked if he feared retaliation, he demanded, "Do you think what happened to New York, Madrid and London could not happen to us?"

He said he would not talk as president to <u>Hamas</u> or to Iran, both of which he said want "to scrape Israel from the map." And he said that as France took the six-month leadership of the European Union in July, he wanted to find a unified European stand on the Olympic Games in Beijing.

He said that he was "shocked" by the Chinese crackdown in Tibet, and that France would continue to press China to reopen dialogue with the Dalai Lama. French businesses have recently been the target of protests in China, where people are upset by the sometimes violent scenes that have met the Olympic torch in the streets of Paris.

Although Mr. Sarkozy emphasized that he has four more years to get France right, some wonder if he can regain popularity.

"He won one of the best presidential victories of the modern republic," said Pierre Moscovici, a Socialist seeking his party's leadership. "He had gold in his hands and turned it into lead."

Segolene Royal, the Socialist candidate Mr. Sarkozy defeated, summed up the problem neatly: "It's a year ratee," she said, which can be politely translated as "messed up." She added, "It's dangerous when a country loses confidence in itself."

Mr. Sarkozy's poll ratings are dire. An IFOP poll showed that 72 percent of the French were dissatisfied. Some 65 percent believe Mr. Sarkozy has failed to make good on electoral promises.

A CSA poll showed that 53 percent of French thought Mr. Sarkozy represented France badly, and that they displayed a nostalgia for the imperious Charles de Gaulle; 88 percent thought he represented France well.

Le Monde's editorial on Thursday was titled "Too much Nicolas, not enough Sarkozy," suggesting that his personal life and his marriage to the Italian heiress and former model Carla Bruni had been too preoccupying, and that there had been too little of the reforms he had promised on jobs, security, economic deregulation and deficit reduction.

His aides, like the Labor minister, Laurent Wauquiez, say that major reforms are being drafted. But even Mr. Sarkozy's own prime minister, Mr. Fillon, said earlier on Thursday, "I'm waiting for a road map in the coming weeks and months that re-establishes the course of the reforms that need to be led."

Mr. Sarkozy has four more years in a job with nearly monarchical powers. He is already making some changes, trying to be more like the secular "kings" de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou, appearing less often in public, ordering his cabinet to stop leaking and gossiping and trying to wrap himself in more mystery.

"He'll rebound," one minister said. "For a month now, he's more at ease."

http://www.nytimes.com

## **Graphic**

PHOTO: President Nicolas Sarkozy of France fielded questions on Thursday on his tough, much-criticized first year in office. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC FEFERBERG)

Load-Date: April 25, 2008



## Give Muslims time to find democratic feet

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 14, 2008 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 13

Length: 906 words

**Byline:** Daniel Pipes - Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum and the Taube/Diller Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. He will participate in the IQ2Oz debate "Islam is incompatible with democracy" at the City Recital Hall tomorrow night. The Herald is a sponsor of the event.

### **Body**

The impression that Muslims suffer disproportionately from the rule of dictators, tyrants, unelected presidents, kings, emirs, and various other strongmen is entirely accurate. A careful analysis by Frederic L. Pryor of Swarthmore College in the Middle East Quarterly ("Are Muslim Countries Less Democratic?") concludes that "In all but the poorest countries, Islam is associated with fewer political rights".

The fact that majority-Muslim countries are less democratic makes it tempting to conclude that the religion of Islam, their common factor, is itself incompatible with democracy.

I disagree with that conclusion. Today's Muslim predicament, rather, reflects historical circumstances more than innate features of Islam. Put differently, Islam, like all pre-modern religions, is undemocratic in spirit. No less than the others, however, it has the potential to evolve in a democratic direction.

This evolution is not easy for any religion. In the Christian case, the battle to limit the Catholic Church's political role lasted painfully long. If the transition began when Marsiglio of Padua published Defensor pacis in 1324, arguing for state separation from religious authority and papal elections by Christian believers, it was not for another seven centuries that the church fully reconciled itself to democracy. Why should Muslims expect Islam's transition to be smoother or easier?

To render Islam consistent with democratic ways will require profound changes in its interpretation. For example, the anti-democratic law of Islam, the sharia, lies at the core of the problem. Developed over a millennium ago, when ideas of democracy hardly existed, it presumes autocratic rulers and submissive subjects, emphasises God's will over popular sovereignty, and encourages violent jihad to expand Islam's borders. Further, it anti-democratically privileges Muslims over non-Muslims, males over <u>females</u>, and free people over slaves. For Muslims to build fully functioning democracies, they basically must reject the sharia's public aspects in their entirety and eliminate the Koran as an obstacle to democracy.

Ataturk frontally did just this in Turkey, but others have offered more subtle approaches. Mahmud Muhammad Taha, a Sudanese thinker, distinguished between the gentler, more cosmological Meccan verses of the Koran that Muhammad received before becoming a political leader and the harsher, more legal Medinan verses following his

#### Give Muslims time to find democratic feet

ascent to power. Taha argued that the former represent the eternal principles of Islam, whereas the latter applied only to Medina under Muhammad's rule.

Ataturk's efforts and Taha's ideas imply that Islam is ever-evolving, and that to see it as unchanging is a grave mistake. Or, in the lively metaphor of Hassan Hanafi, professor of philosophy at the University of Cairo, the Koran "is a supermarket, where one takes what one wants and leaves what one doesn't want".

Islam's problem is less its being anti-modern than that its process of modernisation has hardly begun. Muslims can modernise their religion, but that requires major changes: out goes waging jihad to impose Muslim rule, out go endorsements of suicide terrorism, second-class citizenship for non-Muslims, and death sentences for blasphemy or apostasy. In comes individual freedoms, civil rights, political participation, popular sovereignty, equality before the law, and representative elections.

Two obstacles stand in the way of these changes, however. In the Middle East especially, tribal affiliations remain of paramount importance. As explained by Philip Carl Salzman in his recent book, Culture And Conflict In The Middle East, these ties create a complex pattern of tribal autonomy and tyrannical centralism that obstructs the development of constitutionalism, the rule of law, citizenship, gender equality, and the other prerequisites of a democratic state. Not until this archaic social system based on the family is dispatched in favour of an order based on the individual can democracy make real headway in the Middle East.

Globally, the compelling and powerful Islamist movement obstructs democracy. It seeks the opposite of reform and modernisation - namely, the reassertion of the sharia in its entirety. A jihadist like Osama bin Laden may spell out this goal more explicitly than an establishment politician like Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but both seek to create a thoroughly anti-democratic, if not totalitarian, order.

Islamists respond two ways to democracy. First, they denounce it as un-Islamic. Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna considered democracy a betrayal of Islamic values. Brotherhood theoretician Sayyid Qutb rejected popular sovereignty, as did Abu al-A'la al-Mawdudi, founder of Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami political party. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Al-Jazeera television's imam, argues that elections are heretical.

Despite this scorn, Islamists are eager to use elections to attain power, and have proven themselves to be agile vote-getters; even a terrorist organisation (*Hamas*) has won an election. This record does not render the Islamists democratic but indicates their tactical flexibility and their determination to gain power. As Erdogan has revealingly explained, "Democracy is like a tram. When you come to your stop, you get off."

Hard work can one day make Islam democratic. In the meanwhile, Islamism represents the world's leading antidemocratic force.

www.DanielPipes.org

Load-Date: April 13, 2008



# <u>Thousands of Palestinians inside Israeli jails; MIDEAST: In Prison, Who</u> Knows Why

IPS (Latin America)

March 20, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 864 words

Byline: Mohammed Omer

### **Body**

You would think the baby boy named Yousef has his life ahead of him. But who knows, with a child born to Palestinian parents from Gaza. What's more, Yousef was born in an Israeli prison.

He is the only one of Fatima al-Zeq's nine children who is with her for that reason -- she was arrested nine months ago. But these days the baby is not with her. He developed stomach pain, began to vomit, and has been transferred to a hospital inside Hasharon prison in Israel.

Fatima has written to human rights organisations in Gaza asking for their help in seeing the baby is looked after, something she cannot do herself.

Her other children do not know why mother is in prison; the Israelis haven't told them, and they haven't told Palestinian authorities. And they declined to tell IPS. If anything, the Israelis say the arrests are for 'security reasons'.

According to a Palestinian source, she was arrested because Israeli authorities suspected she would carry out an attack in Israel. No explosives were found on her. Another source suggests that she was arrested because she is a relative of an Islamic Jihad leader.

Fatema had gone to an Israeli hospital to seek treatment, and had a permit for it, her family members say. But at the checkpoint they arrested her and threw her in jail. She joins thousands of Palestinians inside Israeli jails. And their families are not always told why they are in prison, whether they have been charged, or convicted, and when, if ever, they will be released.

Jumana Abu Jazar, 7, knows all about this. 'My mother died, and I have no brothers and sisters,' she says, looping the string of a picture frame around a rusting nail in her house in Gaza. 'Father is in jail in Israel. He lives there in a dark cell. I saw him once.'

Jumana lives with her grandmother Umm Ala'a in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip. Umm Ala'a says Jumana's father 'was arrested by Israeli occupation forces in 2001 on his way back through the Rafah border. He was accompanying his father, who had received medical treatment abroad. An Israeli judge sentenced him to 18 years in jail.'

Again, the family say they have no idea what crime he committed. But one thing is clear; he, and so many others arrested, are not the ones being punished for firing rockets into Israel. Nor have most of them carried out what Israel considers terrorist attacks. They are guilty of being members of political groups -- or so their families believe.

'His crime is he was Palestinian,' Umm Ala'a said. 'This is a tax on life that we all pay.'

Many Palestinians are convicted on charges never disclosed, but many are in Israeli prisons without ever being charged. Ahmad Abu Haniyah, youth coordinator for the Alternative Information Centre, a 20-year-old project set up jointly by Israeli and Palestinian journalists, was arrested by the Israelis in May 2005. He was released in May last year. The Israelis never told him why he was arrested in the first place. He was never charged or tried; the Israelis call this administrative detention.

By now every Palestinian family knows a relative or friend who has been detained like this.

Israel occasionally releases batches of prisoners as a 'goodwill gesture'. This plays well internationally, but these are usually people close to release date anyway. The gesture benefits few Palestinians, and fools fewer.

Atia Abu Mussa has been held in the Nafha desert prison for 14 years now; he was detained when he was 21. Every Monday friends and relatives of Atia, and others, gather outside the office of the International Red Cross in Gaza to hold a vigil for their loved ones.

'My son has been on hunger strike for a week,' says Ramdan al-Baba, standing outside the Red Cross office. 'He worked as a guard at (former) president Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah in 2003. His crime was that he had that job.' The conditions in Israeli prison are dire, he said. 'I can't even send him a letter.'

Palestinians find themselves unable to invoke habeas corpus (meaning literally, 'bring forth the body'), a provision under the Geneva Convention by which a state must produce information on the whereabouts of a person -- or the body -- within its jurisdiction. Israel denies this option on the grounds that it is not necessary for persons under 'administrative detention'. At the moment 863 Palestinians have been in jail for more than 15 years under such detention, according to official Palestinian figures.

There are a total of 10,400 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. These include 90 <u>women</u> and 328 children below the age of 18, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Detainees and Ex-Detainees. Forty-six of the prisoners are members of parliament, mostly affiliated to *Hamas*.

Israeli human rights groups say that security forces called Shin Bet regularly torture Palestinians in Israeli jails. The two groups B'Tselem and HaMoked: Centre for Defence of Individuals tracked 73 prisoners between July 2005 and July 2006. They reported that Shin Bet routinely uses 'beatings, painful binding, back bending, body stretching and prolonged sleep deprivation' to torture Palestinian prisoners. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: March 20, 2008



## THE WORLD THIS WEEK

Financial Times (London, England)

January 21, 2008 Monday

London Edition 2

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Section: WEEK AHEAD; Pg. 30

Length: 879 words

Byline: By SAM BOLAND

## **Body**

### **TODAY**

WHO board meets The World Health Organisation's executive board holds its biannual meeting in Geneva.

Brown in talks with India Manmohan Singh, Indian prime minister, hosts Gordon Brown, UK prime minister, for talks on technology, terrorism, climate change and trade.

Martin Luther King Day The birthday of the American civil rights campaigner is celebrated.

Paris Fashion Week Paris Fashion Week showcases womenswear designs for spring/summer 2008 (to January 24).

Integrity rewarded The TI Integrity Awards 2008 in Berlin announces winners of the Transparency International awards in the fight against corruption.

UN Security Council meets The United Nations Security Council discusses Nepal, Iraq, East Timor, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Abortion ruling marked The National Organisation For <u>Women</u> marks the 35th anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark US abortion case, with a candlelit vigil.

European reform discussed The British House of Commons is expected to start the ratification process of the European Union reform treaty.

Lebanese presidential vote The parliament of Lebanon is due to vote for a new president. The election has been postponed 12 times since September 2006.

Musharraf tours Europe Pervez Musharraf, president of Pakistan, is scheduled to travel to Europe. His itinerary takes in Belgium, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the UK and France (to January 27).

Sudan leader visi ts Turkey Omar Hassan al-Bashir, president of Sudan, is scheduled to visit Turkey (to January 23).

**TUESDAY 22** 

#### THE WORLD THIS WEEK

Oscar nominations Nominations for the Academy Awards, held at the end of February, will be announced in Los Angeles.

Travel and tourism forum The Enter 2008 global travel, tourism and e-business forum, in Innsbruck, Austria, is the largest travel technology research conference in the world (to January 25).

Mobile internet forum The Mobile Web USA forum in San Francisco looks at mobile internet applications (to January 23).

Nepal mission ends The UN mission in Nepal is due to come to an end.

Arab censorship discussion The US House of Representatives committee on the Middle East and South Asia is due to meet in Washington to discuss "That which is not obligatory is prohibited: censorship and incitement in the Arab World".

Philippine president tours Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, president of the Philippines, is expected to attend the World Economic Forum at Davos before visiting the United Arab Emirates.

FT Reports Agenda: Davos Preview

### WEDNESDAY 23

World Economic Forum Tony Blair, former UK prime minister, is due to chair the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland (to January 27). World leaders from government, business, civil society, media, academia and the arts are expected to attend the forum, aimed at shaping global, regional and industrial agendas.

Zimbabwe protest Zimbabwe's main opposition Movement for Democratic Change is due to protest in Harare demanding free and fair elections in March and a resolution to the country's economic crisis.

Greek-Turkish talks Costas Karamanlis, Greek prime minister, is due to meet Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his Turkish counterpart, in Ankara for talks on improving Greek-Turkish relations (to January 25).

Climate change summit The EU-Japan Symposium on Climate Change in to be held in Slovenia.

### THURSDAY 24

Sarkozy visits India Nicholas Sarkozy, French president, visits India to discuss nuclear power plans with Manmohan Singh (to January 28).

Celebrate consumerism The Dubai Shopping Festival celebrates consumerism with 4,000 shops, 40 malls and a daily raffle for bars of gold and luxury cars (to February 24).

South American summit South American leaders are to meet for a regional summit at Cartagena, Colombia. A treaty on the foundations for the Union of South American Nations is expected to be signed (to January 28).

FT Reports Africa-China Trade

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African Union meets The African Union is to meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss "Industrial Development For Africa" (to February 2).

World Rally Championship The opening race of the World Rally Championship is to be held in Monte Carlo (to January 27).

FT Reports Investing in Young People India and Globalisation Azerbaijan

**SATURDAY 26** 

India celebrates republic India Republic Day marks the day in 1950 when the country became a republic.

Australia Day Australia Day celebrates the establishment of a settlement at Port Jackson, Sydney, in 1788.

#### SUNDAY 27

Arab League meets Foreign ministers from the Arab League are due to discuss tensions between the Palestinian factions <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah. They will also discuss developments arising from the recent trip by US President George W. Bush to the region.

Holocaust remembered Holocaust Victims' Day is due to be observed around the world, marking the liberation of the former Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau on January 27 1945. The day was officially recognised by the UN General Assembly in November 2004.

Russian election deadline Deadline for registration for Russia's March presidential election passes. The ruling Unified Russia party said Dmitry Medvedev would be its candidate, a nomination supported by pro-Kremlin parties A Just Russia, the Agrarian party and Civic Force. The Communist party is to be represented by its leader, Gennady Zyuganov.

Compiled by Sam Boland

preview@ft.com

Load-Date: January 20, 2008



Financial Times (London, England)

January 21, 2008 Monday

London Edition 1

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Section: WEEK AHEAD; Pg. 30

Length: 880 words

Byline: By SAM BOLAND

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Compiled by Sam Boland

preview@ft.com

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# Land of prophets at a loss

The Australian (Australia)

November 29, 2007 Thursday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 12

**Length:** 894 words **Byline:** Alan Gold

# **Body**

Sixty years after its conception, Israel continues to be victimised, laments Alan Gold

SIXTY years ago today, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly for a plan to partition the troubled British mandate of Palestine into two distinct nations to accommodate its Jewish and Arab populations. The vast majority of the Jewish community accepted this compromise while the Arab residents rioted. Six months later, in May 1948, the state of Israel was declared.

The main disappointment for the fledgling nation was that Jerusalem, holy to the Jews for thousands of years, would not become the capital of the new land but would be an internationalised city. And indeed it would have remained so had not Arab armies immediately invaded Israel in an attempt to overwhelm and destroy the Jewish state, founded as a permanent homeland for the Jews following Adolf Hitler's genocide. Thirty-three nations, including Australia and New Zealand, approved the partition resolution; 13 voted against; and 10 nations, including Britain and China, abstained.

Any other country born of such an overwhelming consent by an international body would have settled down into normality by its 60th birthday. But not Israel, which during its six decades of independence has constantly been in a state of war with its neighbours: sometimes at war with them as nations, most recently with state-funded terrorist organisations. Three generations of Israelis have been born not knowing a single day's peace. If that weren't enough, there is a growing global movement among the Left to delegitimise Israel through disinvestment, alienation and international boycotts.

The reason most often given for the growing antipathy towards Israel is the plight of the Palestinians, 700,000 of whom became permanent refugees in the attempts of neighbouring Arab states to destroy Israel. Yet rarely is any mention made of the 850,000 Jews who were expelled from Arab lands on the independence of the Jewish state.

Although Jewish communities had been living in Arab lands for centuries, and sometimes millenniums, the moment the state of Israel was declared, these Jewish residents were expelled and deprived of all property and possessions. Israel immediately opened its doors to resettle and effectively absorb these exiles, while Arab nations forced their brethren to live as refugees.

Following the UN vote to partition Palestine, Arab neighbours began arming to put an end to any prospect of a Jewish homeland on "Islamic soil". In war after war, not only have Arab nations been defeated but any hope of a settlement of the situation grows increasingly distant.

#### Land of prophets at a loss

Almost every US president since Israel's creation has staked his reputation on settling this conflict, but each has been singed by its flames. President George W. Bush is pinning his hopes on being remembered kindly by history by settling the Middle East conflict but, given the intransigence of non-state participants, it is likely that this week's talks in Annapolis, Maryland, also will end in dashed hopes.

One of the reasons will be the influence of Iran and its partner in terrorist crime, Syria. There is growing evidence that Iran and Syria have been sponsoring, funding, training and supporting <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad to carry out terrorist assaults against Israel. The employment of terrorist organisations to fight battles as proxies for nations is a terrifying development.

There has been some improvement in the Middle East since the partition plan 60 years ago. Egypt and Jordan have accepted the reality of Israel's existence and have signed peace treaties that are still holding. And Israel has become a powerhouse of intellect, technology, multiculturalism, modernity, industry and arts in the Middle East. It has a vibrant and fiercely independent media that often carries an anti-government line, an activist Supreme Court, world-class universities and, after Silicon Valley, the world's most energetic information technology industry.

The epicentre of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the fight between repressive governments and a government that gives its people freedom of choice, between governments that keep their people anchored in antiquity and one that values modernity and democracy. What terrifies Israel's theocratic neighbours more than anything is the freedom in every respect enjoyed by most Israeli <u>women</u>, who have even served as soldiers in the armed forces. It is the strident lack of restrictions enjoyed by Israeli <u>women</u>, their enjoyment of modernity, their clothes and liberation, that is so confronting to the medieval-minded mullahs. When the freedom of personal and national expression enjoyed by Israeli Jews is added to the same freedoms enjoyed by Israel's Arab citizens, it's no wonder the repressive governments surrounding Israel want to see it destroyed. Despite overwhelming problems during its 60 years of existence, Israel has grown into a nation that, in terms of human and national resources, punches well above its weight.

For hundreds of years, in the time of the Old Testament, Israel was a land where prophets roamed, claiming to be able to tell what the future held. Never were prophets more badly needed than they are today. As Israel celebrates the 60th birthday of the partition plan, it would take a great prophet to predict what will happen in the next 60 years.

Alan Gold is a writer.

Load-Date: November 28, 2007



# Bush wants peace deal this year; President lists specific goals for Middle East - Correction Appended

USA TODAY

January 11, 2008 Friday

FINAL EDITION



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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6A

**Length:** 785 words **Byline:** Richard Wolf

# **Body**

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- President Bush fleshed out his vision Thursday of a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that he said should be reached this year. A presidential aide said Bush probably will return to the region to see the plan through.

Bush said any deal should end what he called the Israeli "occupation" since 1967 of Palestinian land, a strong term he has used infrequently. He said the pact should establish a "contiguous" Palestinian state, rather than divide the West Bank from Gaza. He urged creation of "international mechanisms, including compensation" to resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees.

Bush's words were his most specific to date about the terms of a peace agreement he said he cannot dictate. His national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said the goals were based on what Bush heard during two days of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Ramallah -- a 6-mile route marked by Israeli checkpoints.

#### Bush appoints monitor

Though his language was strong and his mood upbeat, Bush prepared to leave Israel today without any specific progress on the peace talks he jump-started six weeks ago in Annapolis, Md.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, whom Bush visited at his compound here Thursday, hasn't been able to stop militants in Gaza from firing rockets across Israel's southern border. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, whom Bush met Wednesday in Jerusalem, is reluctant to confront Jewish settlers on land claimed by the Palestinians.

Those are obligations under the 2003 "road map" plan both sides agreed upon as a precursor to peace talks. So far, they have not lived up to it.

Bush appointed Air Force Lt. Gen. William Fraser on Thursday to monitor their compliance.

"You're not dealing with leaders who are well-positioned to make historical concessions to one another," says Michael Oren, a historian and senior fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem.

Bush wants peace deal this year President lists specific goals for Middle East

Diana Buttu, a former spokeswoman and negotiator for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said Bush's visit produced more talk than action. "The real question is, what is he going to be doing?" she said. "It doesn't seem like he's doing more than making speeches."

Bush's visits to Israel and the Palestinian territories were the first by a U.S. president since December 1998. President Clinton's effort to broker a deal failed in 2000.

Peace pact 'can happen'

Beneath a portrait of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom he refused to meet, Bush spoke about the chances for a deal at the conclusion of his presidency. "The peace agreement should happen, and can happen, by the end of this year," he said. "I know each leader shares that important goal, and I am committed to doing all I can to achieve it."

Hadley said Bush probably will return to the Middle East this year. "I think you will see him back in the region at least one time, and maybe more, before he leaves" office, he said. Bush is likely to visit in May for Israel's 60th anniversary.

Bush acknowledged that some issues will be tougher than others. He called violence along the border with Gaza, which is controlled by the militant group *Hamas*, "a tough situation. ... I don't know if it can be solved in a year or not." He was cautious about Jerusalem, which both sides claim as their capital.

"I fully understand that finding a solution to this issue will be one of the most difficult challenges on the road to peace," he said of Jerusalem. "But that is the road we have chosen to walk."

Abbas called Bush's trip "a historic visit that gives our people great hope" and said direct negotiations would begin within days.

Later, Bush visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, a Palestinian city believed to be Jesus' birthplace. Today he is scheduled to visit Christian holy sites in Galilee before leaving to visit five Arab countries over five days.

Trip itinerary

Remaining stops on President Bush's trip to the Middle East:

Today: Visits Christian sites in Jerusalem and Galilee. Leaves for Kuwait.

Saturday: Meets with U.S. troops at Kuwait's Camp Arifjan and is briefed on Iraq by the top U.S. commander, Gen. David Petraeus, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Also meets with Kuwaiti <u>women</u>. Travels to Bahrain to see King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Sunday: Visits the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain. Travels to the United Arab Emirates to meet with the president, Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and give a speech in Abu Dhabi on freedom in the region.

Monday: Meets with students and young Arab leaders in Dubai.

Tuesday: In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, meets with entrepreneurs and visits King Abdullah's farm.

Wednesday: In Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, meets President Hosni Mubarak. Heads home.

Source: The Associated Press

# Correction

Bush wants peace deal this year President lists specific goals for Middle East

President Bush said last week that he favors creation of a "contiguous" Palestinian state so that the West Bank is not divided by Israeli land. He did not suggest that the West Bank and Gaza be attached, as a story Friday said.

Correction-Date: January 14, 2008

# **Graphic**

PHOTO, B/W, Pool photo by Kevin Frayer

Load-Date: February 13, 2008



# Partners just as politic as chic

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 19, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 21

Length: 837 words

Byline: Jason Koutsoukis.

# **Body**

Syria's first lady is the more glamorous, modern face of the nation, writes Jason Koutsoukis.

What would it take to distract the international paparazzi from France's first lady, Carla Bruni, at an international leaders' summit in Paris?

The answer, quite simply, was Asma al-Assad, the British-born wife of the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, whose chic haute couture made quite the impression at this week's Union for the Mediterranean conference.

Given Syria's pariah status in the West as the shelter of radical movements such as <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, Asma al-Assad's striking pose seemed almost at odds with her adopted nation's rather unsettling reputation.

Yet the 32-year-old former investment banker seems to have slid easily into the role of Middle Eastern consort, while at the same time becoming a more friendly face of the single-party regime.

The daughter of a prominent Harley Street cardiologist, Fawaz Akhras, who founded the British Syrian Society, Asma grew up in Acton, west of London, and went to Church of England school before attending King's College, graduating with first-class honours in computer science.

Enjoying a successful career as an analyst at the financial houses Deutsche Bank and J.P.Morgan in London, Asma met her future husband when he was brought to London by her father to complete his training as an eye surgeon at the Western Eye Hospital.

"It was actually her father's idea to get Bashar al-Assad, then in line to succeed his father as the Syrian president, to come to London," Professor Eyal Zisser told the Herald.

The author of the acclaimed biography Commanding Syria: Bashar al-Assad And The First Years In Power, Zisser believes the courtship had all the signs of a natural romance.

"This is an unusual marriage in many ways," Zisser says.

"Asma is Sunni Muslim, whereas Bashar is Alawite [a sect of Shiite Islam], and I think there were people in Syria would have expected him to marry into the family of a prominent military commander for example," he says. "But they say they fell in love, so who are we to disagree with this?"

#### Partners just as politic as chic

With their secretive December 2000 marriage taking place just months after Bashar al-Assad had succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad, as President, Asma has since emerged as a highly visible member of the ruling family, choosing to shun the veil common to a more conservative style of Muslim dress.

She has borne three children to Assad and involved herself in Syrian charities and economic and rural development organisations. But with her above-the-knee skirts and often strapless evening gowns, Asma stands in contrast to her mother-in-law, Anisah Makhlouf.

"There are reported to be tensions between Asma and Anisah, and also between Asma and Bashar's sister Bushra who had a very a strong influence on their father," Zisser says.

"I hear this has not yet been resolved fully and that it is related to the sort of first lady that Asma wants to be."

Asma's inclination to continue a business career in Syria was stymied, says Zisser, and she has settled down to charity work. "This is the traditional role of the wives of Arab leaders. Her place is not [to] involve herself in the affairs of state."

Asma is not the first Western consort to accompany some of the Middle East leaders of the past half-century. King Hussein, the late Jordanian monarch, married two glamorous Western <u>women</u>. His second wife, Toni Gardiner, known as Princess Muna and the mother of Jordan's reigning monarch, King Abdullah, was the daughter of a British Army officer. His fourth wife, Lisa Halaby, was the daughter of a former chief executive of Pan-Am Airways and one-time US deputy assistant secretary of defence.

Keeping Asma al-Assad company at the Union for the Mediterranean conference in Paris was Suzanne Mubarak, the wife of the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak. She is the daughter of an Egyptian doctor and a Welsh nurse.

"We have become used to this in the Middle East. But these regimes are secular in nature, so it is perhaps not so surprising," Zisser says.

Asma is a strong role model for <u>women</u> in Syria - in 2004 she attended a conference in Beirut on Arab <u>women</u> and war, and she remains the head of Mawred, a Syrian non-profit group set up under her patronage in 2003, to enhance the role of <u>women</u> in Syria's economic development.

But is her status as first lady likely to help create a more open and possibly democratic Syria?

"Primarily, I do not believe that Bashar is much interested in genuine reform," Zisser says.

"We have seen some steps toward a more modern society, but on the whole I think he has shown that he does not want to make Syria a more open society. This remains a very tightly controlled dictatorship and on her own Asma is not able to do change these things.

"Syria has been for many years a country not dissimilar to North Korea. It is ideology, party, the leader, the dynasty and the state all wrapped into the figurehead of the ruling family. It is a more open society, but it is a long way from being an integrated country."

# **Graphic**

PHOTO: Power couple ... the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad and his wife, Asma, in Paris. Photo: AP/Thibault Camus

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2008



# Alexandra Boulat

The Times (London)
October 9, 2007, Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 65

Length: 845 words

## **Body**

Alexandra Boulat, photographer, was born on May 2, 1962. She died on October 5, 2007, aged 45

An outstanding French photojournalist who revealed the human stories in warzones from the Balkans to the Gaza Strip

"You can show a war without showing a gun", wrote the French photojournalist Alexandra Boulat soon after returning from a shattered Baghdad in 2003. For someone who was self-effacing about her work and her methodology, it was an uncharacteristically weighty remark, but it succinctly conveys an approach to photography that made her one of its brightest young stars.

Boulat forged her reputation in the Balkans, covering the destruction of Yugoslavia from the invasion of Slovenia in 1991 to the clashes in Kosovo in 1999.

From almost the first, her photographs showed aspects of war that stripped it of any allure -a perfectly ordinary house, on fire -yet though they brought her recognition and work from newspapers, she grew dissatisfied that her images, and her presence, could not make a difference.

From 2000, therefore, she had made the courageous and rare choice to evolve as a photographer, backing away from high-impact and saleable news work to concentrate on longer, more involved photo-essays. These often featured <u>women</u> (to whom she had access that male colleagues did not), or victims of war, subjects that she thought allowed her to bring more humanity to her work.

Boulat also tried to show that there was more than one side to a story. When most journalists in Iraq were focusing on the repressive nature of Saddam's regime, she photographed the country's large and prosperous middle class, and its ease of access to Western culture.

Such contrariness was very much her, and fed her image as the mercurial Gallic glamour girl of the press corps. In 1995, as journalists waited for Nato troops to enter Tuzla, they were surprised to see a cerise Range Rover speed first over the newly erected pontoon bridge. Out stepped Boulat, dressed in fur hat, black boots and a winter jacket that would have passed muster in French Vogue. Such moments led her to be dubbed "Boulat-la", but there were many who were thankful that she did not fit the stereotype of the hard-bitten woman war correspondent.

Indeed, it was her ability to maintain her femininity and its accompanying sensitivity that raised her images above the customary level of news photography.

#### Alexandra Boulat

Certainly, she was never less than professional, and knew how to personalise a complex story and photograph it so that a magazine would want to publish it.

Yet she brought to her work too an uncommon sympathy and a marked individualism which, reinforced by her painter's training, make miniature masterpieces of her most memorable pictures: dark hands fluttering in celebration before the golden dome at Karbala; a row of bullets counterpointed by a paper tulip on a shelf in Quetta, Pakistan.

As her choice of subjects, notably the lives of <u>women</u> in the Islamic world, becomes better appreciated, she is likely to become regarded not just as one of the leading journalists of her generation, but also as one of its most important photographers.

Alexandra Boulat was born in Paris in 1962. Her father Pierre was a star photographer for Life magazine in the Fifties and Sixties, while her mother Annie founded the Cosmos photograph agency.

Although she knew early that she too wanted to be a photographer, and learnt as her father's assistant, he discouraged her from taking up the profession, thinking that it and family life were not compatible. Accordingly, Boulat studied fine art at the Beaux-Arts, Paris, and then for ten years worked as a painter.

Characteristically, when she finally made the decision to become a photojournalist, she did not pack away her finished canvasses but hurled them out of her studio.

In 2001, two days before the attack on the World Trade Centre, Boulat and six other photographers founded a cooperative picture agency, VII. She remained one of its driving forces as it has moved towards becoming the Magnum of the digital age, and was admired and beloved by her colleagues for the honesty with which she stated her opinion -even if it was the opposite of what she had maintained six months before (her choices were often influenced by turning to I Ching) -and went against what everyone else in the room felt.

For VII she undertook assignments in Afghanistan and Iraq, and worked frequently as well on non-war stories for National Geographic. In 2002 she photographed Yves Saint-Laurent's last show; 40 years earlier, her father had shot his first. It brought her a World Press Photo award, one of many accolades she received. A selection of her work in Yugoslavia was published as Eclats de Guerre (2002).

Since 2005 Boulat had been based in the Gaza Strip, documenting the rise of <u>Hamas</u> and trying to take pictures which, in her words, were not redundant when the world was so tired of the Palestinian conflict. She had also found happiness with Issa Freij. In June she suffered an aneurysm, and despite being transferred to a hospital in Paris did not recover consciousness.

Load-Date: October 9, 2007



# **Around the world**

Townsville Bulletin (Australia) November 8, 2007 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 865 words

# **Body**

ALASKA: Endangered humpback and fin whales swam hundreds of kilometres north of their usual habitat this summer in what environmentalists say is another sign of the effects of global warming and the shifting Arctic ecosystem.

Humpbacks were spotted over the summer in the Beaufort Sea east of Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost community in the United States, and last year in the Chukchi Sea, west of the Beaufort and north of the Bering Strait, said Robin Cacy, a spokeswoman for the US Minerals Management Service.

PARIS: A new drug therapy could help ease a terrible dilemma that has forced HIV-positive mothers to gamble with the well-being of their unborn children, a new study reportedyesterday.

Up to now, pregnant women infected with HIV or AIDS and their doctors faced a terrible choice.

A single dose of the drug niverapine during labour reduced the chances of the infant inheriting the deadly disease by 40 per cent. But if the newborn still became infected despite the drug, the child was far more likely to acquire a strain of the virus that was resistant to the medications most commonly used to treat HIV, raising the question of whether it was worth the risk.

IT'S A tale worthy of its own movie script: The Gaza Strip's isolated and cash-strapped <u>Hamas</u> rulers plan to build a \$US200 million (\$A216.3 million) media city and movie production house that will be part tourist attraction and part effort to cement control of the territory it seized by force in June.

So far, though, the Islamic militants have raised only a tiny fraction of the money it needs for its own Hollywood, at a time when the Gaza economy has ground to a standstill, and its people are struggling to feed themselves because of Israeli and international sanctions against the Islamic group listed as a terror organisation.

AFGHANISTAN: A suicide attack on a parliamentary delegation killed at least 50 people in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, a provincial official said, in the worst such blast in the country's history.

Five members of the Afghan parliament were among the dead and the toll was expected to rise.

Schoolchildren were also among the victims in the town of Baghlan in the north of the country which had so far escaped the worst of Afghanistan's worsening violence.

INDONESIA: Workers are rushing to complete a system of dams at one of Indonesia's deadliest volcanos, fearing an eruption could send a wave of superheated mud, rock and ash surging down its slopes.

#### Around the world

Volcanologists say Mount Kelud on densely populated Java island is on the verge of a major eruption.

Authorities attempted to evacuate villagers from the danger zone since the mountain was put on high alert more than two weeks ago, but many have refused to stay in government shelters and are continuing to work paddy fields or watch over their homes.

A NEW Zealand woman got a shock when the man who molested her turned up more than 30 years later as her wedding photographer.

Timber company foreman Peter Herbert Parker, 53, was found guilty in Napier District Court on Tuesday of indecent assault and inducing indecent acts, representing numerous offences with the girl from when she was about six.

The sex abuse remained a secret until a family member arranged for Parker to be the photographer on the woman's wedding day.

Parker will be sentenced on December 7.

FORMER Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, was to hold crisis talks with other opposition leaders over the nation's state of emergency, turning the screw on President, Pervez Musharraf.

She flew to the capital Islamabad from her Karachi base to discuss whether to join a protest movement against the military ruler.

Musharraf's government planned its own talks on whether to delay elections originally scheduled for January.

CHILE returned 3778 books yesterday that its military had taken from Peru's national library -- more than 126 years overdue.

Chilean soldiers pillaged the library in 1881 after capturing Lima during the 1879-1883 War of the Pacific.

The volumes, written in Greek, Latin, French and Spanish, some with full-page colonial-era maps, dated from the 16th to 19th centuries. Chile shipped the books, most in excellent condition, to Peru this week. They will be returned to Lima's national library.

LOST drivers in the US soon will be able to Google for help at the pump.

The online search leader will dispense driving directions at thousands of petrol pumps next month.

The pumps include an internet connection, and will display Google's mapping service in colour on a small screen. Motorists will be able to scroll through several categories to find local landmarks, hotels, restaurants and hospitals selected by the gas station's owner.

Once the driver makes a selection, directions will be printed out.

NEW YORK: Isn't the 11th Commandment thou shalt not use the church's telephone to call a sex hot line?

A New York homeless man has been charged with breaking into a Valley Cottage church by picking a lock so he could dial up some sex chat.

James Macnair, appeared before Justice Scott Ugell on charges of burglary, possession of a burglar's tools and petty larceny.

The 35-year-old is being held in jail without bail and is due back in court later this week.

Load-Date: November 8, 2007



# Olmert urged to stand down over corruption claims

The Independent (London)

May 29, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 897 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre

# **Body**

The Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's most powerful coalition partner has called on him to step aside in the face of widespread anger at allegations that he had repeatedly received envelopes stuffed with cash from a US businessman.

In the wake of testimony by the businessman Morris Talansky that he had personally handed over \$150,000 (£76,000) for Mr Olmert during a period of some 15 years, the Defence Minister and Labour Party leader Ehud Barak urged the Prime Minister to leave office - either permanently or for as long as the police investigation against him continues.

But while Mr Barak's intervention triggered potentially the most serious threat yet to Mr Olmert's political survival, it did not come with a deadline. Nor did it shake Mr Olmert's apparent determination to stay in office until or unless he is formally indicted.

Mr Barak called on Mr Olmert to release the reins of government "through [self-] suspension, vacation, resignation or declaring himself incapacitated" and warned that he would trigger elections if the Prime Minister did not stand down or was not replaced by his colleagues in the ruling Kadima party.

Saying that Mr Olmert could not at once "deal with the challenges facing Israel, such as <u>Hamas</u>, Hizbollah, Syria, Iran and the captive soldiers" and at the same time handle "his own affairs", he added: "Therefore, acting out of concern for the good of the country ... I believe the Prime Minister must disconnect himself from the day-to-day running of the government."

According to a survey in the daily newspaper Haaretz, 70 per cent of those polled - and 51 percent of voters in Kadima - do not believe Mr Olmert's version that the money he received from the American businessman went only for his election campaigns.

Mr Barak launched his intervention at a news conference in the Knesset building after Mr Talansky's testimony - dismissed as "twisted" by Mr Olmert's lawyers - appeared to contradict the Prime Minister's insistence that he had not benefited personally from any payments made to him over the period under investigation.

#### Olmert urged to stand down over corruption claims

Mr Olmert's aide, Tal Zilberstein, told Israeli television "the press conference changed nothing". "The Prime Minister was not considering resigning, nor taking a leave of absence, nor any of the other suggestions raised at that press conference," he said. To do so would be tantamount to an admission of offences of which he intends "to prove his innocence".

Uncertainty remains about how ready Mr Barak is to carry out his threat to lead his party out of the coalition and so trigger an election which the current polls suggest he would not win. While some of his allies suggested that the "moral message" he conveyed would increase his popularity, the polls indicate at present that Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud would be the biggest party after any new election.

The one factor that could alter that landscape would be if Mr Olmert were to be replaced as Kadima leader by Tzipi Livni, the Foreign Minister. She has reportedly incurred Mr Olmert's anger by not notably rallying to his support but she is deemed to be the most popular politician in the country. However, she has rivals within Kadima such as Shaul Mofaz, the former chief of staff in the military who has a base among political activists though much less so in the country.

Ms Livni would also be best placed - among Kadima politicians - to inherit Mr Olmert's efforts to conclude a "shelf agreement" on a two-state solution with the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Concern that these could now grind to a halt were underlined yesterday when Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an aide to Mr Abbas, said there was "no doubt that what is happening in Israel will have negative repercussions on the negotiating track".

Sima Kadmon, a columnist for the Yedhiot Ahronot daily, wrote in a front-page commentary yesterday: "The issue here is the unassuming way in which an elected official takes into his hands huge sums of money in cash, credit card or as a loan. Where is the shame? Where are we living?"

#### Sleaze and scandal in Israeli politics

- \*Omri Sharon, son of ex-prime minister Ariel Sharon, began a seven-month prison term in February 2008 after conviction on campaign funding violations. His father is mentioned in the inquiries but has not been charged.
- \*Finance minister, Avraham Hirchson, resigned in July 2007 under suspicion of embezzling millions from a union he used to run.
- \*Israel's President, Moshe Katsav, forced to resign in June 2007 amid rape and sexual harassment charges.
- \*Olmert ally, Haim Ramon, convicted in March 2007 of forcibly kissing a *female* soldier. After a light sentence, Ramon returns to Olmert's cabinet as Vice Premier.
- \*President Ezer Weizman is forced to resign in 2000 under suspicion of accepting money from a businessman.
- \*Prime Minister Ehud Barak and aides suspected in 2000 of campaign finance irregularities. No charges are filed.
- \*Decorated general Yitzhak Mordechai resigns from cabinet in 2000 after being charged with sexually assaulting **female** workers. He is convicted and given suspended sentence.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suspected in 1997 of engineering appointment of attorney general in exchange for support from the Shas party, but is not charged.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin resigns in 1977 before an election in which his wife is found to have an illegal foreign currency account in the US.

Load-Date: May 29, 2008



# The Nintendo Brain Trainer -- is it racist?

Irish Independent February 8, 2008 Friday

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# Independent.ie

Section: FEATURES Length: 883 words

# **Body**

They talk about golf widows, but they never talk about Nintendo widowers. Having made the mistake of buying the better half a Nintendo DS for Christmas -- the moral of the story? Just don't buy Christmas gifts -- the last five weeks have been spent watching someone hunker over the console doing her level best at a thing called Brain Trainer, the computer based quiz, which is meant to improve your IQ.

But one of the tasks involved is in hot water after Watchdog's Nicky Campbell accused the game of being biased against people with northern accents.

In one of the rounds, you have to shout the name of a colour as quickly as it appears on the screen, and according to whingeing northerners -- I'm thinking Liverpool here, but I could be wrong -- the console won't recognise particular accents.

It's a pity they recognise any accent, frankly -- there's nothing quite as weird as being woken up on Sunday lunchtime by the sound of someone screaming: "Blue, blue, black, yellow, green ... ah for f\*\*\*s sake I got that right, why won't it listen to me?" into a hand-held game set. And God knows that the neighbours are thinking.

#### WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PRE-NUPS

<u>Women</u> are, let's be honest, mad at the best of times. But when it comes to weddings, their inner looper is really given room to show off.

But there have been complaints that <u>women</u> are taking things too far by introducing a form of pre-nup agreement even to the bridesmaids and other guests.

According to a pollconducted by English bridal magazine You And Your Wedding (so you can only imagine the mentallers who were replying to that one), one in five brides now demands that their bridesmaids sign an agreement that they will not put on weight, get pregnant or deviate from a certain hairstyle -- or they're off the team.

But the Bridezillas may have a point.

In fact, they could even extend the agreement to the Best Man.

#### The Nintendo Brain Trainer -- is it racist?

Maybe then his after-dinner speech wouldn't simply consist of a litany of A House song titles stitched together, with the whole thing being delivered in under three minutes because he had a bet on with his mates that he make it shorter than a Buzzcocks pop song.

But that's obviously just an entirely random example.

#### STOP LAUGHING DOWN THE BACK

Really, if anything proves the utter credulousness and stupidity displayed by many of the members of the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, it has to be case of Galway woman -- quelle surprise she's from Galway -- Treasa Ni Cheannabhain and her daughter.

The pair smuggled themselves illegally into Gaza and are now complaining that they are not being allowed to get back into Egypt.

The pair were refused entry into Gaza but entered illegally by wearing those charming full length niquabs (the charming black dress that makes <u>women</u> look like a walking letter box) and met up with some ministers from the charming <u>Hamas</u> government -- which caused the humanitarian crisis in the first place -- and then went around distributing money to local charities.

And how have indymedia.ie responded to the Egyptian authorities not allowing these people back into Egypt?

Well, according to them: "Treasa Ni Cheannabhain, from the Galway Palestine Solidarity Campaign, on a humanitarian mission to besieged Gaza with daughter, Naisrin, is now trapped there by the Israelis."

Um, sorry guys. It's the Egyptians. Still, facts are only aZionist conspiracy, eh?

Although the quote from Ni Cheannabhain on the situation in Gaza was interesting in its insight and political understanding: "We hadn't expected this -- it's very scary."

The phrase dumb and dumber springs to mind.

### C'MON CROWLEY, GET CRACKING

Niall Crowley of the Equality Authority has truly brought us into the promised land of gender, transgender, religious and sexual equality.

Now it seems that there's no pub, club or organisation that can go about its business without some busybody snooping around to make sure they're not discriminating againstanyone.

So we presume Crowley will be directing his beady glare at Eamon O Cuiv, after the Minister granted nearly E250,000 to the Orange Order in the Republic.

The Orange Order, as you know, is for Protestants only, and won't allow cross-dressing, transgendered Catholics into its ranks.

Surely, we shouldn't be giving money to such an intolerant group?

C'mon equality Authority, let's be having ye.

#### AMY TO LIVE WITH OZZY?

Frankly, the whole crazy chick singer thing is getting a little tired by now.

Britney Spears has become just about the most boring train wreck we have seen in a long time, and Amy Winehouse is not far behind. But in the latest twist in the Winehouse story, it has emerged that she plans on moving in with everyone's favourite dysfunctional family, the Osbournes.

#### The Nintendo Brain Trainer -- is it racist?

Winehouse is mates with Kelly Osbourne and through her she became friendly with the family, who are insisting that she bunk with them on her release. So, you're going to have a <u>women</u> who has just come out of rehab moving in with a family who have done more drugs than Bolivia has produced, who have collectively spent more time themselves in rehab probably any other family in the world.

So, actually, it seems to make sense. After all, these are exactly the kind of people who know the warning signs and dangers of taking drugs.

So why did they hire Pete Doherty as her personal trainer?

Load-Date: February 8, 2008



# Bush gently touts democracy on undemocratic soil

The Bismarck Tribune
January 14, 2008 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 943 words

Byline: TERENCE HUNT AP White House Correspondent

# **Body**

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - President Bush gently nudged authoritarian Arab allies Sunday to satisfy frustrated desires for democracy in the Mideast and saved his harshest criticism for Iran, branding it "the world's leading state-sponsor of terror."

Speaking in this Persian Gulf country, about 150 miles from the shores of Iran, Bush said Tehran threatens nations everywhere and that the United States was "rallying friends around the world to confront this danger before it is too late."

The warning about Iran was much tougher than Bush's admonition about spreading democracy in the Middle East, which had been billed as the central theme of his speech.

In a region of autocratic rulers, Bush did not single out any country for criticism. He spoke about democracy in a deeply undemocratic country, the United Arab Emirates, where an elite of royal rulers makes virtually all the decisions. Large numbers of foreign resident workers have few legal or human rights, including no right to protest working conditions.

"To the people of the Middle East: We hear your cries for justice," Bush said. "We share your desire for a free and prosperous future. And as you struggle to find your voice and make your way in this world, the United States will stand with you."

Usually averse to sightseeing, Bush rode out into the sand dunes to the desert encampment of Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He let Bush hold one of his prize falcons. Later, Bush returned to his suite in the opulent Emirates Palace Hotel, constructed at a cost of more than \$3 billion and reputed to be the most expensive hotel ever built.

The next stop scheduled on Bush's eight-day Mideast journey was Saudi Arabia. Its ruler, King Abdullah, has tried to push some reforms on education and <u>women</u>'s rights, and there have been limited municipal council elections. But he has been cautious and limited in his efforts, apparently hampered by others in the royal family worried that fast changes could upset the country's conservative clerics and citizens.

In Egypt, the last country Bush planned to visit, the democracy effort has stalled badly. The opposition candidate, Ayman Nour, who ran against longtime President Hosni Mubarak in the first multiparty elections, remains jailed on what many critics view as trumped-up criminal fraud charges.

#### Bush gently touts democracy on undemocratic soil

Apparently referring to Egypt, Bush said, "Unfortunately, amid some steps forward in this region we've also seen some setbacks. You cannot build trust when you hold an election where opposition candidates find themselves harassed or in prison."

Bush cast the broader campaign for democracy in terms of the battle against terrorism, saying there was a desire for freedom from terrorism, oppression and injustice. "We see this desire in the ordinary people across the Middle East, who are sick of violence, who are sick of corruption, sick of empty promises - and who choose a free future whenever they are given a chance."

Bush praised some democratic reforms in Arab countries. He urged leaders to show support for the fragile Iraqi government, open their societies and provide backing, and possible money, to help make an Israeli-Palestinian agreement stick.

"Leaders on both sides still have many tough decisions ahead, and they will need to back these decisions with real commitments," Bush said. "But the time has come for a holy land where Palestinians and Israelis live together in peace."

Bush's blistering words about Iran appeared intended to reassure Arab allies about U.S. readiness to confront Tehran. There have been doubts about Washington's intentions because of a new U.S. intelligence report that said Iran had stopped pursuing nuclear weapons in 2003.

Bush appeared to put the danger posed by Iran on par with that from al-Qaida, which the U.S. national intelligence director, Mike McConnell has said is America's greatest threat.

"One cause of instability is the extremists supported and embodied by the regime that sits in Tehran," Bush said. "Iran is today the world's leading state sponsor of terror."

Bush said Iran funds militant groups such as <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad and sends arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite extremists in Iraq. "The other major cause of instability is the extremists embodied by al-Qaida and its affiliates." he said.

His words brought a stern response from Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, to end what he called U.S. meddling.

"Mr. Bush has tried unsuccessfully to undermine our relations with the countries of the region. We believe his mission has totally failed. We have making strides in building ties with the region, politically, economically and even in security," Mottaki told the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television. "It is much better if the Americans had stopped intervening in the region's affair."

Also Sunday, the U.S. focused new attention on the Jan. 6 confrontation between American and Iranian naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff, commander of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Gulf, briefed Bush on the incident before the president left Bahrain on Sunday morning.

Cosgriff told Bush that he took it "deadly seriously" when an Iranian fleet of high-speed boats charged at and threatened to blow up a three-ship U.S. Navy convoy passing near Iranian waters. The Iranian naval forces vanished as the American ship commanders were preparing to open fire.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said that "all the military people remember what happened in the past, such as the USS Cole." Seventeen American sailors were killed in a terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in October 2000.

Load-Date: January 14, 2008



# Israel set for first female leader in 34 years

The New Zealand Herald September 18, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 947 words

# **Body**

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni won a clear victory in the Kadima Party's primary election today, TV exit polls showed, placing her in a good position to become Israel's first <u>female</u> leader in 34 years and sending a message that peace talks with the Palestinians will proceed.

Cheers and applause broke out at party headquarters when Israel's three networks announced their exit polls gave Livni between 47 per cent and 49 per cent, compared to 37 per cent for her closest rival, former defence minister and military chief Shaul Mofaz.

With about half of the actual votes counted, Livni had 47 per cent and Mofaz 41, party officials told Israel Radio.

Livni needed 40 per cent of the vote to avoid a runoff next week, and her supporters hugged each other and shed tears of joy. "It's the beginning of a new period in Israeli politics," Moshe Conforti said amid the celebration.

If official results bear out the exit polls, as is likely, the 50-year-old Livni will replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as head of Kadima. Olmert, the target of a career-ending corruption probe, promised to step down as soon as a new Kadima leader was chosen.

"You fought like lions ...," Livni said in a phone call to her headquarters to thank supporters.

"You did an amazing thing, and I just want to do all the things you fought for," she said. "I know you did it as friends, but, like me, you did it because you want this to be a better place."

She was expected to address party activists tomorrow after vote counting was completed.

Livni will have 42 days to form a new ruling coalition. If she succeeds, she will become Israel's first <u>female</u> prime minister since Golda Meir. If she fails, the country will hold elections in early 2009, a year and a half ahead of schedule. Olmert will remain as a caretaker leader until a new coalition is approved by parliament.

Nationally, polls show Livni roughly tied with Benjamin Netanyahu of the hard-line Likud Party. A new nationwide vote would likely turn into a referendum on the current effort to forge a historic peace deal with the Palestinians.

"I am really happy that Livni won because she is committed to the peace process," said dovish Israeli lawmaker Yossi Beilin. "I think the right thing for her to do now is to form a coalition that wants to promote peace rather than a broad government with the right."

Foreign minister since 2006, Livni is Israel's lead negotiator in the peace talks and is a rare <u>female</u> power figure in a nation dominated by macho military men and a religious establishment with strict views on the role of <u>women</u>.

#### Israel set for first female leader in 34 years

A former lawyer, army captain and one-time agent in the Mossad spy agency, Livni favors diplomacy over confrontation, even though she said last week that she has "no problem pulling the trigger when necessary."

A victory by Mofaz would have raised serious questions about Israel's involvement in peace talks with both the Palestinians and Syria. His approach is seen as far less conciliatory than hers. Had he won, the Iranian-born politician could have become Israel's first prime minister of Middle Eastern, or Sephardic, descent.

Two other candidates, Cabinet minister Meir Sheetrit and former Shin Bet security service director Avi Dichter lagged far behind in the polls.

Joyce Amiel, a Kadima supporter in Tel Aviv, said she was voting for Livni "mainly because she is a woman, even though her positions are not clear. We think she would do the best job. We want her to win."

Casting her vote in Tel Aviv, the usually reserved Livni bubbled with uncharacteristic enthusiasm. She said she was pleased with the turnout at her polling station and urged people to vote.

"You can determine today what the character of Kadima will be," Livni said. "You can determine today if you really have had enough of old-time politics. Come and vote, bring your children, and show them how you are changing the country."

Palestinian Information Minister Riad Malki was hopeful that peace talks could succeed under Israel's new leadership.

"We welcome the results of the election, and we are going to deal with any new prime minister in Israel," he told The Associated Press. "We hope this new prime minister will be ready to ... reach a peace deal with the Palestinians that ends the occupation and allows the establishment of an independent Palestinian state living beside Israel."

Israeli media reported that about 55 per cent of the 74,000 party members voted, with a crush as the deadline approached.

The primary was Kadima's first since the party was founded by then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2005. Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke in early 2006, and Olmert subsequently led the party to victory in elections.

Sharon set up Kadima as a personal bastion after his hard-line colleagues in Likud blasted his unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip in 2005. It was widely predicted Kadima would disintegrate after his exit, but the moderate Livni's victory appeared to give it a chance of survival.

Olmert is under police investigation over his financial dealings. But he has been pursuing peace talks with the Palestinians and has pledged to continue as long as he is in office.

However, both he and his Palestinian counterparts now say they are unlikely to reach the U.S.-set target date of year's end for a final peace deal. Also, any agreement they might reach would not be implemented until Abbas regains control of the Gaza Strip, overrun by Islamic *Hamas* militants in June 2007.

Israeli political science professor Gadi Wolfsfeld predicted Livni could use a peace deal to win a national election.

"If she comes to a tentative agreement with the Palestinians, why not run on that platform, which would be very good for her?" he said.

- AP

Load-Date: September 18, 2008



# Rachel Corrie pulls no punches at PuSh; Controversial play set for run at Havana Theatre Jan. 24 to Feb. 2

North Shore News (British Columbia)

January 18, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: PULSE; Pg. 27

Length: 841 words

Byline: Jesse Ferreras, Special To North Shore News

# **Body**

Rachel Corrie was only 23.

Born in Olympia, Washington, she attended Capital High School and later the Evergreen State College, where she became involved with the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, an activist group that formed after 9/11.

Corrie's college experience led to her involvement with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led movement that galvanizes support against Israeli occupation of disputed territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

She believed in her cause enough to travel to Rafah, a city in Gaza, in January 2003. At that time the region was well into the Second Intifada, a series of violent clashes between Israelis and Palestinians that followed the breakdown of peace talks in 2000 and a visit by Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount that same year.

Part of Corrie's job with the ISM was to report home about her findings in journals, e-mails and letters home. They variously told of devastated surroundings and Palestinian children afraid of when the IDF would next enter their homes.

"I don't know if many of the children here have ever existed without tank-shell holes in their walls and the towers of an occupying army surveying them constantly from the near horizons," she wrote in February. "No amount of reading, attendance at conferences, documentary viewing and word of mouth could have prepared me for the reality of the situation here."

Corrie's passion for activism reached a head on March 16, 2003 when she placed herself in front of a Caterpillar bulldozer in the employ of Israel. The bulldozer was en route to flattening a Palestinian home -- a well-known practice by the Israeli government when laying out what it calls a "security zone."

Fate dealt her a cruel hand that day -- she was killed after being run over twice by the US-made bulldozer.

Her story is now the subject of My Name is Rachel Corrie, a play collected from the multitude of writings she left during her work as an activist in Gaza. The play, first composed by British actor Alan Rickman and Guardian journalist Katherine Viner with the permission of the Corrie family, is now being performed as part of Vancouver's PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

Rachel Corrie pulls no punches at PuSh; Controversial play set for run at Havana Theatre Jan. 24 to Feb. 2

Actress Adrienne Wong will be taking on the title role for the production, which is being performed as a joint piece between Vancouver's neworldtheatre and Montreal's Teesri Duniya Theatre, where it was performed in early December at the Monument Nationale.

A regular of Vancouver's theatrical scene, Wong says she came to the role of Rachel Corrie with little knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but has since developed a sincere sympathy for the people wrapped up in it.

"Prior to coming into this project I was pretty ignorant," she says. "My experience of the conflict is very much related to (Corrie's) experience of the conflict, so it's sympathetic to the Palestinian side."

"I try to be very clear about this as a bias because I am interested in understanding the conflict in a more rounded way because I don't have the full story."

Wong says that neworldtheatre pursued the rights to tell the story of Rachel Corrie for two years before staging it and would only do the play if she could take on the lead role.

The production follows previous staging attempts that have been shrouded in controversy.

An attempt to stage My Name is Rachel Corrie by the New York Theater Workshop fell through in 2006 after it was postponed indefinitely.

The Workshop's artistic director said he had polled local Jewish religious and community leaders as to their feelings about the play and eventually held it off, citing the electoral victory of <u>Hamas</u> and Ariel Sharon's health situations as reasons not to stage it.

A similar fate befell a Toronto production when a director of the Canadian Stage Company (CanStage) feared a backlash from the Jewish community about a play taken solely from the perspective of a pro-Palestinian activist.

The play was subsequently cancelled. with a CanStage producer saying, "It didn't seem as powerful on the stage as it did on the page."

"There are people who are having political pressure being put on them and instead of coping with that, they're blaming it on the play," Wong says.

"They're saying they're making an aesthetic decision and by making that aesthetic decision, they're actually making a political decision as well."

Despite the numerous obstacles that the play has faced trying to find a stage, the latest production of "My Name is Rachel Corrie" has seen few similar circumstances.

Wong says that pamphlets were handed out at the Montreal production talking about the deaths of Israeli **women** in suicide attacks, but the play is in no danger of being cancelled.

"There's nothing overtly aggressive that has happened to us," Wong says. "Our supporters are very much into this play and into us doing it."

My Name is Rachel Corrie plays the PuSh Festival from Jan. 24 to Feb. 2 at the Havana Theatre on 1212 Commercial Drive. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday performances are designated as "Pay What You Can" nights.

# **Graphic**

Rachel Corrie pulls no punches at PuSh; Controversial play set for run at Havana Theatre Jan. 24 to Feb. 2

Photo: photo Itai Erdal; Adrienne Wong plays the title role in My Name is Rachel Corrie, which is being performed as a joint piece between Vancouver's neworldtheatre and Montreal's Teesri Duniya Theatre Nationale.;

Load-Date: January 18, 2008



# Of ordinariness and occupation WHAT I LOVE ABOUT. . . RAMALLAH : This West Bank city is characterised by Arab hospitality and resilient cultural activity, writes Sharmila Devi

Financial Times (London, England)

January 12, 2008 Saturday

London Edition 1

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Section: WEEKEND FT; Pg. 12

Length: 926 words

Byline: By SHARMILA DEVI

# **Body**

Afirst journey into Ramallah can induce a mild adrenalin rush for those unused to Israeli soldiers, guns and checkpoints. But, once in the outskirts of this West Bank city, the fervour of security gives way to an almost rural calm.

Although some of the white- and-pink limestone buildings bear the pockmarks of gun battles, it is the winding and hilly streets, where children play in spotless school uniforms, that force vehicles to slow down and their passengers to take in their surroundings.

Ramallah has no architectural glories or historic landmarks to draw visitors. Its attraction lies in the very ordinariness of everyday life in the midst of conflict and occupation. The local policeman waves you across potholed roads with a bemused smile. Just around a corner, a gap between buildings offers an angled view of the stony, biblical hills surrounding the city.

Mosques and <u>women</u> in headscarves are prevalent. But Ramallah is also home to Quaker schools, yuppie gyms, restaurants, bars and galleries that provide a haven from the almost constant political conflict.

Palestinians are used to foreigners and meet many journalists, aid workers, diplomats and peacenik Israelis. Intense debates of historical grievances are usually accompanied by Arab hospitality of food, drink and jokes.

Ramallah has been transformed over the past 60 years. In the early 20th century it was a provincial, predominantly Christian town dotted with villas for rich Palestinians escaping the summer heat of coastal Jaffa.

But the town was forced to absorb massive influxes of Palestinian refugees after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and its Six-Day War against Egpyt, Syria and Jordan in 1967.

Unlike the historic West Bank cities of Nablus, Hebron and, of course, Jerusalem, Ramallah's relative modernity has better enabled it to cope with transformation.

Its present incarnation started with the Oslo accords of 1993, which gave the Palestinians limited self-rule but also intensified Israel's separation of the West Bank and Ramallah from Jerusalem, which is less than 10 miles away.

Of ordinariness and occupation WHAT I LOVE ABOUT. . . RAMALLAH : This West Bank city is characterised by Arab hospitality and resilient cultural activity, write....

Palestinians yearn for Jerusalem but most cannot go there because Israeli checkpoints prevent them from moving freely around the West Bank. Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state remains a distant dream and Ramallah has become the de facto, if reluctant, Palestinian capital for politics, business and culture. In the restaurants and bars of this enclosed world, smart-suited officials from the Palestinian Authority's government offices and ministries rub shoulders with budding filmmakers.

US and European governments warn their citizens against visiting. But foreigners can move more easily than Palestinians between the disparate worlds of Israel and the occupied territories. Convoys of diplomats swishing through town are a common sight. All other foreigners will either need their own car or a friendly taxi driver to navigate the numerous checkpoints to enter the city through Israel's West Bank separation barrier, which around Ramallah is mostly an eight-metre-high concrete wall.

Overseas friends who visited me always wanted to see the late Yassir Arafat's offices because of the iconic images of his Mukata, or headquarters, being shelled and besieged by the Israeli army. Arafat died in 2004 and the Mukata now contains his tomb.

The guards at the Mukata 's gates look fierce but a polite request will win a smile and entry to the tomb in the large courtyard.

Near the Mukata is a fast-food landmark. Falafel Abu Loay has been run by the eponymous owner since he left the northern city of Jenin after an Israeli army incursion in 2002. Abu Loay is deaf but his loyal customers will park on the kerb near his stall and hold up the appropriate number of digits to signal how many orders they want.

Ramallah's restaurants and bars are always packed, even though they are too expensive for many Palestinians. Conversation with strangers is easy, usually over a selection of mezz e or salads and nargileh, or bubbly waterpipe.

There is the Upside Down Cafe where a tableau of chairs and tables glued to the ceiling serves as decoration. Palestinian journalists like to gather here and their ranks swelled with a small exodus of Palestinians who fled the Gaza Strip after <u>Hamas</u> took over last June. Darna's restaurant is for the elite. Palestinian negotiators will huddle with diplomats next to tables of ladies who lunch. Pronto's around the corner is much more informal, for aid workers and Palestinian artists.

In the summer, drinkers and diners will spill over to pavement tables, undeterred by the growing Islamisation of Palestinian society. If there is tension, provoked by either an Israeli army raid or by militant youths known as the shebab, public places quickly empty.

Film festivals, art exhibitions, dance and theatre are all booming in Ramallah, promoted with the help of foreign donors and the Palestinian diaspora dispersed around the rest of the world. Such activities are vital for a population who are increasingly imprisoned in their city. At a recent book reading, I chatted with a local human rights lawyer now author, Rajah Shehadeh, who spoke about his love for the nearby hills.

He wrote in his book Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape how the surrounding terrain had shrunk because of Israeli settlements: "Perhaps the curse of Palestine is its centrality to the west's historical and biblical imagination. The landscape is thus cut to match the grim events recorded there."

Sharmila Devi is the FT's former Jerusalem correspondent

Load-Date: January 11, 2008



# Iran is greatest threat, Bush says in Mideast

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 14, 2008, Monday

Copyright 2008 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P1A

Length: 947 words

Byline: Terence Hunt, The Associated Press

# **Body**

#### Editorial, 4A

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - President Bush gently nudged authoritarian Arab allies Sunday to satisfy frustrated desires for democracy in the Mideast and saved his harshest criticism for Iran, branding it "the world's leading state-sponsor of terror."

Speaking in this Persian Gulf country, about 150 miles from the shores of Iran, Bush said Tehran threatens nations everywhere and that the United States was "rallying friends around the world to confront this danger before it is too late."

The warning about Iran was much tougher than Bush's admonition about spreading democracy in the Middle East, which had been billed as the central theme of his speech.

In a region of autocratic rulers, Bush did not single out any other country for criticism. He spoke about democracy in a deeply undemocratic country, the United Arab Emirates, where an elite of royal rulers makes virtually all the decisions. Large numbers of foreign resident workers have few legal or human rights, including no right to protest working conditions.

"To the people of the Middle East: We hear your cries for justice," Bush said. "We share your desire for a free and prosperous future. And as you struggle to find your voice and make your way in this world, the United States will stand with you."

Usually averse to sightseeing, Bush rode out into the sand dunes to the desert encampment of Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He let Bush hold one of his prize falcons. Later, Bush returned to his suite in the opulent Emirates Palace Hotel, constructed at a cost of more than \$3 billion and reputed to be the most expensive hotel ever built.

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In Egypt, the last country Bush planned to visit, the democracy effort has stalled badly. The opposition candidate, Ayman Nour, who ran against longtime President Hosni Mubarak in the first multiparty elections, remains jailed on what many critics view as trumped-up criminal fraud charges.

#### Iran is greatest threat, Bush says in Mideast

Apparently referring to Egypt, Bush said, "Unfortunately, amid some steps forward in this region we've also seen some setbacks. You cannot build trust when you hold an election where opposition candidates find themselves harassed or in prison."

Bush cast the broader campaign for democracy in terms of the battle against terrorism, saying there was a desire for freedom from terrorism, oppression and injustice. "We see this desire in the ordinary people across the Middle East, who are sick of violence, who are sick of corruption, sick of empty promises - and who choose a free future whenever they are given a chance."

Bush praised some democratic reforms in Arab countries. He urged leaders to show support for the fragile Iraqi government, open their societies and provide backing, and possible money, to help make an Israeli-Palestinian agreement stick.

"Leaders on both sides still have many tough decisions ahead, and they will need to back these decisions with real commitments," Bush said. "But the time has come for a holy land where Palestinians and Israelis live together in peace."

Bush's blistering words about Iran appeared intended to reassure Arab allies about U.S. readiness to confront Tehran. There have been doubts about Washington's intentions because of a new U.S. intelligence report that said Iran had stopped pursuing nuclear weapons in 2003.

Bush appeared to put the danger posed by Iran on par with that from al-Qaida, which the U.S. national intelligence director, Mike McConnell has said is America's greatest threat.

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His words brought a stern response from Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, to end what he called U.S. meddling.

"Mr. Bush has tried unsuccessfully to undermine our relations with the countries of the region. We believe his mission has totally failed. We have been making strides in building ties with the region, politically, economically and even in security," Mottaki told the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television. "It is much better if the Americans had stopped intervening in the region's affair."

Also Sunday, the U.S. focused new attention on the Jan. 6 confrontation between American and Iranian naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

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White House press secretary Dana Perino said that "all the military people remember what happened in the past, such as the USS Cole." Seventeen American sailors were killed in a terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in October 2000.

Load-Date: January 16, 2008



## Woman poised to lead Israel

Chicago Daily Herald
September 18, 2008 Thursday
L2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2 Length: 990 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

## **Body**

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was headed toward a narrow victory early today for the Kadima Party's leadership post, according to partial election returns.

That outcome would put her in a good position to become Israel's first <u>female</u> leader in 34 years and send a message that peace talks with the Palestinians will proceed.

Television exit polls late Wednesday said Livni posted a clear victory in the day's election. But the actual partial vote count hours later showed a tighter race.

Israel's three networks announced late Wednesday that their exit polls gave Livni between 47 percent and 49 percent, compared to 37 percent for her closest rival, former defense minister and military chief Shaul Mofaz.

But with about 80 percent of the actual votes tallied early today, Livni had 45 percent to 41 percent for Mofaz, party officials told Israel Radio.

More than seven hours after the voting ended, final results had not been announced, and Livni had not formally claimed victory.

In a telephone call to supporters after the exit polls were broadcast, Livni indicated she would carry out the will of the activists.

"You fought like lions," she told the gathering at her headquarters. "I just want to do all the things you fought for."

Livni, who needed 40 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff next week, was expected to address activists today after vote counting was completed.

If official results bear out the exit polls, as is likely, the 50-year-old Livni will replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as head of Kadima. Olmert, the target of a career-ending corruption probe, promised to step down as soon as a new Kadima leader was chosen.

Livni will have 42 days to form a new ruling coalition. If she succeeds, she will become Israel's first <u>female</u> prime minister since Golda Meir. If she fails, the country will hold elections in early 2009, a year and a half ahead of schedule. Olmert will remain as a caretaker leader until a new coalition is approved by parliament.

#### Woman poised to lead Israel

Nationally, polls show Livni roughly tied with Benjamin Netanyahu of the hard-line Likud Party. A new nationwide vote would likely turn into a referendum on the effort to forge a historic peace deal with the Palestinians.

"I am really happy that Livni won because she is committed to the peace process," said dovish Israeli lawmaker Yossi Beilin. "I think the right thing for her to do now is to form a coalition that wants to promote peace rather than a broad government with the right."

Foreign minister since 2006, Livni is Israel's lead negotiator in the peace talks and is a rare <u>female</u> power figure in a nation dominated by macho military men and a religious establishment with strict views on the role of <u>women</u>.

A former lawyer, army captain and one-time agent in the Mossad spy agency, Livni favors diplomacy over confrontation, even though she said last week that she has "no problem pulling the trigger when necessary."

A victory by Mofaz would have raised serious questions about Israel's involvement in peace talks with both the Palestinians and Syria. His approach is seen as far less conciliatory than hers. Had he won, the Iranian-born politician could have become Israel's first prime minister of Middle Eastern, or Sephardic, descent.

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"You can determine today what the character of Kadima will be," Livni said. "You can determine today if you really have had enough of old-time politics. Come and vote, bring your children, and show them how you are changing the country."

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"We welcome the results of the election, and we are going to deal with any new prime minister in Israel," he told The Associated Press. "We hope this new prime minister will be ready to ... reach a peace deal with the Palestinians that ends the occupation and allows the establishment of an independent Palestinian state living beside Israel."

Kadima extended voting by a half-hour Wednesday night, apparently to give voters returning from work more time to cast ballots.

Israeli media reported that about 55 percent of the 74,000 party members voted, with a crush as the deadline approached.

The primary was Kadima's first since the party was founded by then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2005. Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke in early 2006, and Olmert subsequently led the party to victory in elections.

Sharon set up Kadima as a personal bastion after his hard-line colleagues in Likud blasted his unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip in 2005. It was widely predicted Kadima would disintegrate after his exit, but the moderate Livni's victory appeared to give it a chance of survival.

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### Woman poised to lead Israel

However, both he and his Palestinian counterparts now say they are unlikely to reach the U.S.-set target date of year's end for a final peace deal. Also, any agreement they might reach would not be implemented until Abbas regains control of the Gaza Strip, overrun by Islamic *Hamas* militants in June 2007.

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"If she comes to a tentative agreement with the Palestinians, why not run on that platform, which would be very good for her?" he said.

Load-Date: December 22, 2008



## I have no respect or tolerance for Sharia

Irish Independent

December 3, 2007 Monday

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## Independent.ie

Section: FEATURES
Length: 911 words

## **Body**

So the story gets more interesting. The so-called "Qatif Girl", the truly heroic woman who now faces 200 lashes after being gang-raped had more than just the authorities of this savage kingdom to worry about -- it has recently emerged that her own brother tried to kill her when he realised she had been repeatedly violated.

Here in the West, if a brother discovers his sister has just been gang-raped he will have murder on his mind, for sure, but it would be directed towards those responsible, not his sister.

But in the twisted world of male Islamic pride, the poor girl who had been through an experience so traumatic that it is actually impossible to even contemplate, thefamily's spurious "honour" maintained precedence.

Although a world where "honour" consists of killing a rape victim is a world where "honour" has a very different meaning from how weunderstand it.

And that sense of honour being besmirched is what has driven those charming Sudanese chaps to go completely mental at the "leniency" shown to Gillian Gibbons.

Once their Friday prayers to the most merciful Allah were over, they spent the day demanding that the woman -- who was surely misguided in going to such a backwards hell-hole in the first place -- be executed by firing squad.

But what has been particularly nauseating has been the British government's handling of the affair. According to the Foreign Office, they were "very disappointed" at the verdict.

Really? Why didn't they simply say that the next aid bundle to Sudan, worth nearly £200m, was off the table and if anything further happened to the woman then crippling sanctions would be applied?

But no, instead we got a load of mealy-mouthedrubbish about how this was a localised incident, that it didn't represent Islam and hopefully we can all hold hands and sing songs around the proverbial camp fire. But the problem is that this is representative of Islam.

Anywhere in the world where Sharia law is practised, such barbaric and disgusting practises take place on a regular basis.

### I have no respect or tolerance for Sharia

Don't believe me? Well, Iran has been in the news for the most recent example of a woman being sentenced to death by stoning. But they are also partial to hanging gay people and **women** with too much attitude.

And they quite like a bit of eye-gouging as well, when the mood takes them, such as the woman who had her eyes gouged out in a public square because she fought off a man who tried to rape her. Check that out on the internet when you fancy losing your lunch.

Or what about preciouslittle Palestine, where 50 <u>women</u> have been killed by their own families this year alone, and where the beating of **women** who aren't sufficiently "modest" is common under the fanatics of **Hamas**.

Or Afghanistan, where <u>women</u> are routinely raped and murdered by family and strangers with impunity? Or Chechnya? Or Somalia? Or anywhere Sharia is practised.

And yet we are constantly instructed by the multicultural, liberal, chattering classes to show "respect" and "tolerance" towards Muslims who want to practise their cultural heritage in Western countries.

Well, you know what? I don't have any respect or tolerance for not just the actions, but also the mentality.

And before you start to think that this is something that is happening thousands of miles away, refer yourself back to the case of Birmingham woman Banaz Mahmoud, who was kidnapped, raped andtortured by her uncles last year before being killed and buried in a suitcase. Her crime? She had a boyfriend. She was one of at least 12 <u>women</u> killed by their families in Britain last year to protect their "honour".

And before we start to think that these are isolated incidents by extremists, the Muslim Council of Britain, the supposed "moderate" wing of mainstream Islam, still claim that death is too good for Salman Rushdie and they regularly rail against gays.

Oh, and for the record, 40pc of British Muslims want Sharia to be instituted in Britain. Hardly a lunatic minority, surely?

While we don't have the same sort of problems here -- yet -- we still have a situation where Ali Selim, the chief spokesman for Irish Muslims and a supposed moderate, refuses to condemn Osama bin Laden, and thinks that you women in Sudan and Saudi are "internal matters" and none of our business.

And, of course, anyone who writes about this is immediately accused of beingIslamophobic and racist.

Well, I am Islamophobic in the sense that I'm phobic towards the notion of treating <u>women</u> as third-class citizens, flogging people and killing them for having an independent thought.

I'm phobic towards the idea of killing Theo Van Gogh because he made a movie they didn't like. I'm phobic towards killing a Japanese translator because he worked on the Satanic Verses.

I'm also rather phobic to the notion that the Muslim world has the right to riot and kill each other because of a few unfunny cartoons in an obscure Danish publication.

As regards the spurious accusation of racism which is bandied about against anyone who criticises Islam, let me make this clear -- you cannot change the colour of your skin. Pigmentation is irrelevant. But you can dislike someone's superstition and in Islam's case, even among other superstitions, they are particularly horrible.

No, my Muslim friend, it's your religion and your Sharia law I am criticising. It has nothing to do with the colour of your skin. And you know what? In a free democracy we still have the right to say thingslike that.

Load-Date: December 3, 2007



## News Summary

The New York Times

November 27, 2007 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 925 words

## **Body**

#### **INTERNATIONALA3-19**

Back in Pakistan, Sharif Condemns Musharraf

Back in Pakistan after an eight-year absence, Nawaz Sharif, the religiously conservative former prime minister, demanded an end to emergency rule and called for the reinstatement of fired supreme court justices.A1

Progress in Mideast Talks

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators made progress toward completing a joint statement for the planned Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Md.A9

Protesting the conference, <u>Hamas</u> leaders took a hard line against Israel in Gaza, and right-wing Israelis held a prayer session at the Western Wall. A9

Putin Says U.S. Is Meddling

The Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin, accused the United States of trying to taint the legitimacy of next week's parliamentary elections. A3

Long-Term U.S.-Iraqi Deal

The White House announced a deal to negotiate a formal agreement defining long-term relations between Iraq and the United States, including the status of American military forces. A6

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said the United States needs to commit more money and focus more efforts on diplomacy and economic assistance because the military alone cannot defend America's interests.A6

Sudan Jails British Teacher

Sudanese police arrested a British school teacher for insulting Islam after she allowed her 7-year-old pupils to name a class teddy bear Muhammad.A12

Clashes Continue in Paris

Youths clashed with heavily armed riot police for the second night in a row in a poor suburb north of Paris. A12

### **News Summary**

Farmers Save Crop Variety

Backyard farmers in Europe have become the guardians of unusual varieties of traditional crops, which are disappearing at the time scientists need their genes to safeguard the food supply from the effects of global warming.A4Protesters Halt Oxford Forum

Protesters disrupted a forum at Oxford featuring a British author who denies the Holocaust.A19

NATIONALA20-29

In Hospice, Longer Lives

Mean Money Lost

Hundreds of hospice providers across the country are facing the catastrophic financial consequence of what would otherwise seem a positive development: their patients are living longer than expected. A1

A Plant to Purify Sewage

The Orange County Water District in California will turn on what industry experts say is the world's largest plant devoted to purifying sewer water to increase drinking water supplies. Many hope it serves as a model for authorities worldwide struggling with severe drought and forecasted water shortages. A29

Mississippi Senator to Resign

Senator Trent Lott's announcement that he would resign in a few weeks added to the growing Republican exodus from Congress, and it may have strengthened his post-Senate job prospects. A20

Gore Goes to Oval Office

In a curious twist, President Bush invited his one-time political rival, Al Gore, to the Oval Office. The occasion was an annual tradition, the presidential photo opportunity with Nobel Prize winners. A26

A Troubled Atlanta Hospital

The politically appointed board of Atlanta's charity hospital, Grady Memorial, effectively voted itself out of business, the first step in at least a short-term escape from the looming bankruptcy that had threatened the region's only top-level trauma center. A20 Capital AIDS Rate Highest

The District of Columbia has the highest rate of AIDS infection of any city in the country, and the disease is being transmitted to infants, older adults, <u>women</u> and heterosexual men at an epidemic pace, according to a report released by city officials. A20 Kennedy to Sell Memoirs

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the most prominent surviving member of the Kennedy family, has agreed to sell his memoirs for an advance of more than \$8 million, people with knowledge of the negotiations say. A25

**NEW YORK/REGIONC13-14** 

Astor's Son and Lawyer Indicted, Reports Say

Brooke Astor's only son and one of her former lawyers have been indicted on criminal charges stemming from the stewardship of her financial affairs and the handling of her will, according to people who have been briefed on the situation. The exact charges against the two men are not known.A1

Can Spitzer Succeed?

### **News Summary**

The long and ultimately futile battle over Gov. Eliot Spitzer's plan to grant New York driver's licenses to illegal immigrants has left many pondering: does Mr. Spitzer have the judgment to succeed as governor? In a recent interview, the governor also pondered the question.A1

**BUSINESS DAYC1-12** 

Investors Flock to T-Bills

Concerns that the credit squeeze could push the economy into a recession drove investors to the safety of Treasuries. The 10-year Treasury yield hit its lowest point in more than three years, suggesting that investor confidence continues to weaken. C1

A Critical View of Banks

The head of the German banking association is sharply critical of the excesses that led to the American subprime mortgage mess. But he doesn't let European banks off the hook. C1

Citigroup Stake to Abu Dhabi

Citigroup said that it was selling a \$7.5 billion stake to a Middle Eastern sovereign fund in a bid to shore up its low capital base. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority has agreed to buy a 4.9 percent equity stake in a transaction that has been approved by federal regulators. C1

Court Hears 401(k) Case

A federal appeals court ruled last year that an employee could not sue an employer that had mishandled an individual 401(k) plan. Now the Supreme Court is hearing the appeal, and justices had sharp questions for the defense lawyer. C3

Business DigestC2

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: November 27, 2007



## Palestinian Mayors Lobby for Christian Support

The Forward
November 9, 2007

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Section: News; Pg. A1

Length: 984 words

## **Body**

Facing the growing influence of Christian Zionists in the United States, the dwindling Christian minority in the Palestinian territories is making a renewed push to capture American hearts and minds.

A delegation of Palestinian Christian mayors came to Washington last week on a lobbying mission, during which they argued the Palestinian cause. It was the first such mission ever.

The mayors attended a Washington conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, which has attempted to build bridges between Christians in the United States and in the Palestinian territories.

A week earlier, the Palestinian-Christian cause was taken up at the annual conference of the Sabeel Center, another group of pro-Palestinian Christians.

The commotion comes in advance of the American-led Middle East peace conference, which is set to take place later this month in Annapolis, Md. Christian evangelical leaders have been pushing the Bush administration to take a hard line against the Palestinians. The new Palestinian Christian campaign is designed to capture support from non-evangelical Christians.

We are forging relations with Christian groups in the United States that support us, said Yousef Nasser, mayor of the Palestinian Christian town of Birzeit, at a Capitol Hill briefing. The fringe Christians scare me, he added, referring to evangelical pro-Israel Christians.

The issue of Palestinian Christians has long been discussed among regional specialists but has been slow to capture the attention of the American public. That began to change in 2006 with an article by columnist Robert Novak and a letter to the White House by Rep. Henry Hyde. Novak and Hyde both argued that the Israeli separation barrier is threatening the existence of the West Bank Christian community. Similar views were echoed last week by Rowan Williams, archbishop of Canterbury, who said in an interview in Israel that the fence is driving Christians out of the Holy Land.

Palestinian Christians have been struggling against the powerful Christian Zionist coalition led by evangelical

churches and their pro-Israel lobbying arm, Christians United for Israel. While CUFI easily attracts thousands of supporters to mega-events around the country, the Palestinian Christians are still struggling to get out their message. At last week's briefing on the Hill, organizers asked for a show of hands to count how many congressional offices sent staffers to the event. Not one hand went up.

### Palestinian Mayors Lobby for Christian Support

CUFI's main goal has been to support Israel, but recently it, too, has taken note of the Palestinian Christian population. Following the murder last month of Rami Ayyad, a Christian bookstore owner in Gaza, CUFI's executive director, David Brog, wrote, As CUFI stands with Israel, we cannot and will not be silent about the persecution of Christians by the same militants who have been at the forefront of the effort to destroy Israel.

This has not won over the Palestinian Christians. At the briefing last week, Nasser took a strong line on the Christian Zionists in America.

If any policy will be influenced by these people, you're in trouble. Nasser warned listeners at a Capitol Hill briefing. Wake up. These people are crazy.

Among the groups leading the call for Christian organizations to support the Palestinian cause is the Sabeel Center, a network of international organizations that draws support from key activists in liberal Christian denominations. During Sabeel's conference at Boston's Old South Church, the keynote speaker was Desmond Tutu, the South African Anglican Bishop.

The issue being discussed by Sabeel and other activists is the P.A.'s remaining Christians, who once made up almost 20% of the Palestinian population but have now shrunk to less than 2% due to steady emigration out of the area. The reasons for the Christian exodus from the West Bank and Gaza are in dispute. Palestinian activists claim that hardship caused by the Israeli occupation has made life unbearable and has led the generally more affluent and educated Christians to seek a better future elsewhere.

Bethlehem's mayor, Victor Hanna Jubrail Batarseh, said that the recent rise to power of <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic movement, has not been a danger to the Christian minority, though he did say that at the end, we want to see a secular Palestinian state.

Many Israeli advocates argue that Muslim Palestinians violently harass the Christian minority, causing the Christian exodus. Justus Reid Weiner, a lawyer who is a member of the hawkish Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs think tank, equates Palestinian Christians with battered **women** who decline to recognize the problem.

"It's classical denial," he said in a phone interview from Jerusalem. "It is so obvious who is telling the truth and who is being squeezed."

The message that the mayors carried was one of Palestinian unity, denying any tension between Christians and Muslims despite recent flareups of violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We as Christians and Muslims live under the same culture," Nasser said. "The only way to differentiate us is to follow us on Friday or Sunday and see where we go to pray."

Within the Bush administration, there are signs that alternative Christian voices are beginning to be heard. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met two weeks ago with a group of evangelical leaders who support a two-state solution and oppose the views taken by such Christian Zionists as the Rev. John Hagee.

A few days later, though, Hagee put out a call to CUFI's supporters, asking them to contact the White House to urge America's administration not to pressure Israel into making territorial concessions.

"President Bush has been a great friend of Israel," Hagee wrote. "But he and his team are creating a situation that is likely to place Israel in great danger."

Load-Date: November 8, 2007



## Palestinian Rams Construction Vehicle Into Traffic, Killing 3

The New York Times
July 3, 2008 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 913 words

**Byline:** By ISABEL KERSHNER

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

### **Body**

The Palestinian driver of a large construction vehicle went on a deadly rampage along a central Jerusalem thoroughfare on Wednesday, crushing several cars and ramming into buses and pedestrians before an off-duty soldier and a police officer clambered up to the cabin and fatally shot him.

At least three people were killed by the lurching vehicle, and more than 40 were wounded, Israeli officials said.

The police said that they were treating the event as a terrorist attack and that the driver, about 30 years old, was a resident of Sur Baher, an Arab neighborhood of East Jerusalem, which was captured by Israel in 1967 and then annexed.

"There is no doubt at all that this was a terrorist attack," Micky Rosenfeld, a police spokesman, said at the scene shortly afterward. He added that the authorities were investigating whether the driver, identified by acquaintances as Hussam Dweikat, had acted alone.

Two of the victims were Israeli <u>women</u>, Bat Sheva Unterman, 33, and Elizabeth Goren-Friedman, 54, both residents of Jerusalem.

The identity of the third victim still had not been released by late Wednesday night.

The fact that the driver was a Jerusalem resident, with access to all parts of the city, was likely to raise tensions here. Less than four months ago another East Jerusalem Palestinian, Ala Abu Dhaim, killed eight students at a Jewish seminary in West Jerusalem. The attack led to calls for harsh action like the demolition of the attacker's home.

Police officials said that the driver had a criminal background, but that there had been no prior intelligence information to suggest that he would carry out an attack.

Three Palestinian groups claimed responsibility, including Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a group affiliated with the mainstream Fatah movement led by the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. But it was not clear if any of the claims were credible.

### Palestinian Rams Construction Vehicle Into Traffic, Killing 3

The Israeli chief of police, Dudi Cohen, said Wednesday that the attacker appeared to have been acting spontaneously and alone.

<u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic group that controls Gaza and which recently agreed to a temporary cease-fire with Israel there, said it did not carry out the attack but nevertheless praised it, according to The Associated Press.

Witnesses said they saw the vehicle, a large Caterpillar front-end loader, set off close to midday from a building site at one of the busiest intersections in the predominantly Jewish, western half of the city, between the central bus station and the popular Mahane Yehuda market. The hulking vehicle turned onto Jaffa Road, which runs through the city's commercial downtown area, immediately slicing through the drivers' cabin of a small white van and flipping a silver Chevrolet on its side.

Continuing along Jaffa Road, the driver used the loader's serrated scoop to overturn a bus from the Egged public transportation company and leave a swath of tangled wreckage about 300 yards long, as it mowed into several other cars and collided with a second bus.

The police said they believed the driver might have intended to plow into the crowded market.

"It could have been a lot worse," Mr. Rosenfeld said.

Police officials contended that it was necessary to kill the driver to stop him. An initial investigation indicated that at least four security personnel members had tried to stop the driver. The off-duty soldier shot him but failed to kill him. An officer from a special antiterrorism police unit who sped to the scene on a motorcycle finally ended the episode.

The officer, Eli Mizrahi, told reporters that he had climbed up to the driver's cabin "when he was still driving like crazy and trying to harm civilians," and that he fired twice.

Much of the rampage took place directly below the windows of an office block housing several foreign television networks. The vehicle finally came to a halt outside the Israel Broadcast Authority building, a car completely flattened beneath it.

In the first moments, witnesses said, they thought the vehicle was involved in a road accident, but it soon became apparent that the driver was on the attack.

"People started running for cover into stores and buildings," said Yuri Gudkovich, a security guard at an apartment block on Jaffa Road.

A crowd of passers-by also began to chase the loader, desperate for a way to stop it.

"We started to run after it, shouting to find someone with a gun," said Moshe Oren, who works in a storefront transportation company along the road.

Mr. Oren, 58, said he looked into the face of the driver and saw "an expression of madness."

"It's hard to define," Mr. Oren continued, "but he also seemed coolheaded. He looked crazy and calculated at the same time."

Spare diapers, a toddler's pink jacket and a bottle of fruit juice were scattered on the bottom of the overturned bus. There was blood on the hood of a car whose roof had been ripped off.

Residents of the area were incensed. Sara Nagani, 48, said the driver's neighborhood "has to be wiped out." She said she had come to Jerusalem with her family from India at the age of 3. "I'll live and die here," she said, "but not like this."

Caterpillar equipment has a special resonance among Palestinians. Human rights activists have lobbied the company to stop selling its heavy vehicles to the Israeli military out of concern that they have been used to demolish Palestinian homes, uproot orchards and construct Jewish settlements in occupied land.

http://www.nytimes.com

## **Graphic**

PHOTOS: This bus was knocked over Wednesday when a man drove a front-end loader down Jaffa Road in Jerusalem. His rampage left three people dead and 40 wounded. (PHOTOGRAPH BY RINA CASTELNUOVO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

The Israeli police said at least four security officers tried to stop the driver, Hussam Dweikat, before a police officer killed him. Mr. Dweikat, who was about 30, lived in East Jerusalem. (PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIEL BAR ON/JINIPIX, VIA REUTERS

DAN BALILTY/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Load-Date: July 3, 2008



## Blowing hard, but substance is needed in this wind of change

The Scotsman

November 14, 2007, Wednesday

1 Edition

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Section: Pg. 26

Length: 888 words

Byline: Gerri Peev

### **Body**

IT pays to listen. No, really. At least it does for polling companies who have been awarded GBP 2.9 million of taxpayers' cash for government-initiated "listening events" this autumn alone.

Of that, GBP 1.3 million was shelled out on a one-day consultation on nuclear power.

Gordon Brown must be more detached from reality than previously believed if he needs to pay to find out what citizens think of him, his policies, his clothes.

There is polling, and then there is obsessive-compulsive market research. A bit like a neurotic woman asking all the time "does my bum look big in this?"

Had Brown asked the question on Tuesday night, when he donned his GBP 3,000 white tie suit to deliver his keynote foreign policy speech, a kind friend would have replied "no, but you do sound like something of an a\*\*\*".

As slow hand-clapping greeted his entrance to the Lord Mayor's Banquet,

the occasion had echoes of Tony Blair's reception at the <u>Women</u>'s Institute in 2000 - except at the Guildhall, the slow hand clap is not intended as an insult.

Shortly before pudding, when Brown opened his mouth to give the great and the good his vision of foreign affairs, it became apparent that there was more than a passing resemblance to the Blair era.

Alas, the content was wobblier than the pana cotta. Hard-headed internationalism would be pivotal to his vision for the world. Anti-Americanism was out.

He promised that his reign, sorry, premiership, would pave the way for intervention to stop states from failing.

It is hard enough to stop schools failing (witness the rowing back on "city academies") let alone countries, but the ambitious PM was not about to be seen as some lily-livered liberal while his predecessor went down as the man who had the guts to stand up against commonsense and public opinion and lead the country into an illegal war.

Indeed, as Gaza burned and <u>Hamas</u> opened fire on its own citizens, Brown thanked Blair for bringing peace to the Middle East as the special envoy.

### Blowing hard, but substance is needed in this wind of change

Perhaps most worrying was the Prime Minister's solution for forcing Iran to stop its nuclear programme.

Yes, it would be to deprive the country of its oil and gas by banning foreign companies from investing in Iran's infrastructure.

Clearly, the slightly thorny issue of how China and Russia - and potentially France - would react was sidestepped. All three countries have a veto on the UN Security Council.

And what would it do to the price of oil at the pumps? Now, even a lay economist could predict that it would shoot up.

But why not hear from a real one.

Alex Kemp, a professor of petroleum economics at the University of Aberdeen has some ideas.

"The world needs the investment and more production if oil prices are going to come down.

"As far as the oil sector is concerned, the consequences could be that there will be less investment and therefore less production from Iran which would put upward pressure on oil prices."

So, in colloquial terms, it would cost the Mondeo Man (or should that be Prius Person in the new era of politically-correct greenery) a lot more to fill up, despite the fact that prices have already soared to over dollars 100 a barrel.

Professor Kemp points out a US bomb on Tehran would cost the consumer...er, a bomb. International volatility is built into the oil price.

So perhaps while oil was the pragmatic reason for the Iraq war, the disastrous consequences domestically of paying an extra 5p at the pump could avert the immediate threat of a military strike.

Back in the Guildhall, Brown was warning about interdependence. "We cannot any longer escape the consequences of our interdependence. The old distinction between "over there" and "over here" does not make sense of this interdependent world."

Brown, battered by suggestions that he is weak and performing U-turns faster than former defence minister Lord Drayson in his Aston Martin, has gone for the "hard-headed" interventionist approach.

It comes across more as the bereft-of-ideas, clutching at straws strategy. There are only so many flexible finance facilities that a former chancellor can launch before he realises that they alone do not save the world.

Talk of interventionism only serves to drum up a dreaded feeling of déjà vu.

Brown's latest idea is that instead of allowing countries such as Iran to build up its nuclear capabilities, there would be an "enrichment bond or nuclear fuel bank to help non-nuclear states acquire the new sources of energy they need".

This would only be given to countries that renounced nuclear weapons.

But where would this nuclear bank be? Scotland? England? The PM cannot get consensus on a new generation of plants in his own backyard, let alone find a depository for them abroad. What next, wholesale subsidies to give Tehran access to windfarms?

And as for an "enrichment" bond, even the anoraks from Bloomberg were left scratching their heads over what kind of new financial instrument this was, and there is nothing they don't know about bonds.

The early days of the Brown premiership promised much: a new kind of politics that would involve listening.

### Blowing hard, but substance is needed in this wind of change

But two million people marching on the streets against his predecessor's decision to go to war should be indication enough.

Enough listening time to follow one's own judgment. For Brown, it has been long enough in the making to confound the critics and blow the opposition away.

Load-Date: November 14, 2007



## **Around the world**

Townsville Bulletin (Australia)
October 23, 2007 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 927 words

## **Body**

US: Myspacetv, the video wing of the online community network, yesterday unveiled its first original web series to give users a television-like experience with the interactive benefits of the Internet. The series, Roommates, will track the lives of four <u>women</u> in their 20s who have recently graduated from college and are living together in Los Angeles. The web show runs until December 21 for a total of 45 episodes. A new, three-minute segment will play each day from Monday to Friday. Fans are expected to engage characters online and influence the plot.

US: The body of an 11-month-old US girl reported missing after her soldier father returned from Iraq was found in the attic of her home in North Carolina. Harmony Jude Creech apparently had been dead for weeks, said Harnett County Sheriff Larry Rollins. The child's mother, Johni Michelle Heuser, said she had found the baby dead in its crib and put the body in the attic of her home in Fayetteville. Harmony's father, Ronald Earl Creech II, returned from a 15-month deployment on Friday hoping to see his daughter, who was born while he was overseas.

Heuser is being interviewed.

US: Wildfires sparked a state of emergency and mass evacuations in California yesterday, with Hollywood stars forced to flee their million-dollar homes and at least one person killed. Australian singer Olivia Newton-John's Malibu home was among those evacuated, it was reported, while Mel Gibson's home was also under threat. Strong winds fed the flames which devoured a church and numerous other buildings, forcing thousands to evacuate, including entire neighbourhoods in the exclusive seaside town of Malibu.

WASHINGTON: Economic growth has made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increase much faster than expected, as trees and oceans struggle to absorb the greenhouse gas, scientists said in a study published yesterday.

"Atmospheric carbon dioxide growth has increased 35 per cent faster than expected since 2000," a statement from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), one of the bodies involved in the research, said.

Inefficient use of fuels increased CO2 by 17 per cent, while the other 18 per cent was due to a decline in the efficiency of natural 'sinks', the forests and seas that soak up the gas from the atmosphere, it said.

RUSSIA: The return of Malaysia's first ever astronaut from space was hailed by the deputy prime minister as a historic moment that made his countrymen 'stand a few inches taller,' reports said yesterday. Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor returned to Earth on Sunday after 11 days in space. Muszaphar and two Russian cosmonauts touched down safely in Kazakhstan but 200km off-target in a rare and unexplained 'ballistic landing' by the Soyuz craft. The Malaysian astronaut trained at Moscow's Star City before he left for the mission on October 10 with American Peggy Whitson.

#### Around the world

SRI LANKA: Five Sri Lankan airmen were killed as Tamil Tiger rebels launched an unprecedented air and land attack on a northern military base, officials and a pro-rebel website said yesterday. Rebels flying light aircraft bombed the Anuradhapura air base under cover of darkness, killing one serviceman and wounding 18 others and damaging two stationary helicopter gunships, the Defence Ministry said. Four other airmen were killed when a Bell 212 helicopter, flown in as back-up during the 'heavy' assault, went down due to a technical fault, a ministry statement said.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: A Port Moresby magistrate was stoned to death after his car crashed into a refugee camp, local media reported yesterday. The Post Courier newspaper said senior magistrate Ivo Cappo was killed on Saturday night when he lost control of his car as he drove home from a hotel, and ran into the camp on Ela Beach. None of the refugees was injured, but when Cappo got out of his car to inspect the crash, the refugees stoned him to death. "But whether it was wilful or manslaughter is yet to be established," police chief Fed Yakasa said.

SINGAPORE: The first commercial flight by the world's largest passenger plane, the Airbus A380, will fly 6276km from Singapore to Sydney on Thursday. Outfitted with the most luxurious cabin ever seen on a jetliner, Singapore Airlines flight SQ380 will carry travellers ranging from businessmen to university students and aviation enthusiasts. Most of the places on the 471-seat double-decker plane were auctioned for charity on eBay, raising more than \$1.4 million. Twelve of the passengers will fly in luxurious, enclosed suites which the airline calls 'A Class Beyond First'.

IRAQ: One of the alleged masterminds of the 2004 Madrid train bombings, which killed 191 people, has died in Iraq while fighting US-led coalition forces, a Spanish newspaper says. Spain was informed several months ago of Daoud Ouhnane's death in Iraq in October or November 2006 by foreign intelligence agencies, El Pais newspaper said. Ouhnane's fingerprints were found in the car that transported the bombs used in the early morning attack on commuter trains in the Spanish capital and other places linked to the bombings.

A PALESTINIAN health official says Gaza's main hospital will stop surgery because Israel has banned imports of anaesthetic.

Khaled Radi, spokesman of the *Hamas*-run ministry of health, said the hospital had barely two canisters of gas left.

"This is a crime against humanity. Israel is killing patients, including women and children," Radi said yesterday.

Gaza's Shifa hospital is the main medical facility in the impoverished coastal enclave, home to 1.5 million people, and is used for major operations.

Load-Date: October 23, 2007



## <u>Bulldozer terror rampage; \*Three killed before Israeli police shoot</u> Palestinian driver

The Independent (London)

July 3, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

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Byline: Donald Macintyre in Jerusalem

## **Body**

Death returned to central Jerusalem yesterday when a Palestinian driving a bulldozer killed three Israelis and wounded 45 others as he deliberately careered down one of the city's busiest streets, crushing cars and overturning a bus.

The bulldozer's lethal advance the wrong way down Jaffa Street, leaving a trail of destroyed vehicles before the driver was shot dead by security officers, was the worst attack on Israeli civilians in the city since a gunman shot dead eight students in March.

Yesterday's victims were killed as the bulldozer ploughed into their cars during its zig-zag down the street, a main artery of West Jerusalem. The Israeli deputy police commissioner, Shahar Ayalon, said at the scene it was "definitely a terrorist attack" by the 30-year-old construction worker who - like the perpetrator of the student killings - came from Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr Ayalon backed calls by Israeli ministers for the driver's home to be demolished but, despite a series of claims of responsibility by smaller armed Palestinian factions, police said last night they believed the attacker, Hussam Dwayat, had been acting alone. The Israeli police chief Dudi Cohen said it appeared to be a "spontaneous" act.

One woman was killed when the bulldozer drove into, and then ran over, her blue saloon shortly before the 20-tonne vehicle came to a halt. The mangled remains of the car were still piled behind the bulldozer two hours later. Police would not confirm reports last night that the woman managed to save the life of her baby daughter by throwing her out of the car before being hit.

A witness, David Huweida, 51, said: "I saw the bulldozer ploughing into cars; ploughing towards the bus stop to run over pedestrians. He lifted people with his shovel. He lifted a man and tried to crush him but the man was lucky and he didn't succeed."

### Bulldozer terror rampage \*Three killed before Israeli police shoot Palestinian driver

"He mounted a bus but didn't succeed in turning it over. But the next bus he reached, he overturned. People climbed up on the bulldozer and tried to stop him. They wounded him and we thought it was over. But then it was as if he became revived and, after slumping down, he lifted up his head and he continued."

A paramedic, Gedalya Sabiner, treated the wounded at the scene and helped as rescue workers retrieved the corpse of a woman from the crushed blue vehicle. "I think she was in her thirties," he said. "I saw a baby carriage in the car. Everything has been so peaceful here - like a paradise. Now we will not be able to trust anyone."

The bulldozer drove past the city's main broadcasting centre and BBC footage shows it crushing a vehicle, and a security officer shooting the perpetrator in the head several times at point-blank range. The BBC correspondent Tim Franks, a witness, said a bank security guard had said he had earlier shot but not killed the driver.

Injured passengers had crawled out of the toppled bus after the impact shattered the windows. Police said none of the passengers had died in the bus but a single bloodstained finger was protruding from the rubber lining below the bus's windows on the side that had hit the ground. Further up Jaffa Street, the wreckage of a white Citroë\*van all but bisected by the bulldozer marked the spot where police said a man was killed. Beside it lay a grey saloon on its side, its windscreen shattered, from which the driver had escaped.

Police said that the attacker had wrecked three cars before he got to Jaffa Street, after leaving the construction site where he had apparently worked. He drove up an approach road to the main Sarei Yisrael road, a busy dual carriageway that is close to the central bus station. He turned left into the incoming traffic and then turned left again to begin his progress down Jaffa Street.

At the attacker's home in the hilltop Sur Bahir district of Arab East Jerusalem, police left in jeeps after questioning relatives. Several dozen neighbours gathered outside the family's house remained silent as a *female* relative of the dead assailant cried out from a first-floor balcony: "May God have mercy on him, he is a martyr, God will have mercy."

Relatives and neighbours said they were not aware of the man having any connection to an armed faction. The PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat condemned the attack. But a statement purporting to be from Islamic Jihad on an Islamic website, seen by some observers as a responsibility claim, said that the killings had been a "normal reaction to the crimes of the Zionist occupation

Hamas also said it was a "natural reaction to the daily aggression and crimes committed against our people".

### Portrait of a father who killed

Hussam Dwayat, above, was married to a Palestinian Muslim and had two sons,aged five and seven. The 30-year-old had served a two-year jail sentence for an unspecified offence. One neighbour said it stemmed from a dispute with his former wife, a Russian-Israeli. He had an East Jerusalem identity card, which is given to most residents of the Arab sector of the city and permits holders to travel through Israel, including West Jerusalem. This is off-limits to West Bank Palestinians. One neighbour, Rateb Shehadeh, 60, said: "No one knows what happened to him. No one knows why he did this. I know the Russian woman complained against him and he went to prison. I don't know exactly what the problem was between them."A relative said Dwayat had dealt drugs, but Mr Shehadeh said the killer had been "quiet" since his second marriage. Associated Press quoted a Palestinian support group saying that Dwayat was fined \$50,000 (£27,000) for building his house without a permit.

Load-Date: July 3, 2008



# Obituaries: Alexandra Boulat: Photojournalist who recorded the injustices wrought on ordinary people by war

The Guardian - Final Edition
October 13, 2007 Saturday

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Section: GUARDIAN OBITUARIES PAGES; Pg. 43

**Length:** 945 words **Byline:** Jan McGirk

### **Body**

The photojournalist Alexandra Boulat, who has died in Paris aged 45 from complications of a brain aneurysm, stood out from the overwhelmingly alpha-male fraternity of shooters who stalk digital images of modern war. On the frontlines, this elegant French woman was bemused by the posturing of officials and unfazed by bloated egos.

She was quick and lithe, darting straight into an arms smuggler's tunnel in Gaza, or trailing Taliban morality enforcers in the tribal badlands of Pakistan, and seemed to live on little more than nicotine and adrenaline while documenting conflicts and their refugees. Immediately before the Iraq invasion in 2003, she highlighted Baghdad's affluent set and wandered the city at will. Her photographs were instantly recognisable and for the last 18 years they ran prominently in Paris Match, Time magazine, National Geographic and the Guardian, among other publications.

As a girl in Paris, Alexandra ably assisted her father, the renowned Life magazine photographer Pierre Boulat, who was acutely aware of the pressures his career could put on domestic life and tried to dissuade her from taking up the family profession. Her mother, Annie, still runs Cosmos, a prominent French photo agency. Although Alexandra studied graphic arts and art history at the Beaux Arts Institute in the French capital, inevitably she rebelled. With war threatening to break out in Europe, she could no longer resist the lure of photojournalism, so she dumped her canvases in the rubbish, packed a camera bag for the Balkans and never looked back. She joined Sipa press, a French agency, in 1989. Assignments in Croatia, Kosovo and Bosnia during the 1990s proved to be a boot camp to prepare her for the stark brutalities of Rwanda, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel-Palestine and Lebanon. To honour her father, who had photographed the debut show of the designer Yves St Laurent, she returned to document his last haute couture fashion show in 2003 and won a World Press Photo prize.

While on assignment for the Guardian in Gaza last year, Alexandra told me she did not take pictures for fame or glory, although she had won a slew of international prizes for her work and had published two volumes of photo essays, Eclats de Guerre (2002), a retrospective of her Yugoslav work, and Paris, Portrait of a City (2002). She saw herself as a witness to human folly and courage; she focused more on civilians caught up in calamities than on the gunmen who menaced them. What concerned her was not blood, but the fallout from bloody-mindedness.

Just two days before the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre in 2001, Alexandra joined half a dozen top photographers to launch the cooperative photo agency VII, whose mission is to "produce an unflinching record of the injustices created and experienced by people". Her Paris flat was its first headquarters. A Time colleague who worked beside her in Afghanistan that year dubbed her "a Ninja with a Nikon" because she drove herself

Obituaries: Alexandra Boulat: Photojournalist who recorded the injustices wrought on ordinary people by war

relentlessly, and had a knack of merging into the background whether she was rolling in the dust or scrambling up the rafters. She dressed in black or khaki, which enabled her to be stealthy in a room full of activity, and she seemed to literally vanish into her work. She did not flinch from death and embraced the complexities of life with a sense of the absurd.

Since she faced family objections at the start of her career, Alexandra liked to mentor student photographers through occasional lectures at London's Frontline club and university workshops. Her poignant images would leave entire audiences rapt. She also branched out from still photography. Her 2006 videotapes of young rappers in the Palestinian territories and a Hassidic hip-hop artist in an Israeli settlement, newly arrived from Miami, drew acclaim. For podcasts, she would mischievously slip a tape recorder into her pocket and record the disembodied Hebrew voices and robotic process of entering and leaving Israeli checkpoints.

Recently, Alexandra became obsessed with the daily life under siege in the Gaza Strip, and even turned down lucrative assignments in the tropics to concentrate on documenting pride amid squalor. One of her favourite images shows a lemon beside a toothbrush on a grimy bathroom shelf. Even when toothpaste is under embargo, Gazan <u>women</u> still brighten their teeth to smile through adversity. Alexandra now had reason to smile too: last year she had fallen in love with the Palestinian documentary film-maker Issa Freij, and joined him in Ramallah. He would collect her at the Erez border crossing when she had finished shooting, and drive her home to domestic bliss.

This summer, as factional fighting between Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> militants came to a boil inside the Gaza Strip, Alexandra was uncharacteristically absent. After suffering a stroke in Ramallah in late June, she was taken to the trauma unit at Hadassah hospital in Israeli Jerusalem. As usual, Alexandra found herself at the vortex of political drama. Beside the concrete separation barrier, her Palestinian ambulance was halted while medics hustled her stretcher into a waiting Israeli vehicle, which sped away, blue lights blazing.

Had Alexandra regained consciousness, she would have been keen to photograph the visitors inside this busy medical facility. Bedouin accident victims mingled with injured Palestinian workers and Israeli soldiers, and all were treated with brusque Israeli efficiency. As soon as she was stable, she was flown to Paris, but did not recover consciousness. She is survived by her sister, Antoinette, her mother, Annie, and Issa Freij.

Alexandra Boulat, photojournalist, born May 2 1962; died October 5 2007

Load-Date: October 13, 2007



## A new 'road map' for Islam in Turkey; Reform-minded scholars to conduct modern reinterpretation of the words of the Prophet

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

May 3, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A17

Length: 964 words

Byline: Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers

Dateline: ANKARA, Turkey

## **Body**

ANKARA, Turkey - In a sterile, boxy stone building in the shadow of Ankara's central mosque, a group of Turkish scholars is spearheading a reinterpretation of the literary foundations of Islam that some have compared to Christianity's Protestant Reformation.

With the backing of Turkey's reform-minded government, the team of 80 Islamic academicians from around the world is preparing to release a revised collection of the Prophet Muhammad's words and deeds, which guide Muslims on everything from brushing their teeth to reaching heaven.

As with most religions, the accuracy of the words that have been handed down through centuries has long been in dispute.

Did Muhammad really say that <u>women</u> are bad luck? Did the prophet tell his followers that the word of a woman is worth half that of a man? Did he call for adulterers to be stoned to death?

By year's end, the academics hope to answer those questions by preparing a new intellectual road map for Islam.

"It's a state-sponsored project that is bringing together a large number of scholars to undertake quite an extensive reinterpretation of the sources in a systematic way that has not been achieved before in modern times," said Fadi Hakura, an associate fellow in the European Program at Chatham House, an independent London-based policy institute.

He calls the project "somewhat akin to the Christian Reformation."

The revised collection of Muhammad's guidance will be the latest initiative in a contentious debate about the role of Islam in an era when the most prominent Muslim figures, at least in the West, are extremists such as Osama bin Laden.

The rise of al-Qaida and prominence of hard-line Islamist groups such as <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and the Taliban, some Islamic reformers argue, has created a warped view of Islam in the West.

A new 'road map' for Islam in Turkey; Reform-minded scholars to conduct modern reinterpretation of the words of the Prophet

"This may help to take the words of the prophet from the hands of people who are using them to legitimize their bad deeds," said Mehmet Gormez, the vice president of Turkey's Religious Affairs Ministry, which is overseeing the project.

In the past, maverick Muslim scholars in the Middle East who've tried to propose modern reinterpretations of Islam have been ostracized and, in some cases, forced to seek sanctuary in Western countries.

Turkey is charting a new course by supporting the project, which is focused on the Hadith -- a massive collection of Muhammad's words and deeds that is the foundation of Islamic law.

The lessons were transmitted orally for hundreds of years, throwing their veracity into question, and when Muslim scholars first began to write them down, they sought to bolster their authenticity by explaining the words' lineage.

The Turkish researchers have meticulously collected more than 160,000 sayings from the Hadith and entered them into a specially designed computer program for analysis. They've grouped the sayings by subject and passed them out to scholars for reinterpretation.

Gormez compared the Hadith to a pharmacy and said that people need the advice of a skilled doctor before going in to get their medicine. "One may get poisoned if he goes to the pharmacy without the recommendation of a good doctor," he said.

In essence, the scholars are sorting out which prescriptions to keep on the pharmacy shelves and which ones to remove.

The new analysis of these Islamic pillars is something akin to the debate in Christian circles between those who believe that the Bible is the literal word of God and those who see it as a holy moral guide.

Though Biblical commandments allow fathers to sell their daughters into slavery and state that those who work on the Sabbath should be killed, those dictates have few adherents in the modern world, while others, such as the Ten Commandments and the injunction to love your neighbour, endure.

The Turkish scholars could have a similar impact on conservative Islamic views of <u>women</u>, adultery, honour killings and more.

Some of the revisions will focus on simple issues such as hygiene.

Just because Muhammad urged his followers to brush their teeth with a certain kind of twig, for example, doesn't mean that a modern Muslim must use a twig instead of a toothbrush; it simply means that the prophet wanted his followers to take care of their teeth.

One of the places the project is expected to have the biggest impact is on the Islamic view of women.

Ismail Hakki Unal, a professor at Ankara University's Divinity School who's leading the project, said the final product is unlikely to include sayings attributed to Muhammad that suggest that <u>women</u> are bad luck, that they're stupid or that their word is worth half that of a man.

"Those definitely cannot be the words of the prophet," Unal said.

The project, which has been unfolding slowly for two years, is beginning to create a backlash across the Muslim world.

Gormez pored over a thick blue binder filled with stories from the Arabic press that criticized Turkey for its initiative, especially because of the politically charged comparisons to the Protestant Reformation that outsiders have made.

"If they continue assessing things like this without being serious, then I don't think any academic study will affect the Muslim world," Gormez said.

Page 3 of 3

A new 'road map' for Islam in Turkey; Reform-minded scholars to conduct modern reinterpretation of the words of the Prophet

"But there is a good tradition in Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, and I think this will be a good connection to the scholars there."

The goal is to produce a five-volume set that will be used in mosques across Turkey and sold in religious bookstores there. The work will first be released in Turkish, Arabic and Russian.

Turkey's evaluation of the prophet's word could have an impact beyond the Muslim world as well.

"The Turkish experiment may inspire future debate, and that in itself would be a significant achievement for the West to dramatically show clearly that religion and modernity are not contradictory, but compatible," Hakura said.

## **Graphic**

Photo: Christinne Muschi, Reuters; (See hard copy for photo description.);

Photo: Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Tribune News Service; Mehmet Gormez, vice president of Turkey's Religious Affairs Ministry;

Load-Date: May 4, 2008



## Turkish scholars prepare to reinterpret Islam

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 27, 2008, Sunday

Copyright 2008 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P6C

Length: 966 words

Byline: Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers

## **Body**

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Load-Date: April 28, 2008



## The last journey of Pippa Bacca

The Jerusalem Post April 25, 2008 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 4

Length: 906 words

**Byline:** CALEV BEN-DAVID **Highlight:** Snap Judgment

## **Body**

The killing earlier of this month of Giuseppina Pasqualino di Marineo, "Pippa Bacca," has received little media comment outside the country of her birth, Italy, and that of her death, Turkey.

It should, though; Bacca was apparently a very special kind of "performance artist," who saw her life, or at least the way she chose to live it, as her "brush," and the whole world as her canvas. Tragically, the end of that life turned out not in the way she intended - nor left behind exactly the message that she had hoped it would convey.

Bacca, 33, set off from Milan last March together with fellow artist Silvia Moro on what they dubbed a "Brides on Tour" journey, with both wearing white wedding dresses and taking separate routes from Italy through southern Europe and the Middle East, with the intention of meeting up together at the end here in Jerusalem sometime this month.

The central point was to promote peace and faith in one's fellow man, in part by doing the entire trip via hitchhiking. Although to many the idea of a single woman thumbing rides through some of the most conflict-ridden regions of the globe sounds more than a little na-ve and dangerous, this apparently was the very point. The Web site they created for the "Brides on Tour" project declares: "Hitchhiking is choosing to have faith in other human beings, and man, like a small god, rewards those who have faith in him."

Alas, on the way Bacca met a man who had a very different outlook, and in early April her corpse was discovered near the Turkish town of Gebze, southeast of Istanbul. Traced through his use of her cellphone, a local man was later arrested and confessed to her rape and murder shortly after he picked her up.

"We cannot blame all Turks for this incident," Bacca's mother told the Turkish press. "No one could have predicted my daughter would encounter such a maniac."

Of course not - though a Western woman hitchhiking alone through the Turkish hinterlands surely must be aware of a very real element of risk.

Bacca's murder generated widespread revulsion in Turkey, sparking demonstrations by local <u>women</u> wearing placards declaring, "We are Pippa," and demanding the government take greater steps to ensure that unaccompanied *women* in the streets are free from harassment.

### The last journey of Pippa Bacca

Bacca's artistic collaborator Moro, who cut short her own trip after her friend's murder, told The New York Times she "still hoped to take to the road to finish the performance. Otherwise it would be a failure, and I don't want the message to fail."

"I am not disowning the project," she added firmly. "This tragedy only highlights how difficult peaceful relations are and how much work there is still to do."

INDEED. I sincerely hope Moro does carry on (with greater precaution) her and Bacca's project, even the performance they were planning to stage in Tel Aviv at its end, when they were planning to ceremonially wash their wedding dresses.

Their journey, said Moro, was intended to show that "by overcoming differences and lowering the level of conflict individuals and cultures could come together... Meeting people was the key."

But if their project is to retain its artistic integrity, it should honestly take into account Bacca's tragic fate, and incorporate it into the work and the meaning it seeks to convey. And surely that message is that sometimes faith in fellow man and a desire for peace is not enough in this world; often it is wise, if not essential, to combine those elements with strong doses of hardheaded - and hearted - caution and concern, pragmatism and patience. If not, the end result may turn out to be not only failure, but violent failure that ends up defeating the very message of trust and peace the original effort was meant to convey.

Strangely enough, I thought of Pippa Bacca this week while attending a press conference in Jerusalem featuring former US president Jimmy Carter discussing his own recent travels and encounters in the region, with the likes of Syrian President Bashar Assad and *Hamas* chief Khaled Mashaal.

This was performance art of its own kind - "ex- president on tour" - that was also all about promoting peace in the region. Again, meeting people was key, as was giving them the benefit of the doubt and taking them at their word, even when in contradiction to good sense. Fortunately for Carter, the conditions under which he traveled virtually guaranteed a safe final arrival in Jerusalem to close his trip.

If I am inclined under these circumstances to be far more generous to Bacca's wanderings, it is in the certainty that at least in her case there is no doubt her motives were entirely good-hearted, and that the only possible harmful outcome of her trip was to herself, which regrettably did come to pass.

Pippa Bacca was a dreamer - and yes, perhaps so is Jimmy Carter. Peace, of course, is always worth dreaming about. But the longer I live in this country, and this region, the more convinced I become that peace is not made by the dreamers, but the realists, especially weary and wary old warriors such as Menachem Begin, Anwar Sadat, Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein, Ariel Sharon and Ehud Barak.

Peace is not made by simply choosing to have faith in other people - which one should - but by taking reasonable precautions that if that faith is not rewarded, the end results will not be cruelly catastrophic. Though I appreciate her idealism, this to me is the real meaning of Pippa Bacca's final journey.

Calev@ipost.com

## **Graphic**

2 photos: Funeral of 33-year-old Italian performance artist Giuseppina Pasqualino di Marineo in Milan. She had been hitchhiking from Milan to Jerusalem. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



The New Review
March 30, 2008
First Edition

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Section: ARTS; Pg. 50

Length: 963 words

Byline: reviewed by laurence phelan

### **Body**

**HHHHI** 

Friction

By Joe StretchVintage£7.99

Friction is about six characters in contemporary-ish Manchester who've all been deadened after too much stimulation and by consumerism's false promises. (Even its narrator, who is in a cell somewhere in a totalitarian future, can't always be bothered to explain things. Peripheral characters are designated Boy 1 or Girl 2; he tells us that "they blah-blah for a bit", and to do the job of imagining it for ourselves.) Still, animal urges remain, so these characters embark on an adventure into libertinism and depravity.

Justin, who formalises the plan, thinks of it as an experiment. He wants to save us all by discovering "brand new ways of having sex". He's young - early 20s - so doesn't realise that it's all been tried before: by Sade, obviously, but also in strikingly similar ways, by the characters in JG Ballard's 1960s and 1970s books such as Crash and The Atrocity Exhibition. Justin and his accomplices go to an event called "Fuck Power", a masked orgy wherein the masks are of famous world leaders. Carly discovers a new electro-mechanical sex toy and sets about pleasuring herself to death. The experiment that goes the most wrong - recreational abortion - is, though, so far as I'm aware, entirely of their own devising.

Joe Stretch's prose is a rhythmic jumble of aphorisms and when he writes about the flesh words join together in surprising, pleasing new ways. "Breasts look like halogen lights under water" and "Johnny's brain is a sex milkshake." First time novelists frequently set out to shock - and these days invariably fail - but Stretch isn't one of them. As depraved as it gets, Friction is a caustic comedy, and doesn't mark the arrival of a new provocateur but of a promising satirist.

HHHII

On the Wealth of Nations

By PJ O'RourkeAtlantic £8.99

Adam Smith's hefty 1776 Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations can be boiled down, as it is in this lively, deceptively intelligent entry in Atlantic's "Books that Shook the World" series, to just three principles: economic growth arises from the pursuit of self-interest, the division of labour and freedom of trade.

It makes PJ O'Rourke's job easy. He's able to expound on the finer detail of Smith's insights; explain why his ideals must still be aspired to by those who'd attempt to control markets; give a good sense of the quality and flavour of Smith's writing; and still have plenty of space to make quips of his own. Too many quips are bafflingly US-centric and as it's not a critique, there's little thought spared for the ever-increasing number who slip through the fingers of Smith's famous "invisible hand". But as divisions of labour go, having O'Rourke read Smith so that you don't have to is still worthwhile and productive.

**HHHHI** 

Missing Kissinger

By Etgar Kerettrs Miriam Shlesinger and Sondra SilverstonChatto £11.99

Etgar Keret is a Jewish Israeli writer of stories that are full of strangeness; expertly crafted, lapidary and yet ambiguous vignettes, usually just three or four pages long, that have an internal coherence but an alien logic. This collection is older than his others - first published in Hebrew in 1994, though newly translated into English - and has more violence and more danger in it. It is a collection that keeps you on your toes, and unsure of what is coming next.

A magician reaches into his hat during a children's party and shocks even himself when he pulls out a dead baby. A man pushes his guardian angel off a roof, expecting him to fly and surprised when, instead, he crashes to the ground. One story is narrated by a vivisectionist's monkey. And in "Cocked and Locked", which is the most straightforward story, and possibly the key to all of the others, there is a sickening confrontation between an Israeli soldier and a member of *Hamas*.

**HHHHH** 

God Is Not Great

By Christopher HitchensAtlantic £8.99

What a strangely mild and irrelevant title Christopher Hitchens chose for his potent and incisive polemic. And his quarrel is not with God, who doesn't exist, but with organised religion, which is "violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism and tribalism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free enquiry, contemptuous of <u>women</u> and coercive towards children" and has "outgrown its usefulness".

Hitchens can't say why we've clung so stubbornly to religion's "transparent fables", which were assembled "by crude, uncultured, human mammals [during] the bawling and fearful infancy of our species"; nor how to bring on the new age of enlightenment he dreams of; nor whether human tribalism can really be expected to vanish, even if religion were to. This is merely an exceedingly cultured, erudite, thorough, impeccably constructed case for the prosecution of organised religion, to which it's impossible to imagine a defence.

**HHHHI** 

The Dream Lover

By William BoydBloomsbury £7.99

In the introduction to this collection of previously published short stories from the first half of his career, William Boyd describes how, having heeded for a while the usual advice to aspiring writers, success arrived only when he took to writing about worlds and idioms with which he was unfamiliar. Accordingly, these stories are set in locales around the globe. And there's one about a London taxi dispatcher who invents a fantasy life for himself in Brazil. If there can be said to be a common thread, it's nothing more than the infinite vagaries of the human heart and the complexities of the mind.

"Bizarre Situations" involves crimes and passions the unreliable narrator can only dimly comprehend. Compare this with "Hardly Ever", a story about the overwhelming but entirely straight-forward lusts of grammar-school boys. All that links them is their erudition, refined prose-style and precisely honed form.

Load-Date: March 30, 2008



The New Review
March 30, 2008
First Edition

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Section: ARTS; Pg. 50

Length: 963 words

Byline: reviewed by laurence phelan

### **Body**

**HHHHI** 

Friction

By Joe StretchVintage£7.99

Friction is about six characters in contemporary-ish Manchester who've all been deadened after too much stimulation and by consumerism's false promises. (Even its narrator, who is in a cell somewhere in a totalitarian future, can't always be bothered to explain things. Peripheral characters are designated Boy 1 or Girl 2; he tells us that "they blah-blah for a bit", and to do the job of imagining it for ourselves.) Still, animal urges remain, so these characters embark on an adventure into libertinism and depravity.

Justin, who formalises the plan, thinks of it as an experiment. He wants to save us all by discovering "brand new ways of having sex". He's young - early 20s - so doesn't realise that it's all been tried before: by Sade, obviously, but also in strikingly similar ways, by the characters in JG Ballard's 1960s and 1970s books such as Crash and The Atrocity Exhibition. Justin and his accomplices go to an event called "Fuck Power", a masked orgy wherein the masks are of famous world leaders. Carly discovers a new electro-mechanical sex toy and sets about pleasuring herself to death. The experiment that goes the most wrong - recreational abortion - is, though, so far as I'm aware, entirely of their own devising.

Joe Stretch's prose is a rhythmic jumble of aphorisms and when he writes about the flesh words join together in surprising, pleasing new ways. "Breasts look like halogen lights under water" and "Johnny's brain is a sex milkshake." First time novelists frequently set out to shock - and these days invariably fail - but Stretch isn't one of them. As depraved as it gets, Friction is a caustic comedy, and doesn't mark the arrival of a new provocateur but of a promising satirist.

HHHII

#### The atrocity experiment

On the Wealth of Nations

By PJ O'RourkeAtlantic £8.99

Adam Smith's hefty 1776 Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations can be boiled down, as it is in this lively, deceptively intelligent entry in Atlantic's "Books that Shook the World" series, to just three principles: economic growth arises from the pursuit of self-interest, the division of labour and freedom of trade.

It makes PJ O'Rourke's job easy. He's able to expound on the finer detail of Smith's insights; explain why his ideals must still be aspired to by those who'd attempt to control markets; give a good sense of the quality and flavour of Smith's writing; and still have plenty of space to make quips of his own. Too many quips are bafflingly US-centric and as it's not a critique, there's little thought spared for the ever-increasing number who slip through the fingers of Smith's famous "invisible hand". But as divisions of labour go, having O'Rourke read Smith so that you don't have to is still worthwhile and productive.

**HHHHI** 

Missing Kissinger

By Etgar Kerettrs Miriam Shlesinger and Sondra SilverstonChatto £11.99

Etgar Keret is a Jewish Israeli writer of stories that are full of strangeness; expertly crafted, lapidary and yet ambiguous vignettes, usually just three or four pages long, that have an internal coherence but an alien logic. This collection is older than his others - first published in Hebrew in 1994, though newly translated into English - and has more violence and more danger in it. It is a collection that keeps you on your toes, and unsure of what is coming next.

A magician reaches into his hat during a children's party and shocks even himself when he pulls out a dead baby. A man pushes his guardian angel off a roof, expecting him to fly and surprised when, instead, he crashes to the ground. One story is narrated by a vivisectionist's monkey. And in "Cocked and Locked", which is the most straightforward story, and possibly the key to all of the others, there is a sickening confrontation between an Israeli soldier and a member of *Hamas*.

**HHHHH** 

God Is Not Great

By Christopher HitchensAtlantic £8.99

What a strangely mild and irrelevant title Christopher Hitchens chose for his potent and incisive polemic. And his quarrel is not with God, who doesn't exist, but with organised religion, which is "violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism and tribalism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free enquiry, contemptuous of <u>women</u> and coercive towards children" and has "outgrown its usefulness".

Hitchens can't say why we've clung so stubbornly to religion's "transparent fables", which were assembled "by crude, uncultured, human mammals [during] the bawling and fearful infancy of our species"; nor how to bring on the new age of enlightenment he dreams of; nor whether human tribalism can really be expected to vanish, even if religion were to. This is merely an exceedingly cultured, erudite, thorough, impeccably constructed case for the prosecution of organised religion, to which it's impossible to imagine a defence.

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Load-Date: March 30, 2008



This suffering must end; the Wednesday essay Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans has just returned from a visit to Palestine and Israel as part of a fact finding mission with other Members of the European Parliament. This is her diary

The Western Mail
February 27, 2008, Wednesday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

**Length:** 903 words **Byline:** Jill Evans

## **Body**

SUNDAY: Although I had travelled overnight, arriving at the hotel in Jerusalem at about 6.30am, I did not want to miss the meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyed that morning in Ramallah.

In this, the first of many meetings, it was obvious how pessimistic the Palestinian people are about the Annapolis Conference last November resulting in a peace agreement soon. Salam Fayyed is a very impressive politician who saw a very clear way forward for dialogue and a political solution. But if an agreement was to be reached by the end of 2008, Israel had to start taking some concrete measures, like removing roadblocks and settlements and releasing political prisoners.

We heard more about the prisoners in the next meeting. The scale of this problem and the fact that Israel regards prisoners as hostages, merits a government minister with responsibility for detainees, Ashraf-Al-Ajrami. At some time or other 700,000 Palestinians have been arrested. There are now some 11,000 prisoners held in Israeli jails, including 48 Palestinian MPs. The majority had appeared in military courts. The situation affects everyone, from babies to elderly people. There are many <u>women</u> and over 300 children detained. The release of prisoners had to be part of the peace process.

We finished Sunday in Tel Aviv where we met the head of the European Commission Office. I was shocked to learn that Israel received EUR3bn a year from the United States, most of which was spent on defence.

The last meetings of the day were with Israeli peace and human rights organisations. The message from them was the same. Urgent action was needed by the international community to get the peace process moving. So we hear the same plea from both sides.

MONDAY: We visited the ancient city of Hebron, once famous for its blue glass but now better known for being the first city forced to accept Israeli settlers. As a result of the settlers and the thousands of Israeli soldiers deployed to guard them, the city has literally been split in two with many of the roads closed off completely to Palestinians. Roads closing meant shops closing and they have in their hundreds. There are 186 roadblocks in Hebron alone - we had to pass through army checkpoints just walking around the old city. Local people often have to travel miles out of their way to get around the city.

This suffering must end the Wednesday essay Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans has just returned from a visit to Palestine and Israel as part of a fact finding mission ....

The mayor of Hebron, Osaily Khaled, was both realistic and visionary. He outlined how the city administration was struggling to provide education. In primary schools they ran a two-shift system to include as many children as possible, but they would need one extra classroom a day to cope with demand. Huge emphasis was put on educating and providing facilities for young people - 60% of residents of Hebron were under eighteen. They tried to run sports projects and subsidise school building programmes and had opened a very successful summer camp. "Peace means more than talking," he said

From Hebron we drove to Bethlehem: a city with massive significance the world over which for me symbolises the tragedy of the occupation. There is now a huge wall around Bethlehem, preventing families from meeting, dividing Palestinian communities from one another and, of course, destroying the economy.

TUESDAY: Strictly speaking, I the ten of us MEPs who I crossed into Gaza last Tues-I day were breaking the siege which has been in place since last June. All border crossings to Gaza have been closed to all but essential humanitarian supplies, and the interpretation of that is very questionable. People are not allowed in and out and even the UN has had difficulties getting their supplies through. The blockade includes money, so many banks in Gaza have run out of cash and people can't get paid.

<u>Hamas</u>, the party elected to government in 2006, control Gaza completely. But it is the civilians who suffer from the siege. Seeing the tiny premature babies in their incubators in Shifa Hospital brought that message home. Israel has been cutting electricity supplies to Gaza. If the generator this hospital was now dependent on was to break down, the 30 babies would die within half an hour.

The hospital was short of all kinds of drugs and equipment. Many of the 1.3 million people living in Gaza were completely dependent on food aid. Over 3,000 businesses had closed because they couldn't import more stocks or export them for sale. Essential building projects, like the sewage treatment plant in Beitlaya, were on hold because materials were not allowed in. It is an inhuman and illegal collective punishment of civilians. It has to be stopped.

We went from Gaza to the nearby Israeli village of Sderot which has been hit almost daily by rockets from just over the Gazan border. Residents described the fear and disruption to their lives caused by these attacks. The Qas-sam rocket attacks are not on the same scale as the state violence used by Israel, but all violence deepens the conflict. In the press conference we held for Arab television channels and in every meeting, we expressed our solidarity with the Palestinians and called for an end to the siege and occupation, as well as an end to the attacks on Israeli civilians and the restarting of the peace process.

I hope that people in Wales reading this will add their voices to the increasing demand for the world to stop the suffering.

I am writing a report on my visit - for a copy e-mail me at Jill. Evans@europarl.europa.eu

## **Graphic**

TRAGEDY OF OCCUPATION Holy pictures for sale in Nativity Square in the walled-off city of Bethlehem

Load-Date: February 27, 2008



The Jerusalem Post September 5, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

**Length:** 4229 words **Byline:** Carl Hoffman

Highlight: New Profile believes Israel is an overly militarized society, and will help anyone, no matter what their

reason, to avoid getting drafted. Box at end of text.

## **Body**

You are either going to love this group or hate it, depending on where you stand in Israel's contemporary political spectrum. There is virtually no middle ground. Looking through the lenses of our politically hyper- polarized society, you will either admire this organization as a beacon of light pointing the way toward a better Israel, or abhor it as a dangerous threat to the country's very existence.

The organization is called New Profile - A Movement for the Civil-ization of Israeli Society. Founded as a feminist organization 10 years ago to combat what it sees as the "over-militarization" of Israel, New Profile's primary objectives are to put an end to compulsory military service, provide aid and support to imprisoned refuseniks and conscientious objectors, offer counseling on "all forms of draft resistance and conscientious objection" to high-school graduates prior to their enlistment, advocate resistance to Israel's "occupation" of the West Bank, and conduct educational programs aimed toward raising public awareness of what the group believes is the over-emphasis of military themes in Israeli society and culture. One such program is a portable, traveling exhibit of photographs entitled, "Neither Shall They Study War Anymore."

The group's charter states: "We, a group of feminist <u>women</u> and men, are convinced that we need not live in a soldiers' state. Today, Israel is capable of a determined peace politics. It need not be a militarized society. We are convinced that we ourselves, our children, our partners, need not go on being endlessly mobilized, need not go on living as warriorsÉ We will not go on being mobilized, raising children for mobilization, supporting mobilized partners, brothers, fathers, while those in charge of the country go on deploying the army easily, rather than building other solutions... We oppose the use of military means to enforce Israeli sovereignty beyond the Green Line. We oppose the use of the army, police, security forces in the ongoing oppression and discrimination of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, while demolishing their homes, denying them building and development rights, using violence to disperse their demonstrations."

Unlike most other Israeli non-profit organizations, New Profile receives little of its income from private donations. New Profile's funding comes principally from international Christian organizations like the Quakers (United Kingdom) and Bread for the World (United States). New Profile has worked in tandem with groups like <u>Women</u> in Black, and in conjunction with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions to rebuild houses of West Bank Palestinians demolished by the IDF.

But it is programs like "Think Before Enlisting" and other draft resistance campaigns that have placed the group at the opposite end of the spectrum from such organizations as Shivyon - The Israeli Forum for the Promotion of an

Equal Share of the [military] Burden, with whom New Profile is often at bitter odds. The latest flashpoint has been the recent imprisonment of Udi Nir, 18, of Herzliya, who was ordered jailed on August 21 for refusing to serve in the IDF. Nir is one of a group of high-school seniors who recently signed a collective declaration of refusal to serve. The group, who call themselves "Shministim Letter 2008 - Refusing the Occupation," have a page on Facebook.com and are featured as heroes of conscience on New Profile's website. Nir and his group, however, provoked the following angry comments from Shivyon spokesperson Zohara Berger-Tzur, published in The Jerusalem Post on August 22: "The situation is absurd. Suddenly everyone has a reason not to serve - the haredim have their reasons why they can't serve, and the pacifists have their reasons why they can't serve. It's demagoguery, that's what it isÉThere are still some who serve with pride, but there are others who simply worry about themselves. If we keep it up, we won't have anything left to defend."

Claiming some 2,000 supporters and run by "40-60" active volunteers, New Profile operates with a "feminist, non-hierarchical" system of organization. Accordingly, the group prides itself in having no leaders, no one occupying any official positions, no fixed division of labor, or even an office. New Profile members run the group from their own homes.

The organization also lacks an official spokesperson, but Dr. Diana Dolev, a founder and prominent figure within the group, agreed to talk with Metro about New Profile's general ideology and activities. Dolev, a fifth-generation Israeli - "Fifth or more, I'm not sure," she says - holds a Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture and teaches at the Holon Institute of Technology. She is involved primarily with New Profile's outreach educational programs.

If I understand you correctly, New Profile's basic position is that Israel is an "over-militarized society." I have lived in some highly militarized countries, like Indonesia under General Suharto, when the army ran the country and anyone of any importance was an actively- serving army general. Few people look at Israel and see anything like that here.

If people don't see it, it's because they don't want to see it. There's this trick here of melting down the border between what is civil and what is military. So you don't see soldiers marching in good form. We don't have all that. We ridicule this kind of militarism. Our soldiers aren't tidy soldiers. They're very schlumperich [unkempt], which creates this image of a soldier that is half civilian. One of the hevre. Not a "soldierly" soldier. But I think this is a sort of cover. I think that actually, in a more concealed way, this image contributes to militaristic ideas filtering into civil society without our noticing it.

#### Such as?

Such as lots of advertising, based on [images] of a soldier and his mother, or a soldier and his girlfriend. We show examples of this in our exhibitions. Or, for instance, show business people posing on the covers of magazines, saluting. They're civilians - why should they be saluting? What's the idea there? And you can see today with all the political crises [about] how Tzipi Livni is being attacked as being unsuitable to be prime minister because she hasn't got experience leading the nation into war. People don't even question this idea. If you're not a general or an exgeneral, you're not suitable to become prime minister.

But isn't the military's cultural importance due to the obvious fact that we're in a bad neighborhood, with dangerous enemies, under threat?

That's a very common idea. But we quote a book by Motti Golani, a professor at the University of Haifa, called Wars Do Not Just Happen. Although he comes from a very militaristic family, he has analyzed all our wars and says it's not true that the wars were all caused by our neighbors. We [took] an active part. We don't have to automatically believe everything we are told by our leaders. We have to look into things a bit deeper, and we will find out that, for different reasons, our leaders wanted the war, or they were never able to think about conflicts other than war and the force of our army.

Are you saying, then, that some of our wars were unnecessary?

The last wars, of course. This is without any question. All of the wars against Lebanon should have been avoided. But we can go back even to other wars - wars that there's a positive consensus about, and Dr. Golani says that

they could have been avoided, as well. But from reading the newspapers, including yours I suppose, you can see that the discourse is always in militaristic terms. We think that if we change people's mind-sets, the discourse will change also. And then people will be searching for other solutions.

Do you really believe that whether we have war or peace is up to us?

People keep saying, "Well, it's not up to us. We have bad neighbors." But we have peace with Egypt, we have peace with Jordan. Lebanon never started a war against Israel, and Syria is [doing] its best not to attack Israel. So what are we talking about? Iran? [Laughs].

In your opinion, what is our best alternative?

The alternative is diplomacy, of course, but the problem is very complicated because the militarism here is so deeply rooted. It would take a new way of looking at our neighbors. If one of our leaders failed to speak of Arab leaders in a degrading way, he would not be considered the kind of strong leader that we want for Israel. People would think that he was weak. It's all about being strong. But in my opinion it's not about showing your muscle. Being strong is also being polite, compassionate, talking about another leader as your equal or someone you can learn from and have a dialogue with. Israeli leaders have not done that at all.

Never? Not at all?

Not at all.

Why do you think our leaders have not tried your approach?

I think it's a combination... of always seeing ourselves as the victim, thinking that the whole world is against us and that we are under constant threats to our existence. All that has been overused and has been one part of creating our militarization.

But what about the threats to our existence? What about Hizbullah, or *Hamas*?

Well, <u>Hamas</u> is a difficult question, because we've probably gone too far in undermining Palestinian society in the territories. Israel created <u>Hamas</u>. We created <u>Hamas</u> because of this idea that if we get the Palestinians to fight each other, we win. If they destroy each other, we win. This strategy has failed completely. It failed in Lebanon, and we've paid a high cost for this. Same with the Palestinians. I think Israel should simply leave them alone. We should leave them alone, pay them compensation for what we owe them for so many years of occupation, and let them go on with their lives.

We can leave the Palestinians alone, but will the Palestinians leave us alone?

It's worth trying. Up to now, the military force that we've been using against them hasn't brought us any peace and quiet, any end of danger. So maybe we should try. Maybe they will be so busy organizing their lives, maybe they'll be so overwhelmed [by] children going freely to school, being able to do business, to travel around freely without the humiliation and suffering of going through checkpoints - who knows?

So, in your opinion, how large an army does Israel actually need?

I don't often quote Ehud Barak, but I will now. He has said that Israel needs a small and smart army. When we call ourselves "New Profile for Israel" we are referring both to the centrality of the military induction "profile" that every kid gets when he goes into the army, and to changing Israel's civil profile. We think that this has to change so that the military profile will not be central at all, but will instead be marginalized in Israeli society, in our civil profile.

If military service is no longer compulsory for all young Israelis, is it not possible that only the poor and disadvantaged will actually serve, while children from better-off families will find ways of avoiding military service?

First of all, it's only a myth that everyone goes into the army. This is an idea that has been created to [make] people feel that this is something very "Israeli," and unless you go into the army you're not a true Israeli, and all that crap. The truth is that 56% of those eligible do not serve in the army. This includes the haredim and the Arabs. It includes people who started to serve, but whom the army decided it didn't want - perhaps because they didn't contribute anything, or were beyond the army's manpower needs. And also people the army has deemed "unfit." Also people in national service. Secondly, the army is one of the tools for creating a class system in Israel. In addition to the physical "profile" kids receive when they're going into the army, they receive another classification based on family status - income, education and so on. Kids from elite families - if they want to go into the army - go to elite units. They become things like pilots very easily. This is very prestigious, both in the army and afterwards... On the other hand, Ethiopians for instance, go to the checkpoints. The myth is that the army is all colors and backgrounds working together, but it's not true. Especially regarding <u>women</u>. The army is one of the major tools in Israel for marginalizing <u>women</u>, putting them in danger of being harassed and sexually abused. The men then take this attitude toward <u>women</u> into civil life. So the army is a very bad place for <u>women</u>, and <u>women</u> are 51% of Israeli society.

Women continue to compose the majority of New Profile's support base. Is that by design?

No, it just so happens. We are a feminist organization, but we have male members, and youth groups of boys and girls. Maybe the fact that we're feminist brings in more <u>women</u>, but from my long experience in peace activism in Israel, it's mostly <u>women</u> who are active in peace organizations.

What is New Profile's attitude toward Israel's non- military compulsory national service?

We don't have a unanimous opinion about this, or anything we could declare as New Profile's "position" on the subject. It's a complex issue for us. Some of our members did do civil service. Some did service with political organizations like Physicians for Human Rights, and that seemed right to them. On the whole, we think people ought to be educated to contribute to society for many years - not just one or two or three. Also, we feel that [in the case of] national service, the state interferes with people's lives. And in a state where people have so much difficulty finding jobs, it's not right for the state to fund "volunteer" work that isn't volunteer at all by young people just out of school taking the place of someone who really needs the job. And also, we feel that [national service also] becomes a tool to separate people into first- and second-class citizens, depending on whether they did their service or not. We resent that.

Are there any circumstances under which you think that war is justified or necessary?

Oh, yes. I'm not a pacifist. A lot of people in New Profile are not. I guess there are such circumstances. I recall meeting a delegate to an international conference of <u>Women</u> in Black. I think she came from the United States. We told her how we use a tank as a visual image of war to show how militarized we are. But she said, "You know, my image of a tank is one of rescue." She was a child in Germany during the Second World War, and they were hiding in a cellar. They hid until they realized they were surrounded by US army tanks. So for her, the tank was an image of rescue, of life. So yes, I'm sure there are - there must be - circumstances in which war is justified. But what we're trying to say is that our leaders do not explore all of the other possibilities before deciding to go to war.

What kind of Israel are you trying to create?

Paradise. A country with friendlier relations with its neighbors. A more just state for all its citizens. A genuinely pluralistic society. A country that knows you don't have to be strong all the time, where real "strength" is about defending people who have been weakened. We are a very violent societyÉ New Profile is about looking at society critically - not through nationalist lenses, but about ourselves as people in a highly militarized society - to find out how our mind-sets have been influenced. We want to open people's eyes.

ALTHOUGH A lot of New Profile's energy and resources are directed toward "educational programs" like training workshops and travelling exhibitions, the group's major focus is helping young people avoid service in the IDF. New Profile goes about this in two ways: by organizing youth groups where options and alternatives to army service are

presented and discussed, and by maintaining a network of counselors who assist individual boys and girls who have decided not to serve.

Lotahn Raz, 27, is a co-founder and co-coordinator of New Profile's youth groups program. Despite having inherited a flawless American drawl from his parents, Raz was born and has spent all his life here in Israel. He was himself a conscientious objector and was imprisoned for two months in 1999 for refusing to enter the army.

What happens in a New Profile youth group?

The goal is to create a space for young people to openly think, talk and discuss issues related to military service. It's about creating a space to ask questions and think thoughts that don't have space to be thought or discussed otherwise. Our principle is that in Israeli society there is no space for young people to talk about military service. It's considered to be a non-question. But in our perspective, it's a political issue, a political question. And the fact that military service is shoved down people's throats without having the space to ask questions is undemocratic and very problematic. Space needs to be made for people to ask questions and think. And that's the idea. It's not our perspective to say what people should do; it's just to create the space to talk about things.

Do these people come to you or do you go to them?

Mostly people come to us. We get a a lot of e-mail from young people from around the country, asking for a place to talk. When we open a youth group, we go around and look for young people who we know are interested in these questions. Like any other youth group would do, we look for places where people would be interested in what we have to offer. At this point, we have groups in Jerusalem, Beersheba, Haifa, Tel AvivÉ we're opening one in the Sharon, we had one last year in Rehovot and another in Pardess Hanna. And we're looking to open one in the Galilee.

Do you provide draft counseling at these youth group meetings?

No. That's done within our counseling network. Our youth groups are there to provide young people with space to think, ask questions, and make decisions. The purpose of the counseling networks is to follow individuals through the process of draft resistance. We give people information that does not exist elsewhere - what are the different possibilities, how does one go about refusing?

So what are the different possibilities?

The main one, the political one, is to go the conscientious objector route, to go before the government's conscientious objectors committee and end up being imprisoned like me, and then eventually receiving 'unfit for military service' status. And then there are the exemptions for medical reasons, mental health reasons, or other issues.

How far does New Profile actually go in counseling people about, say, medical exemptions? Would you advise a sane person to act 'crazy' or a healthy person to pretend to be sick?

We would never tell anybody to lie. That would be immoral and wrong. What we do is give information about how the system works - about how a psychiatric release from the army is decided upon, for example.

So are you saying that you inform people about how the army decides that someone is psychologically unfit for service and then tell them to take it from there?

Well, yeah. Our job is to give people information and help them through the process. People need to do the work and basically it's their decision. But remember, the ones who decide to release people from the military are the military itself. New Profile has no impact on that. It's the military's decision to decide who they want and who they don't want.

Less nuanced and far more direct are the responses of Sergei Sandler, self-described "activist" and very active member of New Profile's counseling network. Now 33, Sandler was brought to Israel by his family at age six from

the former Soviet Union. Also a conscientious objector, Sandler was imprisoned for brief periods in 1994-1995 for refusing to serve in the IDF.

Do you help everyone who wants to avoid army service, regardless of their reasons for not wanting to serve?

Basically, yes.

Does it bother you that perhaps not everyone you help is a genuine conscientious objector, and that people with less "noble" motives might simply be using you to avoid service?

You're defining "conscientious objector" in the narrow sense if you take the nature of Israeli society into account. You're not living in a society where someone can freely decide whether or not he or she wants to go into the army. You're living in a society where there is tremendous social pressure on young people to enlist. And if you get someone who actually gets to a point where they resist that pressure, to the point where they say they won't enlist, that's not just any odd decision that someone is making. We speak with people and we can tell that people who have been deliberating this know it's a very big decision. And while not all people say that their reasons are ideological, all know that they're going to disappoint their families and have all sorts of other problems. Some people don't cite any reasons in particular - they just show that they are rejecting the overall brainwashing. In any case, it's not a simple process. So in that sense, you can say that anyone deciding not to enlist is a conscientious objector, in every sense of the word.

In addition to conscientious objector status, there are also exemptions from service for medical and mental health problems. Do you simply make people aware of how these exemptions are granted or take it a step further and advise people to pretend?

We don't advise people to pretend. We really don't need to. Pyschiatric exemptions are the major gateway out of the military. If someone is serious and persistent about pursuing a psychiatric exemption - despite all of the stigma against people with mental conditions, and despite the stories the military itself is spreading around about those exemptions, which are meant to scare people off - if in spite of all this someone is really serious about getting this kind of exemption, the military reckons that this person really doesn't want to serve in the military, and the military doesn't want that person to serve. It's sort of an informal deal that the military has, actually. Attacking New Profile on this point is utter hypocrisy.

But your critics charge that you are getting people to model their behavior after the military's medical and psychiatric exemption criteria - in effect, to pretend.

I'll tell you something. It's true that we will counsel anyone who decides not to serve in the military. And that's because they have the right not to serve in the military. That's a basic right - the right to refuse to kill is a basic human right. And we don't really feel that we have to dig into people's motives. But apart from that, many people who appeal to us are soldiers already. That's a very important group of people who actually ask for our help. And many, many of those soldiers are in a serious state of trauma or depression. We counsel soldiers who, if the system had been working well, would have been exempted long ago. But the system doesn't work well. The military health care system and mental health care system are there to serve the interests of the military, not the interests of the person. When you're there as a patient, you're not treated as someone who needs help, but as someone who is there to get something. Part of our work - and in many cases it has been part of our work - is to speak to people who are obviously and evidently in a state of trauma and in a state of depression, and who obviously and evidently should have been out of the military by the military's own criteria. We try to explain to them how to make those things evident enough to the people around them - in the military at large, and to military healthcare professionals.

One final question. The State of Israel indisputably has real enemies -

Yes, and it's been working very hard to make them.

Don't we need a strong, standing military force to protect us?

Well, you're actually talking about something that goes beyond the common line in New Profile. New Profile is composed of different people thinking different things, united in a common belief that the military is bloated and that the country is over-militarized. But right now, you happen to be talking to a pacifist. And as a pacifist I would say quite clearly that nobody needs an army. And I don't see how the Israeli military offers me protection. I personally am not willing to differentiate the Israeli military from that of Syria or Iran. They're all on the same team - the team that kills people - playing over the heads of the civilians. And no one is offering us protection.

(BOX) IDF: Soldiers are role models

In a written response to Metro's inquiry about New Profile, The IDF refused to directly acknowledge the group or its activities:

"Even after 60 years of independence, Israeli society is forced to defend itself militarily and politically against terror organizations that have not accepted our existence in this region.

The present generation, like those before it, must bear its part of the security burden, in accordance with the Military Service Law.

IDF service is compulsory, but is also a great privilege. Every young man and woman can take part in protecting their family, their friends, and the country.

Everyone who serves in the IDF is a role model, and deserves to be honored and appreciated.

The Israeli society as a whole has made IDF service its goal - the government, the school system, and the young people themselves."

## **Graphic**

5 photos: 'IT'S TRUE that we will counsel anyone who decides not to serve in the military,' says New Profile activist Sergei Sandler. 'And that's because they have the right not to serve in the military. That's a basic right - the right to refuse to kill is a basic human right.' A NEW recruit bids farewell to her mother before getting on the bus that will take her to her first day in the army. Dr. Dolev: 'I don't often quote Ehud Barak, but I will now. He has said that Israel needs a small and smart army.' According to Lotahn Raz, 'The fact that military service is shoved down people's throats without having the space to ask questions is undemocratic and very problematic. Space needs to be made for people to ask questions and think.' (Credit: Illustrative photo; IDF spokesperson's office; Courtesy)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## The Wrap: 'It's like having a fire in a cinema'

Guardian.com

September 18, 2008

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Length: 980 words

## **Body**

#### 'IT'S LIKE HAVING A FIRE IN A CINEMA'

"The world is on the brink. The market is puking all over us. There's no capital left in the world," is how a senior banker describes the financial world as we know it in the Times.

News today of Lloyds TSB's emergency takeover of its old foe - and Britain's biggest lender - HBOS in a £12bn deal has failed to stop the downward stockmarket spiral. Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs - "once the storm troopers of global capitalism," according to one report - are now fighting to survive.

Hyun Song Shin, an economics professor at Princeton, says: "It's like having a fire in a cinema. Everybody is rushing to the door. You are rushing to the door because everyone is rushing to the door. Clearly, as a collective action, it is a disaster."

In the US, government bonds have been bought at a level not seen since Pearl Harbour in 1941 as investors tried to move their money into the safest investments possible.

"Some economists worry that a psychology of fear has gripped investors, not only in the United States but also in Europe and Asia," says the New York Times.

Analysts have estimated that under the HBOS bailout as many as 40,000 jobs could be lost from the banks' combined 145,000 staff.

The Times examines the mood of uncertainty among staff at the Halifax headquarters in West Yorkshire, where the bank employs more than 6,000 people.

"They're telling us we've got to treat it like a storm, that the boat is well built and it's still strong, so all we need to do is cling on tight to the mast and ride it out. Well, we're all clinging on for dear life and trying to get on with our jobs but it's been on hell of a storm and it's not over yet."

Lloyds' takeover of HBOS means the joint group will now hold one-third of the UK mortgage market - a situation not blocked by financial services watchdogs as the historic move was backed by the government.

\*Times: Fear stalks the banks\*New York Times: Stocks slump as Investors run to safety\*Guardian: Lloyds pulls HBOS out of the fire with £12bn merger

The Wrap: 'It's like having a fire in a cinema'

#### LIVNI ENTERS EYE OF ISRAEL'S POLITICAL STORM

Israel's foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, has won an incredible election victory to become the leader of the ruling Kadima party, which places her in a position to become the country's first <u>female</u> prime minister since Golda Meir resigned in 1974.

She now has six weeks to put together a coalition government. "New Golda Meir wins election to be Prime Minister in extra time," declares the Times.

An analysis in Haaretz focuses on how fast-moving Livni will have to be from now on to achieve her aims. "If she were leading a rock group, we would call it Tzipi and the Expectations," writes Amir Oren. "She is expected to form a nimble yet stable government... Her first priority will be to briskly de-Olmertize the party and purge the rot and corruption at the top of government.

"Livni has no time. She may find herself leading a state at war not in a year's time but in a month or even a week, because it is not only Israel that has the initiative. Its enemies - Iran, Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> - may be tempted to take advantage of her inexperience."

\*Guardian: Livni wins Kadima election landslide\*Haaretz: Livni's first priority will be to de-Olmertise Kadima

#### CLEGG WALKS THE WALK

Nick Clegg's performance at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth yesterday has been widely praised. (Although there was pretty much unanimous agreement in the political sketches this morning that he walked too much across stage.)

Out of his victorious speech came the following gems:

\*Labour is a zombie government: "They are the living dead: no heart, no mind, no soul. Stumbling around with no idea what to do. They are a zombie government."

\*David Cameron, in turn, was the "Andrex puppy" of British politics: "Cameron's only aim was to make the Conservatives inoffensive. Problem is, once you strip out the offensive parts of the Conservative government there isn't much left."

The only solution? To embrace the Lib Dems as the champions of social justice.

\*Times: Nick Clegg begins a long march from a toilet joke to the seat of power\*Guardian: 'Zombie' Labour is finished, says Clegg

#### THE INVISIBILITY OF DISABILITY

As the British paralympic team leaves Beijing to return home with an unprecedented medal haul (Team GB's 42 gold medals put it ahead of the US in the medal table) comes news that London's Olympic organisers plan to place the event on equal footing with the Olympics in terms of crowd sizes and branding come 2012. For the first time, the two events will also be run by the same committee.

Ade Adepitan, an ex-paralympian, told the Guardian how much public interest in the competition had changed over the years. "I remember events with one man and a dog watching but the other day the Birds Nest was full with 90,000 spectators... People have come and been amazed at athletes feats."

Given this though, why is it that the Paralympics does not get the same exposure as the Olympics? In today's G2, Kira Cochrane asks why, after all the drama, grit and inspiration of the Beijing Paralympics, there are so few disabled people on television.

\*Guardian: Kira Cochrane asks what the Paralympics say about the visibility of disability in the media\*Guardian: British team sets new gold standard

The Wrap: 'It's like having a fire in a cinema'

#### SONG LURES DIVERS TO SHIPWRECK

It has been called one of Britain's most romantic shipwrecks and sank more than two centuries ago off the Isles of Scilly. On board was one of the most famous opera singers of her time - Ann Cargill, the tragic, scandal-ridden singer - who perished when the Nancy sank in 1784.

While her body was recovered a week after the ship sank, her fortune - £200,000 of money and jewels - has never been found. Two British divers now believe they have found the wreck scattered across 300 square metres of seabed.

No sign of the jewels yet however.

\*Times: Divers close in on lost fortune of a scandalous star

Load-Date: September 18, 2008



## Accept That the Regime in Iran Is Here To Stay; The strategic Interest

The Forward February 8, 2008

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Section: Forward Forum; Pg. A9

Length: 991 words

Byline:

Yossi Alpher, a former senior adviser to Prime Minister Ehud Barak and former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, is co-editor of the bitterlemons family of online publications.

## **Body**

Many respectable experts on Iran, prominent among them Americans, Israelis and Iranians-in-exile, believe they know how to replace the theocratic regime in Tehran with something far more benign and friendly.

Another \$100 million for broadcasting to Iran's disaffected youth and <u>women</u> will do the trick, says a veteran Israeli security official who served in pre-

revolutionary Iran.

Half the population are non-Persian minorities Azeris, Kurds, Baluch, Arabs, says an American intelligence expert. We should incite them to rise up against the Persians.

Once you do the math with these experts, you can only conclude that nearly 100% of Iranians are so unhappy with their nasty rulers that getting rid of the Islamic regime is a slam dunk.

I have been listening to this talk, often from the highest American and Israeli government and security officials, for nearly 30 years. Much of it is based on a persistent belief that the regime brought to power by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 is an aberration, not the true Iran we knew back in the Shah's day, and hence undoubtedly illegitimate in the eyes of most Iranians.

Other advocates of regime change in Tehran base their views on opinion polls of doubtful veracity, the popularity of smuggled American movies and music clips in the salons of north Tehran, or just plain faith in the longing of everyday Iranians to doff their chadors, rebuff their religious police and embrace Western-style freedom and liberty. Wishful thinking plays a role, too: This regime is indeed dangerous, hence it simply must be overthrown, whatever the price.

Like almost any Israeli and Jew, I, too, would like to see the emergence of a more tolerant and friendly regime in Iran. Indeed, I have my own special reasons of late: A few months ago, the regime contrived to manipulate the televised confessions of two imprisoned Iranian intellectuals so as to implicate me and the Internet dialogue magazines I co-edit in an alleged American effort to sponsor a Ukrainian-style orange revolution in Tehran.

#### Accept That the Regime in Iran Is Here To Stay The strategic Interest

These assertions are ridiculous. Not only do I not advocate changing this regime by force or outside manipulation, I believe it is a totally unrealistic proposition. Moreover, it is harmful to pursue this approach to the Islamic Republic.

True, the Tehran regime actually encourages Western regime-change advocates by its paranoia. A regime that goes to such extreme measures to suppress dissent and concoct virtual subversives must, the outsider reasons, be extremely weak and unstable.

Yet the simplest indication that regime change efforts against Tehran don't work is the fact that for nearly 30 years they haven't worked.

Indeed, objectively speaking, the mullahs' regime has been in far worse straits throughout most of the past three decades than it is today, when it is flooded with petrodollars. Iranians willingly vote in their elections, however unfair and undemocratic they may look to us. They idolize the heroes of the war in the 1980s with Iraq. And when they express dissatisfaction with their abject lack of freedoms, the regime is very skillful at suppressing dissent.

After three decades, you would think that intelligent observers and analysts would get the message: This regime, however odious, is here to stay.

When it comes to Iran, it still makes sense to keep all options on the table as long as these don't include regime change. If international sanctions and pressures don't bring the Iranians to their senses regarding their nuclear plans and if military action, by the United States or Israel, is judged to have a good chance of succeeding, then it cannot be ruled out, as long as we don't delude ourselves that it will catalyze a revolution in Tehran.

On the contrary, military achievements aside, it is likely to strengthen the regime. That is but one of the reasons why, as the Iraq Study Group report advocated a few months ago, genuine dialogue should be tried first.

Israel should not fear an American-Iranian dialogue. True, Iran poses a far greater threat to Israel than to the United States. And the Islamic Republic not only appears to covet weapons of mass destruction but is actively working with *Hamas*, Hezbollah and other non-state actors on Israel's borders that, like Tehran itself, advocate Israel's destruction.

Nonetheless, if Israeli security officials and decision- makers would abandon their unfounded hope of bringing down the Iranian regime, they could more constructively confront the remaining, more practical, options.

Iran refuses to talk to Israel, but not to the United States. Fears in Israel that Washington might somehow cut a deal with Tehran that compromises Israel's security or, for that matter, Saudi Arabia's security, or Jordan's appear to have no foundation.

If Washington does agree to sit down at the negotiating table with Iran, it cannot permit itself to be perceived by Iranians as entering the talks with dirty hands. It cannot appropriate tens of millions of dollars to encourage Iranian civil society efforts, however admirable, that are understood by the regime as subversive, and perhaps here and there encourage dissident Iranian Baluch and Kurds to oppose the regime (while reassuring Iran with a smirk that regime-change is not official American policy), and still expect to engage the Tehran regime in dialogue on a level playing field.

Whether talking to this regime will produce useful results is, of course, not clear. But it is certainly a more pragmatic option once we rid ourselves of the pathetic notion that, with a little push, or even a big push, the regime will collapse.

If and when the theocratic regime in Tehran is replaced, its demise will, like the Khomeini revolution 30 years ago, be the result of domestic developments, not outside intervention. In the meantime, containment will be an easier task if we approach Iran without illusions.

## Graphic

**IMAGE** 

Load-Date: February 14, 2008



## The Islamization of East Jerusalem

Christian Science Monitor September 26, 2008, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 998 words

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

Dateline: Jerusalem

## **Body**

Neat rows of white lay across the courtyard's stone floors like carpeting for an honor guard ready to receive a president or king.

Upon closer look, these lines are rolls of plastic tablecloth, and in minutes, workers will place hundreds of hot meals along the ground that will, when Yusuf Hamaze gives the signal, be paired with hungry people breaking the day's Ramadan fast.

"If you have kids, share yours with them!" Mr. Hamaze yells as scores of <u>women</u> rush into place to make sure they get meals of lamb and rice, pita, yogurt, and sweet dates.

"I eat here every day on Ramadan, because with the checkpoints, it would be impossible to get home anyway," says Imm Iyad, a woman who lives in Bethlehem, beyond the security barriers around Jerusalem, but spends her days in the Old City market, selling couscous to support her family. "I'm here because this is the only place I know where they do this," the mother shrugs. "All of the people who come here to eat are in need."

This phenomenon of serving free iftar, the meal that breaks the Ramadan fast, to the economically strapped - as well as those unable to get home to break the fast with family - is relatively new here. It comes at the munificence of several Islamic groups, but most notably, it's a project of Sheikh Raed Salah, the head of the Islamic Movement of the North, based in Umm el-Fahm, Israel.

To the growing numbers who appreciate and admire Sheikh Salah's work, he is not only providing a handout, but is also providing a framework for Palestinians and Israeli Arabs who feel the lack of leadership in Jerusalem.

To the Israeli authorities, however, Salah is a firebrand who inflames emotions, making repeated calls to Muslims that the Al Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam, is in danger. He's also adding, many say, to a growing Islamization of East Jerusalem.

Last month, Israeli security forces raided the offices of the Islamic Movement in Umm al-Fahm under suspicions that it was aiding <u>Hamas</u>. Dozens of police entered the offices of the Al Aqsa Heritage Institute, the new name of Salah's organization. They confiscated documents, computers, and close to \$100,000 held in a safe, according to officials and news wires.

#### The Islamization of East Jerusalem

In August 2007, Salah was indicted for inciting racism and violence after he called for a "third intifada," or uprising, his response to an Israeli archaeological dig in the Old City that he says is endangering the foundations of the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Salah himself has been barred by Israel from coming to Jerusalem. But the reach of his organization continues to make an impact here, most prominently in the form of this iftar that feeds up to 5,000 people a day.

He is filling in where secular Palestinian leaders have left a vacuum, as other Islamic institutions have across East Jerusalem. There are a growing number of Islamic private schools, as well as a whole host of services provided by Muslim organizations to meet the many needs there.

In the past, this role was occupied by Faisal Husseini, who since the 1993 Oslo Accords was the Palestinian Authority's Minister for Jerusalem Affairs, based in East Jerusalem's Orient House. Mr. Husseini died in 2001, and during the height of the intifada, Israeli authorities shut the Orient House and did not allow it to reopen.

"East Jerusalemites are experiencing the worst situation economically, politically, and socially," says Rasem Abaidat, an East Jerusalem writer and activist. "In the 1980s we tried to adapt to the Israeli way of life. But this turned to disappointment that they felt during the late 80s and early '90s, in terms of house demolitions, imposing of heavy taxes along with lack of services, and this has made them realize that the Israeli occupation is not a fair ruler."

At the same time, he says, the Palestinian Authority headed by Yasser Arafat was incapable of assisting East Jerusalemites, in part because of the amorphousness of their situation. They hold Israeli-issued identity cards, but vote in elections for Palestinians.

"Arafat was not able to fill the vacuum. On the contrary, East Jerusalemites watched as the West Bank and Gaza got international help to flourish, while no one gave them any attention in terms of aid and funding," Mr. Abaidat continues. "Therefore their only hope was God."

Meanwhile, there have been disagreements over which Islamic Waqf, or religious body, controls Jerusalem's holy places. Both a Jordanian one and a Palestinian one claim to have ultimate authority over the Harem es-Sharif, or Noble Enclosure, which includes Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.

"Sheikh Salah has managed to fill the vacuum left by the internal fighting between the Jordanian Waqf and Palestinian Waqf, and has succeeded in highlighting the conflict over the Al Aqsa Mosque locally, regionally, and internationally," he says.

The result, he says, is an increasing identification with an Islamic agenda. "The people of East Jerusalem have been swept into this wave of Islamicism and are enjoying the attention given to them by such activities."

The trend comes against a backdrop of an upswing in attacks on Israeli perpetrated by East Jerusalemites, who had not been particularly active in the midst of the last intifada. This week, a 19-year-old from East Jerusalem ran over a group of Israeli soldiers outside the Old City, injuring 17 of them before being shot to death. It was the third such attack since July.

Taher Ghbarieh, who works for Salah's organization in Umm el-Fahm, says he is worried about a flare-up in violence after a right-wing Jewish group opened a synagogue this week in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City.

"Our institution has been following up on this building and drilling under the synagogue, and we consider this latest situation as one of the most dangerous the Al Aqsa Mosque has been put in," says Mr. Ghbarieh. "This is the straw that breaks the camel's back. People are fed up with the way Israel is dealing with Palestinians."

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Load-Date: September 25, 2008



## What will her opponents make of a dovish new woman leader?

The Times (London)
September 19, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg.36

**Length:** 1052 words **Byline:** Mark Almond

## **Body**

Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher... Tzipi Livni finds herself in a tough line of *female* heads of state, says Mark Almond

Tzipi Livni, the new leader of Kadima, Israel's ruling party, is close to joining that very select club of <u>women</u> heads of government. Ms Livni, Israel's Foreign Minister, if she becomes her nation's second woman prime minister, will face the day-to-day security dilemmas that are not on the agenda of the more numerous <u>women</u> leaders of Scandinavian or Antipodean countries.

It is not only the politically correct who will welcome a woman politician who climbs to the top of the greasy pole, particularly one without a dynasty like the Gandhi family or the Bhuttos to push her there. But gender cannot be ignored in discussing the challenges likely to come Ms Livni's way in the male-dominated and decidedly macho Middle East.

Being a woman is a fact of life. For Tzipi Livni as Israeli Prime Minister there will be opponents who want to make her sex a matter of life and death. Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Iran will note her dovish commitment to the peace process with the Palestinians, which they reject in any case. How will they test her inaugural comments? If they see them as a sign of weakness on Israel's part for choosing her as Prime Minister, will they respond with pressure for more concessions to prove her bona fides, or more violence to weaken her standing? How will she respond?

<u>Women</u> prime ministers have come under intense pressure from foreign enemies and domestic terrorists before now. Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi and Golda Meir all rose to the top in even less <u>female</u>-friendly political environments than Israel today - though Ms Lipni certainly didn't lack rivals who, during the Kadima leadership campaign, publicly doubted her capacity to direct the Israeli Defence Force.

Even though Indira Gandhi owed her power base in the Congress Party to her father, Pandit Nehru, she survived so long in office only because she took hard decisions. In 1971 she defied the United States and China over the Bangladesh crisis when she invaded to halt a bloody civil war between an East Pakistani Army and a West Pakistani population. Whatever has gone wrong in Bangladesh since, it was not the wrong decision at the time.

#### What will her opponents make of a dovish new woman leader?

When she decided to suppress the Sikh militants occupying the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Indira Gandhi knew she could be signing her own death warrant. She outraged peaceful Sikhs by sending troops into a shrine that even General Dyer had respected in the 1919 massacre, but she was convinced that allowing a terrorist haven there would spawn more trouble. She had the courage to keep her Sikh bodyguards afterwards, but it was foolhardy, as her assassination showed.

In politics, there are often situations without an answer. Every course of action will have negative effects weighing them in the balance; and getting the least bad result is what separates statesmen from the rest. But no one is infallible and being a woman in the moment of crisis can weigh on the <u>female</u> leader's mind as much as anyone else's.

In early autumn 1973 Israel's first woman Prime Minister, Golda Meir, faced a dilemma. Israeli intelligence said Syria was massing forces but Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister and war hero, told her not to worry. The US advised against a pre-emptive attack like the 1967 Six-Day War. Then on Yom Kippur both Egypt and Syria caught the Israelis napping - and sent Meir into retirement for resisting her instinct to strike first. But she had thought if the one-eyed Dayan wasn't for it, how could she be more aggressive?

Even a pretty iron-willed lady such as Meir could let considerations of what "real" men on her own team thought influence her policymaking. However, politicians who follow hunches rather than expert advice soon go off the rails when their luck comes unstuck. Churchill's intuitions often let him down in war planning. Take the Dardanelles: right in theory but hopelessly impractical.

Margaret Thatcher's wars were small beer by comparison with Churchill's or even Tony Blair's but her approach was marked by the attention to detail and the lack of wishful thinking that bedevilled the operations of the other two. Call it good housekeeping if you like but, however risky the Falkands War was, Mrs Thatcher took the decision to send the task force only after admirals had assured her of the availability of forces for it. Taking a risk is not the same as a reckless gamble, as she recognised.

Both at home and abroad, Mrs Thatcher knew how to play both sides of her status as a woman prime minister. It gave her what Richard Nixon thought was a very important quality in a national leader - unpredictability. Precisely because a woman prime minister had broken the mould of domestic politics, foreign leaders would be wise to treat her with respect and make a cautious appraisal. Stereotyping a woman leader as either inherently dovish because of her sex or artificially hawkish despite her nature is primitive - but, worse, too often mistaken to be a guide for policy.

After all, it was the Iron Lady who saw the opening to better relations with the Soviet Union offered by Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival on the scene even before he took charge in the Kremlin. Mrs Thatcher could coo like a dove on occasion and it worked. It was a surprise burst of conciliation that came after her earlier tough line on the Soviet Union and hard-heartedness to the IRA hunger strikers and the miners.

As Hillary Clinton's "3am in the White House" attack ad showed, nowadays a woman can play the national security card against younger man with no military credentials. But Barack Obama of course won the primaries.

Tzipi Livni's 3am wake-up call is yet to come. When it does, her answer had better be indifferent to whether it is a gender-based bombshell or not.

Past form in lesser office - as admirers of Gordon Brown have found out - is no guide to performance as prime minister. With little data to play with, history suggests that self-confident <u>women</u> politicians are no more prone to error than men. Small comfort for those who want certainty in a dangerous world.

Mark Almond is lecturer in History at Oriel College, Oxford, and a visiting professor at Bilkent University, Ankara

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



## Kirk is strongest

Chicago Daily Herald
September 20, 2008 Saturday
L2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 1150 words

**Body** 

Kirk is strongest

supporter of Israel

Mark Kirk is one of the strongest and most effective supporters of Israel in Congress, and any statement to the contrary is simply partisan nonsense.

For years, Kirk has worked closely with U.S. and Israeli defense experts on advanced defense technology that could protect Israel against mortal threats, including Iranian missiles. His record demonstrates a deep and unwavering commitment to protecting Israeli lives while safeguarding vital U.S. interests in a strategically important region of the world.

Three recent personal experiences have brought home Mark Kirk's importance to Israel's security:

First: On a recent trip to Israel, I spoke with an Israeli official who served in the ministry of defense and described the serious security threats posed by *Hamas*, Hezbullah and, of course, Iran. During our conversation, I asked him if he knew Mark Kirk. The Israeli official's response was striking. He immediately became animated and said that Mark Kirk's work is "extremely important" to Israel's security. He was particularly impressed by Kirk's command of complex strategic defense matters, stating that in his opinion, "Mark Kirk knows as much as any secretary of state." At the end of our conversation, the Israeli official said he wished he could vote in America so he could help keep Mark Kirk in Congress.

Second: While in Israel, we learned that, largely thanks to Mark Kirk's years of leading bilateral military cooperation, the United States is permanently deploying to Israel the most advanced radar and early warning systems available. This new technology will be integrated with Israel's own defense systems and linked with U.S. satellites capable of almost instantaneously cuing anti-missile interceptors. The combined U.S.-Israel system could triple the range at which Israel can detect, track and ultimately defend against Iranian missiles by blasting them out of the sky 1,000 kilometers from Israel's borders.

Third: At the recent, nonpartisan, AIPAC policy conference in Washington, D.C., we heard impressive presentations by virtually every A-list Democratic and Republican political luminary, including Barack Obama, John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Nancy Pelosi, just to name a few. In addition, AIPAC invited a range of respected speakers from both sides of the aisle, based on expertise and contributions to the U.S.-Israel relationship. One was Mark Kirk. In impressive back-to-back sessions, Kirk described the layers of defense systems now available to Israel, largely

#### Kirk is strongest

because of his ongoing and tireless leadership. Kirk's presentations demonstrated his extraordinary expertise as well as his established bipartisan network of contacts in Congress, the U.S. military and Israel's political and military establishments.

If you believe, as I do, that Israel's security is important for moral and strategic reasons, please do not be satisfied with an untested candidate's Web site promises of support for Israel, even if the promises appear to be sincere. Platitudes and good intentions cannot substitute for an established record of leadership when it comes to securing real protection for Israeli lives and vital U.S. interests.

Steven B. Feldstein

Highland Park

Kirk helps fight

domestic violence

Violence against <u>women</u> continues to be a serious problem in this country. Every year thousands of <u>women</u> and their children face the worst sort of abuse. In 1994, Congress responded to this serious problem by passing the Violence Against <u>Women</u> Act. It established federal programs to prosecute abusers, prevent domestic violence before it starts and provide victim services. It proved wildly successful and doled out nearly \$4 billion dollars to combat domestic violence.

When the Violence Against <u>Women</u> Act was up for renewal in 2005, Congressman Mark Kirk stepped up to the plate. He was an original co-sponsor of the renewal bill and worked tirelessly with his colleagues until it was signed into law in 2006.

This is just one example out of too many to name here that exemplifies the kind of concern and leadership that Mark Kirk has demonstrated as our congressman. Mark Kirk cares about what happens to us in the 10th District. And so do I, especially about who will continue to represent me in Congress.

For this and for his support of many of the causes I care about, Mark Kirk has my support and my vote this November.

Judy Rosen

Long Grove

Kirk committed

to women, children

Tragically, domestic violence is a continuing problem. There are still too many battered <u>women</u> and children who have nowhere to go to escape their abusers. That's why we can be grateful there are organizations such as WINGS — <u>Women</u> in Need Growing Stronger, to give them safe harbor.

I am very proud that Mark Kirk is helping them carry out their good works.

WINGS helps abused <u>women</u> and children break the pattern of abuse and violence by providing a safe place for them to stay. A WINGS safe house can host 45 <u>women</u> and their children each night to keep them off the streets and away from their abusers.

In 2006 the state of Illinois revoked much of WINGS's funding and it looked like the organization would have to drastically cut services. But Congressman Mark Kirk came through with a \$200,000 federal grant enabling WINGS to keep its doors open and to even expand its operations.

This is just one example among many of Congressman Mark Kirk's commitment to women and their families.

#### Kirk is strongest

Mark Kirk has been, and continues to be, a true leader when leadership counts. We are most fortunate to have Congressman Mark Kirk represent the 10th District.

Theresa Calabrese

Vernon Hills

Need radical change

in education funding

As the school year opens, we are reminded again of the inequity of school funding in Illinois. For several decades The League of <u>Women</u> Voters has advocated for substantive change in the way we fund education in Illinois. The league believes our current tax structure is seriously flawed and incapable of generating revenues sufficient even to keep pace with inflation. The ensuing structural deficit requires a massive infusion of new moneys every year just to maintain current funding levels, let alone having to meet increased demands. The Illinois Constitution mandates majority funding for public education; that is becoming less and less an achievable reality. This shortfall in state dollars along with our reliance on property taxes to fund schools creates a huge disparity of resources available to local districts.

We believe the time for developing a more reliable and equitable funding base in Illinois is long overdue. It is important for each of us to let our representatives in Springfield know we are tired of the meager response when a radical approach is needed. It is past time for the legislators to find the courage to become part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Diane J. Sanderson

Director

League of **Women** Voters of Lake County

Load-Date: December 22, 2008



## Losing the PR war and the Diaspora

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

January 9, 2008 Wednesday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A12

Length: 975 words

Byline: Jeet Heer, National Post

## **Body**

Wars can be won on the battlefield while being lost in the realm of public opinion. In Vietnam, the United States army was victorious in every combat operation but the overall war was lost when the American public became convinced that the cost of fighting far outweighed any benefit. In the Middle East today, we see the same dichotomy between battlefield success and public relations failure.

Israel, one of the world's most militarized nations with every weapon at its disposal up to the nuclear bomb, is having no problem crushing *Hamas*, a raggedy half-staved guerrilla force whose homemade missiles are usually as dangerous as firecrackers. The casualty numbers speak for themselves: As of Wednesday Israel had lost about a dozen lives (mostly soldiers, often due to friendly fire) while more than 600 Palestinians, including scores of *women* and children, had been killed.

Yet for all its tactical skills in turning Gaza into a charnel house, Israel is facing a serious strategic loss on the battlefield of public perception. As it did in earlier wars where Israel killed large numbers of civilians, global public opinion is cooling toward the Jewish state, which runs the risk of becoming an international pariah.

This shift in public opinion is most striking when we look at young Jews in North America, who are much more critical of Israel than their parents and grandparents. Given the fact that Israel has always relied heavily on support, both financial and moral, from the Diaspora, the loss of loyalty of young Jews is a dangerous trend.

Evidence of the turn against Israel by large parts of the Diaspora can be seen everywhere, from protests to comedy shows. In Toronto, a group of Jewish <u>women</u> briefly occupied the Israeli consulate in protest against the war. In Los Angeles, young Jews wearing keffiyehs marched outside the Israeli consulate carrying signs reading "Difference Between Warsaw Ghetto&Gaza? 70 Years."

No TV personality has a better sense of the pulse of the young than Jon Stewart, himself Jewish and hitherto a staunch supporter of Israel. On the Daily Show when commenting on Gaza, Stewart mocked politicians like New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg for criticizing the Palestinians while failing to acknowledge their legitimate grievances. The show's studio audience laughed in agreement at Stewart's complaint that the American media and political elite were offering a one-sided pro-Israel perspective on the conflict.

Increasing Jewish alienation from Israel is part of a long-running trend. A 2006 survey sponsored by the Andrea and Charles Bronfman philanthropies found that many young Jews were at best lukewarm about Israel. Only 48% of young Jews surveyed said that they would regard the destruction of Israel as a personal tragedy, as against 77% of

#### Losing the PR war and the Diaspora

Jewish senior citizens. Among Jews old enough to collect a pension, 81% were comfortable with the idea of a Jewish state; this number dropped dramatically to 54% among Jews in the much-coveted under 35 demographic.

Events like the war in Gaza are likely to intensify the post-Zionism of young Jews. In the public debate in America, it is striking that the strongest supporters of Israel tend to be writers like Alan Dershowitz (age 70), Marty Peretz (also 70) and William Kristol (a sprightly 56). As against this Geritol brigade, a group of young Jewish writers, many of them working for progressive think-tanks that are helping to shape the Obama administration, have been admirably sharp-witted in attacking the Gaza offensive as a moral and strategic failure.

It's worth listening to some of these young Jewish writers. Here is Ezra Klein, age 24: "There is nothing proportionate in this response. No way to fit it into a larger strategy that leads towards eventual peace. No way to fool ourselves into believing that it will reduce bloodshed and stop terrorist attacks. It is simple vengeance. There's a saying in the Jewish community: 'Israel, right or wrong.' But sometimes Israel is simply wrong."

Spencer Ackerman, age 28: "The Jewish writers who consider Palestinian life to be worth a fraction of an Israeli life will start braying about anti-Semitism, because when Palestinian bodies are charred in the streets, the real victim is a sensitive Jew's sense of collective guilt."

Matthew Yglesias, age 28: "The Israeli government, seemingly dissatisfied with the results of their earlier effort to just make life as miserable as possible for residents of the Gaza strip[,] went and killed a couple of hundred people in retaliatory airstrikes."

Dana Goldstein, age 24: "Asking young Jews to fight and die in a ground war, one whose perpetration inflames anti-Semitic sentiments, is not the best way to make Israel, or the world at large, safe for the Jewish people."

Klein, Ackerman, Yglesias and Goldstein are among the most widely read political writers on the Internet. Their blogs have millions of readers. They've worked for think-tanks and magazines that have played a major role in creating the Obama presidency. For Israel to lose the support of a rising generation of Jewish intellectuals and policymakers is a grave problem. (This trend of young Jews becoming alienated from Israel has been extensively documented by Philip Weiss on his blog Mondoweiss.)

Why are young Jews so harsh in their criticism of Israel? The only honest answer is Israel's terrible human rights record. The wanton slaughter in Gaza is merely the latest in a long litany of Israeli atrocities, all of which help the Jewish state win some short-term victories while making long-term peace impossible. If Israel is to survive it needs to listen to these critical voices, rather than the false friends who urge a continuation of the cycle of violence and retribution. And if Israel doesn't listen to its critics in the Diaspora, then it will face a friendless future.

jeetheer@hotmail.com

# Graphic

Color Photo:;;

Load-Date: January 9, 2009



## Teen fails to save tragic infant from rottweiler's jaws

Sunday Independent (Ireland)

December 30, 2007

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# Independent.ie

Section: WORLD NEWS; World News

Length: 948 words

## **Body**

The teenage aunt of a 13-month-old boy mauled to death by a rottweiler fought bravely to rescue the tot from the jaws of the 10-stone dog, but was forced to abandon her efforts and call for help.

Archie-Lee Andrew Hirst was snatched from the arms of a seven-year-old girl in the yard of his grandparents' house, in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday.

His 16-year-old aunt, who was upstairs in the house when she was alerted to the attack, battled the dog -- described by police as weighing "in the region of seven to 10 stone" -- as it savaged the child to death.

After failing to wrestle Archie-Lee from the two-and-a-half year old <u>female</u> rottweiler the aunt called the emergency services. Paramedics scaled a 7ft fence surrounding the yard to attend to the child, who was pronounced dead in hospital.

Detective Superintendent Steve Payne, who is leading the investigation, said: "I have to pay tribute to the auntie, who attempted to rescue the child from the rottweiler.

"She struck the rottweiler a number of times, but it wouldn't let go of the child.

"She did try her best to recover Archie from the dog, but unfortunately that was in vain."

He added that the dog, which was subsequently destroyed, had not acted aggressively before.

"It mixed with the family. Whilst it lived in the yard, it was a pet, it was in no way a guard dog, and there were no previous signs of any aggression from this dog. The attack was completely unpredictable," he said.

#### Blair's supporters now backing Brown

Tony Blair's strongest supporters are suing for peace with Gordon Brown as they declare their political idol is 'history' and pledge to throw their weight behind the British Prime Minister in the face of a resurgent Conservative party.

#### Teen fails to save tragic infant from rottweiler's jaws

In a sign of the grave threat facing the Labour party in 2008 -- dubbed its 'most challenging year' since the 1992 election defeat -- Mr Blair's supporters have made it known that anyone seeking a Labour victory must now offer unequivocal support for Mr Brown.

"Tony Blair is history," the former Blairite cabinet minister Stephen Byers writes in an in today's Observer newspaper, "He is the political past and will not be part of the future of domestic politics in our country."

"With Tony Blair gone from domestic politics, the task of leading Labour to victory falls to Gordon Brown. It is the responsibility of all of us who want to see a fourth election victory to give him our support."

The intervention by Byers is the most dramatic attempt yet to draw a line under divisions which destabilised the Labour party during the Blair era.

### Stars of cricket and pop wed quietly

England cricket players were among just 60 guests gathered yesterday at a country manor, for the wedding of star batsman Kevin Pietersen and his pop singer bride Jessica Taylor, of Liberty X fame, as the couple opted for a private wedding.

#### Twenty Tamil Tigers die in shoot-out

Sri Lankan troops captured territory in the Tamil guerrillas' de facto state yesterday after a fierce clash killed at least 20 guerrillas, the military said.

#### Morrissey gives £20,000 to the 'Lads'

SINGER Morrissey has donated £20,000 (27,200) to help restore a youth club which found fame through his former band The Smiths.

The group posed outside Salford Lads Club in Manchester, England for the inside cover of the 1986 album The Queen is Dead. Devoted fans of The Smiths have since travelled from around the world to visit the distinctive redbrick site.

#### Palestinians refuse passage via Israel

Close to two thousand Palestinian pilgrims who arrived in Egypt yesterday protested Egyptian demands that they return to the Gaza Strip through an Israeli-controlled border crossing, security officials and pilgrims said.

Fearing arrest, senior <u>Hamas</u> officials among the 1,900 pilgrims have resisted Egyptian attempts to have them enter through the Israeli-controlled Aouja crossing, the Egyptian security official said.

#### Police marksmen shoot 'gunman' dead

POLICE marksmen in England have shot a man dead following reports that he was carrying a gun.

Armed officers had been called to Tumblefield Road in the Kent village of Stansted at 7:51am yesterday morning after reports that a man had a firearm.

#### Jeweller to the royals, Grima, dies

Andrew Grima, whose jewellery adorned royalty and celebrities, has died, relatives said yesterday. He was 86.

Grima died Wednesday at a hospital in the Swiss mountain resort of Gstaad after contracting pneumonia following a fall earlier this month, his family said.

Born to a Maltese father and an Italian mother in Rome in 1921, Grima came to prominence in the 1960s with a flowery and organic style that captured the mood of a new generation of postwar fashion designers.

#### Teen fails to save tragic infant from rottweiler's jaws

One of those who took an interest early on in Grima's work was Lord Snowdon, then married to Britain's Princess Margaret.

#### Letterman returns after union talks

Late-night TV host David Letterman has reached a deal with the union for striking screenwriters that will let his talk show return to the air next week while bringing his writing staff back with him.

The Writers' Guild of America called its pact with Letterman's production company, WorldWide Pants Inc, a sign of union readiness to negotiate a deal with major film and TV studios to settle Hollywood's worst labour crisis in 20 years.

#### Australia's Guantanamo prisoner free

David Hicks, a former kangaroo skinner from Australia, who is the only person convicted on terrorism charges at a US military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay, walked free yesterday after more than six years behind bars.

The 32-year-old -- a former Muslim convert whorenounced the faith while in detention -- was released from prison in Adelaide in southern Australia.

Load-Date: December 30, 2007



## <u>Letters</u>

#### The Jerusalem Post

September 1, 2008 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1130 words

Byline: Shifra Tarem, I. Kemp, Ron Goodden, Sharon Altshul, Shivta Wenkart, Aymon Fabbricotti, Jan Sokolovsky,

Mark L. Levinson, Rochelle Sobel, Cathy Silberman

Highlight: Readers' Letters

## **Body**

#### Two women...

Sir, - Other than both being <u>women</u> in politics, there is little comparison between Tzipi Livni and Golda Meir ("Tzipi's Golda problem," Gil Hoffman, August 29).

Golda was very much older than Livni is now and she had a health problem. She was more or less at the end of her career and was brought in as a unifying element because of the squabbles between Yigal Allon, Yitzhak Rabin and Moshe Dayan.

Shaul Mofaz introduced the comparison to point out that a woman cannot be prime minister because she has not been a general, although not all our male prime ministers were generals.

#### SHIFRA TAREM

Rishon Lezion

...in politics

Sir, - Whether one was for Golda Meir or against her, she was worthy of great respect.

She would not have remained in a corrupt government such as we have now; she would not have tolerated a PM under endless investigation staying in power. She would not have led absurd "peace" negotiations with a Palestinian leader who is nothing more than a bad mirage.

She would not have been a party to the release of endless numbers of Palestinian prisoners, some with blood on their hands, getting nothing in return; she would not have stood for Israelis suffering continuing rocket and mortar attacks from *Hamas*; she would not have gone along with the useless, and worse, UN peace treaty 1701 ending the second Lebanon war; and she would have known when to say no to the international community regardless of the consequences when our very existence was threatened.

She put her country before herself and her own political ambitions and took full responsibility for her mistakes.

I. KEMP

Letters

Nahariya

Palin's good for McCain

Sir, - The Obama campaign has been perfectly trumped by the elevation of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to the vice-presidential spot on John McCain's ticket. Anyone who watched her initial campaign speech Friday can have little doubt of that.

This seems to have left the Democrats reeling, committing an immediate double faux pas by seeming to denigrate both Palin's gender and her small-town origins. How typically out of touch with mainstream America, and with the continuing sense of loss among <u>women</u> who witnessed Hillary Clinton being humbled by the male power structure calling the shots in her own party.

Gov. Palin offers voters solid executive experience that everyone else on both sides seems to lack; she stands as McCain's first best decision ("'Coldest state-hottest governor' VP candidate an independent figure," August 31).

**RON GOODDEN** 

Atlanta

How about a little

'Schalit-monitoring'?

Sir, - Israel has murderers in prison who can study and receive university degrees and regular visits from their families. Gilad Schalit is being held without so much as a sighting by the Red Cross.

Nine Free Gaza Movement activists plan to remain in Gaza to do "long-term monitoring." A visit with Gilad Schalit as his 800th day in captivity rapidly approaches would truly be a humanitarian cause to celebrate ("Israel allows Gaza 'blockade-breaker' boats to leave unimpeded for Cyprus," August 31).

SHARON ALTSHUL

Jerusalem

Hurricane Ehud

Sir, - Is there nothing to stop Hurricane Ehud, swelling to a speed of 450 prisoners released per month? ("Gustav swells to dangerous Cat 3 storm off Cuba." August 31.)

SHIVTA WENKART

Arad

Inferiority complex?

Sir, - But what are the Palestinians really saying - that one Israeli is worth 1,000 of them? ("PA claims Israel has no objections to Barghouti's release," August 31.)

**AYMON FABBRICOTTI** 

Genoa

Easy gesture

Sir, - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised Israel's release of 198 Palestinian terrorists, timed to coincide with her visit, as "a sign of goodwill" ("Rice: Israel-PA document in next month is unlikely," August 26). But just a few weeks ago, the safety of US citizens was more important to her than "goodwill," when she and the State

#### Letters

Department acknowledged that Israel was correct in identifying several Gazan candidates for graduate fellowships in the US as suspected terrorists, and denied them student visas.

I guess that goodwill for terrorists depends on whose citizens may be gored.

However, here is a really easy goodwill gesture Secretary Rice could make to us - no terrorists involved, purely humanitarian. She could override the arbitrary decision of the US Consulate in Jerusalem and instruct it to issue a visa to the caregiver of 86-year-old Harriet Weitz, now legally blind, so that she and her husband Mike can attend the wedding of their grandson in New York in October ("Filipino caregiver of octogenarian American immigrant denied US visa," August 20).

JAN SOKOLOVSKY

Jerusalem

Let's avoid confusion

Sir, - According to Celebrity Grapevine (August 31), film director Yoel Silberg was born in 1927 in "Eretz Israel." By using this term for what The Jerusalem Post has, I believe, normally called "Palestine" ever since the newspaper itself was called The Palestine Post, is the paper trying to avoid confusion between British Mandatory Palestine and today's Palestine Authority?

If so, by ceding the name it is inadvertently strengthening the myth of a long-standing Arab Palestine in which Jews never belonged.

I'd rather see the full term "British Mandatory Palestine"; and "territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority" would be preferable to the shorthand "Palestine" we sometimes read, which also promotes a confusing view of present and historical facts.

MARK L. LEVINSON

Herzliya

Well done, Metuna!

Sir, - In Israel, road crashes have killed approximately 30,000 people since 1948 and 345 people in 2006 alone. A thousand individuals are hospitalized each week. A Swedish tourist was run over on July 5 while sunbathing at a Haifa beach.

The Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT) would like to commend Metuna, a leading Israeli road safety organization, for organizing 24/7: A Day of No Road Accidents, July 22-24, with the slogan "Wheel in Our Hands" reminding people that we are each responsible for our own lives and those of others on the road.

A wheel was passed from Metula to Eilat, and many towns held road safety activities as the wheel passed by. MK Gilad Erdan, chairman of the Subcommittee for the War on Traffic Accidents, received the wheel at the Knesset and pledged to continue fighting for stricter punishments for offenders.

This program serves as an excellent model for other countries. Road crashes are projected to dramatically increase over the next 20 years if conditions do not improve. ASIRT has been fighting to improve global road safety since 1995, when American medical student Aron Sobel, 25, was killed in a bus crash in Turkey. ASIRT is dedicated to the principle that road crashes are predictable and preventable ("Scream & weep," Letters, August 26).

**ROCHELLE SOBEL** 

**CATHY SILBERMAN** 

Association for Safe

## Letters

International Road Travel, Potomac, Maryland

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



## Who will guard human rights at the UN?

The Jerusalem Post July 15, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 1049 words

Byline: HILLEL NEUER

Highlight: The writer is executive director of the Geneva-based UN Watch, currently visiting Jerusalem.

## **Body**

Word from the 38th floor of United Nations headquarters in New York is that Secretary-General Ban Ki- Moon is in the final stages of filling the newly vacant - and globally influential - post of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. To find the right person, Ban must ask his candidates tough questions.

More than anything, the UN rights chief must be a person of moral clarity, courage and principle, ready to take on powerful political forces in defending victims of gross violations around the world. He or she must guard the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the dream of Eleanor Roosevelt that now marks its 60th anniversary - from those who trample them in places like Harare, Teheran or Pyongyang. It's a tall order.

Who's in the running? According to The New York Times, Luis Alfonso de Alba, Mexico's envoy to the UN in Geneva, is a leading candidate. UN insiders report that, among others, Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey is also vigorously campaigning.

While Mexico and Switzerland have the right to nominate diplomats and politicians of their choice, Ban has the duty to question their records.

To seal a \$28 billion gas deal, Calmy-Rey recently visited with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. As world leaders attempt to shun the fanatical regime - the head of which denies the Holocaust, incites to the elimination of a UN member state and illegally pursues the nuclear capability to carry this out - Calmy-Rey chose to pose smilingly with Ahmadinejad, while wearing the Islamic headscarf.

"What disappointed me was Calmy-Rey's attitude during her visit," said Shirin Ebadi, the Iranian Nobel Peace Prize laureate and <u>women</u>'s rights advocate. "She knew about the human rights situation in Iran; I even had the chance to speak to her about it beforehand. But once there she never mentioned the human rights situation in Iran, nor met any human rights defenders, not even myself. The only thing of interest to her was the business deal."

Calmy-Rey's strongest endorser is her longtime political confidante from Geneva, Jean Ziegler, the 1989 co-founder of the Muammar Gaddafi Human Rights Prize, whom she recently named as a senior adviser to the UN's discredited Human Rights Council.

Is she to be the world's designated champion of human rights?

THEN THERE is De Alba. He invokes his qualifications as the inaugural president of the Human Rights Council in 2006-2007. Yet this was a period of unprecedented decline. Reform turned into regression.

While the chair is not responsible for the votes of member states, Ban must probe the Mexican diplomat's actions in the areas under his discretion.

What did De Alba do to check the council's dark inclinations, as opposed to appeasing them? The record shows that on De Alba's watch, the new council gave a pass, time and again, to the world's worst abusers. Its resolutions praised Sudan - despite the unrelenting atrocities in Darfur - for "cooperation." When De Alba named an "independent" inquiry panel on Darfur in 2007, why did he defer to the powerful Arab, Islamic and African alliances that support the Khartoum regime, picking government representatives of sympathetic allies, instead of an all-expert panel?

"We were surprised by the method employed by [De Alba]," French UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert said at the time. "We missed a good chance to send independent personalities... This is not a good message."

On what basis did De Alba give assurances that Sudan would cooperate with this Darfur mission - when in fact the regime blocked its entry and attacked its report?

History will record that under De Alba's tenure, the council granted effective impunity to all of the world's worst human rights violators. Instead, it targeted Israel in every single one its condemnatory resolutions -10 in one year. From July to November 2007, the council called three special sessions against Israel, legitimizing terrorism committed by <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah. The Arab-initiated exercises were so extreme and one-sided that even frequent critics of Israel, both among member states and organizations such as Amnesty International, decried their bias. So why did De Alba defend the sessions as "completely justified"?

The culmination of De Alba's term was his negotiated reform proposal of June 2007, which he labeled "a great diplomatic success... a decision of historic dimensions." In fact, his package eliminated the council's protective mandates for human rights victims in Belarus and Cuba, and instituted a "review" of remaining mandates, which has already resulted in ending the investigation of abuses in the Congo, where four million have died. De Alba's package also included an Algerian-sponsored "Code of Conduct" for independent human rights experts, designed solely to intimidate them from criticizing repressive regimes.

Why did De Alba defend this package, saying, "The end result was highly positive"? In the words of The Wall Street Journal, "Council president Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico drafted a set of rules that mock the institution's very mission." How he adopted these rules was even worse. De Alba trampled basic due process by pushing his package through in the middle of the night, in the wee hours of June 19, 2007, famously denying Canada its right to vote and challenge the package.

I TOO experienced the Mexican representative's justice when taking the council floor, on behalf of UN Watch, to challenge the council's record. De Alba's response was simply to reject my speech as "inadmissible." He threatened to strike any similar remarks from the record. The episode, seen 300,000 times on YouTube, earned him the rebuke of leading newspapers and blogs around the world.

Though De Alba did not initiate the council's worst distortions of the language and idea of human rights, he gave it cover, repeatedly hailing the council, among other things, as "very open." By contrast, his successor, Ambassador Doru Costea of Romania, publicly questioned the forum's balance and credibility.

As the council continues its downward spiral, imposing, in the name of Islamic sensitivities, ominous restrictions on freedom of speech within council debates as well as around the world, an independent, principled and courageous voice in Geneva's inner sanctum is more necessary than ever.

# Graphic

# Who will guard human rights at the UN?

Photo: MICHELINE CALMY-REY visiting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in April to seal a \$28 billion gas deal. Human rights didn't interest her then. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# Compromise the only answer to Mideast impasse

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

November 22, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A7

Length: 962 words

Byline: BARRY KAY AND THOMAS HUELGIN, FOR THE RECORD

### **Body**

Readers of this page might note that the two authors of this article do not always agree on the matters discussed here. In fact, at times, we have been openly critical of each other.

Nonetheless, we are agreed that there are some self-evident realities that can no longer be ignored, if the seemingly interminable and increasingly absurd Middle East conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is ever to come to an end. Too many point fingers of blame at one party rather than the other, when the truth is the fault lies on both sides of the divide for the futility in resolving the matter.

Thoughtful outsiders can see that neither side can realize its full agenda if the conflict is ever to be resolved, but compromise is particularly difficult to achieve when sympathizers of each combatant regularly increase the polarization with claims that justice resides only with them.

Expectations for the forthcoming negotiation hosted by the United States at Annapolis, Md., are not great. In fact, suspicion lingers that the motivation for U.S. President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, has more to do with salvaging some legacy accomplishment to burnish their historical reputation. Most of the Bush presidency has been characterized by indifference to this file, and indeed contempt for Bill Clinton efforts to resuscitate the issue in the waning days of his presidential term.

Such motivations of personal expediency in no way undermine the desirability of a settlement for this long intractable dispute.

However, a serious complication is presented by the relative domestic weakness of both Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. The conciliatory gestures that each side requests of the other would serve to further weaken the precarious support that the two leaders depend upon within their own respective political systems. Such a situation is not likely to motivate bold initiatives.

It is then left to other international players to help facilitate some level of co-ordination between these historic foes. The tragedy of this futile situation is that most independent observers can see the basic framework of how an accommodation would be structured, even though the principal actors can't bring themselves to commit to an arrangement. The core elements of a compromise would include the following parameters for a permanent two-stage solution.

- 1. An agreement that the proportions of land allocated to the Palestinian and Israeli states be identical to the proportions represented by the pre-June 1967 armistice "green line." Any alterations to these boundaries would be reciprocal on an acre for acre basis for exchange. The principal areas for such exchange would include a land corridor linking the West Bank and Gaza, and a small number of Israeli settlements near the green line, specifically Gush Etzion, Ariel and Ma'ale Adumim.
- 2. Jerusalem would be divided on the basis that Jewish neighbourhoods would be part of Israel and Arab neighbourhoods would be part of the new Palestinian state. Jerusalem's holy places would be administered by officials of the respective religions. The most contentious area, the old walled city less than a square kilometre in size, should be demilitarized, and might have to be internationalized.
- 3. There would be no right of return to Israeli territory for Palestinian refugees. They would have the right to return to the Palestinian state and/or the option of financial compensation.

Likewise, Israeli residents of the Palestinian state would have no claim to remain. Some minor symbolic adjustments to this provision could be made on a reciprocal basis.

- 4. Financial contributions for the compensation of refugees would be made by the international community, particularly the U.S., which would benefit substantially from the end of the conflict.
- 5. These provisions are not intended to be interim, but are to mark the termination of claims by both sides.
- 6. Should such an agreement be made, there could be a provision for Syria being included, should it recognize all aspects of the agreement.

In exchange, the Golan Heights would be returned to Syria, on the condition the area would be demilitarized.

These above conditions are, of course, only framing principles, and would have to be filled in with a multitude of details. Among them would be a substantial economic infusion into the Palestinian state, the development of a strong and reliable Palestinian security force, and some method of integrating *Hamas* into the process, should it agree to the above provisions.

It should be remembered that these terms do not serve as a menu of options to be selected among. There are features that will be attractive and repellent to each side. Only by accepting the total package would any of them become operative.

As obvious as the above elements should be to a peace agreement, there isn't an abundance of optimism surrounding the Annapolis conference scheduled for next week.

The participants have been unwilling to make the necessary compromises, frequently encouraged by outsiders infusing each side with justification for the superiority of their cause. It is time for Canadians and other outside parties to recommend parameters, such as those mentioned above for an ultimate agreement. Neither party will be totally satisfied with such terms, but they seem to approximate the minimally acceptable conditions for the two sides.

These are similar to the proposals of the Clinton negotiators at Taba at the end of his presidency. They should have been acted upon then, but after seven subsequent years of frustration and suffering, there is no excuse to perpetuate the delay any longer.

Barry Kay and Thomas Hueglin are political science professors at Wilfrid Laurier University

# **Graphic**

#### Compromise the only answer to Mideast impasse

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, Palestinians <u>women</u> protesting in Gaza City show pictures of relatives they say are currently being held in Israeli jails -- one of many unresolved grievances.

Load-Date: November 22, 2007



# Interview with Gilbert Achcar; Q&A: 'U.S. Politics Turning Communities Against Each Other'

IPS (Latin America)
November 26, 2007 Monday

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Length: 975 words

# **Body**

Achcar -- a vehement critic of U.S. policy in the Middle East since Sep. 11, 2001 -- was born in Senegal and lived in Lebanon until moving to France in 1983.

He has served as professor of politics and international relations at the University of Paris VIII, and has written many books about the impact of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East during the post Sep. 11 era.

Achcar spoke with IPS correspondent Apostolis Fotiadis about the current state of the war and what the future might hold.

IPS: Would the absence of U.S. forces in Iraq result in an interethnic conflict of total annihilation?

GA: There are many signs to the contrary. Civil conflict has been going on anyway. It peaked some months ago and has subsided recently, but still the U.S. politics of turning the communities against each other has sharpened tensions between ethnic and sectarian groups. The only undisputable fact is the correlation between the occupation and the level of violence.

As long as the U.S. troops stay in Iraq there will be violence in this country. The announcement of a date of departure would exert pressure on the various factions in Iraq to reach a consensus. In that case people will know they are facing a deadline for finding a way to co-exist or lose control.

IPS: What would a withdrawal without first establishing effective control in the country mean for the U.S.?

GA: To withdraw from Iraq without securing control over the country and the area would result in a loss of credibility. The credibility of U.S. deterrence and power has already suffered a lot. Look at Iran now -- it is clear that they are not intimidated by the U.S. threats. Iraq has paralysed them to such an extent that they are unable to turn against other threats. It has also exposed the Achilles heel of the U.S. -- which is the Vietnam syndrome. The population does not want the country to be involved in dirty wars and this creates a serious human resource shortage for the military.

IPS: Could the increasing scale of militarisation and violence in the region be connected with the declining hegemony of the U.S.?

GA: We do not deal here with some kind of a beast that instinctively produces aggression. The war drive that has been going on since 9/11 is obviously motivated by U.S. strategic interests and it is designed according to two main concerns. One is to control the major world oil reserves. We have entered into the last few decades of cheap oil . . . the strategic importance of oil is increasing. The second is that the U.S. military presence in the heart of Eurasia --

especially in areas of interest for Russia and China -- is important because they fear an alliance of both at the expense of U.S. hegemony in the region.

IPS: What is the extent of the failure of the George W. Bush administration's foreign policy?

GA: It is a disaster. It is a total mess for U.S. foreign policy. Apart from Iraq - - where they also face a contradiction between their Turkish and Kurdish partners, which could cost them a lot politically -- it is becoming clear that the operation in Afghanistan is a total disaster and the Taliban are back and are quite strong. You take Pakistan, the situation is destabilising. Washington fears [President Pervez] Musharraf and their fears are compounded by the fact that Pakistan is a nuclear power. I hope for some compromise in Lebanon but that might turn very serious there as well. And there are efforts of the Bush administration to do something about the Israel-Palestinian conflict in order to say they are achieving something. But there are no real conditions for a compromise or any concessions made by the Israelis.

When this administration leaves the scene the political and strategic capital acquired from the U.S. after the collapse of the Soviet Union will have been completely wasted and it will only be left with a very bad imperial reputation.

IPS: Is there a downplayed aspect of the U.S. foreign policy relationship with Islamic Fundamentalism throughout the last 20 years that this administration has made use of as well?

GA: People see all the time that Iran is some kind of 'Evil' to put in Bush's terms . . . However, the fact is that the most fundamentalist state in the world, the Saudi kingdom, is the closest ally of the U.S. This state is much more reactionary in terms of religion, <u>women</u> rights, and politics. This is pure hypocrisy. One should not forget that from the 1950s the U.S. has nurtured and used Islamic fundamentalism against the Soviet Union. After the defeat of nationalism and the collapse of the Soviet Union the popular protest against corrupted despotic regimes backed by the U.S. shifted to Islamic fundamentalism.

This is like a Frankenstein tale -- they produced a monster, used it for a while, and now it has turned against them. But, not all of it -- they still have a lot of fundamentalism on their side. Even inside the same factions. Take the Islamic Brotherhood -- <u>Hamas</u> is a wing of it against the U.S., but its Jordanian wing backs the U.S. supported monarchy, and the Syrian wing is part of an opposition coalition backed by the U.S.

Reality is much more complicated than it is reflected in any of the media.

IPS: What do you think the future will be like?

GA: To be frank I have been pessimistic about this area for over a quarter of the century. Unfortunately reality has always been worse than my pessimism. In my heart I will try to remain optimistic and hopeful because the suffering of the populations concerned is absolutely terrible. We talk about the part of the world with the highest unemployment, disastrous economic conditions, and huge inequalities, facing a prospect of explosion. Still, there is potential for positive social movement, the question is if a political force able to build upon this potential will appear.

Load-Date: November 26, 2007



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

Christian Science Monitor July 18, 2008, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 1052 words

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

Dateline: Nahariya, Israel

# **Body**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Groundswell of public pressure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Family persistence

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

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

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

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

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

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Load-Date: July 20, 2008



# Lighting the lamp of Arabic caricature in London

The Daily Star (Lebanon)
July 5, 2008 Saturday

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Length: 1130 words

Byline: Olivia Snaije

# **Body**

The late president of Germany, Johannes Rau, once remarked, "for politicians there has always been only one thing worse than being caricatured - and that is not being caricatured." This statement evidently does not apply in the Middle East. Witness "Lighting Lamps," an exhibit of political cartoons by seven Middle Eastern artists.

#### Review

LONDON: The late president of Germany, Johannes Rau, once remarked, "for politicians there has always been only one thing worse than being caricatured - and that is not being caricatured." This statement evidently does not apply in the Middle East. Witness "Lighting Lamps," an exhibit of political cartoons by seven Middle Eastern artists that just went up at the London offices of The Guardian daily.

Steve Bell, The Guardian's searing political cartoonist and principal illustrator, was instrumental in bringing his Arab colleagues to London. The man who depicts US President George W. Bush as a monkey [some sort of simian, in any case] and regularly lambastes British and US foreign policy in the Middle East says he's always been interested in the region.

Bell traveled to Syria in 2007, where he met acclaimed cartoonist Ali Ferzat, and subsequently went on to Jordan.

During his travels, Bell was able to see the restrictions imposed on the region's political cartoonists first hand. "I realized how fortunate I am to work completely unsupervised, with the high probability that my work will get published," he remarked. "It hadn't occurred to me how rude we are to politicians here [in the UK]."

Bearded and slight, Ferzat lives in Damascus, though "metaphorically," he said, "I am an immigrant," referring to the fact all his cartoons are published outside of Syria. His work appears in major Arab newspapers as well as in Le Monde and other international publications.

Ferzat founded the satirical daily Al-Dumari (The Lamplighter, which lends its name to the current show) during the "Damascus Spring" - the period of tentative political freedom following the death of President Hafez Assad in 2000.

In 2003, Ferzat was obliged to shut the paper after Syrian authorities revoked its license. The government generally leaves Ferzat alone nowadays, as he has gained considerable international recognition.

#### Lighting the lamp of Arabic caricature in London

Ferzat's uncaptioned cartoons speak of torture, corruption, injustice and oppression. His colorful, playful drawings are both witty and terrible. In one cartoon, a man is strung up and left to die after a prison torturer has chopped off his hand and a foot. The torturer sits next to him sobbing, while watching a love story on television.

"I enjoy drawing with the mentality of a butcher," said Ferzat, "and the technical expertise of a brain surgeon."

His drawings are timeless but contain no language barriers, so they can be understood cross-culturally. In this sense, it's a shame the exhibit doesn't include caricature artists from the Maghreb as well, all of whom have addressed similar issues - including Islamic fundamentalism, election fraud and human rights abuses.

This is somewhat ironic, since "Lighting Lamps" marks the culmination of a four-year British Council project to bring together media professionals from North Africa and the Middle East to raise awareness of key social issues, among which censorship remains a cardinal problem.

The British Council project assembled print, on-line, radio and television journalists, as well as cartoonists - although the caricaturists say they often felt left out. The exhibition, said lan Wright, the co-director of The Guardian Foundation, is the result of the cartoonists' polite hijacking of the project.

A picture may be worth a thousand words but, as Wright observed at the opening of "Lighting Lamps," "a good cartoon is worth 10,000 words."

Armand Homsi draws for An-Nahar daily and Noun Magazine. He evidently has enough material in Lebanon to keep the subject of his cartoons local - as in his drawing of university students mounting the steps of a plane to get their degrees, leaving the country as soon as they graduate.

The two Jordanian artists, Jalal al-Rifai and Emad Hajjaj draw for Ad-Dustour newspaper, Al-Ghad and Al-Quds al-Arabi. Palestine, Israel, Iraq and US foreign policy are all targets of their withering political commentaries.

Mustafa Hussein, head of the Egyptian Association for Caricature and a contributor to Al-Akhbar newspaper, focuses on Egypt's failed economy in his work. "God only knows about the prices," remarks a skeleton in an interview with a journalist, "but what can we do? As you can see we are still surviving ..."

While the art of political cartoons is still in its infancy in Saudi Arabia, two cartoonists from the kingdom have their work in the show. Abdullah Sayeb co-founded "Character," a monthly cartoon supplement in which he focuses on social issues. In Saudi Arabia, he stresses, "we need serious information." When it comes to international issues he continues, "Bush is my main target."

Yazeed Alharthi, a pharmacist who studied in Lebanon, draws cartoons for the Saudi daily Al-Riyadh as well as for the weekly Rotana magazine. "We are free with certain limits," said Alharthi with a smile. "We work between the red lines." To be on the safe side, he never brings up issues involving the king or religion. One of the cartoons he has in this exhibit, he says, would have been impossible to publish 10 years ago. It shows a plane in flight from Riyadh to Paris, with abayas flying out the window, as Saudi <u>women</u> get ready for France.

The youngest artist featured in Lighting Lamps is Palestinian Amer Shomali, who is part of the Ramallah-based Zan Studio, an open space where young activists share ideas and skills and use art as a tool.

"We don't have the luxury to be purely artists," says Shomali, "and we don't know how to shoot, so this is our alternative form of resistance."

An architect working on a Masters degree in animation in the UK, Shomali produces political posters with his partners and publishes work in alternative media. Zan Studio's series of posters on USAID in the exhibit show that the hand that feeds bites as well.

Zan studio also contributes a monthly comic strip to a youth magazine in Palestine and would like to increase its production of animated films. Zan Studio members all have other jobs, which allows them to work on a pro-bono

#### Lighting the lamp of Arabic caricature in London

basis and free of any political constraints. Besides the Israeli government, they have alternately been threatened by French Zionists and by *Hamas*, and recently annoyed Fatah.

"Nothing is sacred," says Shomali enthusiastically. "Nothing is untouchable and everything is open to criticism. It's open fire in all directions."

Steve Bell would approve.

"Lighting Lamps" runs until July 18 before going on a regional tour of the Middle East and North Africa later this year.

Load-Date: October 23, 2008



# <u>'Enigmatic, intricate, unpredictable'; Far from a dictatorship united in belligerence, Iran is a bubbling social and political cauldron - Correction Appended</u>

The Toronto Star

July 13, 2008 Sunday

# Correction Appended

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 985 words

Byline: Olivia Ward, Toronto Star

# **Body**

Missiles rising in an ominous trail of smoke, a nuclear program that won't quit, the belligerent threats of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These are the public images of Iran that rattle Western nerves and shake the global oil market.

But those who know Iran well say bellicose gestures are only a small part of a much more complex picture - one in which highly educated students challenge the mullahs, plastic surgery is a growth industry and the revolution that most attracts the young is sexual.

Peek beneath the clouded surface of the conservative clerical regime, they say, and dozens of streams of thought will surge into view, many of them surprising to outsiders.

And they point out that, from Iran's point of view, Wednesday's publicly provocative test firing of powerful new ballistic missiles was a poorly calculated (and partly faked) show of force by a government under pressure from without and within.

"Iranians have not learned how to address the international community and its concerns," says Houchang Hassan-Yari, a professor of international relations at the Royal Military College of Canada.

"Instead, they are playing a very raw diplomatic game."

Iran's nuclear ambitions - which Tehran insists are peaceful - have brought threats of tougher sanctions from Washington and a warning that Israel is "not afraid to take action when its vital security interests are at stake."

Iran's support for the Lebanese Islamist group Hezbollah, Palestinian <u>Hamas</u> militants and Iraq's violent Shiite Mahdi Army has also stoked the instability of a region already smouldering.

But far from a dictatorship united under a banner of belligerence, Iran is "bewildering, enigmatic, incongruent, intricate, ironic, multi-dimensional and unpredictable" in a way that often baffles its own people, says Mehrzad Boroujerdi, director of Middle Eastern Studies at Syracuse University in New York.

'Enigmatic, intricate, unpredictable' Far from a dictatorship united in belligerence, Iran is a bubbling social and political cauldron

Small wonder it is so badly understood in the West.

"There is such an amazing mismatch between what the government preaches and what goes on in the privacy of people's homes that it's mind-boggling," says Boroujerdi. "It's a duality of character that people have grown accustomed to."

Iran elects its president and parliament but is actually controlled by a confusing array of unelected bodies that decide who is allowed to run and how policy is made - placing most of the authority in the hands of the ruling clergy and making it impossible to vote the regime out of power.

Three decades after the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution, Iran's supreme leader is still a religious figure, supported by a powerful Republican Guard that enforces the regime's ideology and has spread its tentacles into the economy and the contentious nuclear program.

"From its inception, the Islamic Republic was a state divided between competing centres of power and profoundly differing conceptions of political authority," writes author Ray Takeyh in Hidden Iran: Paradox and Power in the Islamic Republic. "Iran today is a nation in search of an identity, a state that oscillates between promises of democratic modernity and retrogressive tradition."

While the religious police make life uncomfortable for people who want to lead secular lives - fining them for "immodest" dress, imprisoning them for "un-Islamic behaviour" - they have not managed to hold back the tide of globalization.

With its 70 million population largely well educated and under 30, Iran can't shut out global cultural, technological and political influences. In spite of censorship, the Internet has opened up expanding possibilities, and a lively black market trade in DVDs gives a glimpse of the latest Western movies, while satellite television is a window on international politics and lifestyles.

Ubiquitous cellphones allow text-message romances and furtive dates behind closed doors. And even in public, many young <u>women</u> have abandoned flowing chadors for body-hugging styles, spike heels and colourful headscarves over fashionably streaked hair.

The tentative opening of Iranian society comes at a price. Those who flout the rules know they could be arrested, beaten, tortured and sentenced to prison terms at the whim of the religious police.

"Students have a history of political action," says Mori Abdolalian, an exiled Iranian journalist who lives in Toronto. "There is a lot of unrest now. There are daily arrests of students who protest, and young <u>women</u> as well as men are supporting the protests."

Abdolalian, who monitors the Iranian media, says <u>women</u> activists are especially at risk of being targeted by the authorities and jailed, as happened with Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi, who died in detention five years ago.

Inflation has also fuelled unrest, topping 20 per cent. As it eats up the benefits of spiking oil prices in energy-rich Iran, low-paid teachers and other workers are joining the protests, demanding more rights and higher wages.

"Iran isn't short of cash, but worldwide prices are going up," says economist Akbar Torbat of California State University, Dominguez Hills. "It has to import and pay higher prices, like other countries. But there is also political discontent. People think the elected president and parliament should have power, not unelected bodies."

As unrest builds, so does pressure on the regime.

Says Abdolalian: "When people are young, educated and urban, they expect more of their government. In Iran, all three trends are taking place simultaneously."

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'Enigmatic, intricate, unpredictable' Far from a dictatorship united in belligerence, Iran is a bubbling social and political cauldron

But he adds that the West should be wary of promoting an aggressive regime change in Tehran, a tactic likely to backfire.

"Iranians are in a predicament," concludes Abdolalian. "They don't want another revolution, but they don't want an attack.

"After 30 years of ups and downs, people may not like the government, but they're looking for some harmony in their lives. That means dealing with the devil you know instead of experimenting with the one you don't."

## Correction

Some quotes in a July 13 analysis article about Iran were incorrectly attributed. Mehrzad Boroujerdi, director of Middle Eastern Studies at Syracuse University (not Mori Abdolalian, an exiled Iranian journalist who lives in Toronto) said: "When people are young, educated and urban, they expect more of their government ..." adding that the West should be wary of promoting an aggressive regime change in Tehran, a tactic likely to backfire. Boroujerdi (not Abdolalian) also said, "Iranians are in a predicament. They don't want another revolution, but they don't want an attack."

Correction-Date: July 15, 2008

# **Graphic**

Reuters Photo Iranian religious police shut down this Tehran barbershop last month for giving Western-style haircuts to its youthful clientele.

Load-Date: July 19, 2008



# A masjid grows in Brooklyn

The Jerusalem Post July 4, 2008 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 1059 words

Byline: SARAH HONIG

Highlight: Another Tack. Israel suddenly seemed way safer than certain New York nooks

# **Body**

I was Brooklyn bound - or so I thought. I took the subway to see a fellow alumna of New York's High School of Music and Art (as today's LaGuardia High School for the Arts was then called). I looked forward to the nostalgic reunion. I hadn't been in NYC for ages and catching up with an old classmate seemed an indispensable component of walking down memory lane.

What's more, Kathy still lives at the same address in the cozy middle-class neighborhood where I sometimes visited her way back then. It was common for the house- proud Irish to keep property in the family, and hence I'd soon reenter the two-story red-brick home in whose wood- paneled rec-room we occasionally whiled away hours.

But when I climbed up the grimy station stairs and surveyed the street, I suspected that some supernatural timeand-space warp had transported me to Islamabad. This couldn't be Brooklyn.

<u>Women</u> strode attired in hijabs and male passersby sported all manner of Muslim headgear and long flowing tunics. Kathy met me at the train and astounded me by pointing out long kurta shirts as distinguished from a salwar kameez. She couldn't help becoming an expert. She's now a member of a fast-dwindling minority because "people are running away. We're among the last holdouts of our generation. My kids have fled."

Pakistani and Bangladeshi groceries lined the main shopping drag and everywhere stickers boldly beckoned: "Discover Jesus in the Koran." An unremarkable low-slung building on the corner of Kathy's block was now dominated by an oversized green sign, identifying it as Masjid Nur al-Islam (the Light of Islam Mosque) and announcing that "only Allah is worthy of worship and Muhammad is his LAST prophet." Here too Christians were urged to "turn to the Koran" if they were "genuinely faithful to Jesus."

It wasn't hard to identify the remaining non-Muslim residences. Kathy's was typical. A huge American flag fluttered demonstratively in the manicured front yard, accompanied by a large cross on the door and an assortment of patriotic/jingoistic banners. "We're besieged," she explained. "Making a statement is about all we can do. They aren't delighted to see our flag wave. This is enemy territory."

LEST I judge her paranoid, Kathy began regaling me with what she knew about the mosque a few doors down her street, still as tree-lined as I remember but somehow less pretty and tidy, even vaguely grubby.

Kathy had compiled a bulging dossier of press clippings and computer printouts about the masjid that grew in a once heavily-Jewish area. Until the mid-1990s, its imam was the late Egyptian-educated Gulshair el- Shukrijumah,

#### A masjid grows in Brooklyn

dispatched by the Saudis as a Wahhabi missionary in 1985 and financed by them thereafter. His disciple, Clement Rodney Hampton-El, an explosives specialist, possibly helped assemble the bomb detonated in the '93 World Trade Center attack. He was convicted of plotting to blow up the UN, FBI headquarters and the Holland and Lincoln tunnels. Gulshair acted as interpreter for Omar Abdel-Rahman, the "Blind Sheikh" now serving life for the first WTC bombing, conspiring to use explosives at other NYC landmarks and colluding to assassinate US politicians.

Nabbed operational commander of the 9/11 plot, Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, fingered Gulshair's eldest son Adnan as having been designated by al-Qaida and personally approved by Osama Bin-Laden to lead new terror assaults and serve as successor to Muhammad Atta, with whom Adnan was connected. Adnan received flight training and is dubbed "Jaffar the pilot." He was likewise linked to "dirty bomber" Jose Padilla, <u>Hamas</u> and al-Qaida fund-raiser Adham Hassoun, and terrorist Imran Mandhai (convicted of conspiring to bomb the National Guard armory, South Florida electrical substations, Jewish-owned businesses and community centers, and Mount Rushmore).

Kathy's ex-neighbor is now a fugitive and subject of a worldwide FBI manhunt. Adnan's brother Nabil, incidentally, uploaded to his Web page an image of Jerusalem ablaze with the caption: "Al Kuds, we are coming."

BUT OF more immediate concern to Kathy and the few leftover neighborhood natives is the "in-your-face insolence of the immigrants." For years the mosque had been calling the faithful to prayers via a rooftop loudspeaker five times daily. Police intervention persuaded the imam to omit the pre-dawn sonorous summons. Catholic Kathy knows all about "Allahu akhbar" and how the muezzin intones it.

"I'm not a bigot," she stressed repeatedly. "The Jewish community, which once flourished here, was so different. This was always a pluralistic live-and-let-live section. The jihadists, however, aren't here to coexist but to conquer. The Jewish community here was so different. They weren't on the offensive. They just wanted to be left alone." She recalled her brother Eddie, whose best childhood friend was the son of a nearby Orthodox rabbi. During his teens Eddie was regularly recruited by his chum to the minyan until he was roused too early one winter morning and exclaimed: "What do you want from me? I'm not even Jewish!"

"This kind of a relationship," Kathy commented, "just isn't possible these days. Muslims call us infidels and want all infidels out. We're threatened."

On the way back, I decided to photograph the masjid, sensing it could make a story. Kathy became frantic. "Don't you dare," she almost yelled. As I slipped the camera back into my handbag, she explained that several weeks before my arrival two journalists, Bos Smith and Paul Williams, photographed a similar Brooklyn mosque, Masjid al-Takwa. They were grabbed by 20 ninja-uniformed men, shoved into the mosque cellar, held captive and roughly interrogated by the group's henna-bearded leader, Ali Kareem. He released them only after they fibbed that they were interested in converting to Islam. On a subsequent visit to the site they were accosted again and an attempt was made to seize and break their camera. "I don't know who may be watching us now," Kathy warned.

Nevertheless, I perused the notice board near the entrance and learned that enrollment is on for the mosque school (where Gulshair once taught) and that if I hang around I could hear one Abu Yousuf lecture on "protecting yourself from Shaytan (Satan) this summer."

Alternatively, I could seek sanctuary from Shaytan in Israel. It suddenly seemed way safer than certain Brooklyn nooks.

# **Graphic**

Photo: A Brooklyn street - with a lone American flag on the corner building. (Credit: Sarah Honig)

# A masjid grows in Brooklyn

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



# There is only one man who can save America

The Herald (Glasgow)
June 9, 2008 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 15

Length: 1098 words

**Byline: IAN MACWHIRTER** 

# **Body**

OF COURSE, they're both really Scots, you know. Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain are supposedly both descended from the same Scottish king: William the Lion, who ruled from 1165 to 1214, according to an American genealogist, Gary Boyd Roberts, reported in a London newspaper in January. Make of that what you will. Alex Salmond has both their numbers.

John McCain is intensely proud of his Caledonian ancestry, as he makes plain in his book Faith of my Fathers. His family left Scotland in the eighteenth century, and he even claims to be descended from Robert the Bruce. Obama's views on his alleged Scottishness - supposedly through Edward Fitz Randolph, who emigrated to America in the seventeenth century - are unknown.

Of course, this genealogical trivia tells us precisely nothing about the politics of the US presidency. However, it does remind us that everyone is related to everyone else in America, and that a lot of them came from Scotland. It also underlines an essential truth about Barack Obama: that he is almost impossible to pin down by conventional ethnic stereotypes.

With a Kenyan father and a white American mother, Obama is neither African-American nor white Caucasian. He grew up partly in Indonesia, where he went to a Muslim school - his middle name is Hussein - before ending up in Hawaii, which is about as far as you can get from middle America and still be in the US. When people say he is the first black presidential candidate, they could equally say that he is not actually black, and he's not really American. Some 16per cent of Americans believe he is a Muslim, and interviewers on Fox TV delight in mispronouncing his name as "Osama". Yes, only one letter separates Barack Obama from the boss of al Qaeda.

I find this ethnic heterogeneity the most attractive feature of the Obama candidacy. He really is a modern American everyman - or as near to it as you can get. No, he doesn't represent <u>women</u>, but Hillary does that. No, it doesn't necessarily mean he will be a good P resident, or even that he will make a decisive break with the disastrous foreign policies that have turned half the world against the US. However, he remains a potent metaphor for all that is best in the American constitution - the stuff about it being self-evident that all men are created equal.

#### There is only one man who can save America

Yup, I know that <u>women</u> are not quite as equal as men. And for the black American underclass, it is equality of misery. But he has lived that contradiction. Barack Obama's own life experience is his best recommendation. He made a conscious decision to align himself with the black American dispossessed as a community activist in Chicago. His wife, Michelle, knows about being part of an underclass. His election would represent atonement for America's wars and for its capitulation to the politics of the super-rich. If the US can't come to its senses under Obama, it can't do it at all.

Unlike the rest of the Democrat political establishment, Obama opposed the Iraq war from the outset. He has made clear his intention to be the first American leader in 30 years to sit down and talk with Middle East leaders, including the Iranians, "without precondition". When he pulls the US troops out of Iraq, it will be difficult for Muslim extremists to claim that America is on a white-Christian fundamentalist crusade to destroy Islam.

Cynics will say: so what? The US was in the region for oil, not religion, and Obama has already begun to fudge the timetable for troop withdrawal. He sacked a member of his team for talking to <u>Hamas</u> and he told the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee last week that Jerusalem must remain "the undivided capital of the Israeli state", and that he will do "everything in my power" to stop Iran gaining a nuclear weapon. It remains the case that no serious American politician can afford to alienate the Jewish lobby. But we can't write him off for that - at least not yet. His father was Muslim, so he understands Islam, and can talk across the clash of civilisations.

Anyway, think of the alternative. John McCain may claim to be an American Scot, but that is only to bolster his image as an aggressive conservative. His hero is Barry Goldwater, the Republican hard-liner from the 1960s who made a virtue of his willingness to nuke the Russians. McCain is not an identikit Republican: he takes the environment seriously, is liberal on issues such as immigration and campaigned against the use of orture in Guantanamo Bay. But he is still a leading exponent of what has been called "American exceptionalism": the concept that the only thing that matters in foreign policy is America's direct interests, narrowly defined. It is a philosophy that stems from the neo- conservative Project for the New American Century, and was the kind of thinking that got America into the Iraq war - which, of course, McCain supported.

Obama's historic purpose is to reconnect to America's other tradition - of exercising "soft" power rather than "hard" power. Soft power was the way the US defeated the Soviet Union, not through military conquest but through cultural osmosis. It was as much American rock music and Levi's consumerism that undermined the Warsaw Pact and brought down the communist bureaucracies. Soft power was the way America rebuilt post-war Europe by Marshall Aid, rather than through the scorchedearth policy it has employed in Iraq. Soft power revives the inviolable principle of national selfdetermination, as proposed by President Woodrow Wilson after the First World War, which underpins the United Nations.

But will Obama win? Is America ready for a black President? Well, just look at him. He's the most charismatic politician in the world; a black Kennedy. His primary campaign mobilised young people and minorities - the groups Clinton thought didn't vote any more. Thanks to Hillary, most of Obama's negatives have already been exposed, like his pastor Jeremiah Wright's anti Americanism. But McCain has skeletons, too: he was friends with the Mafia boss Joe "Bananas" Bonano, his wife was a drug addict who stole from her own charity, he has a notorious temper and he has a reputation for extramarital affairs.

I think McCain will be careful not to throw too much mud in case it sticks to him. His tax- cutting conservatism is out of time, as is his dumb-ass militarism. America is a country in decline, an international pariah with an economy wrecked by financial excess. The Obama identity represents its best hope of political renewal. America really has no choice but to embrace him. It could be the country's last hope.

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