

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:41:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223361836

Documents (100)

1. [*Why tolerate intolerance?:*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

2. [*In Focus*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

3. [*Bombings linked to al-Qaida*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

4. [*Bedouin admits selling explosives used in Egypt*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [*2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

6. [*Naming the Enemy*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

7. [*Jihad widows keep the faith - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

8. [*MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

9. [*Two-Front Insurgency*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

10. [*Resolute in Iraq*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

11. [WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

12. [Friends take hope for peace on road; They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

13. [Arabs delay summit](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

14. [Week in review](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

15. [Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers. Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to

Oct 31, 2004

16. [Israelis Kill 8 Palestinians In Raid on a Camp in Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

17. [IRAQ 'S GUERRILLAS ADOPT NEW STRATEGY: COPY THE AMERICANS; IRAQ BOMBINGS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

18. [A craven approach to peace and justice](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

19. [Israeli threat shows lack of commitment to peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

20. [EDWARD SAID JAMMED OUR VIEW OF ARAB WORLD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

21. [*Crean's grovelling makes a mockery of peace debate*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

22. [*NEWS SUMMARY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

23. [*OPEN ELECTIONS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

24. [*Stereotypes dim our view of Mideast*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

25. [*After much talk about Abbott's one notion, the war drags on*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

26. [*THE SETTLERS OF GILAD'S FARM DEFY AMERICA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

27. [*The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ; Another failure of imagination?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

28. [*Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

29. [*France Pushes For Release Of Hostages*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

30. [*Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

31. [*FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

32. [*FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

33. [*Stalking Syria*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

34. [*Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAJI:*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

35. [*Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to resolving conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. A documentary and Web site are in the works*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

36. [*Services held amid tight security*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

37. [The case for fighting terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

38. [Veritas?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

39. [Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

40. [Christians flee from Bethlehem crossfire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

41. [America is rolling back global terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

42. [Study the Koran?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

43. ['SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

44. [Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti- Saudi Remarks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

45. [Saturday Review : Annus horribilis: Michael Meacher looks back: The Guardian Year 2003 edited by Luke Dodd 304pp, Guardian, \\$:14.99](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

46. ['Spinning Into Control'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

47. [Israelis kill 8 in Gaza incursion; Officials find tunnel used to smuggle arms](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

48. [Telling Friend From Foe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

49. [Israel destroys empty Gaza buildings, Blasts are reprisal for attack on settlement](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

50. [Robert Fisk: Ramadan revenge - a message sent and a lesson learned](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

51. [Israeli strike incurs world's wrath - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

52. [*A Gaza Settlement Is Threatened*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

53. [*Two beacons of hope amid Middle East gloom*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

54. [*TWO DIE, MANY INJURED AND HOMES IN RUINS AS ISRAELIS BOMB GAZA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

55. [*A Shattered Childhood*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

56. [*Arafat best bet for lasting M-E solution*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

57. [*The best bet for peace - Arafat*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

58. [*What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s. But often it seems that radical ideology is not the end in itself, but an outlet for a violent predisposition that changes aimless, identity-less losers into 'agents of destiny,' Don Butler reports.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

59. [*Israel agrees to free hundreds of prisoners*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

60. [*Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners to be set free*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

61. [*Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

62. [News in Brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

63. [In Focus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

64. [In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

65. [In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

66. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

67. [For Palestinian moms, some painful choices](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

68. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

69. [Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

70. [Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

71. [COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

72. [Israelis compromise on Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

73. [*Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

74. [*Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

75. [*Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

76. [*A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

77. [*Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

78. [The week that was](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

79. [Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

80. [Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

81. [Israeli bank raid breaks new turf](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

82. [Standing at the Crossroads of Mitzpeh Yitzhar](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to

Oct 31, 2004

83. [Israel 's human rights leadership still being ignored](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

84. [The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , the Mideast and North Korea](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

85. [NEWSDESK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

86. [ISRAEL KILLS SIX IN TANK ATTACK ON GAZA CAMP CAMP](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

87. [Dinner at the Pope's Place](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

88. [*Yom Kippur War*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

89. [*Saudis Fostering terrorism? September 19, 2003, Friday*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

90. [*World Report*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

91. [*Besieged Arafat backs down over militants*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

92. [*French hold hectic talks on captives*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [*French try to answer Iraq 's anarchy with charm*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

94. [LETTERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

95. [Marital woes under martial law](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

96. [Is it okay to love a robot?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [News in Brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

99. [*The ones who are not news*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [*The Spectacle Of a Dirty War THE STRATEGIC INTEREST*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

Why tolerate intolerance?:

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

October 30, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. A22; Danielle Smith

Length: 702 words

Byline: Danielle Smith, Calgary Herald

Body

The Muslim Council of Montreal thinks the media are unfairly picking on Mohamed Elmasry.

Elmasry, president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, came under fire this week for his outrageous comments on Michael Coren's television talk show. In a discussion on terrorism, Coren and Elmasry began a surreal exchange about who is and who isn't a legitimate target of Palestinian suicide attacks. Here's part of it:

Elmasry: . . . Totally innocent are the children, obviously. OK? But they are not innocent if they are military in civilian clothes. OK?

Coren: What civilians?

Elmasry: The same if they are women in the army.

Coren: Anyone over the age of 18 in Israel is a valid target?

Elmasry: Anybody above 18 is a part of the Israeli popular army.

Coren: Everyone in Israel and everyone and anyone in Israel, irrespective of gender, over the age of 18 is a valid target?

Elmasry: Yes. I would say.

Afterward, the CIC tried to distance Elmasry from his words, implying he was merely expressing the commonly held view among Palestinians. Elmasry apologized for his comments, eight days later, and offered to resign, but the board of directors of the CIC refused. Then, the counterspin began.

The head of the Montreal Muslim organization, Salam Elmenyaw, stated the media coverage of this incident "smacks of a vendetta against Dr. Elmasry due to his critical comments of the Canadian media's coverage of Islam and Muslims." It seems Elmasry, who is now the subject of a police hate crimes investigation and who faces possible disciplinary action from the University of Waterloo, is the real victim.

If the media is demonstrating a certain zeal in their coverage, it's only because nobody likes a hypocrite. Elmasry is among the worst for flippantly levelling accusations of hate. Here's a sample from the CIC's 2004 archives:

Why tolerate intolerance?:

In response to a Montreal Gazette editorial cartoon joking about terrorists getting "extra points" for suicide bombings during Ramadan: "False identification of Ramadan -- the holiest month of the Muslim year -- with terrorism is offensive in the extreme. It is, in fact, hate literature."

In response to a quote by Carleton University professor Martin Rudner on terrorist infiltration in Canada: "We at CIC believe Mr. Rudner has crossed that line into the area of hate-literature and it is shameful behaviour for a Canadian academic."

After a National Post story by Bob Fife, documenting Saudi funding of radicals in Canada: "At best, it is transparently

biased journalism; at worst, it is outright hate propaganda."

To a Toronto Star columnist writing on Muslims who lamented the execution of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and criticized such societies "where wickedness is bred in the bone": "That is hateful, inflammatory and unworthy of a respected large circulation daily newspaper. . . ." (This one, at least, was upheld by the Ontario Press Council.)

In response to Jewish groups who hosted Italian lecturer and Muslim convert Abdul Hadi Palazzi, who has accused a majority of mosques and Muslim organizations in Canada of being controlled by active terrorist elements: "To bring this known anti-Islam campaigner into our midst is bad enough and tantamount to hate crime."

In answer to the publication of a book on Islamic terrorism by authors Richard Perle and David Frum: The CIC "has found An End To Evil to be a thinly disguised anti-Muslim hate manual."

Elmasry regularly denounces reporters, columnists, professors, authors and cartoonists as hate-mongers. Yet, he and his organization expect forgiveness when he takes the stage to rationalize the cold-blooded terrorist murder of all Israelis over the age of 18. Many Canadians have become so battered by political correctness, they believe they must be tolerant of intolerance. But my sympathy well has run dry.

If Muslim organizations are going to make hate crime accusations, they better be sure that when one of their own leaders crosses the line, he is also held to account. There are more than 700,000 Muslims in Canada, and the CIC claims to speak for 70 per cent of them. Let's hear them speak with one voice, and demand that

Elmasry step down.

More on this topic can be seen on Global Sunday. Smith is the host.

dsmith@theherald.canwest.com

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
October 6, 2004 Wednesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 689 words

Byline: The Gazette

Body

Israelis, Palestinians seek ceasefire talks

Background: The Israeli army launched a major offensive in the northern Gaza Strip six days ago, triggered by the killing of two Israeli children by Hamas rockets.

New: Israeli and Palestinian security

officials have begun indirect contacts aimed at ending the offensive, which has killed 68 Palestinian civilians and suspected members of terrorist groups.

Details, Page A20

Allawi's grim picture

Background: In Washington last month, Iraq's interim prime minister, Ayad Allawi, gave an optimistic account of the security situation in Iraq.

New: In his first speech before the interim national assembly in Baghdad, Allawi gives a much darker, more sobering estimate of the threat posed by the insurgency.

Next: Operations by U.S. and Iraqi forces against insurgent strongholds south of Baghdad, to wrest control from militants, continue. Details, Page A17

Montreal women suffer

Background: Quebec's Council on the

Status of Women analyzed 2001 Statistics Canada figures and found that women in Montreal are more likely to be killed by their spouses or to become pregnant as teenagers.

New: The council reveals that women in Montreal use public transit more often, hold more part-time jobs and generally are more depressed than their male counterparts. Details, Page A6

City, blue-collars settle

In Focus

Background: The city of Montreal and its unionized blue-collar workers went to arbitration after they were unable to reach a new labour agreement.

New: The arbitrator's ruling, issued

this week, gives city officials most of what they wanted - a standard 36-hour work week, modest salary increases and more say for foremen and borough officials.

Details, Page A7

Bill 57 gets 'incentives'

Background: Last year, in the dying days of the Parti Quebecois government, the National Assembly unanimously adopted an anti-poverty law.

New: Employment Minister Claude Bechard introduces Bill 57 to implement that law, but added "incentives" to get people who are able to work off social assistance.

Next: Critics have called on Bechard to withdraw Bill 57 and to scrap a \$100-a-month cut in payments for welfare recipients living at home whose parents work. Details, Page A11

PSAC talks to resume

Background: Contract negotiations between the Treasury Board and the Public Service Alliance of Canada have been at a standstill with more than 40,000 PSAC members on strike.

New: The two sides have agreed to resume contract negotiations in a last-ditch attempt to avert a national strike. A deadline of Oct. 12 has been set for the 100,000 workers in three PSAC bargaining units. The union called a truce until then. Details, Page A15

'No respect' comic dies

Rodney Dangerfield, the comic whose self-deprecating one-liners brought him stardom in clubs, TV and films and made his lament "I don't get no respect" a catchphrase, has died at age 82. Details, Page C7

business

Quebec seniors blessed

Retirees in Quebec have it good compared with seniors in other industrialized countries, but lag behind other Canadians in retirement income, according to a study commissioned by the Regie des rentes du Quebec. Details, Page B1

Third Wal-Mart union?

Workers at a third Wal-Mart store in Quebec have filed an application to form a union as the province becomes the key battleground for labour drives at the U.S. retail giant. Details, Page B4

Sports

Walker powers Cards

Canadian Larry Walker homered twice and the St. Louis Cardinals tied a postseason record by hitting five homers, overwhelming the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-3 in their National League division series opener. Details, Page C2

Arts & Life

R.E.M.: Still feeling fine

In Focus

R.E.M. has released its new CD, *Around the Sun*, into a marketplace gone soft on rock and on the band itself. But frontman Michael Stipe says he's happy with whatever happens. He says the band has never been a slave to the Top 40. Details, Page D1

Turkey time a dump fest

As predictable as the keg parties that welcome freshmen to their new college lives comes the turkey dump. That's when sweethearts come home for the holidays only to break up with the high school love they left behind and have now outgrown. Details, Page D1

Graphic

Photo: (R.E.M.);

Photo: (Israelis, Palestinians)

Load-Date: October 6, 2004

Bombings linked to al-Qaida

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

October 9, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. B8

Length: 652 words

Byline: Associated Press; Canadian Press

Dateline: TABA, Egypt

Body

TABA, Egypt (AP-CP) -- Israeli officials said Friday they believe al-Qaida was probably behind three suicide car bomb attacks targeting Red Sea resorts filled with Israeli tourists, as investigators searched for evidence and rescuers pulled bodies from the twisted wreckage of a five-star hotel and casino.

Thursday night's bombings in Egypt's Sinai peninsula killed 29 people, according to Israeli authorities, who were leading the rescue effort. Egyptian officials could confirm only 24 dead. More than 100 people were injured, with reports as high as 160.

Using everything from jackhammers and drills to dogs and bare hands, rescuers searched the wreckage of the Taba Hilton, site of the first and by far the deadliest of the bombings. But after turning on flood lamps as darkness fell on Friday, they did not expect to find many more bodies underneath the piles of concrete and metal, and appeared to be losing hope of finding survivors.

The number of missing was unclear. Israeli authorities had a list of about 100 people who had not yet checked in, said Maj.-Gen. Yair Naveh, head of the Israeli Home Front Command.

Israelis fled the Sinai by the thousands Friday, and authorities across the border in the Israeli city of Eilat put them up in community centres while they arranged to get home. Many tourists complained bitterly about Egyptian authorities who they said initially prevented them from leaving their hotels.

The 10 p.m. explosion at the Hilton sheared outer rooms off a 10-storey wing. A hotel employee sleeping on the third floor was blown about three metres into the air and killed, her blood staining the ceiling. A mother and daughter fell from the seventh floor to the first, a plunge that killed the elder woman. Another woman died after falling two storeys in a bathtub. Trees near the hotel were littered with the bodies of charred birds.

The attack was quickly followed by two more car bombings outside beach-bungalow camps south of Taba.

Participants in an emergency meeting of the Israeli cabinet said the military intelligence chief told them al-Qaida was probably behind the attacks. Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim called Osama bin Laden's terrorist network the most likely suspect.

Bombings linked to al-Qaida

Egyptian authorities were more cautious. "We have to wait until the investigation is over to make sure if the attack was related to al-Qaida, or any other organization, or not," said Maged Abdel Fattah, spokesperson for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew issued a statement Friday condemning the attacks and expressing sympathy to the victims and their families.

"While the details of these bombings are still coming in, it seems clear that the targets were the many Israeli tourists who were on vacation at these Egyptian resorts," Pettigrew said from Ottawa. "It is all the more offensive that Israelis were targeted during the religious holiday of Sukkoth.

"Canada condemns this assault and calls for the swift apprehension of those responsible," he added.

In Washington, a U.S. counterterrorism official, discussing intelligence on the condition of anonymity, said American officials suspect -- but aren't certain -- that al-Qaida had a role in the bombings.

The co-ordinated bombings show a level of sophistication that fits al-Qaida's usual operational style, the official said.

Not ruled out are Palestinian groups, such as Hamas, or local Egyptian militant groups, the official said. One significant Egyptian group, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, merged with al-Qaida several years ago; its leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, is now bin Laden's top deputy. The Egypt-based Islamic Group also has ties to al-Qaida.

U.S. President George W. Bush offered to help Egypt track down those responsible.

"By targeting Muslims and Jews, Egyptians and Israelis, and women and children, the terrorists have shown their total contempt for all human life and for all human values," he said.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; Carpets hang from the damaged rooms of the Hilton Hotel in Taba, Egypt

Load-Date: October 9, 2004

Bedouin admits selling explosives used in Egypt

Philadelphia Daily News

October 11, 2004 Monday 4STAR EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved



Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 18

Length: 673 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: TABA, Egypt

Body

A Bedouin tribesman has confessed to selling explosives that might have been used in three deadly car bombings targeting Israeli tourists, and investigators were looking into possible Palestinian militant involvement, Egyptian security officials said yesterday.

The tribesman said the buyers, whom he could not identify, told him the explosives would be used in the Palestinian territories, an Egyptian investigator said.

The Egyptians reportedly have asked Israel to provide information about specific Palestinians who recently entered their country.

Three car bombs, each packed with 440 pounds of explosives, exploded Thursday night - one at the Taba Hilton, just south of the Egypt-Israel border, and two at a Red Sea town of beach bungalows, Ras Shitan, 35 miles to the south.

Israeli Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh, head of the Israeli army home front command, said that in addition to the Isuzu pickup truck that exploded at the Taba hotel, a suicide bomber inside detonated another bomb.

"To our relief, the bomber who entered the hotel did not enter the hotel restaurants, something which would have brought down at least half the hotel," Naveh said.

Egypt has put the death toll at 34.

Naveh, speaking in Taba, said at least 32 bodies had been found, plus body parts that may include the remains of others.

The dead included Egyptians, Israelis, Italians, a Russian woman and others from the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

Bedouin admits selling explosives used in Egypt

Israeli rescue officials said 12 Israelis have been positively identified among the dead and a few more Israelis were still unaccounted for.

Egyptian security officials said some of dozens of Bedouins detained for questioning after the car bombings in Taba and Ras Shitan have been cooperating with authorities and have provided valuable information about explosives.

Sinai is inhabited by about 10 semi-nomadic Bedouin tribes, whose population is estimated at about 4,000. Many tribesmen are known for their knowledge of Sinai's vast deserts and mountain ranges, while police accuse some of smuggling weapons, drugs and people across Egypt's border with Israel and Gaza.

Israeli officials have complained in the past of weapons and explosives being smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Sinai which borders the Palestinian territory. The Israelis maintain they come through tunnels beneath the Egypt-Gaza border.

Palestinian and Egyptian officials also told the AP that Egyptian security and intelligence officers have been discussing the attacks with officials from the Palestinian factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Egyptians were seeking information about members of the groups upset about Egypt's plan to help secure the Gaza Strip if Israel withdraws. Egypt has come under fire from some Arabs for allegedly aiding Israel; Egypt maintains it needs to ensure stability along its border in the event of a security vacuum left by Israel's departure.

The officials said Egypt is not suggesting the two factions were behind the attacks, but rather is probing the possibility that disgruntled defectors from the groups might have been involved.

On Saturday, Egyptian investigators said they suspected a group of eight to 10 terrorists carried out the attacks, possibly slipping in from Saudi Arabia or Jordan on speed boats. Israel has blamed al Qaeda for the attacks.

- Meanwhile, on the Gaza Strip, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at Palestinian gunmen in the Jebaliya refugee camp after nightfall yesterday, killing one and wounding seven, in the second airstrike of the day.

Palestinian security officials said the target of the missile strike was a group of gunmen organizing to attack Israeli forces. They identified the dead man as a 20-year-old activist of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group with ties to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Israeli military sources said the second airstrike was aimed at Palestinians planting a bomb.

Large numbers of Israeli troops and tanks have been operating in northern Gaza for nearly two weeks, trying to stop militants from firing rockets at nearby Israeli towns. *

Graphic

PHOTO;

Associated Press

Two Italian women walk from Taba Hilton hotel yesterday.

Load-Date: September 1, 2005

2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing

The New York Times

August 7, 2004 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 587 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE; Taghreed El Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza for this article.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 6

Body

Israel opened a border crossing on Friday between the Gaza Strip and Egypt that had been closed for nearly three weeks, allowing most of the more than 2,000 stranded Palestinians to return home.

Israel closed the Rafah crossing on July 18, saying it believed that Palestinians were planning to attack the site. Since then, Palestinians who were in Egypt have been unable to return to Gaza.

More affluent Palestinians were able to turn back and wait out the delay at hotels in Cairo or elsewhere in Egypt. But many of the travelers spent the entire time at a cramped, sweltering terminal building on the Egyptian side of the border.

Many had to sleep outside, and the terminal had limited sanitary facilities. A large number of the Palestinians had gone to Egypt for medical treatment, and some were still ailing as they tried to return home.

Khalil Abu Foul, a doctor with the Palestinian Red Crescent who was given special permission to cross from Gaza to the Egyptian side, treated the stranded Palestinians for the past two weeks. He said one woman gave birth and two women had miscarriages, while many people suffered from illnesses related to diarrhea and high blood pressure.

Abu Muhammad al-Salahiat, 40, said that his father and aunt, both of them ailing, went to Egypt for medical treatment and that both died in Cairo during the past two weeks. At midday on Friday, he was still waiting for the bodies to be returned.

"They are both dead," said an exasperated Mr. Salahiat. "Why won't they let the bodies cross?"

Egypt had called on Israel to reopen the border for aid reasons, and the United States raised the issue.

Israel had offered to allow a limited number of Palestinians to pass through a separate crossing along the Israeli-Egyptian border. But Palestinian officials rejected the proposal, saying it was a violation of the existing agreement on the border crossing. The Israeli proposal would have permitted just 200 Palestinians to return home each day.

Palestinian authorities also expressed concerns that Israel might be planning to close the Rafah crossing permanently.

2,000 Return Home After Israel Opens Border Crossing

Palestinian officials said that around 1,500 travelers had returned to Gaza as of Friday evening and that the rest were expected soon.

On the Gaza side of the border, Palestinians who were unable to go to Egypt simply remained at home, and there was no backlog of stranded travelers at the crossing point.

In a separate development, the Israeli defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, said some Palestinian police officers in the West Bank would be allowed to carry their weapons in public for the first time in more than two years.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, recently raised the issue, saying the Palestinian Authority could not combat the growing chaos on the streets unless there was an armed police force.

Mr. Mofaz told Israel radio that he was concerned about "a situation of anarchy that could spread and create chaos on the Palestinian side."

The defense minister said that the Palestinian police would only be allowed to carry pistols and clubs, and that officers would have to be approved individually by Israel. The policy will be put in place gradually and is reversible, Mr. Mofaz said.

Elsewhere on Friday, the Israeli military said troops shot and killed a would-be bomber who was approaching a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza. The Israeli forces also shot to death a member of the **Hamas** faction, and arrested a militant during the same operation in the northern West Bank, the military said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian man greeted his family in Rafah on Friday after Israel reopened the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. Israel closed the border on July 18 because of concerns about possible militant attacks. (Photo by Getty Images)

Load-Date: August 7, 2004

End of Document

Naming the Enemy

New York Sun (Archive)

August 17, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 723 words

Byline: DANIEL PIPES

Body

In a striking admission, President Bush said the other day: "We actually misnamed the war on terror. It ought to be [called] the struggle against ideological extremists who do not believe in free societies and who happen to use terror as a weapon to try to shake the conscience of the free world."

This important concession follows growing criticism of the misleading term "war on terror" - how can one fight a tactic? - and replaces it with the more accurate "war on ideological extremists." With this change, the battle of ideas can begin. But who exactly are those ideological extremists? The next step is for Mr. Bush to give them a name.

In fact, he on occasion since September 11 has spoken candidly about their identity. As early as September 2001, he referred to the enemy being "a fringe form of Islamic extremism" which seeks "to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military and civilians, including women and children." This Islamic extremism also is heir to "all the murderous ideologies of the twentieth century," including "fascism, and Nazism, and totalitarianism."

In January 2002, Mr. Bush was more specific yet, adding that the terrorist underworld includes "groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, [and] Jaish-i-Mohammed." In May 2002, he pointed out that a "new totalitarian threat" exists whose adherents "are defined by their hatreds: they hate Jews and Christians and all Muslims who disagree with them," implying that they are Muslims. Those adherents, he noted, feel entitled to kill "in the name of a false religious purity."

A year later, in May 2003, the president provided details about the Islamists' goals, observing that "nineteen evil men - the shock troops of a hateful ideology - gave America and the civilized world a glimpse of their ambitions. They imagined, in the words of [Ramzi Binalshibh, the Al Qaeda leader accused of directing the 9/11 operation], that September the 11th would be the 'beginning of the end of America.'"

The terrorist acts of the past two decades, Mr. Bush noted in April 2004, are the work of fanatical, political ideologues who "seek tyranny in the Middle East and beyond. They seek to oppress and persecute women. They seek the death of Jews and Christians, and every Muslim who desires peace over theocratic terror."

Last month, Mr. Bush for the first time used the phrase "Islamic militants," perhaps his most explicit reference until now to the Islamist threat, saying that until he closed a so-called Islamic charity based in Illinois, the Benevolence International Foundation, it "channel[ed] money to Islamic militants."

Naming the Enemy

Rolling these comments into a single summary statement establishes how Mr. Bush sees the enemy: A false doctrine of Islamic purity inspires a totalitarian ideology of power and domination. In its ruthlessness, murderousness, and global ambition, it resembles the Nazi and communist ideologies. The extremists who advocate this doctrine see America as the chief obstacle to achieving their goals. To defeat America, they initially seek Washington's retreat from the outside world. Ultimately, they hope to bring about a collapse of America as it now exists. Toward this end, they are prepared to murder any number of Americans.

This is a fine description of Islamism, its mentality, methods, and means. It also shows that Mr. Bush draws the subtle distinction between the personal faith of Islam and the political ideology of Islamism, or, militant Islam.

In this, he parallels what a number of Muslim leaders - including even some Saudis - have said. Following acts of terrorism in Riyadh in May 2003, Interior Minister Prince Naif publicly attributed this violence to "ideology" and "fanatical ideas." And if Prince Naif - himself an Islamist - attributes the problem ultimately not to acts of violence but the ideas behind them, surely Americans can say no less.

Mr. Bush has already alluded to America having to confront its third totalitarian ideology. Now he should name that ideology. I hope he will surround himself with a group of distinguished anti-Islamist Muslims, foreign and domestic alike, and formally announce America's acceptance of leadership in the war against Islamism.

Only with such specificity can the civilized world start on the path to victory over this latest manifestation of barbarism.

Load-Date: August 17, 2004

End of Document

Jihad widows keep the faith - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

The Australian

October 7, 2003 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD-TYPE- FEATURE; Pg. 7

Length: 1366 words

Byline: Catherine Taylor

Body

The Haifa suicide bomber was a woman. More often, however, women are the ones left behind when a terrorist goes to 'Paradise', writes Catherine Taylor in Beirut

SALAH Ghandour knew he had just hours to live when he sat in front of a home video camera and calmly recorded a message to his wife Maha and their three children.

Ghandour, a Hezbollah guerilla fighter, stares lovingly into the lens as he says goodbye to his family. Hezbollah's yellow flag -- decorated with a Kalashnikov rifle rising from Arabic script that translates to "Party of God" -- hangs on a wall behind him.

"To my dear wife and the tender mother of my children," he says. "You know where I am going and why I must do this to the enemy. Look after yourself and don't forget to raise my children in the path of (Islam)."

MATP

Shortly after taping this message, Ghandour, 28, got behind the wheel of a white Mercedes sedan packed with 450kg of explosives. While hooked up to a radio link that fed him constant intelligence updates, he drove along a dirt track and watched as an Israeli military convoy drove across Lebanese land.

"The time has come," he told his commander. "Peace be with you. God is great."

Without a hint of uncertainty, Ghandour detonated a bomb that blew him apart and killed 12 Israeli soldiers.

Dozens more were maimed. The attack was captured on a grainy video by a Hezbollah cameraman, as are all suicide bombings. The gruesome 15-minute film that Ghandour left behind is regular evening viewing for Maha and her children. She knows every moment by heart. Maha explains how Ghandour manoeuvred the Mercedes close to two Israeli military trucks. Seconds later an explosion sends flames and debris into the air.

To Israel and several Western countries including Australia, Ghandour was a terrorist. Hezbollah, which draws its ranks from Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslims and is backed by Syria and Iran, is classified by the US State Department as one of the world's most vicious terrorist organisations.

Yet Maha sees her husband as a freedom fighter who lost his life trying to force Israel from Lebanese land. She believes that his violent death, on May 25, 1995, was an honour.

Jihad widows keep the faith - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

In death, Ghandour is hailed as a martyr -- the Western term "suicide bomber" is considered offensive -- and honoured for sacrificing his life for his country.

Maha, a dainty woman with pale skin and dark eyes, pulls her black chador closer as she tries to explain her feelings.

"He didn't kill the innocent," she says. "He killed soldiers who were occupying our land and killing our people and so I am proud of what he did to defend our country."

The wives that Hezbollah suicide bombers leave behind face a lifelong struggle to balance emotions of pride in what they see as their husbands' bravery and grief at losing the men they love. Eight years after his death Maha still mourns his loss. "Even though I knew to expect his martyrdom it was a terrible shock. When I heard he was dead I felt as if my own body had been torn apart with sadness," she says.

Their last days together were tortuous for Maha as she slowly began to suspect her husband was preparing for a suicide attack. "Two days before he died I admitted my fears and pleaded with him not to leave us," she says. "I said our baby daughter is only four months old and we still need you."

"But he was short with me and said he loved us but that it was his dream to become a martyr and I had always known this would be his fate. I had no choice; I knew I could not stand in Salah's way."

"When we kissed and said goodbye on that last day I couldn't take my eyes off him. I wanted to burn his image into my mind. As he crossed the car park, my son called him from the balcony. He came back and kissed us all again. When he left the second time, my son called again, but this time Salah kept walking. I think he was crying."

Maha was just 17 when she met Ghandour on a blind date set up by a friend. Within an hour he revealed he had offered to be a suicide bomber for Hezbollah. "We sat and talked for hours," Maha says, smiling at the memory.

"He explained that anyone who married him must expect that one day soon he might die. I told him I had always dreamed of becoming the wife of a fighter so in that way I could also contribute to ending the Israeli occupation."

Those who support this fatal fanaticism say the ideology comes from the Koran and point to Mohammad, verse 47:5, which lays out the rewards waiting for those who die in the name of Islam.

"As for those who are slain in the cause of God, He will not allow their works to perish; He will vouchsafe them guidance and ennoble their state; He will admit them to the Paradise He has made known to them."

The culture of martyrdom is ingrained in Hezbollah's ideology -- it pioneered the technique in the Middle East and continues to inspire Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for last weekend's Haifa attack by Hanadi Jaradat that killed 19 people.

Unlike Palestinian factions, Hezbollah has always used suicide attacks to target Israeli soldiers, not civilians. Selecting fighters for the task is rigorous, Hezbollah official Hussein Naboulsi says. The men who volunteer to die must approach their commander secretly. They are subjected to annual reviews of their military skill, strength of mind and religious commitment. When a suicide mission is planned, Hezbollah checks the list and chooses a candidate. His -- this group chooses only men -- psychological state is assessed once again.

The man then meets Hezbollah leader Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah for a final blessing and records a farewell video. The selection process is so streamlined, Naboulsi says, that no one has ever lost his nerve. Most, he says, are excited about the task ahead.

Hezbollah has established a social security network that ensures the widows and their children want for nothing. Widows are encouraged to marry again. Many women -- like Maha Ghandour -- marry their husband's brother in keeping with Islamic tradition. Others are sought after by single Hezbollah men who find prestige in marrying the widows.

Jihad widows keep the faith - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

Like Maha, Sanaa Zein, 33, also lost her husband in jihad. When the doorbell rings at her modest apartment in Beirut's shabby southern suburbs where most families are Hezbollah members, her five-year-old triplets, Hadi, Hassan and Hiba, squeal with delight. They tumble over each other like puppies and scramble for the door, calling "Papa, Papa".

Their eight-year-old brother Hussein watches quietly, a mixture of impatience and sadness in his eyes. He understands what the triplets are too young to know: their father will not be coming home.

On May 23, 2000, Ali Zein, a part-time fighter with Hezbollah, locked the door of his rental car business, hugged his children, kissed his wife and travelled to the border. It was the day before Israel withdrew from Lebanon. He was not a suicide bomber, but he knew he was unlikely to escape with his life from his secret mission.

Since he joined Hezbollah as a teenager, Zein, who died at 33, had prayed that God would sacrifice him. He died when an Israeli rocket hit the car in which he was travelling home after he completed his mission.

"He used to talk a lot about how he appreciated the sacrifice of the martyrs and how he was also ready to sacrifice his blood and his soul," says Sanaa, adjusting her black Calvin Klein scarf.

"My love for him went beyond the idea that he might die. I knew how much martyrdom meant to him and there were even times when I was afraid that he would die a normal death."

"The Secretary-General strongly deplores the Israeli air strike on Syrian territory.

- UN spokesman Fred Eckhard

"Our response to this serious escalation will be one of deterrence and it will happen soon in the depths of the criminal Zionist entity."

- **Hamas** statement

"Violating the sovereignty of a third country complicates further the (peace) process, that's why what happened in Syria cannot be accepted."

- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

"Israel is of course entitled to take steps to protect itself from terrorist attack, but these steps should be within international law."

- British Foreign Office statement

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA

The Independent (London)

April 5, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 623 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM Beni Elon, left, and Efi Eitam were told by Mr Sharon to get out' if they would not share cabinet responsibility

Body

THE BATTLE over Ariel Sharon's plan to pull the Israeli army and Jewish settlers out of Gaza and a fringe of the West Bank heated up yesterday as the Prime Minister exchanged abuse with far-right ministers across the cabinet table.

The hard-liners demanded that he bring his programme to them for approval before presenting it to President George Bush on 14 April. "If you have a majority," Beni Elon, the Tourism Minister, threatened, "I will resign immediately."

Mr Sharon responded by rebuking Mr Elon and Efi Eitam, the Minister of Construction and Housing, for drumming up opposition overseas, according to leaks from both sides. "If you don't want to accept responsibility, you can always get out," he said.

Mr Elon, a rabbi who champions Jewish settlement in Arab neighbourhoods of Jerusalem, retorted: "You cannot shut us up. We are entitled to protect the settlements."

Two of Mr Sharon's supporters, Ehud Olmert, the Likud Deputy Prime Minister, and Tommy Lapid of the centrist Shinui party, joined in the shouting match. "How dare you go around the world speaking against your own Prime Minister?" asked Mr Olmert.

Mr Lapid, the Justice Minister, chipped in: "I don't understand why ministers Eitam and Elon are allowed to go to the United States every other day to mobilise the administration against the policies of the government of which they are members."

Mr Eitam also pilloried the Prime Minister for dragging his feet on the West Bank security fence. He blamed the delay for an infiltration on Friday night in which a Palestinian gunman killed a settler at Avnei Hefetz. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Finance Minister, responded by promising an extra 300 million shekels (pounds 36m) to boost settlement security.

Mr Sharon is reluctant to expel the rebels and the 13 MPs of their National Union and National Religious parties until he can be confident of an alternative coalition. He wants to win Mr Bush's support and secure his base in the Likud before risking a cabinet vote on the evacuation.

In preliminary talks, Washington has offered a blessing in principle, but refused to commit the President to any reward that would prejudice a final agreement with the Palestinians.

MINISTERS REBEL OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA

To reassure the right, Mr Sharon sought an American seal of approval for preserving some blocks of settlements under Israeli rule and an undertaking that no Palestinian refugees would have a right to return to their old homes inside Israel.

Israeli officials are now resigned, at best, to a more general declaration that Israel would not be expected to give up every inch of territory beyond the pre-1967 border and that the refugees could be absorbed in a future Palestinian state.

Up to 200,000 grassroots Likud members are due to vote next month on the disengagement plan. Campaign teams are already preparing. Two Likud ministers, Uzi Landau and Natan Sharansky, backed by nine of the party's 40 MPs, are lobbying for a "no" vote. Mr Olmert heads a rival "yes" team.

If the Sharon plan passes the Likud and the cabinet, Mr Elon and Mr Eitam are expected to take their parties into opposition. Haim Ramon, a former Labour minister, hinted last week that his party would replace them. But other Labour leaders have said they would join only after Mr Sharon began the Gaza withdrawal - and if the attorney general rejected the prosecution service's recommendation to indict him on bribery charges. Neither is a foregone conclusion.

w Police entered the east Jerusalem offices of a foundation for Arab women accused of being affiliated with the militant Hamas group. Police shut the office down for 15 days, detained two workers for questioning and were applying for a warrant to freeze the group's bank accounts, according to a police spokesman.

Load-Date: April 5, 2004

End of Document

Two-Front Insurgency

The New York Times

April 7, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 685 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths yesterday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: that given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of Al Qaeda longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Falluja were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with **Hamas** and Hezbollah and war on the West.

All this means that we are now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in our strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American confidently told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, we can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Falluja, we must pacify Falluja. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his bloody-minded challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

Two-Front Insurgency

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and U.N. facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: we will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-Hezbollah-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists here at home.

Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by Arab media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 7, 2004

End of Document

Resolute in Iraq

The International Herald Tribune

April 8, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 689 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen U.S. combat deaths on Tuesday, we Americans should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of Al Qaeda longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Falluja were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

The New York Times

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with **Hamas** and Hezbollah and war on the West.

All this means that America is now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, America can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Falluja, we must pacify Falluja. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

Resolute in Iraq

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and UN facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: We will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-Hezbollah-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists in the United States. Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by the Arab news media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

*

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

End of Document

WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ, IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 8, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 684 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths on Tuesday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of al-Qaida longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Fallujah were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Muqtada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about al-Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with **Hamas** and Hezbollah and war on the West.

All this means that we are now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in our strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American confidently told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, we can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Fallujah, we must pacify Fallujah. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his bloody-minded challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and U.N. facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: We will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-Hezbollah-al-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists here at home.

Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by Arab media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: April 9, 2004

**Friends take hope for peace on road;
They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 14, 2004 Wednesday JERSEY EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: SOUTH JERSEY; Pg. B02

Length: 592 words

Byline: Wayne Parry ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Strangers who meet Laila Najjar and Adi Frish often look confused. How, they ask, can Najjar, a 20-year-old Arab, be a friend of someone whose government oppresses and kills Palestinians?

And why, they wonder, would Frish, a 21-year-old Jew, befriend someone whose people turn themselves into human bombs, itching to kill Israelis?

But friendship is all the young women have ever known; they grew up together in an Israeli village founded three decades ago to prove that Arabs and Jews can live together in peace.

This month, the pair will begin a U.S. speaking tour that is scheduled to include an April 24 visit to Philadelphia.

Their road map for peace is simple: Just start by talking - and listening - to one another.

"People ask me: 'Adi, don't you know she is the enemy?' " said Frish, who is studying dance in Jerusalem. "I tell them: 'Get to know her. Meet her parents. Meet her family. Talk to her. See what she is thinking. Know her as I know her.' "

Najjar, who is studying art, agreed.

"To truly have peace, the first step is for both sides to talk to each other," said Najjar, who loves to design jewelry and hopes for a contract to someday supply one of Israel's biggest department stores. "Under all the government and politics and labels, we are all human beings. We are not so different."

The women were interviewed by telephone from Jerusalem, about a half-hour drive from the village where they grew up. Founded by a Dominican monk who invited Jewish and Arab families to live together and named Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (meaning "Oasis of Peace" in Hebrew and Arabic), the village has a bilingual elementary school and up-close coexistence is the norm.

Friends take hope for peace on road; They grew up in a Jewish-Arab village.

"I never knew any other way," Najjar said. "This is how I was brought up. It was totally normal for Jews and Arabs to live together."

That view does not predominate outside the village. When the pair go shopping, one of their favorite weekend pastimes, Israeli Jews look suspiciously at Najjar - especially when she gets on a bus, fearing she might be a suicide bomber.

The killing of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin last month has ratcheted tensions even higher in Israel, the **women** said.

"People on both sides are afraid, because no one knows what will happen next," Frish said. "Waiting in fear for the next explosion is no way to live."

Also on April 24, the two are scheduled to speak in Denville, Morris County, at the home of Aref Assaf, one of New Jersey's most vocal Palestinian activists.

"I have always argued that if the warring parties in the Middle East cannot talk peace, then it is incumbent upon Arabs and Jews in the U.S., while passionately concerned about events there but still physically removed from its daily bloodshed, to nurture a just and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Assaf said. "These two ladies and the families they represent provide a real human example that Jews and Arabs can and should live side by side."

Not everyone shares his optimism.

"I am getting a lot of heat over this," Assaf said. "People tell me, as a Palestinian, it is not right to have an Israeli in my home and have her tell us what to do. The only choices are peaceful coexistence of two equal peoples, or the total annihilation of one. Which sounds better to you?"

If You Go

Laila Najjar and Adi Frish are scheduled to appear April 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., and at 2:30 p.m. at the National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St. For more information about their national tour, visit www.oasisofpeace.org.

Graphic

PHOTO;

BRENNAN LINSLEY, Associated Press

Best friends Adi Frish (left) and Laila Najjar grew up in a village called Neve Shalom, Wahat al-Salam - "Oasis of Peace" - in Israel. Their speaking tour includes a Philadelphia stop on April 24.

Load-Date: August 24, 2005

Arabs delay summit

The New Zealand Herald

March 28, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 The New Zealand Herald. All Rights Reserved.

Section: NEWS; World

Length: 684 words

Body

TUNIS - Arab leaders have postponed a long-awaited summit 36 hours before they planned to meet in Tunis because of differences over proposals to promote democracy in the Arab world, Tunisia says.

The summit preparations had been in trouble for days as some of the 22 Arab League members were reluctant to attend and Gulf states had decided to send low-level delegations to the annual meeting. No new date has been fixed.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US-led occupation of Iraq were to have been among the top issues at the summit, along with institutional change in the Arab League and political, economic and social reform inside Arab countries.

The official Tunisian news agency said in a commentary Tunisia had pressed other Arab countries to explicitly embrace democracy and reject what it called "extremism, fanaticism, violence and terrorism".

"While the Tunisian proposals won the support of a number of Arab countries, we are surprised that some others insisted on leaving out these essential matters," said the commentary, thought to reflect the government's views.

"It became clear that there was a variance of positions on...proposals related to fundamental issues on modernisation, democratic reform, human rights, the rights of women and the role of civil society," the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"Tunisia expresses its regret at the postponement of the summit, on which public opinion had pinned many hopes... Tunisia affirms it will continue to consult with the Arab brothers to bring together points of view on these issues and to prepare the best possible circumstances for the success of the summit," the ministry said.

Arab foreign ministers had spent Saturday afternoon looking at democratic reform proposals submitted by five Arab countries -- Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Qatar and Tunisia.

BUSH CHALLENGE

US President George W. Bush challenged Arab states last November to adopt democracy, saying "60 years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe".

Washington's Greater Middle East Initiative was widely criticised in the Arab world as a foreign intrusion overlooking the occupation of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Arabs delay summit

The summit organisers -- Tunisia and the Arab League secretariat -- had repeatedly dismissed speculation the summit might be postponed and had reported progress on both Iraq and on democratic reform in the Middle East.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa told a news conference on Saturday all the reform proposals submitted by governments had been consolidated into a single document and that many of the ideas were complementary.

With few exceptions Arab governments had criticised the US initiative and a consensus appeared to have emerged around the idea that political, economic and social reforms should spring from within the region.

Algeria and Qatar were most sympathetic to the United States and said Arabs should not dismiss the initiative out of hand.

But Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has been in power for 22 years, has said several times that rapid political reform, especially while the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rages, could lead to anarchy and instability in the region.

The strongly secular Tunisian government advocates democracy, but its critics say it is a police state with a veneer of formal democracy. Human rights groups accuse police of regularly beating up dissidents and human rights activists.

The first Arab heads of state had been expected to arrive in Tunis on Sunday evening and the opening session was scheduled for Monday morning.

Israel's assassination of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza last Monday had cast a shadow over summit preparations by exposing the impotence of Arab governments to respond with anything stronger than words of condemnation.

Earlier on Saturday, the organisers suffered a setback when two Gulf states -- Oman and the United Arab Emirates -- decided to send low-level delegations, on top of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on Friday.

The Gulf states gave no explanation for their decision.

Load-Date: March 28, 2004

Week in review

Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA)

March 7, 2004 Sunday Spokane Edition

Copyright 2004 Spokane Spokesman-Review

Section: REGION; Pg.B3; COLUMN

Length: 669 words

Byline: Dan Hansen

Body

TOP STORY

Tough job market

A tough job market has forced about one-third of University of Idaho graduates and 30 percent of Washington State University graduates to leave their home states to find work in recent years. But labor officials say the prospects for 2004 college graduates will be slightly improved. Many students from those and other colleges got their first formal exposure to prospective employers at a job fair held Wednesday at UI. "Everyone is looking for anything they can get," said one WSU senior. Another fair, for job-seekers of all ages and backgrounds, was held Thursday in the Spokane Valley. About 200 people were waiting when the doors opened, with more showing up throughout the day.

MONDAY

The family of a 2-year-old girl who was injured at a Spokane day-care center filed a \$22 million tort claim against the state. The claim alleges that state inspectors ignored repeated warnings about day-care provider Danette Zaring, who faces first-degree assault charges for allegedly throwing Hailee Rhoads into a playpen. The girl required emergency brain surgery; it's too early to tell whether she'll suffer long-term effects.

As in other rural areas, doctors in Odessa, Republic and Davenport have stopped delivering babies or offering prenatal care. That means more women who have never had a prenatal checkup are showing up in Spokane hospitals to deliver babies. Hospital administrators blame the situation partly on malpractice insurance premiums that for obstetricians rose by 22 percent between 2000 and 2002.

TUESDAY

Week in review

Ralph L. Perkins, a former judge and prosecutor, was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for possessing child pornography. Perkins said that as a judge in Pend Oreille County and later as a deputy prosecutor in Okanogan County, he "heard every self-serving excuse" and would make none for himself. His attorney said Perkins first came into contact with child pornography while prosecuting such cases.

WEDNESDAY

Two suspects celebrated with martinis after taking \$600 from an 89-year-old Spokane woman, police allege. "They were looking for the most defenseless victim they could find," Chief Roger Bragdon said. The victim suffered a fractured skull, sprained ankle and bruised hip in the Feb. 26 robbery. She and her husband may have to move from their home into an assisted living center.

THURSDAY

Facing 11 lawsuits by 40 people who allege they were abused by priests, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane is challenging a 1988 change in Washington's statute of limitations for such claims. Prior to the change, victims of childhood sexual abuse had to file claims before their 21st birthday. The diocese says the Legislature infringed on a "constitutionally protected right" by changing the rules retroactively.

A Spokane man was charged with second-degree murder today in the death of Denise M. McCormick, 40, whose body was found Saturday at Long Lake. James C. Metcalf, 35, is accused of strangling the Spokane Community College student. McCormick's family and friends are outraged at Metcalf's contention that the pair had consensual sex after meeting Friday night. He claims to have dropped McCormick off at a supermarket parking lot.

FRIDAY

Federal authorities allege that a University of Idaho computer student managed Web sites and helped raise money for Hamas, a terrorist organization that promotes suicide bombings and other violence in Israel. The latest indictment against Sami Omar Al-Hussayen is the most serious yet. The Saudi national was arrested in February 2003.

The 100-year-old Fort Spokane Brewery building may soon be replaced by a parking lot. The owners have received a demolition permit for the four-story structure at 401 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Historic preservationists call the plans "unfortunate."

COMING UP

Some gay couples in the region are heading to places like Portland. Others say they have no desire to be wed, considering the high divorce rates among heterosexuals. Read about it Tuesday in The Spokesman-Review.

Week in review

End of Document

Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers.
Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

February 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Education Pages, Pg. 23

Length: 643 words

Byline: Polly Curtis

Body

In January a 22-year old Palestinian mother walked into a border checkpoint and detonated 2kg of explosives strapped to her body, killing herself and four security guards. She was the first **female** suicide bomber to be dispatched by the militant Islamist group **Hamas** and the images of her children, dressed as martyrs, dominated the front pages around the world.

On February 6, 39 people died on a Moscow train following a suicide bombing believed to have been carried out by a young **female** Chechen rebel. Photos of the bomber's bloodied victims staggering out of the underground exits were beamed around the world.

Those images are now as much of a tool of the terrorists as TNT, according to Cerwyn Moore, lecturer in international relations at Nottingham Trent University.

Moore is carrying out the first investigation of the rise of **women** suicide bombers. He has chosen to focus on Chechnya. In the Israeli/ Palestine conflict, **female** suicide bombers are a relatively new phenomenon, but in Chechnya they are almost common - more **women** than men now carry out the suicide bombings on Russian targets.

The fascination, says Moore, is that these "human bombs" give a face to incomprehensively violent situations. "I think our identity is very much conditioned by how we understand violence. I can readily remember my grandfather talking about his experiences in the second world war and I remember my cousin talking about the Falklands . . . The human face of war is the thing that draws me to it."

There's roughly one suicide bombing a month in Moscow. **Women** were involved in a train bombing in the north Caucasus in early December last year, which killed around 50 people, and in a coach bombing in Vedeno that killed 38. In October 2002, 18 **women** took part in the Moscow theatre siege - Russia's September 11.

"Post-9/11 the Chechen issue has been really marginalised. It's an extremely brutal war. Chechnya is now only considered within this war on terror. All that label does is cast a shadow over the country and designate it as a murderous, extremist country. No one considers what is actually going on within that conflict," says Moore.

The Moscow siege, for example, was a good example of postmodern war theory - conflicts that are fought virtually, rather than on a state-by-state basis through an onslaught of communications as well as a military might. The

Education: Work in progress: What makes women become suicide bombers. Polly Curtis looks at research that aims to understand

same theory says the 9/11 attacks on America were not only a physical attack, but also a symbolic attack on America's consciousness.

Moore's theory is that while propaganda has always been part of war, the immediacy that the internet and satellite phones have brought has intensified it. Within that context, photographs of a mother and her children dressed as martyrs is inevitably more shocking than an image of a man.

"There's a very gendered vision of war - war is traditionally seen as a male realm. It's a warrior thing," Moore says.

"Only recently have people started to recognise that women have actually always had an intrinsic role in war. Female combatants are not unusual. Pictures on the front page of the Daily Mail denigrate the role of women in war. They've always been there - and I'm not saying celebrate it, I'm saying don't underplay it."

Moore wants to find out what drives women - and men - to make these attacks. In Chechnya, he says, women are doing it because there are so few young men not in prison. In Palestine it's because women are more likely to make it through the checkpoints.

But he doesn't want to write it off as extremism without attempting to understand it. "The act is incredibly barbaric and seems irrational. But the planning that goes into it indicates that it has been rationalised. It seems to be very, very planned, but how do we accommodate this and what can we do about it?

"It's too simple to say these people are 'just fundamentalists'."

Load-Date: February 24, 2004

Israelis Kill 8 Palestinians In Raid on a Camp in Gaza

The New York Times

December 24, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 646 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 23

Body

Israeli troops killed eight Palestinians, both militants and civilians, as armored vehicles charged into a refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip early Tuesday and uncovered a large weapons-smuggling tunnel, according to accounts by the two sides.

Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen have clashed repeatedly in recent months in the camp, at Rafah, despite an overall decline in violence. In a similar Israeli raid in Rafah earlier this month, six Palestinians were killed; in an operation in October, a dozen Palestinians died.

Such surges in violence show how unstable the region remains. But the episodes have been relatively brief of late and have not degenerated into the larger waves of fighting that have been common in the past three years of Middle East bloodshed.

The latest violence comes a day after Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmed Maher, met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as part of broader efforts to work out a cease-fire and revive a top-level dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. But the Palestinians questioned whether Israel was serious about renewing peace talks.

"The attack in Rafah is blatant aggression," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister.

Israel says it will press ahead with such operations because the Palestinian leadership has not acted against factions responsible for violence. The military said the incursion on Tuesday reached its target: a large smuggling tunnel with a hidden entrance inside a three-story house.

The tunnel acts "as an oxygen pipe for terrorist organizations operating in the area," said Col. Pinchas Zuaretz of the Army. It was used to bring in weapons from Egypt, and also allowed wanted Palestinians to flee to Egypt temporarily, the colonel said in a radio interview. Five to 10 other tunnels are believed to be in the area, he added.

Several dozen tanks, jeeps and armored vehicles roared into Rafah's densely packed refugee camp before dawn. As is typically the case, Palestinian gunmen soon opened fire.

As Israeli helicopters hovered, Palestinian gunmen in camouflage fatigues and ski masks stalked the narrow alleyways. Women in their pajamas ran from the area, some crying as they carried frightened children under their arms.

Israelis Kill 8 Palestinians In Raid on a Camp in Gaza

In intermittent gun battles, Israeli forces shot eight armed Palestinians, the military reported. It was not known if they were killed. According to Palestinians, three militants taking cover in one house were killed, along with a policeman on his way to work.

Ali al-Najar, one of the gunmen who died, heard the Israeli tanks approaching and immediately rushed out of his home to fight, said his father, Hussein al-Najar.

Ali al-Najar and two fellow militants were preparing their weapons in another house when it was hit by an Israeli shell, killing all three, his father said.

But Palestinians said several of those killed Tuesday were civilians. They included Weam Musa, 27, a medic hit by shrapnel while helping treat the wounded, according to his cousin Dr. Ali Musa, the director of Rafah Hospital.

Palestinian gunmen maintained steady fire in an attempt to prevent the Israelis from reaching the house with the tunnel, the military said. But the soldiers eventually found the tunnel in the afternoon, about 12 hours after the operation began.

The Israeli raid was mounted only hours after two Israeli Army officers were killed by Palestinian attackers on a road in southern Gaza. The two Palestinians were also killed.

That attack took place less than 10 miles from Rafah, but the army said the Tuesday operation was part of the continuing efforts to eliminate the tunnels, and was not related to the Monday night attack.

Also, the army said Tuesday that it had arrested 22 members of **Hamas** in and around Ramallah, in the West Bank, over the past few days. Those arrested were suspected of involvement in attacks that have killed 10 Israelis, the military said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Palestinians carrying children away from a gun battle that broke out yesterday in a Gaza refugee camp during an Israeli search for weapons. (Photo by Reuters)

Load-Date: December 24, 2003

End of Document

IRAQ'S GUERRILLAS ADOPT NEW STRATEGY: COPY THE AMERICANS; IRAQ BOMBINGS

The Independent (London)

October 28, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 636 words

Byline: ROBERT FISK

Body

UNDERSTANDING the brain. That's what you have to do in a guerrilla war. Find out how it works, what it's trying to do. An attack on US headquarters in Baghdad and six suicide bombings, all at the start of Ramadan. Thirty- four dead and 200 wounded. Where have I heard those statistics before? And how could they be so well co-ordinated - well-timed, down to the last second? And why the Red Cross? I knew that building, and admired the way in which the International Red Cross refused to associate themselves with the American occupation - even at the cost of their lives, as the guards outside their Baghdad headquarters carried no guns.

So here's the answer to question one. Algeria. After the Algerian government banned elections in 1991 that would have brought the Islamic Salvation Front to power, a Muslim revolt turned into a blood-curdling battle between the so-called Islamic Armed Group - many of its adherents having cut their battle teeth in Afghanistan - and a brutal government army and police force. Within three years, the "Islamists" - aided, it seems, by army intelligence officers - were perpetrating massacres against the villagers of what was called the Blida triangle, a three-cornered territory around the very Islamist city of Blida outside Algiers. And the very worst atrocities - the beheading of children, the raping and throat-cutting of women, the slaughter of policemen - were committed at the beginning of Ramadan.

At Ramadan, Muslim emotions are heightened; in these most blessed of days, a Muslim feels that he or she must do something important so that God will listen to him or her. There is nothing in the Koran about violence in Ramadan or, for that matter, suicide bombers, any more than there is anything in the New Testament to urge Christians to carry out genocide or the ethnic cleansing in which they have become experts in the past 200 years, but Sunni Wahabi believers have often combined holy war with the "message", the dawa during Ramadan.

So what was the message? In Baghdad, the message of the past two days was simple: it told Iraqis that the Americans cannot control Iraq; more important, perhaps, it told Americans that the Americans could not control Iraq. Even more important, it told Iraqis they shouldn't work for the Americans. It also acknowledged America's new rules of combat: kill the enemy leaders. The United States killed Saddam's two sons. It has boasted of killing al-Qa'ida members in Afghanistan and Yemen, just as Israel kills Palestinians in Hamas and Islamic Jihad. So was it by chance that the Black Hawk helicopter shot down in Iraq was hit over Tikrit, just after Paul Wolfowitz had passed through town?

And the assault on al-Rashid Hotel almost killed Wolfowitz. He was "a room away" from one of the missile explosions. The architect of the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq was almost assassinated by America's enemies.

IRAQ 'S GUERRILLAS ADOPT NEW STRATEGY: COPY THE AMERICANS; IRAQ BOMBINGS

And then there's the Red Cross, the very last neutral humanitarian organisation, after the double suicide attack on the UN, which might have provided some communication between the US and its antagonists. Now it, too, has been smashed. Some of America's enemies may come from other Arab countries, but most of the military opposition to America's presence comes from Iraqi Sunnis; not from Saddam "remnants" or "diehards" or "deadenders" (the Paul Bremer titles for a growing Iraqi resistance), but from men who in many cases hated Saddam.

They don't work "for" al-Qa'ida. But they have learnt their own unique version of history. Attack your enemies in the holy month of Ramadan. Learn from the war in Algeria. And the war in Afghanistan. Learn the lessons of America's "war on terror". Kill the leadership. You're with us or against us, collaborator or patriot. That was the message of yesterday's bloodbath in Baghdad.

Load-Date: October 28, 2003

End of Document

A craven approach to peace and justice

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 22, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition

Copyright 2003 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 13

Length: 681 words

Byline: Stuart Rees Stuart Rees is professor emeritus and director of the Sydney Peace Foundation.

Body

A question of courage lies at the heart of the dispute over honouring Hanan Ashrawi, writes Stuart Rees.

TOWARDS the end of 2002, the jury that represents the Sydney Peace Foundation chose the Palestinian academic and human rights campaigner Dr Hanan Ashrawi as the recipient of the 2003 Sydney Peace Prize.

Usually the news of each year's winner receives little public attention. Immediately following the announcement about Ashrawi, however, influential sections of the Jewish community campaigned to vilify her, to ridicule the status of the prize, to pressure the companies that are partners of the foundation to cease their public and financial support and to petition the Premier not to give the award.

And yesterday the Mayor of Sydney, Lucy Turnbull, withdrew her support for the peace prize events.

Ashrawi's critics claim that she once described the Holocaust as a deceit which Jews exploit to obtain sympathy. This was acknowledged to have been false. Other charges are that she has not been sufficiently outraged by suicide bombers and has only condemned such violence for tactical reasons; that she shares the *Hamas* view that Israel not the settlers or the borders is the problem.

Some claim that she is an unyielding, passionate exponent of an absolutist, rejectionist position which says that Israel ultimately has no place in the Middle East.

But Ashrawi's website includes the comment, "The solution to the Palestinian- Israeli conflict must emanate from a spirit of tolerance and sharing, not one of blind hatred and exclusion." She advocates from a partisan position for the Palestinian cause, albeit one prepared to criticise certain Palestinian officials and conduct.

The Sydney Peace Foundation interprets peace with justice as a process concerned not only with a nation's identity and security but also with citizens' employment, housing and health, their experience of the rule of law, of poverty and homelessness.

The difference between peace an end to hostilities and peace with justice the process of building a civil society is central to our deliberations.

The jury does not look for people who have led impeccable lives, nor does it perceive achievements for peace only in terms of a significant outcome such as a signed treaty. It examines the records of those who have engaged in the

A craven approach to peace and justice

struggle for human rights, have made contributions to democratic governance and have been advocates of the philosophy and practice of non-violence.

The Sydney jury judged Ashrawi's lifelong advocacy of women's rights to be just one item of impressive evidence of her work for peace with justice. Young Australian women of Arabic origin say they have been offended by the ridicule heaped on someone who they hold in high esteem but they have difficulty in making their voices heard.

The marshalling of vehement criticism raises issues central to the health of Australian democracy. Should people give way because of the formidable financial power pitted against them, should they stay silent because the Palestinian/Israel issue is perceived to be so complex or because criticising the Israeli Government's policies risks getting them branded anti-Semitic? Responses to these questions confront perhaps the major issue in all of this: the place of courage in public life.

I am referring not only to Ashrawi but also to the conduct of the business and political leaders asked to dissociate themselves from this year's Peace Prize events. The Premier, Bob Carr, has shown courage not to be influenced by those petitioning him not to award the Peace Prize. The principals of the companies that support the Peace Foundation have shown similar resolution. Our Lord Mayor has not.

We should not only welcome Ashrawi to Australia but also give her an opportunity to be heard without fear or favour. That response would be in the best traditions of democratic governance, of human rights and of hospitality to visitors. Even her strident critics might then discover that in the work of this significant citizen lies a hope for a peaceful and just future for Israelis as well as for Palestinians.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Israeli threat shows lack of commitment to peace

University Wire

September 17, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Minnesota Daily via U-Wire

Section: EDITORIAL

Length: 733 words

Byline: Staff Editorial, Minnesota Daily

Dateline: Minneapolis

Body

The recent assertion by Israeli Cabinet Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that Yasser Arafat "can no longer be a factor in what happens here," is simply a reassertion of the Israeli right wing's lack of commitment to peace between Jordan and the Mediterranean. The vice prime minister went further, telling Israeli radio, "Expulsion (of Yasser Arafat) is certainly one of the options, and killing is also one of the options."

No one can deny that militant terrorists also reasserted their lack of commitment to peace in the region through recent deadly suicide bombings. Threatening to assassinate the Palestinian leader is the first overt statement by Ariel Sharon's government that it will not continue along a "road map" for peace. They are not committed to even a minimal withdrawal from the occupied territories or allowing the Palestinian people to live independently of Israeli jurisdiction.

U. Minnesota

The United Nations has responded to Olmert's comments by sharply condemning the Israeli decision. The Security Council drafted a resolution demanding "that Israel, the occupying power, desist from any act of deportation and to cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian Authority." The resolution's "elected president" in mind is Yasser Arafat. The United States -- Israel's largest supporter -- vowed to veto the resolution.

Predictably, Israel's foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, rescinded Monday the comment made a day earlier calling the killing an option that is "not the official policy of the Israeli government." What then does "official" really mean? This crying wolf certainly lends no credibility to Israel.

The Israeli justification for its earlier comments vary between the deduced notion that the Palestinian Authority -- led by Yasser Arafat -- indirectly supports terrorism by not using its pseudo-state security forces to crack down on militants such as the **Hamas** group, or that Yasser Arafat vocally supports terrorism by his statements. He made one such comment Monday when he said, "(Palestinians) are the brave people, and we will continue until we reach Jerusalem." He was implying that the Palestinian cause for an independent state will not be fully realized until East Jerusalem is in the hands of the Palestinian people. East Jerusalem is the aspired-for capital of the Palestinian state and was annexed and settled by Israel at the beginning of the 1967 military occupation.

While Yasser Arafat might be a man obstructing the advancement of peace and stifling of terrorism in the Middle East, one need not look further than Ariel Sharon to see the mirror image of obstructionism.

Israeli threat shows lack of commitment to peace

It is clear a double standard is applied to Palestinians by the Israelis -- especially Sharon's dominant Likud Party. The Israeli prime minister is not without some unscrupulous blood on his hands.

During a murky period of Ariel Sharon's military past -- three days in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon in 1982 -- Israeli troops under Sharon violated a peace truce and entered West Beirut. Shortly thereafter, a group of Phalangist soldiers -- Maronite allies during the politically multifaceted 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon -- were aided by Sharon's troops in entering the refugee camps.

Two days later, more than 800 Palestinian refugees -- mostly women and children -- were massacred as Sharon carried out his designs of eradicating Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization from Lebanon. Yet the refugee camps had little to do with Arafat's violent confrontation with the Israeli military. Indeed, historical speculators suspect Sharon's military charge -- acting without Cabinet approval -- assisted in the Maronite plan of purifying Lebanon of Palestinian refugees. Investigations into the matter have proved biased and thus inconclusive.

Yet the top man in Israel remains quite popular among his constituents, facing little scrutiny about his past, and he continues to support the expansion of settlements on the West Bank -- perhaps the most inflammatory issue obstructing the "road map" for peace in the region. Indeed, according to documents reaching as far back as 1988, Sharon's Likud Party platform said, "Israel has a right and a claim to sovereignty, over Judea, Samaria (the West Bank), and the Gaza District." This position is obviously not conducive to peace.

(C) 2002 Minnesota Daily via U-WIRE

Load-Date: September 18, 2003

End of Document

EDWARD SAID JAMMED OUR VIEW OF ARAB WORLD

Daily News (New York)

October 1, 2003, Wednesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMNOPINION

Length: 627 words

Byline: BY ZEV CHAFETS

Body

As far as we know, Saddam Hussein is on the loose in Iraq, Osama Bin Laden is hiding somewhere in the tribal lands of Pakistan and Sheik Ahmed Yassin is still dodging Israeli bombs in Gaza. But the jihad lost a hero last week right here in New York City. Edward Said, Columbia University's famous warrior-scholar, is dead, felled at age 67 by leukemia.

Columbia mourns. "This death is an irreplaceable loss to the realm of ideas," said President Lee Bollinger.

Bollinger's grief is shared by many. CounterPunch, a journal of the radical left, has run a series of fervid tributes to Said's life and work. The Saudi government-controlled Arab News has extolled him in almost glowing terms. Not since the Soviet-Nazi nonaggression pact of 1939 has there been such ideological harmony.

Said not only united fascists and Communists, he also served as an ecumenical bridge. He was the rare Episcopalian admired by Hamas, whose goal of eradicating Israel he shared; Hezbollah - which was his host in southern Lebanon on his famous rock-throwing expedition - and other pillars of Islamic orthodoxy.

This is not as incongruous as it might seem. Said was a dapper fellow, known in the salons of New York for his fine piano playing and nuanced appreciation of Jane Austen's novels. But beneath the foppish exterior beat the heart of a martyr. His most famous book, "Orientalism," published in 1979, did more for the jihad than a battalion of Osamas.

Like all great polemics, "Orientalism" rests on a simple thesis: Westerners are inherently unable to fairly judge, or even grasp, the Arab world. In fact, any attempt to do so amounts to an act of intellectual imperialism.

This idea was seized upon by American students of the Middle East as a liberating insight. If they couldn't understand the Arab world - if, indeed, studying the subject was tantamount to colonialist aggression - then they could skip class and go out for hummus. All they needed to become qualified Arabists was a humble attitude and a mastery of the orthodoxies propounded by Said and other experts.

"Orientalism" made Said a hero not only in the mosques of Gaza, but in the halls of ivy. Not since CliffsNotes has a work so simplified scholarship. Since 1979, a generation of Saidists - professors, diplomats and foreign correspondents - has dominated polite discourse on the Middle East. Their animating principle is politically correct simplicity itself: see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil about the Arab world.

EDWARD SAID JAMMED OUR VIEW OF ARAB WORLD

Of course, Said allowed himself to criticize Arab regimes - usually on the grounds that they weren't sufficiently revolutionary. But he carefully remained within the bounds of acceptable Arab opinion. He was until his death a valued contributor to Al Ahram, the house organ of the Egyptian government.

Said wasn't responsible for the depredations of Hosni Mubarak's regime or any other Arab tyranny. He didn't blow up Marines in Lebanon in 1983, ignite the Palestinian intifadeh or send Wahhabi missionaries to preach violence against infidels. He certainly didn't fly a plane into the World Trade Center. What he did do was jam America's intellectual radar. He wasn't the architect of 9/11, but he was the father of the 9/12 inability to comprehend it.

Ah, well, Said is in paradise now. As an Episcopalian, he's ineligible for the customary 72 virgins, but I wouldn't be surprised if he's honored with a couple of **female** doctoral candidates. No one deserves it more. Meanwhile, the legacy lives. Like George Steinbrenner, Bollinger has recruited a new superstar for Columbia's "realm of ideas." Rashid Khalidy is now the enforcer of Arab authenticity in Morningside Heights, and he's got the title to prove it: Edward Said professor of Middle Eastern studies.

E-mail: zchafets@yahoo.com

Graphic

AFP July 2000: Said tossed rock at Israeli soldiers.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

Crean's grovelling makes a mockery of peace debate

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 6, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

Copyright 2003 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 37

Length: 660 words

Byline: Alan Ramsey

Body

AFTER Simon Crean gave a 3000-word speech on the topic "Israel's search for peace in the Middle East" to an audience from the Melbourne Jewish community last Sunday night and attended by the Israeli ambassador to Canberra, somebody commented, in some anguish, on "the fascination with cowardice" shown by the Labor leadership.

What Crean said, in part, was: "I want to thank Mark Leibler, Colin Rubinstein, Jeremy Jones and Michael Lipschutz for their generous support in hosting tonight's event. They have provided strong leadership for the Australian Jewish community in these challenging times. The Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, the State Zionist Council of Victoria and the Jewish Community Council of Victoria provide important links between Australia and Israel, and they help create a stronger and more vibrant multicultural Australia. I pay tribute to you tonight. I am very pleased to see Gaby Levy, Israel's ambassador, and I thank him for delaying his trip to PNG to hear my speech.

"It is an honour for me to be here, among so many familiar faces and friends of long standing and at a time of such profound importance to the people of Israel and the Middle East. Developments over the past few months and days have been watched closely by all those in this room and those around the world who still hope for a lasting peace in the Middle East and a brighter future for the people of Israel.

"Sadly, just over a week ago, on what many people are now calling black Tuesday, our hopes were shattered when a **Hamas** murderer stepped onto a bus in Jerusalem, and without regard for innocent human life, detonated yet another bomb. He killed 20 people, including three children, and injured more than 100. This indiscriminate killing and wounding of innocent men, **women** and children has shocked and revolted the entire international community. No one can see pictures of an innocent young child with a bloodied face, and not feel the pain and outrage of the Israeli people. The tragedy was compounded when this despicable act coincided with another bomb in Baghdad . . .

"Beyond the human tragedy, further damage has been done. The Jerusalem bombing could destroy the peace process. For the sake of the people of Israel, and indeed the Palestinian people, I hope it doesn't . . ."

Ah yes, "the Palestinian people". At last, a mention. This extract is approximately a single page of an 11-page speech. Labor's attitude to the Palestinians is similarly modest in the other 10 pages. As a depiction of Labor policy, it represents one of the more snivelling grovels in recent memory.

Crean's grovelling makes a mockery of peace debate

Stuart Rees, emeritus professor at Sydney University and director of the Sydney Peace Foundation, writes, in part, in a letter to the Herald: "The cause of peace with justice is not a consensus matter. It must address inequality and controversy . . .

"Questioning the conduct of the Israeli Government does not mean condoning hatred towards Israelis or the attacks against them. Large numbers of Jewish citizens [everywhere] seek an alternative to the Sharon policies. They identify the awful dilemmas for many Israeli youth obliged to take up arms in defence of themselves and against a people whom they wish to respect. By voicing their concerns and by speaking in support of the Palestinian people, these citizens are following the life-enhancing aspirations of the prophets and the psalmists to seek justice, not to build walls or to demonstrate overwhelming economic and military power. Those who challenge the current Israeli Government are pursuing the best traditions of Judaism. The significance of those traditions was best expressed in Albert Einstein's observation: 'Should we be unable to find a way to honest cooperation and honest pacts with the Arabs, then we have learnt absolutely nothing during our 2000 years of suffering.' "

And that, Simon Crean, is the sort of honest appraisal of the Israeli-Palestinian terrorism you want to spinelessly ignore.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
August 31, 2003 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 5; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 666 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL 3-18

U.S. and Iraqi Officials Consider Iraqi Force

Stung by Friday's deadly car bombing, American and Iraqi officials said they were discussing forming a large Iraqi paramilitary force to help improve security. 1

Thousands of Shiite Muslim mourners poured into Najaf from throughout Iraq to attend the funeral of their revered spiritual leader, Ayatollah Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim. 1

Israel Kills 3, Including Girl

In separate incidents, Israeli troops killed two militants from Hamas with an air strike and killed an 8-year-old-girl with ground fire in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian witnesses and officials said. 18

Germany's Economic Recovery

Though Germany's economic growth for this year is expected to be only a fraction above zero percent, economists and commentators think that Germany is on a path to recovery from one of its worst postwar periods of economic stagnation. 12

Russian Submarine Sinks

A decommissioned Russian nuclear submarine being towed to a scrapyard sank in the Barents Sea, killing 9 of the 10 crewmen. 7

North Korea Scorns More Talks

North Korea said it saw no purpose in continuing nuclear talks in Beijing and declared it would strengthen its nuclear deterrent. 18

Gays' Thoughts on Marriage

Skepticism about marriage is a recurring refrain among Canadian gay couples, who have not rushed to marry in great numbers in the few weeks since they became eligible in June. 1

NATIONAL 20-28

NEWS SUMMARY

Worried Democrats See Daunting '04 Hurdles

The race for the Democratic presidential nomination is shifting into a more intense phase, with some party leaders worried about the strength of their field of candidates and fearful of what they view as President Bush's huge advantage going into next year's election. 1

Debate on Death Sentence

The sentencing to death of a Louisiana man for raping an 8-year-old girl has reopened a debate about whether crimes that do not involve killings may ever be punished by death. 20

Ruling in Terror Case

A federal judge has ordered that the terrorist suspect Zacarias Moussaoui be given the opportunity to question two high-level operatives of Al Qaeda. 23

Unions to Start New Push

The A.F.L.-C.I.O. plans to announce a nationwide campaign that it considers crucial to labor's future, aiming to change federal laws to make it easier for workers to join unions. 22

S.U.V.'s a Target

Twenty new Hummer H2's worth about \$50,000 apiece were set aflame and destroyed at a car dealership near Los Angeles last week, part of a wave of vandalism. The Earth Liberation Front, a militant environmentalist group, later claimed responsibility. 20

EDUCATION

Schools Strained by Cutbacks

Most states have reacted to declining tax revenues by trimming education spending, setting the stage for one of the most austere school years in memory. 1

NEW YORK/REGION 31-36

Victim Fund's Sparse Claims Worry Government Officials

Federal and local officials are growing increasingly concerned over the failure of almost 60 percent of the families of those killed in the terrorist attacks of September 2001 to file claims with the victim compensation fund established by Congress after the attacks. 1

Faith and the Modern Mayor

Traveling to Israel in its times of trouble is what New York mayors do, but making an overtly religious display in public is not something Mayor Bloomberg is known for. As for New Yorkers, they do not seem to want strict church- or shul-going (maybe, someday, even mosque-going) leaders. 31

Police Connect Rapes

The police have linked a man who attacked two women in Kew Gardens, Queens, this summer to two rapes that took place in the area three years ago. The police do not have a suspect in the assaults, but have released a description of the attacker. 35

OBITUARIES 29

Frank MacDonald

Australia's oldest World War I veteran, he was 107. 29

NEWS SUMMARY

Charles W. J. Scaife

A chemistry professor who took everyday props and roamed the nation's classrooms to promote the idea that science is fun, he was 65. 29

Chess 36

Weather 37

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: August 31, 2003

End of Document

OPEN ELECTIONS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Daily News (New York)

August 27, 2003, Wednesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; EDITORIAL

Length: 725 words

Body

The Charter Revision Commission has given New Yorkers a chance to decide whether the city should free local elections from the stranglehold of the Democratic bosses. The answer, of course, is yes.

Please note: The answer also would be yes if there were a Republican stranglehold. The point is to liberate the electoral process.

The issue will be one of three proposals on the Nov. 4 general election ballot. The other two cover city purchasing and some small changes regarding administrative hearings and penalties for ethics violations. But the real attention is on how the mayor, public advocate, controller, borough presidents and City Council get elected.

Instead of closed party primaries, all candidates would run together, and all voters, regardless of party registration, could cast ballots for whomever they choose. The two highest vote-getters for each office would face each other in November.

No more would the Democratic Party nomination guarantee victory. The 1.3 million registered city voters who aren't Democrats would finally have a say in determining their leaders.

Another attractive feature: Candidates in the voluntary campaign finance program would not be permitted to accept contributions from political parties. State election law already forbids parties from spending money, directly or indirectly, on behalf of any candidate before the primary. But the Queens and the Bronx Democratic organizations are violating this by having party lawyers knock challengers off the ballot. Better to bar them completely.

Predictably, the Democratic bosses and the unions are pledging to fight the proposal. They cannot bear the thought of power shifting from them to the people. Their opposition makes the plan even more appealing. Power belongs with the people.

The opponents complain that Mayor Bloomberg is pushing this to benefit himself, which is patently absurd because the changes wouldn't go into effect until after the next mayoral election. Another argument - also moot - is that there would be no way for voters to know the philosophy of any given candidate. This ignores the fact that all candidates would be free to list their party affiliation on the ballot.

The 2002 Charter Revision Commission punted on the nonpartisan-election question because it didn't have enough time to study the issue. Time was not a factor this year. This was no rush job. Under the leadership of Frank Macchiarola, the commission had nearly five months to examine every aspect of a new election system.

OPEN ELECTIONS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

The panel didn't get to everything - such as banning elected officials from giving themselves raises - but what it did do was revolutionary. And in 10 weeks, all registered voters will decide whether all registered voters will be fully enfranchised.

Yes, yes, yes.

To Israel with love

Mayor Bloomberg's visit yesterday to Jerusalem was not a mission of formal statecraft. He made no effort to call on senior Israeli officials - who were rather busy, in any event, determinedly striking back once more at the Hamas butchers who plot Israel's destruction every hour of their lives.

Instead, Bloomberg walked among the piteous victims of the brutishness and treachery of Palestinian gangsters. He comforted them in their hospital beds. He offered words of courage and hope. He assured them that their U.S. friends stood foursquare with them, that American goodwill and support were undiminished and unflagging.

"I'm not afraid, the Israeli people aren't afraid, New Yorkers and Americans aren't afraid," Bloomberg told them. That was the reason the mayor went to Jerusalem. Simply to offer solidarity, amid little personal fanfare.

New York City's relationship with Israel is historically a special one, and New York mayors have often traveled there, in good times and bad. This was one of the bad times - another 21 men, women and children murdered. Even as Bloomberg toured Jerusalem, Israel's military chiefs were swiftly responding to this most recent terrorist outrage. As is their duty.

"You have to stand up and fight back," Bloomberg said. There are those in the world who would deny that, more to their peril. But the mayor of New York understands the concept. New York itself understands, having been visited by terror. Yes, there is a solidarity between this city and Jerusalem, between the U.S. and Israel, and it was sealed in the blood of innocents.

Load-Date: August 27, 2003

End of Document

Stereotypes dim our view of Mideast

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

October 14, 2003 Tuesday

Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial;; Column

Length: 690 words

Byline: MARTHA EZZARD

Body

For insight on the human side of the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I turned recently to Eve Troutt Powell, the University of Georgia associate history professor who won a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship this month --- known as the "genius" award.

Powell fell in love with the people of the Middle East after spending time in Egypt between earning degrees from Harvard University. Her research and writing are focused on changing American stereotypes about the Middle East. They include books about colonialism and Arab women and history as revealed in their stories.
AJC

So much of how Americans view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is based on geography, says Powell, referring to the biblical maps that are often our first exposure to the Middle East. The maps designate Israel as the Holy Land, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, land that in the Old Testament God told Abraham belongs to the Jewish people.

Powell is cynical about the Christian right's strong alliance today with the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, one highlighted by the recent visit of the Israeli tourism minister with religious conservatives in Atlanta. She believes the right's attraction is driven by fear of the Islamic world since Sept. 11, not by sincere respect for Jewish beliefs.

Indeed, when born-again House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) was invited to address the Israeli Knesset, the alliance did seem more fraught with politics than shared religious views. After all, fundamentalist Christian conservatives such as DeLay generally believe in the literal interpretation of the second coming of Christ, at which time the Jews must convert to Christianity or be destroyed.

Whether President Bush will allow religious conservatives, key to his GOP base, to interfere with his commitment to a separate Palestinian state remains to be seen. But he is quick to approve Sharon's most vicious military reprisals, even the recent incursion into Syria, as necessary for self-defense. He has not levied the kind of pressure on Israel

Stereotypes dim our view of Mideast

that his father did in freezing certain loans, an action aimed at halting the proliferation of Jewish settlements. (Powell says she admired the senior Bush's efforts in that regard.)

One fundamental American misunderstanding Powell blames on the media --- portrayals of Israelis and Palestinians as equal forces. "The truth is that the Palestinians are a group of people with no state; the Israelis are a state with a powerful army," she said.

Though she condemns Yasser Arafat as a corrupt leader who has brought suffering to his people, Powell says Sharon's history of atrocities is constantly overlooked.

"Now **Hamas** [Palestinian militants] and Sharon use each other's violence to stay in power," she said.

Kenneth Stein, professor of Middle East history and politics at Emory University, argues that it is Arafat's rejection of the American offer to create a Palestinian homeland that has, in part, caused the additional Jewish settlements. But Stein also criticizes the Bush administration's lack of sustained pressure on both sides.

"It has to be 24-7," says Stein. "You can't run off to Kennebunkport or the ranch and just pick it all up later."

Stein would like to see a high-level envoy appointed to pursue negotiations on a constant basis. He would seek more immediate aid from the European Union and the United Nations, in addition to American dollars, to make a difference "on the ground" for Palestinians. Powell, too, says that if we are ever to halt the proliferation of suicide bombers, young Palestinians must have hope of a better life.

"I have a 9-year-old," she says. "If I were a Palestinian mother, I would be out of my mind with fear."

Powell wants Americans to understand that respect for Arab leaders and culture is key to creating confidence in American leadership for peace. She wants to change the misleading images Americans receive of both the Palestinian and the Israeli people.

"They don't just fight," she said. "They laugh, they cry, they go to movies. They are like the people who live next door to us."

Martha Ezzard's column appears Tuesdays.

mezzard@ajc.com

Load-Date: October 14, 2003

After much talk about Abbott's one notion, the war drags on

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

August 30, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 30

Length: 651 words

Byline: Peter Charlton

Body

PRIME Minister John Howard visited troops and police in the Solomons and hinted that the troops might be home sooner than they first thought.

Five years late, Fairfax newspapers "discovered" that then parliamentary secretary Tony Abbott raised money to fight Pauline Hanson's One Nation party over its registration in Queensland. Labor leaders Simon Crean and Peter Beattie, scarcely believing their luck, milked the old yarn for all it was worth. In a piece of television worth paying for, the ABC's Kerry O'Brien subjected Abbott to a forensic dissection which left him stunned.

Self-confessed media tart Beattie signalled a shake-up of his front bench by using the retirement announcement of Health Minister Wendy Edmond, pictured, to announce that Transport Minister Steve Bredhauer and Employment Minister Matt Foley were also collecting their superannuation payouts after the next election.

The Family Court ordered the release from detention of a group of asylum-seeking children. Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock signalled an appeal to the High Court.

A damning internal investigation found that a culture of "denigration and harassment" of soldiers at the Australian Army's School of Infantry substantially contributed to the suicide of a young soldier earlier this year. The army promised to do better.

Nearly four decades after prime minister Harold Holt disappeared in the sea off Portsea in Victoria, a coroner's inquest is to be held.

Thousands mourned the death of Sen-Sgt Perry Irwin, gunned down in an ambush.

Far, far fewer mourned former Labor senator Mal Colston, dubbed the "Quisling Quasimodo from Queensland" by Senator Robert Ray. Colston died of cancer years after being given only weeks to live.

In the US, a defrocked Catholic priest jailed for 10 years for molesting a boy was killed in prison by a convicted murderer with a hatred of homosexuals.

More than 50 people were killed in a terrorist bomb blast in the financial district of Mumbai, India.

Violence continued in the Middle East, with Israeli authorities killing Hamas leaders. Fusilier Russell Beeston became the 50th British soldier to die in Iraq. The number of American troops killed since "the end of hostilities"

After much talk about Abbott's one notion, the war drags on

now exceeds the number killed in the campaign to liberate Iraq. US Secretary of State Colin Powell conceded that UN-affiliated troops might be needed.

General Wesley Clark, former NATO commander in Bosnia and possible Democrat contender for next year's US presidential election, accused White House officials of trying to get him sacked as a CNN military analyst because they feared he would criticise the US campaign in Iraq.

In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair emerged from the inquiry into the death of scientist Dr David Kelly with his reputation intact, more or less.

A computer virus called Sobig.F failed to cause the destruction earlier feared.

In Britain, a black woman complained that the National Health Service could only offer her a pink false leg. The authorities relented and a black leg was found.

One of tennis's good guys, seven-times Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, retired, aged 32.

Jana Pittman produced one of athletics' best finishes to upset world record holder Yuliya Pechonkina and win gold in the women's 400m hurdles at the world athletics championships in Paris.

Serial dill Shane Warne headed off to England for a holiday with his long-suffering missus Simone.

VFL great Jack "Captain Blood" Dyer was farewelled, his coffin draped in a tiger's skin.

Queensland Rugby's patience with Wendell Sailor, pictured, was fast running out as the league convert looked like heading south to the Brumbies or north to Japan next year -- anywhere but Queensland.

The boring old farts of the International Rugby Board united Australian supporters when they decided to ban the singing of Waltzing Matilda at this year's Rugby World Cup as not culturally important. Put more tonic in your gins, chaps.

Load-Date: August 29, 2003

THE SETTLERS OF GILAD'S FARM DEFY AMERICA

The Independent (London)

June 12, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 615 words

Byline: JUSTIN HUGGLER IN HAVAT GILAD, WEST BANK

Body

ON A DUSTY hilltop in the West Bank, where the hills stretch into the blue horizon, a group of young men sit under an open tent. One is strumming badly on a guitar and the others sing along happily. A small boy sits astride a white horse. A beautiful young mother holds a baby in her arms. There are a couple of shipping containers that have been converted into very basic homes.

With the young men's long hair, you could be forgiven for thinking Havat Gilad (Gilad's Farm) was some sort of hippie commune. In fact, these are some of the people who stand in the way of the Middle East peace process. They are Jewish settlers living in the West Bank. There are others who stand in the way of peace, the murderous suicide bombers of Hamas, for example.

But the settlers living here are opposing the road-map peace plan sponsored by President George Bush. Implementing the road-map, the Israeli army was supposed to pull down the shipping containers and dismantle the settlement yesterday. But as we arrived, a stream of army trucks was leaving, heading back to base. The settlers had just won a small victory in court: the court ordered the government to make inquiries into the settlers' claim that they own the land at Gilad's Farm before it could go ahead and evict them.

Yet Gilad's Farm is not all it appears to be. The young men do not live here: they are Jewish seminary students from Jerusalem who are brought by bus several days a week. They come because they are ideologically committed to a Jewish presence in the West Bank, but they go home to Jerusalem because they do not want to live all the time in a shipping container. Their presence means Gilad's Farm is inhabited.

Three couples claim to live here permanently. One of the women, Dvora Duckan, says her mother grew up in Derby. One of the other couples have two children. But what are they doing up here in the first place? Rivka Shimon, the mother of Bat Zion Zar, one of the women living here, explains. "There is no legal claim for the land unless you read the Bible," she says. "God gave this land to the Jewish people. We are special." There is no aggression as she speaks. She has the self-righteous calm of someone convinced she is right.

Gilad's Farm was set up by the father of her son-in-law, after his other son Gilad, a settler, was murdered by Palestinian militants who ambushed his car and shot him a few miles away. The official line from the settlers is that people live here in memory of the dead man.

But Ms Shimon gives the game away. "If you look around Israel, where there are towns and cities today, this is how they all started, like this." The settlements were started by ideological settlers who moved into the occupied territories without government permission and lived in a few caravans, much like Gilad's Farm today. Those

THE SETTLERS OF GILAD'S FARM DEFY AMERICA

settlements grew into fully fledged towns with the Israeli government's blessing and funding, and that is what the settlers want for Gilad's Farm.

Ms Shimon is unperturbed at taking on President Bush. "Britain was a big empire until they put their hands on us," she says. "When they started preventing us returning to Israel they became a small and unimportant country.

"What happened in the US with al-Qa'ida is the same thing. It was because the US was pushing us to leave our land. If they do the Israeli nation good, God rewards them. If they do harm to the Israeli nation, they suffer. It's not something I like to say, but ..."

And if the settlers' court action fails and the Israeli army returns to pull down Gilad's Farm? "We will never fight them. My son is going into the army soon. They are all our children," she says. "But we will come back when they leave."

Load-Date: June 12, 2003

End of Document

*The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ;
Another failure of imagination?*

The International Herald Tribune

September 6, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 725 words

Byline: Alexis B. Delaney And Peter R. Neumann

Body

The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Russia has been remarkably brutal, aimed even at children. There was, however, another detail regularly picked up by commentators and analysts: the prominent role played by women.

When two commercial aircraft were brought down over Central Russia on Aug. 24, female terrorists carried the bombs. When a blast destroyed a Moscow railway station on Aug. 30, it was a woman who emerged as the main suspect. And in the hostage crisis in the province of North Ossetia, it was -- again -- women who were found among the kidnappers wearing suicide bomb belts.

International Herald Tribune

Networks like Al Qaeda have always used women to carry out various auxiliary tasks, but their systematic involvement as high-profile operatives emerged only in recent years. In 2002, when Chechen terrorists took 700 hostages in a Moscow theater, 18 of the kidnappers were women. In Israel, the first female suicide bombers appeared in the same year, and groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas have since "liberalized" their recruitment policies to allow females to join their ranks. Indeed, it was only in January of this year that a British Airways flight from London had to be canceled because a female operative planned to blow up the plane over Washington.

All this amounts to a major shift in the operational modus operandi of Islamic terrorists. The events in Russia suggest that women are now the preferred tool with which to carry out "martyrdom operations." If sustained, this would be a truly remarkable development. After all, Islamic terrorists propagate a vision of society in which women are consistently portrayed as weak, inferior and sinful. Women, they believe, have no role to play in public life, never mind that of "heroic martyr." The question, therefore, is obvious: Why have Islamic extremists suddenly embraced the use of women as high-level operatives?

Symbolically, their participation sends a powerful message, blurring the distinction between perpetrator and victim. Even among progressive Westerners, the notion that women are the "weaker sex," and that their inclination is to create and protect life rather than destroy it, remains widespread. If women decide to violate all established norms about the sanctity of human life, they do so only as a last resort. The scholar Clara Beyler, who analyzed public reactions to suicide bombings, found that "female kamikazes" tended to be portrayed as "the symbols of utter despair ... rather than the cold-blooded murderers of civilians." If a woman was involved, the media focused on "what made her do it," not on the carnage that she had created. In other words, if the attacker was a woman, it was the bomber who became the victim, and whose grievances needed to be addressed.

The spectacular rise of the female terrorist ; Another failure of imagination?

The second reason for the spectacular rise of female operatives is practical. After the attacks of Sept. 11, the security measures introduced at airports, train stations and other public places were geared toward the perpetrators of the hijackings. As all the members of the group around Mohammed Atta were young, male and of Middle Eastern origin (as well as appearance), it was little surprise that this became the prototype at which law enforcement agencies around the world were looking most closely. Terror networks like Al Qaeda were quick to spot this vulnerability, and consequently set out to recruit operatives who did not fit the standard description. As Jessica Stern noted, the perception that women are less prone to violence, the Islamic dress code and the reluctance to carry out body searches on Muslim women made them the "perfect demographic."

The relevance of this development extends far beyond the current crisis in Russia. In fact, our astonishment at the use of female operatives by Islamic terrorists may be yet another "failure of imagination" with potentially catastrophic consequences. As early as 2002, Patricia Pearson warned: "Yes, it may be hard to imagine a woman flying into the twin towers. But we have to be careful about our presumptions. ... Our imagination failed us before Sept. 11, and we paid a steep price."

Alexis B. Delaney is a defense analyst based in Washington. Peter R. Neumann is research fellow in international terrorism at the Department of War Studies, King's College London.

[Not to be reproduced without the permission of the author.]

Load-Date: September 6, 2004

End of Document

Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A11; David Warren

Length: 697 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

It is a fixed principle of human nature, true in all cultures at all times and places, that if you reward bad behaviour, you will get more of it. This is not rocket science, and yet in the name of "compassion" or from several lesser desiderata, the fixed principle of those who are weak in heart and mind, is to go right ahead. "Liberals" I call them, but the reader may call them anything she pleases.

They are the people who can always find a reason to reward bad behaviour -- invariably at the price of punishing the opposed good behaviour. This in turn leads to transvaluations of good and bad, demanding further cartloads of "nuance."

Why am I moralizing? Because we have to start somewhere in considering the latest challenge presented in Iraq which, if it is not dealt with effectively and memorably, will soon be a problem far outside Iraq.

The current issue is the kidnappings, which are quickly becoming standard procedure among the Jihadis.

It is now arranged in a standard format. A suitable person or small group is apprehended, a video is made of them begging for their lives, this is shown gleefully and internationally by the Arab TV network Al Jazeera -- "the smiling media face of the Jihad" -- and then, depending on the whim of the kidnappers, the victims are either gorily murdered (for another video) or casually set free. Casually setting some captives free is part of the psychological game, intended to contribute to panic by enhancing the adversary's feeling of helplessness.

The Jihadis are adopting kidnapping because it is working for them better than other methods. For instance, car bombings are proving, in Iraq at least, much less effective, now that they are taken for granted. They are dealt with more and more like any kind of car "accident" -- just a price you pay for having roads.

At the moment of writing, the Jihadis have Paris in convulsions over two journalists they may behead -- Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro and Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale. This is an act which they have presented for Western consumption as if it were a challenge to the recent French law banning Muslim women's headscarves (and other religious paraphernalia) from French public schoolyards -- a law which President Jacques Chirac could not now overturn except by extra-constitutional means.

At the same time, another cell has grabbed the attention of Katmandu by "executing" a dozen Nepali contract workers. From the final video, a feed of which Al Jazeera was happy to provide into Nepali homes, the Jihadis seem to have got bored after decapitating the first hostage and just shot the rest. They were then at pains, in an

Giving into Jihadi kidnappers will only beget more terrorism

accompanying message, to show solidarity with Nepal's own Maoist terrorists, which should help answer the oft rhetorically-asked question about whether terrorists could co-operate across the Sunni-Shia divide. (Outlaws and other outlaws have always found common interests: It is another one of those fixed rules. It's a snip when they have common enemies.)

Chirac's response -- after the surprised popular outpouring, "Why us? We're as anti-American as you are!" -- has been to send his foreign minister on a whirlwind tour of Arab capitals to get help pleading for the captives' release. He found that he could call upon the good offices of Yasser Arafat, ***Hamas*** and Moqtada al-Sadr, in addition to more conventional diplomatic contacts, to make this pitch. We will see if it works.

It might, because the Jihadis in question -- the same cell that beheaded the Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni last week, and which from the quality of its captives obviously has its own good media connections (just a small hint to investigators) -- will have been able to show the whole French state bowing and scraping before it for mercy. This will in turn enhance their fellow Jihadis' prestige across Europe.

And it might not: The Jihadis may butcher their latest victims as they did the last. Either way, it would appear that the French have had another opportunity to join the "coalition of the willing" against the international Jihad. But they have again chosen to encourage it, and promote kidnapping, rather than take sides with the Americans.

Graphic

Photo: Francois Mori, Associated Press; In front of Paris City Hall, CuSadia Djillali signs a petition book asking for the immediate release of the two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq, Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

France Pushes For Release Of Hostages

The New York Times

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 6; Foreign Desk; Pg. 9; THE REACH OF WAR: DIPLOMACY

Length: 742 words

Byline: By ELAINE SCIOLINO

Dateline: PARIS, Aug. 31

Body

The government on Tuesday stepped up diplomatic efforts to win the release of two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq as the deadline set by their kidnappers passed with no word of the hostages' fate.

But it continued to refuse to give in to the kidnappers' demand that it rescind a new law banning Islamic head scarves and other "conspicuous" religious symbols from public schools.

"France as a democracy has laws, values and traditions," President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, where he was meeting President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Chancellor Gerhard Schroder of Germany. "Under the given circumstances we are concentrating all our efforts on freeing the hostages, and we appeal for their immediate release."

Hopes for the release of the two journalists, Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot, seemed to dim Tuesday as a different militant Iraqi group announced that it had executed 12 Nepalese men kidnapped earlier this month.

Then came news on the Dubai-based satellite channel Al Arabiya that the French hostages' release was imminent.

The seizure of the two Frenchmen, who disappeared on Aug. 20, has stunned France. Their fate has gripped the country since Saturday night, when the kidnapping by the little-known Islamic Army of Iraq was announced on Al Jazeera television with the demand that the religious symbol law be rescinded within 48 hours.

On Monday, the kidnappers extended the deadline by 24 hours in a new video shown on Al Jazeera, in which the two hostages asked the French government to give in.

The kidnapping shattered the assumption here that France and its citizens enjoyed immunity from terrorism related to Iraq because of its staunch antiwar stance and its refusal to send any troops there, even to train soldiers and police officers.

The crisis is also a personal challenge to Mr. Chirac, who has spent much of his four decades in elective office cultivating relationships with Arab leaders and considers himself an expert on Arab politics.

France Pushes For Release Of Hostages

As the crisis deepened, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier continued his whirlwind mission in the Middle East, visiting Amman, Jordan, and Alexandria, Egypt, to explain the new French law and to win Arab and Muslim support for the hostages' release.

"The honor, the history of our country and of the French republic are to guarantee to all those who live in France the same protection, the same freedom of conscience and of worship," Mr. Barnier said in Amman on Tuesday.

The Islamic world, mobilized by France and its allies, spoke with one voice in demanding that the journalists be freed.

In Gaza, the Palestinian Islamic militant group Hamas said that the journalists were innocent victims who should be released and that because France was antiwar, it should not suffer. "France has been taking a positive stand in support of the Iraqi cause," Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman, said.

Even those opposed to the scarf ban condemned the kidnappers, insisting that the matter was a purely domestic French affair.

Muhammad Bahr al-Ulum, a leading Iraqi Shiite cleric, said, "The head scarf problem in France is no justification for the kidnapping of the French journalists."

In Egypt the Muslim Brotherhood, the Arab world's largest Islamist organization, whose supporters in France have led the protests against the scarf ban, has called for the hostages' release.

The government of Iran, which requires women to hide their hair and which has criticized the French law, condemned the kidnappings. "Human values and Islamic principles do not condone such methods," Hamid Reza Asefi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, was quoted by the official press agency IRNA as saying.

Other commentators noted that France, despite its antiwar stance, was now suffering the ripple effects of terror generated by the war in Iraq.

"We are all hostages," declared the Spanish newspaper El Pais, based in Madrid, where bombs exploded on commuter trains in March.

Amid the show of support, though, there was an undercurrent of hostility from commentators in the country most closely allied to the United States in Iraq.

"Good luck, Mr. Barnier," said a commentary on Tuesday in The Independent in London. It added, "France, in this moment of crisis, finds itself confronted with the limitations, and contradictions, of its efforts to develop an alternative (i.e. non-American) policy towards the Islamic world."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil

The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 16, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

Section: Commentary

Length: 732 words

Byline: Syed Farid Alatas

Body

DURING the last few years, we have heard much about the so-called clash of civilisations. Some people would have us believe that the fundamental conflict in the world today is between religions and civilisations.

For example, there are those who believe that many problems in the world are due to fundamental conflicts between Muslim and Western civilisations, or between Islam and Judaism or between Islam and Hinduism.

The real conflict, however, is between the values of evil that do not correspond to differences between religions or civilisation. The values, attitudes and actions that arise from evil minds are found among all religions and civilisations and it is this evil that is at the root of conflict.

Similarly, the values that we associate with the lofty ideals of the world's civilisations are found in all religions and are what religions have in common despite doctrinal and ritual differences.

But humanity does not only share a common good. There is also what we may call the common problem of evil.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the late leader of *Hamas*, a Palestinian militant organisation, was said to be an advocate of suicide bombing and the killing of non-Muslim combatants in Israel.

Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, the alleged brains behind the suicide bombings and beheadings in Iraq, also harbours extremist views of his fellow Muslims, and regards the Shi'ite Muslims of Iraq as infidels who also contribute to sectarian conflict in that country.

The Islamic position, of course, is that suicide and the killing of innocent men, *women* and children are sins of the worst kind. Yet there are Muslims who support the views of Sheikh Yassin and Zarqawi, and who indeed glorify them.

They are unwilling to condemn suicide bombing as sinful murder, and unwilling to brand the perpetrators as terrorists - a label they use readily on the Israelis. Such people suffer from moral incompetence and impotence. But the evil behind such advocacy is transreligious - that is to say, it is an orientation that exists across religions.

For example, Rabbi Dov Lior, chairman of the Yesha Rabbinical Council (of Jewish settlers in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip), is reported to have said in a Halachic (Jewish law) ruling that the Israeli defence forces are allowed to hurt innocent civilians during warfare.

He went so far as to say that 'during warfare, killing non-Jewish civilians is permitted if it saves Jewish lives'.

Clash of civilisations? No, it's pure evil

The Christians also have their share of extremists. A leading Greek Orthodox priest in Jerusalem, Dr Attallah Hana, supports means used by Palestinians to achieve freedom from the Israeli regime, which include suicide bombing.

The clash, therefore, is not between religions, but between good and evil within and between different religious communities.

These extremist ideas cannot be fought via arguments and persuasion. Many extremists are familiar with the arguments against extremism but do not accept them.

The only way to fight extremism is by isolating extremists and their views. To achieve religious harmony, each of us has to play a role in isolating and marginalising extremism in our respective religious communities.

We can do that by educating and inspiring our children with the right values, by exposing them to the rich tradition of literature, poetry and biographical studies of great peoples and places.

As far as Islam is concerned, its spirit is founded on the notions of peace and harmony among religions.

The Ikhwan Al-Safa (The Brethren of Purity), a philosophical society that emerged in Basrah, Iraq during the 10th century, refers to the ideal person as one who is 'Persian by breeding, Arabian in faith, Hanafite (the school most open to modern ideas) in his Islam, Iraqi in culture, Hebrew in lore, Christian in manners, Damascene in piety, Greek in the sciences, Indian in contemplation, Sufi in intimations, regal in character, masterful in thought, and divine in insight'.

As is clear from this quote, being religious does not mean being closed to other religious traditions and not having respect and admiration for their achievements. It is precisely when we are steeped in our own tradition that we recognise the richness of others. It is that recognition that leads to the suppression of extremist orientations towards others.

The writer is associate professor in the sociology department of the National University of Singapore. E-mail: socsfa@nus.edu.sg

Load-Date: July 15, 2004

FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'

The Evening Standard (London)

July 7, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: A; Pg. 7

Length: 709 words

Byline: PAUL WAUGH

Body

A ROW erupted today over a hardline Muslim cleric's invitation to a London conference.

Dr Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who supports Palestinian suicide bombers, is "guest of honour" at a debate organised by the Greater London Authority. He has already been The race is on: half a million people pack central London to see Formula One cars in action. Mayor Ken Livingstone today vowed to stage a Grand Prix on the capital's streets, declaring: "If Monaco can do it, we can" banned from the US on suspicion of terror links and is renowned for his anti-Semitic views.

Dr al-Qaradawi said this year that the beheading of American Nick Berg by Islamic militants in Iraq had to be seen "in the right context".

Ken Livingstone was under pressure to scrap plans to speak alongside the Egyptian-born sheikh after the Home Office pulled out of the conference. Home Office Minister Fiona McTaggart today revealed she had withdrawn her support after discovering full details of the cleric's extremist views on Jews and homosexuals.

Ms McTaggart said that "a perfectly-good cause has been hijacked" by Dr al-Qaradawi and his supporters. But there was confusion about the Government's response to the cleric's presence in Britain after a Foreign Office spokesman last night said Foreign Secretary Jack Straw had granted the cleric's visa application.

Originally, the Home Office claimed: "We don't jump to the conclusion that because someone's views are abhorrent they are automatically a security threat." A spokesman for Home Secretary David Blunkett said that Ms MacTaggart had decided to not to support the event because the presence of Dr al-Qaradawi had "changed the terms" on which her backing had been given.

"She is not prepared to support a conference where this man is described as a guest of honour," the spokesman said.

The minister sent a taped message of support to the organisers of the conference weeks ago before she knew of the cleric's involvement. She did not know he had been billed as a speaker and it had been a mistake to bill her as a speaker too, the spokesman said.

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis attacked the Mayor for giving Dr al-Qaradawi the "oxygen of publicity".

Mr Livingstone, who will introduce the speakers next Monday, has refused to back down over his attendance at the event, which was originally meant to support the right of Muslim girls to wear a hijab.

FURY AS RACE HATE CLERIC 'HONOURED'

Vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and Labour peer Lord Janner said: "I greatly hope that the Mayor will not attend this meeting. It is immoral, impolitic and unacceptable for the GLA to be associated with this man and his extremist connections and activities."

And he added: "Whilst I am glad that Fiona MacTaggart has decided not to attend the conference, she has made a serious mistake in sending a video message."

Dr al-Qaradawi has condemned the September 11 attacks and Bali bombing but has persistently praised Palestinian-suicide bombers as "martyrs".

He claims Israeli citizens are legitimate targets and has even encouraged women and children to become suicide bombers.

"The Israelis might have nuclear bombs but we have the children bomb and these human bombs must continue until liberation," he said.

The Egyptian-born cleric, now based in Qatar, has described Western civilisation as "wretched" and attacked homosexuality as a "disease that needs a cure".

He says women who are "disobedient" should be beaten. He is spiritual leader of Egyptian terror group the Muslim Brotherhood which is said to have links to Hamas.

THE SAYINGS OF YUSUF AL-QARADAWI . On the punishment of homosexuality by execution: "While such punishments may seem cruel, they have been suggested to maintain the purity of Islamic society and to keep it clean of perverted elements."

. Of Palestinian attempts to make peace with Israel: "They are treason."

. On wife-beating: It is acceptable with "the hand, but not with a stick".

The wife's face "should not be a target".

. He has condemned the Bali bombing and September 11 attacks, but praised the "martyrdom" of suicide bombings by children on behalf of Shahadah (faith).

. Of global brands like Pizza Hut, McDonald's and KFC: "They are part of a Jewish conspiracy." His website says: "Boycott America, from Pepsi cans to Boeing."

Load-Date: July 8, 2004

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

The Sun
June 25, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Section: OPINION

Length: 732 words

Byline: Richard Littlejohn

Body

TWO items from this week's news bulletins. Item One: Rail militants threaten transport chaos.

Item Two: Al-Qaeda militants behead prisoner.

Spot the difference.

The first referred to plans by the RMT to call strikes on the railways and the London Underground next week.

We're told the vote was swung by "militant" members of the union's executive.

The second is about the cold-blooded slaughter in Saudi Arabia of an innocent South Korean contractor by a gang of desperados.

Those responsible were described by the BBC as al-Qaeda "militants".

Now I can think of a number of ways of describing al-Qaeda.

Terrorists, fanatics, murderers, barbarians, gangsters, all spring to mind.

But "militants"?

I don't think so.

Over the years, as an industrial correspondent, I must have written the word "militant" hundreds, if not thousands, of times.

I've come across militant train drivers, militant car workers, militant miners.

I've seen some picket line

violence in my time: Bottles thrown, police horses punched.

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

But to the best of my knowledge, even at the bitterest height of the miners' strike, I can't remember Arthur Scargill actually beheading anyone.

Bob Crow, the left-wing leader of the RMT, is everyone's favourite bogeyman these days.

He's routinely described as a "militant". But in fairness to Bob, I've never heard him advocate decapitation as a legitimate way of pursuing a grievance.

I can't ever recall any trades union "militant" threatening to fly an airliner into a tower block unless their demands are met.

Unless I missed something, the Longbridge shop stewards committee never sent anyone strapped with Semtex to blow up a Birmingham Corporation bus packed with passengers because the management wouldn't give them an extra five minutes on their tea breaks.

Yet they, too, were described as "militants".

So perhaps the BBC - and, for that matter, Sky News - can explain why they think

"militant" is the appropriate expression to describe a fanatical terrorist organisation hell-bent on the slaughter of innocent

civilians and the downfall of Western civilisation.

How is it they can see no

difference between an Islamist maniac chopping off the head of a helicopter engineer and an RMT official calling for a work-to-rule over a dispute about pension contributions?

The broadcasters are the main offenders, the BBC in particular.

In TV land there's no right and wrong, only moral equivalence. Actually it's not even about equivalence, it's usually about presenting terrorists in the best possible light.

I recently saw the BBC describe coalition soldiers in Iraq as "gunmen". Yet Hamas homicide bombers are called "activists".

Palestinian murderers act out of "desperation". When Israel acts in self defence it is always "perpetuating the cycle of violence".

In one breath they'll talk about a "radical" new Tory plan to introduce education vouchers. In the next breath they'll describe the people responsible for blowing up a cafe full of civilians in Tel Aviv as Palestinian "radicals".

What has a Tory think-tank seeking new ways to extend choice in schooling got in common with a terrorist organisation which

routinely murders innocent men, women and children?

But then the BBC has got plenty of previous. During the ideological struggles in the Soviet Union, hardline Communists were always described as "conservatives".

Were they trying to tar the Tories with guilt by association? If only sub-consciously, yep.

The problem with too many broadcast executives is that they are so convinced of their own moral and intellectual superiority that in their efforts to be "non-judgmental" and "impartial" they consistently present a warped

version of the world to their viewers.

FIVE PER CENT..OR THE COMMUTER GETS IT!

The BBC is currently spending Pounds 50million retraining journalists in the wake of criticism levelled in the Hutton Report.

Maybe as a basis for negotiation they should produce a new dictionary which begins: A is for al-Qaeda, a terrorist organisation which killed 3,000 people on 9/11 and hundreds more in Bali, Istanbul, Madrid and elsewhere - not a harmless bunch of cuddly idealists no different to the works committee at Acton bus garage.

Or would that be a bit "radical"?

It was also revealed yesterday that the BBC is planning a 24-hour Arab language news channel to compete with Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, which have been accused of anti-Western bias.

How will anyone tell the difference?

Load-Date: June 26, 2004

End of Document

Stalking Syria

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 11, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

Copyright 2003 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 57

Length: 1670 words

Byline: Christopher Kremmer

Body

Cornered and up against clever enemies, Syria is running out of luck. Israel's air strike is just the beginning of the torment, writes Christopher Kremmer.

MORE terrifying than the bombs dropped near Damascus last week was the message they carried for the regime of the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad: game over.

The Israeli warplanes that demolished a base once used to train Palestinian militants didn't just catch Syria's air defences napping; they exposed the vulnerability of yet another Arab leader, just months after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Putting in the boot only four days after the attack, the US House of Representatives international relations committee voted 33-2 to ban the export of "dual-use" technologies to Syria. The regime stands accused of supporting terrorism and acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

If, as expected, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act passes the full house next week, George Bush will be empowered to ban American investments in Syria and freeze Syrian assets in the US.

"Ariel Sharon closely synchronised his strike on Syria with political developments in the US," says Joe Cirincione, an analyst with the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Before the strike, the Administration was resisting sanctions. After it, they dropped their opposition."

Suddenly, one of the Middle East's most durable regimes looks impotent.

"Syria will answer this attack through diplomatic means in the UN," says Turki Sakr, a former Syrian ambassador to Tehran, admitting in the next breath that "we know the US will block any Security Council resolution condemning the attack".

With the diplomatic route offering no hope, Assad faces an invidious dilemma: either he meekly accepts Israel's slap in the face, or retaliates directly or through proxies in Syrian-occupied Lebanon, risking further humiliation.

Syria's ageing, Soviet-supplied weapons are no match for Israel's high-tech military. Its mature chemical weapons arsenal pales in comparison with Israel's estimated stockpile of at least 100 nuclear weapons. Both deny possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Stalking Syria

Unfair as it all may seem, the Syrian leader, who inherited the job upon the death of his crafty father, Hafez al-Assad, may have only himself to blame.

"Two years after taking office, Bashar has not filled the void his father left," wrote one of Israel's leading experts on Syria, Eyal Zisser, earlier this year. "Should Syria be faced with a domestic or foreign crisis such as an escalation of conflict with Israel Bashar's leadership could be in danger."

In his 30 years in power, Hafez al-Assad developed a reputation for picking winners. In 1991, he sided with the US against Iraq in the first Gulf War. Although Syria had been listed by the US as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1979 and still is his astute call increased Syria's influence in Washington and the region.

This year, Assad jnr backed Saddam. It made him popular on the Arab streets, but ever since the Iraqi regime fell Syria has looked like the prime candidate to replace it in Bush's "axis of evil".

The ill-starred Assad his birthday falls on September 11 now faces his most severe test.

Although Syria's ruling Baath Party fears the rise of Islamic extremists at home, it uses such groups to give it leverage over neighbouring Lebanon and veto power over any peace deal between the Palestinians and Israel.

Damascus provides political, financial and military backing to Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza the groups that have always opposed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's attempts to negotiate peace. They believe in armed struggle to destroy Israel.

Since the second intifada erupted in September 2000, more than 800 Israelis have died in terrorist violence, with more than three times as many Palestinians killed in Israeli reprisals.

Damascus believes the uprising will eventually force Israel to negotiate peace on its enemies' terms. Instead, Israeli frustration boiled over last weekend after a suicide attack that killed 19 civilians in Haifa. Within hours, its warplanes bombed Syria.

"Israel struck because Sharon has a big problem in Palestine. He wants to export this problem to Syria, to Lebanon, to Iran," says Sakr, who now lives in Damascus and writes for the influential newspaper Teshreen.

The strike on the Ain Saheb camp, about 20 kilometres north-west of Damascus, while largely symbolic, was the closest such attack to the Syrian capital in 30 years. Although Israel claims it has no desire for escalation, it has widened the conflict, and invited Syria to share the pain.

Standing on the sidelines, applauding, is Bush.

"Without American support, or at least the expectation of such support, this attack would not have taken place," said Zisser, a senior lecturer at Tel Aviv University.

While it co-operated with Washington in the hunt for al-Qaeda after September 11, Syria refuses to view Palestinian extremists in the same light. A who's who of Middle Eastern militants resides in Damascus. As an American official recently put it, any taxi driver knows their addresses.

They include **Hamas** leaders Imad Khalil Al-Alami, Khaled Mashal and Mousa Abu Marzook, variously accused by the US of supervising assassinations and bombings in Israel and the occupied territories. A map released this week by the Israelis pinpoints the homes of Ramadan Shallah, leader of the Islamic Jihad group that claimed responsibility for last weekend's Haifa bombing, and Ahmed Jibril, a former captain in the Syrian army who founded the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command. The camp bombed by Israel was established by his group in the 1970s.

Syria justifies the presence of known terrorists in its midst by calling them refugees, or freedom fighters, and says they confine their activities to disseminating information about the Palestinian cause.

Stalking Syria

However, Israel and the US have long believed that the Syria-based Palestinian leaders direct and fund most of the violence in Israel and the occupied territories. Hauls of Katyusha rockets, anti-tank grenades, and Strella anti-aircraft missiles have been traced back to Syria. Some of the weapons are allegedly funnelled through Syria from Iran.

While extremist groups are alleged to maintain a number of training facilities in Syria itself, their most important bases are located in the Bekaa Valley, in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon. Only groups that follow Syria's line towards Israel receive its backing.

In June last year, Bush demanded Syria close terrorist camps, expel terrorist organisations and stop the flow of money, equipment and recruits to terrorist groups seeking the destruction of Israel.

After the Iraq war this year, Syria agreed to close the offices of several militant groups, but it has continued to resist US pressure to expel Palestinian leaders.

When the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, visited Damascus in May, Assad joked about Washington's claims that Syria was allowing Islamic militants to cross the border to fight US forces in Iraq.

"Now, you control the border, so try not to allow anybody in," Assad told Powell.

The joke didn't get much of a laugh. Travelling journalists noted the steely mood of Powell's party.

"We're not bringing any carrots," one State Department official explained.

Like the invasion of Iraq, the strike on Syria bears the fingerprints of hawks in the Bush camp. In 1996 Washington defence guru Richard Perle co-authored a report to the Israeli Government advising that it abandon talks with the Palestinians and concentrate instead on regime change in neighbouring Arab nations.

"Israel can shape its strategic environment by weakening, containing and even rolling back Syria," the report said, as well as advocating the overthrow of Iraq's Saddam.

Now, Syria finds neighbouring Iraq under American occupation, and the governments of neighbouring Turkey, Jordan and Israel all willing to do Washington's bidding.

On the day American troops entered Baghdad in April this year, a former US ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, declared: "We dominate the Middle East . . . regimes that sponsor terror and seek weapons of mass destruction, the regimes of Syria and Iran, those regimes will now be very much on the defensive."

After overthrowing Saddam, US troops shut down a pipeline that had transported up to 200,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a day to Syria.

The loss of the lucrative sanctions-busting trade with its neighbour has placed a severe burden on Syria's stagnant economy, plagued by 20 per cent unemployment (the unofficial estimate is much higher), falling oil production and the dead hand of centralised control by the Baath Party.

The rise to power of Assad, who studied ophthalmology in London and likes the music of Phil Collins, raised expectations that generational change could help Syria escape its outdated philosophy of "Arab national socialism".

However, early efforts to liberalise the economy and introduce a measure of democracy soon evaporated as Assad's initiatives failed and he fell back on his father's advisers.

Critics say he's lost control of Hezbollah in Lebanon, offended other Arab leaders, and now confronts a crisis with Israel he is ill-equipped to manage.

Experts are divided over the likely outcome of this new phase of the Middle East conflict.

Stalking Syria

The Carnegie Endowment's Cirincione lists the possible downsides: ever deepening bitterness towards the West among Muslims worldwide; a destabilised Syria becoming vulnerable to ethnic and religious divisions; and a signal to Iran that going nuclear may be the only way for it to avoid becoming the next victim of an American-Israeli crusade

Then there's the possibility a small, but nevertheless real chance of another war.

"If Israel continues to strike, particularly in central Damascus, Syria may have no option but to retaliate," says Professor Moshe Maoz, of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "If there is escalation there may be no end to it."

Graphic

ILLUS: On the edge . . . women waiting on the Israeli/Syrian border. Photo: Jim Hollander DIAG: ALL LINE UP
MAP: SYRIA

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAJI:

Financial Times (London, England)

May 5, 2004 Wednesday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2004 The Financial Times Limited

Section: MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 10

Length: 706 words

Byline: By JAMES DRUMMOND

Dateline: BAGHDAD

Body

Salama al-Khufaji does not shake hands - at least with men. This is not unusual for a religious Shia woman in Iraq but it is slightly unexpected from a member of the US-appointed Governing Council in Baghdad.

Ms Khufaji, a dentist and Islamic teacher from Baghdad, is one of only three women on the 25-strong council. She was appointed last year after her predecessor was gunned down by assailants in Baghdad.

She is best known in Iraq today for the support she received from rogue cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose forces have been fighting US troops in the Shia holy city of Najaf.

"Salama al-Khufaji's shoe alone is worth more than the entire council", a follower of Mr Sadr said.

Ms Khufaji laughs but says that when she publicly called for a non-violent resolution to the stand-off between the US-led coalition and Mr Sadr, now entering its second month, her intention was to prevent bloodshed.

In doing so, she exhibited an increasingly rare sympathy for Mr Sadr's followers in the Jaysh al-Mahdi, his militia. "These people who are doing these things are our people. We have to accept them," she says.

Many Iraqis, Shias included, view the Jaysh al-Mahdi - mainly poor young men from Baghdad - as having assumed a convenient religious mantle under Mr Sadr's leadership.

"When I see them I see the kind of people who robbed this country after the invasion," says one council member.

The confrontation is testing the religious Shia leadership in the Governing Council and outside it. The Shia bloc's priority is to remain unified until elections early next year when their majority status in Iraq may propel them to real power - a power many believe has been denied them since an uprising in the 1920s.

The US is relying on the influence of senior clerics such as Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most influential Shia spiritual leader, or marja'ia, in Iraq, and tribal leaders to rein in Mr Sadr and his followers. US generals have said that Mr Sadr must be killed or captured and, if captured, made to answer to Iraqi justice.

US troops have clashed with the Jaysh al-Mahdi outside Najaf. Five people were killed on Monday in one such incident - but they have not entered the town.

Najaf stand-off tests Shia leadership SALAMA AL-KHUFAJI:

Sitting alongside Ms Khufaji is Fatih Kashf al-Ghita, her spiritual adviser and a member of one of Najaf's most famous religious families. His surname means "uncovering what is covered". Both he and Ms Khufaji are supporters of Mr Sistani.

When asked how angry the townspeople of Najaf are at the presence of the Jaysh al-Mahdi, Ms Khufaji says only that they are "afraid". Mr Kashf al-Ghita intervenes and admits the Najafis are "upset".

There have also been reports that the US-led coalition is reaching out to Mr Sadr's spiritual mentor, Ayatollah Kazem al-Haeri, a senior Iraqi cleric based in the Iranian city of Qom, to rein in his pupil.

"He (Mr Sadr) has split with Kazem al-Haeri. He has no marja'ia now after he said two weeks ago 'Now I am the long hand of Hamas and Hizbollah'", says Mr Kashf al-Ghita.

Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanese Shia leaders who masterminded the retreat of the Israelis from south Lebanon, have also become involved in Iraqi politics.

A fatwa or religious ruling by Mr Fadlallah hangs in the Baghdad headquarters of the Dawa party, a leading Shia religious party.

Mr Haeri favours the Iranian interpretation of the doctrine - a direct role for spiritual leaders in politics. Mr Sistani, on the other hand, while not eschewing a role for clergy entirely, prefers a more quietist interpretation.

But Mr Haeri has in the past claimed the right of vilayet al-faqih - that he should be the supreme spiritual leader of Iraq's majority Shia community, in competition with Mr Sistani.

Mr Kashf al-Ghita is adamant.

"There is no place for (Mr Haeri), especially in this crisis.

"He is still dressed with an Iranian abbaya (cloak)," says Mr Kashf al-Ghita.

Ms Khufaji sits quietly through this. What does the future hold for her? Would she be prepared to serve in a consultative council to run alongside an appointed council of ministers?

She says that she is trying to serve the people of Iraq and that she would be quite content to return to her teaching jobs when the Governing Council is dissolved at the end of June.

Load-Date: May 4, 2004

Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to resolving conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. A documentary and Web site are in the works

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 26, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A8

Length: 657 words

Byline: MARY FOWLES

Body

An orthodox rabbi whose teenage son was killed by **Hamas** starts a group where Israeli and Palestinian families grieve together.

A Palestinian priest takes hundreds of Jewish and Arab Israelis to Auschwitz so they can visit the former site of the Holocaust death camp together.

An Israeli and Palestinian duo launch an Arabic-Hebrew radio station devoted to peace.

Few people hear of such stories, Montreal-born Ronit Avni says.
Freelance

That's why she founded Just Vision, an organization that aims to highlight grassroots peace work in the Middle East.

"Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers," the 26-year-old said. "And yet we have to give a place to those who are using peaceful channels to resolve this conflict."

She launched Just Vision last year after receiving the 2002-2004 Joshua Venture Fellowship for young Jewish social entrepreneurs.

Currently, Just Vision is producing a 90-minute documentary that follows eight Israelis and Palestinians for eight months. The subjects represent a wide spectrum of political and religious stripes, all "working to build a base for tolerance and co-existence among their respective populations," Avni said.

It will be completed by January 2005 and aims to broadcast to local populations through Israeli and Arab satellite television, like Al-Jazeera, as well as North American media.

Just Vision is launching an online resource site - at www.justvision.org - which will profile 180 people working for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We have had no trouble finding subjects," Avni said. "There are civilians saying either we continue to be victims or we take matters into our own hands through lawful and pragmatic ways and create a base for peace."

Just Vision aims for Mideast peace: 'Peace workers' jobs are not sexy and don't sell papers,' says the 26-year-old founder of a grassroots group devoted to reso....

Avni has a history of working to advance human rights. While doing her undergraduate degree in political science at Vassar College, she received a Burnam Fellowship to intern at B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and volunteered for the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel.

After graduating with honours, she worked for three years as the Program Associate at WITNESS, a New York-based organization founded by musician Peter Gabriel that uses video technology to document and expose human-rights abuses around the globe.

During that time, she co-produced short videos and Web resources with nongovernmental partners in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the United States, Israel, Afghanistan and Brazil. She also trained non-governmental groups to produce videos as educational tools and to document human-rights abuses that could be used as evidence before courts and tribunals.

She left her job at WITNESS to launch Just Vision, headquartered in New York City, where she now lives.

"I felt that I wanted to go back to a place close to home, where I have linguistic and cultural familiarity," said Avni, who speaks English, Hebrew and is learning Arabic. She holds Canadian, Israeli and American citizenship. Her father was born in Palestine in 1946, two years before the creation of Israel.

Just Vision's project manager, Joline Makhoul, 23, is an Arab Christian who was born and raised in Jerusalem. She is also considered the first **female** Palestinian to earn a pilot's licence.

"Just Vision's cause is close to my own motive, which is to embody nonviolence," she said from her home in Bethany, where Israel maintains security control while the Palestinian government is in charge of civil affairs.

"It's crucial that the whole spectrum of voices is heard," Avni said. "Subjects range from religiously observant to secular, are Christian, Muslim and Jewish, range from right-wing to left-wing and those who ascribe to no definition."

"Just Vision is not prescribing policy - that's not our place," she added. "We want to raise awareness about the fact that there are a lot of people working for peace. There are thousands of people doing this work."

Graphic

Photo: COURTESY OF RONIT AVNI; Montreal-born Ronit Avni interviews Shimon Malka, the co-director of All for Peace Radio, the first joint Israeli-Palestinian radio station devoted to peace. "We have to give a place to those who are using peaceful channels to resolve this conflict," Avni said, explaining the reason why she founded Just Vision last year after receiving a fellowship.

Load-Date: April 26, 2004

Services held amid tight security

The Toronto Star
April 10, 2004 Saturday
Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 633 words

Byline: Victor L. Simpson, Associated Press

Highlight: Thousands attend Rome celebrations despite terror risk Largest turnout of pilgrims in Jerusalem since 2000

Body

Amid exceptional security, Pope John Paul II presided over a candle-lit Good Friday evening service at Rome's ancient Colosseum where thousands of pilgrims braved cold and rain.

Police imposed intense security around Rome, including banning small aircraft over the city, for fear of a possible terror attack. Even nuns who came to worship had their bags and clothes checked.

Thousands converged on the Colosseum for the traditional Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) service to commemorate Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

Earlier in the day, the pontiff heard the confessions of five men and six women of various nationalities at St. Peter's Basilica.

The fragile Pope, 83, was brought from his Vatican apartments to St Peter's in the wheeled throne he has been using in recent months.

He also presided over a late afternoon service, the "Passion of the Lord" mass, which commemorates the passion and death of Christ.

Last night, many faithful stood under umbrellas in pouring rain for hours to get a good view of the procession.

The Pope sat on a white throne on the Palatine hill overlooking the arena and a huge cross lit with candles.

A Franciscan monk from the Holy Land and a handful of priests and lay people from around the globe took turns bearing the cross.

In remembrance of the March 11 Madrid train bombs, which killed 191 people, one of those chosen to bear the cross during the service was a young woman from Spain's capital.

Today the pontiff will preside over an Easter vigil mass; tomorrow he celebrates Easter mass in St. Peter's Square and delivers his Easter message. Italy, which has been on high alert since the Madrid attacks, further stepped up security at the start of Easter celebrations five days ago.

Services held amid tight security

Police are guarding hundreds of sites, including Via della Conciliazione, the broad avenue leading to St. Peter's Square. It has been closed to overnight traffic during the Easter period.

Last week, Italian media reported that intelligence agencies had warned the Vatican that the Pope, who was shot in 1981, might be the target of an attack during the Easter period.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, pilgrims from every strain of Christianity crowded the streets of the Old City, retracing Jesus' path to crucifixion.

Groups from Russia, Poland, Greece, the Philippines and Ethiopia followed the stations of the cross along the cobblestone Via Dolorosa, or Way of Sorrows, the route tradition says Christ took from his trial to his burial.

This year, Easter Week is marked at the same time by both Orthodox and Western Christians, who generally follow different calendars.

Police and local shopkeepers said turnout was larger than any since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in September, 2000, despite threats by the militant Islamic group **Hamas** to exact revenge for Israel's March 22 assassination of its founder. The threats have led to heightened security around holy sites.

Some of the faithful in Jerusalem wore crowns of thorns and carried crosses through the Old City.

But in the Philippines, devotees in the farming town of San Pedro Cutud were nailed to wooden crosses in a re-enactment of the crucifixion. Some said they were nervous about doing it after watching bloody scenes in Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*.

The Lenten ritual, opposed by religious leaders in the Philippines, attracts droves of foreign and local tourists each year to San Pedro Cutud, about 70 kilometres north of the capital, Manila.

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, the British government announced it is planning an intensive three-day summit in London designed to break the deadlock in the peace process.

Yesterday was the sixth anniversary of the troubled Good Friday peace accord.

In Toronto, hundreds attended processions in Little Italy and in the Pape and Danforth area.

With files from Reuters

Graphic

TANNIS TOOHEY TORONTO STARALESSANDRO BIANCHI reuters Rome: Pope John Paul prays yesterday during mass at St. Peter's Basilica. Tannis Toohey toronto star Toronto: A man portraying Christ carries a cross in Little Italy while a priest from St. Irene Chrysovalantou leads a procession in the Pape and Danforth area. ALESSANDRO BIANCHI reuters Rome: Pope John Paul prays yesterday during mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

Load-Date: April 10, 2004

The case for fighting terror

University Wire

March 29, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Daily Texan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 718 words

Byline: By Chad Hanak, Daily Texan; **SOURCE:** U. Texas-Austin

Dateline: AUSTIN, Texas

Body

The president's critics have ratcheted up their rhetoric in recent months and are now trying to portray Bush as an ineffective leader when it comes to combating terrorism.

The war in Iraq is a distraction from the War on Terror. Bush just wanted to finish what his daddy couldn't. Bush lied about Iraq's weapons programs. We're less safe now than we were before the war. The litany of grievances goes on and on.

Given the recent terrorist attacks in Spain, and Israel's assassination of the leader of the terrorist organization **Hamas**, it appears there's now plenty of evidence from which to make a judgment on the matter.

The deadly attacks on Spain's rail system seem to lend support to those who claim that Bush and his accomplices have made the world a more dangerous place. Spain, after all, was an ally of the United States during its "unilateral" invasion of Iraq. However, much less press has been given to the foiled terrorist attacks and threats in France. The disproportionate coverage is somewhat understandable, given that the Spain attacks killed nearly 200 people, but the terror threat in France is illuminating nonetheless.

According to ABC News, "a bomb was found Wednesday half-buried on a train track near the town of Troyes, some 100 miles southeast of Paris, triggering a massive inspection of France's rail network." Additionally, a group calling itself "The Servants of Allah, the Powerful and Wise One" has sent two major French daily newspapers a letter threatening terrorist attacks because France has outlawed the Islamic veil in its schools. In the letter, the group threatens "to plunge France into terror and remorse."

If one believes that Bush's method of dealing with terrorism is making the world a more dangerous place, this news must be hard to comprehend. After all, France was an outspoken critic of the Iraq war, yet they may be less safe than we are.

The answer is not hard to see, if one is not blinded by hatred of Bush. Extremists use terrorism because it works. If Spain pulls out of the coalition in Iraq, terrorism has worked. If we had tucked tail and run from the Middle East after Sept. 11, terrorism would have worked. If Israel is vilified in the international community for killing the head of a malicious terrorist organization, while that same organization kills many more innocent Israeli **women** and children, then terrorism has worked. Extremists are now using terrorism in France because they have seen it work so often before. Appeasing terrorists is no way to make the world a safer place.

The case for fighting terror

How then can we effectively reduce terrorism? Well it's fairly obvious that we must not give into terrorists' demands. Furthermore, since they will probably continue attacks until they get what they want, as in the case of Israel, we must go after them. We did this by routing them from their safe haven in Afghanistan, but a longer-term solution is needed to insure that they don't just find another base of operation. We must attempt to change the conditions that allow the ideology of terrorism to prosper.

This is why we invaded Iraq. Bringing democracy and freedom to Iraq, a country where the Sunni leaders had been dictatorially imposing their culture on Shiites, Kurds, Christians and Jews, is an integral part of the war on terror. When people have freedom and liberty, they are less likely to engage in terrorism to get what they want. The realization of their dreams no longer depends on striking fear into repressive rulers.

Bush mentioned this several times in the buildup to the war. There was a need for this type of change, and we had ample justification for ousting Saddam (more so than other repressive Middle Eastern leaders). The weapons of mass destruction, Saddam's invasion of neighboring countries, and human rights violations were all justifications for overthrowing Saddam. However, the driving idea behind the war was that eliminating the conditions that breed terrorism, though it might contribute to short term dangers, will make the world a safer place in the long run.

Those who verbally attack the Iraq war for political purposes are effectively placing themselves in opposition to the above philosophy. History will tell whether they are right or wrong. Perhaps the events in France have already given us a clue.

(C) 2003 Daily Texan via U-WIRE

Load-Date: March 29, 2004

End of Document

Veritas?

New York Sun (Archive)

September 30, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 2845 words

Byline: Irwin J. Mansdorf

Body

In a report titled "The Effect of
the Israeli Occupation on Education
from 28/9/2000-6/5/2004," conducted
by the Palestinian
Ministry of Education and published

by the Palestinian nongovernmental organization Miftah, makes a series of largely misleading and/or unsubstantiated claims relative to Israeli responsibility for the state of affairs in the Palestinian educational system.

Citing "human, physical, and psychological" consequences for Palestinian society, an indictment is made of "Israeli aggressive policy" as the sole cause of these effects since September 28, 2000. Another ostensibly more professional and peer-reviewed report published by a group of Canadian and Palestinian researchers claimed that "Israeli settlement encroachment" was responsible for mental health problems in Palestinian children.

A partnership project between Harvard Medical School and the Gaza Community Mental Health Center focuses on the effects of violence on the mental health and functioning of Palestinian children. In an abstract of the proposed collaborative work between the two institutions, the Palestinian researcher, Dr. Eyal El-Sarraj, is described as a "highly respected community psychiatrist." The report goes on to note the effects of "political" and "military" violence that Gaza children have been exposed to.

Bias Disguised as Research

What all these reports have in common is an attempt to politicize clinical findings related to the mental health, education, and overall wellbeing of Palestinian children. What is also common to these reports is the use of half-truths, omissions, and distortions to paint a one-sided and biased picture of alleged Israeli abuses in the face of what is often portrayed as legitimate Palestinian resistance and general goodwill.

Take, for example, the case of Dr. El-Sarraj, who, despite Harvard's claim, has made inflammatory, bigoted, and inciteful remarks regarding Jews and Israelis. In an interview in Tikkun, he repeatedly demanded a formal Israeli apology for behavior toward the Palestinians, rebuffing any suggestion that Palestinians needed to reciprocate.

Veritas?

He also said: "I've asked myself: 'Are they evil by nature, these Jews? Or are they stupid, born mentally subnormal? Why are they doing this?' It's unbelievable. And I found after long, long thinking about it that they are not born evil. And they are not stupid. They are psycho-pathologically disturbed." This is from a man described by Harvard as an advocate for the "peaceful resolution of the long-standing conflict" who heads a center that Harvard considers worthy of collaboration and funding.

P.A. Responsible for Palestinian Education Since 1994

Although Israeli administration of the Palestinian educational system spanned from 1967 until 1994, when the Palestinian Authority assumed responsibility, the official Palestinian report noted above chose September 28, 2000, as the start date for assessing its effects. The implication is that Prime Minister Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount that day led to the outbreak of Palestinian violence.

In reality, at least two other unprovoked violent incidents by Palestinians preceded Mr. Sharon's visit. The attribution of the Sharon visit as initiating the violence is challenged even by Palestinian officials such as Imad Falouji, who said that the violence "had been planned since Chairman Arafat's return from Camp David, when he turned the tables in the face of the former U.S. president and rejected the American conditions."

Just as the evidence shows that the outbreak of Palestinian violence was intentional and planned, so does the evidence show that Palestinian malfeasance, rather than Israeli policy, is primarily responsible for the suffering of Palestinian children and the state of affairs in its educational system.

Until the Palestinian Authority takeover of the system in 1994, access to educational opportunities for Palestinian children had actually improved when Israel took over responsibility from Egypt and Jordan in 1967. According to one 1994 report: "the number of educational facilities as well as student numbers have grown significantly. In 1967-68 West Bank schools numbered just over 800. Currently, over 1,300 schools exist. In Gaza the number of schools has increased from 166 in 1967 to approximately 340 today. The expansion of educational services has been especially notable on the post-secondary level of community colleges and universities."

Palestinian Takeover of School System

Spawns Violence

A psychology of violence lies behind much of the experience of Palestinian children. Attributing this to Israeli policies, however, is misleading. Many reports tend to highlight claims that Israeli aggression, sieges, incursions, and military occupation have affected students and teachers. Citing alleged suffering and humiliation by students at "military checkpoints between cities and villages," the Palestinian Ministry of Education report, as well as other reports, fails to note the context for the checkpoints and the documented instances of Palestinian terror organizations utilizing students to carry out terror attacks.

According to Israel Defense Force data, since the beginning of the violence in 2000, 29 suicide attacks were carried out by youth under the age of 18. Since May 2001, 22 shootings attacks and attacks using explosive devices were carried out by youth under the age of 18. Since the beginning of 2001, more than 40 youth under the age of 18 were involved in attempted suicide bombings that were thwarted (three during 2004). A number of these attempts or attacks were high profile cases, covered by the international press.

In claiming psychological damage to Palestinian schoolchildren, some research attributes this morbidity exclusively to Israeli actions without addressing the active incitement to and glorification of violence that fosters an atmosphere of adoration and reinforcement for Palestinian youth who participate in violent activities.

However, documented reports have shown in detail how Palestinian children are systematically indoctrinated in school, at home, and through the official press, to serve as human shields, terrorists, decoys, and participants in violent demonstrations. Other reports describe cases where they have been injured or killed as a result of Palestinian fire. Professional research, including the studies cited here that indict Israel, often fail to note that

Veritas?

Palestinian children are routinely exposed to messages promoting "martyrdom." Human rights lawyer Justus Weiner describes one such television program:

Television broadcasts frequently include what in many Western countries would be deemed "hate speech." On July 2, 1998, in derogation of its commitments to combat incitement under the interim peace agreements, a Palestinian television children's show called "The Children's Club," similar in its basic structure to "Sesame Street," aired an episode in which young boys with raised arms chanted: "We are ready with our guns; revolution until victory; revolution until victory." On the same show, an 8-year-old boy announced to the audience, a group of children, "I come here to say that we will throw them to the quiet sea. Occupiers, your day is near, then we will settle our account. We will settle our claims with stones and bullets." Also on the Children's Club program, on February 8, 1998, a girl who could not have been more than 10 years old declared that she wanted to "turn into a suicide warrior" in Jerusalem.

P.A. Fails to Use Curriculum Consistent with Peace

Much of the background for the phenomenon of the violence of Palestinian youth must be laid at the feet of the Palestinian Authority, which failed to introduce a curriculum consistent with teaching peace when it could. The Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace, a nonprofit American group, has documented in several studies the use of abusive terminology, denial of Israel's legitimacy, a lack of promotion of peace, and discussions of war, jihad, and martyrdom common in Palestinian textbooks throughout the educational system.

Terror Activities in Palestinian Educational Institutions

In presenting figures on "human losses," the Palestinian Ministry of Education report includes a category that specifies "martyrs," a term that Palestinian society routinely applies to perpetrators of terror attacks against Israel. In an extensive analysis entitled "The Martyrdom and Suicide Culture in Palestinian Universities," the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies presents a detailed report on the recruitment and use of university students for terror attacks. Reviewing numerous examples of terrorist activity supported in a number of Palestinian educational institutions, the Center's report describes one event at An-Najah University in Nablus: "One example of the extent of the incitement that the students at the university are exposed to is an exhibition that was opened after the suicide bomb attack in the Sbarro Restaurant in Jerusalem. The Hamas exhibition showed a model of the restaurant after the attack. Inside the model, dummies and limbs of fatalities were dispersed to represent the casualties. The exhibition was organized by a member of the student council, which is identified with Hamas. While the exhibition was taking place, posters depicting the September 11 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center were put on the university's walls." The P.A. report also describes the damage to infrastructure caused by "Israeli occupation." The report claims that "498 schools were disrupted and closed because of curfews, sieges, and district closures." Yet in a table showing the disruption in schools in April 2004, the total number of disrupted days averaged only 0.7%, an insignificant figure. In providing data on damage caused to school buildings, the report fails to account for any damage caused by Palestinian fire. The failure to admit any Palestinian-caused damage not only lacks credibility from a logical perspective, but also runs contrary to press reports that have in fact documented instances of Palestinian fire directed at or landing near schools.

Palestinian schools have also been used as shelters for terrorists engaged in attacking Israeli positions. "There have been several occurrences of infiltration of armed Palestinians into Unrwa [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] facilities in the Gaza Strip, such as Unrwa-operated school facilities or housing projects, from which gunmen carried out shootings against the Israeli Defense Forces posted in the area."

David Raab quotes Andreas Reinicke, the German liaison to the Palestinian Authority, warning that "armed Palestinians" using a Beit Jala school for their activities would inevitably lead to the school being turned into an "armed battleground." Jerome Marcus, a former U.S. State Department attorney, has described "bomb factories Israel found throughout the West Bank...located in...schools and other civilian sites."

In describing Israeli actions that "stole hard disks and floppy disks containing lots of information," the P.A. report again fails to account for material related to incitement, violence, and terror that was present in the schools. Palestinian schools have served as centers for the perpetuation and glorification of terrorists and terror activities

Veritas?

against Israelis. Another report by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies documents how schools under the Palestinian Authority serve as centers of incitement to violent terrorism.

The findings detail how photographs of terrorists, along with reading material from terror organizations, are displayed and distributed throughout the Palestinian school system. Photographs of schools in Kalkilya, Nablus, Ramallah, and other sites illustrate how these pictures are prominently displayed, along with captions describing the "martyrs" as "heroes." One such example is a photograph of Saleh Sawi, responsible for the death of 22 Israelis in a 1994 suicide attack, who was hailed as the "hero of the Dizengoff action."

Despite being described as victims of violence, Palestinian children have often been the perpetrators. In the Canadian-Palestinian study, unsubstantiated "anecdotal evidence" and "personal observation" along with a citation by well-known anti-American and anti-Israel political activist Noam Chomsky are brought to support the notion that the presence and "encroachment" of Jewish settlements is responsible for the poor mental health of the Palestinian children in the study.

Stating that Palestinian children feared these Jewish communities, they fail to cite a single documented case where Jewish residents near these Bethlehem-area villages were involved in violence against any children. The authors note a "significant military presence" and expansion of "infrastructure," while ignoring the documented history and experience of hundreds of Israelis who were regularly stoned by children from a Palestinian school on a frequently traveled road in the same area. As noted in a UPI report: "A high fence that once protected Israeli motorists from Arab stoning there is gone. The Israelis built a new road, farther to the west."

Although academic and research reports have generally failed to address the exposure of Palestinian children to Palestinian-generated and planned violence, recent press reports have reported on the phenomenon. In a report on Sky News, correspondent Emma Hurd visited a Gaza camp for children where "the only lesson taught is how to kill Israelis." With children as young as 10, Ms. Hurd described how the camp prepared them for the "ways of war," including carrying out ambushes, using assault rifles, and mock killings of Israelis.

The results of the Palestinian indoctrination of children are felt even in families where parents support peaceful coexistence with Israelis. James Bennet describes a Palestinian father who spoke of peace and a two-state solution, but whose children, when asked about being friends with or interacting with Israelis their own age, responded by saying "I want only to stab [them]" or "It's impossible."

The Funding of Violence

Several reports on Palestinian children and the educational system discuss the considerable financial losses caused by damage to buildings, furniture, and equipment. However, in a report discussing World Bank funding of Palestinian universities, Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch discussed the practice of Palestinian universities serving as centers for the glorification of terror, saying, "The World Bank will be building the university infrastructures that will be used by student terrorist organizations to form the backbone of suicide terrorism in coming years."

In fact, members of Congress, recognizing the misuse of international funds by the Palestinian Authority, had called for American intervention to ensure that Unesco and the World Bank stop funding the publication of anti-peace textbooks that promote the incitement to terror and violence that Marcus and others have documented. Rep. Eric Cantor, a Republican from Va., spoke specifically of Unrwa's involvement in supporting schools that promote anti-peace messages among Palestinians and demanded that America end funding for Unrwa activities of this type.

Arnold Roth described in detail in Wall Street Journal-Europe how the European Union and other funding sources have in fact contributed to teaching Palestinian schoolchildren messages of violence, jihad, and terror.

At An-Najah, Al-Azhar, at Gaza, and other Palestinian universities, students publicly encourage terrorist activity. Several terrorists, including two women students planning suicide attacks in Tel Aviv, hailed from An-Najah. That university's Hamas and Islamic Jihad student cells sponsored activities that have included public demonstrations supporting Osama bin Laden.

Veritas?

Hebron University has actively been involved in terror activity, with one chemistry class used to teach students how to make explosives that were later used in terror attacks. At Al-Quds University, an obituary was published praising a ***female*** suicide bomber. Bir Zeit University opened the 2003-4 academic year with a memorial ceremony to two students who carried out suicide terror attacks in Jerusalem.

In a report on Unrwa schools in the Palestinian Authority, extensive documentation was presented on the use of material that glorified violence against Israelis, effectively turning schools into an "incubator for incitement and hate against Israel."

Conclusion

Reports on the status of Palestinian children's mental health and the nature of the Palestinian educational system purport to present data that implicates Israel as responsible for a lamentable state of affairs. In reality, responsibility for the current state of affairs lies with the Palestinian Authority and with Palestinian terror organizations, both of whom promoted, funded, endorsed, and encouraged a culture of violence, hatred, incitement, and terror using children and students as its foot soldiers.

Load-Date: September 30, 2004

End of Document

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

Canberra Times (Australia)

February 18, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 806 words

Body

SINCE Ariel Sharon's accession to the post of Prime Minister of Israel, political commentators have been hotly debating whether the conservative leader will end up "doing a de Gaulle". French leader Charles de Gaulle was another right-of-centre former general who assumed his nation's highest office in the midst of a seemingly insoluble military crisis - the French-Algerian War. During the French elections of 1958, de Gaulle successfully campaigned for the presidency on the slogan "Vive l'Algerie Francaise!" Yet, upon assuming office, the new head of state shocked the world by severing the ties that bound France to its North African possession, and promoting Algerian independence. Sharon's recent declaration of his intention to dismantle most Israeli settlements in Gaza might indicate that those who argued in favour of the de Gaulle scenario were right. But, it remains to be seen whether such a unilateral withdrawal will enhance Israel's security, or detract from it. On an operational level, Sharon's plan to uproot 17 of 21 Gaza settlements will make the life of the Israel Defence Forces much simpler. Thousands of Israeli soldiers would no longer be required to guard vulnerable Jewish communities situated in the midst of a large and hostile Palestinian population. But, any tactical advantage gained by a redeployment of Israel's troop strength could be more than offset by the strategic disadvantage incurred by the fillip any such retrograde Israeli action would provide to Palestinian terrorist groups. This is arguably what happened in 2000 when Israel summarily withdrew its forces from a buffer zone it had created along its frontier with Lebanon.

Established in 1985 to protect Israel's northern-border communities from terrorist attack, this narrow band of territory became a theatre of war between the IDF and Hezbollah Islamic fighters.

While the conflict in the "security strip" was a classic low-intensity combat scenario, it nonetheless was quite deadly. Throughout the late 1990s, about one Israeli soldier, on average, was being killed a month in Lebanon. From a purely military perspective, such a casualty rate was inconsequential. With its dedication to realistic live-fire exercises, the IDF lost more men each year to training accidents than were lost to combat operations in Lebanon. Yet, this incessant progression of casualties provided plentiful political ammunition to a growing public campaign in favour of a complete IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The locus of this advocacy effort centred on the "Four Mothers Movement", a group of middle-aged women who demanded the removal of "our sons" from the buffer zone. In May 2000, then Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered the IDF to abandon the security strip, thus fulfilling a campaign promise from the previous year's election. But, less than four months after Israel's pullback from Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza erupted in a wave of violence and terrorism that continues to this day. Some analysts directly connect those two events. Writing a year after the pullback from Lebanon, Brigadier General (retired) Shlomo Brom of Tel Aviv University said, "It appears that the withdrawal from Southern Lebanon had a great influence on the Palestinians."

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

It reinforced the perception among them that Israel is vulnerable to terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and that the staying power of the Israeli public has been damaged."So, Israel finds itself in a very difficult position. With an economy deeply mired in recession and with a population demoralised by suicide bombings, many Israelis find the prospect of disengagement from Gaza to be an extremely appealing concept. Moreover, some analysts would note that Sharon is facing the prospect of criminal indictment on corruption charges, and is in dire need of political pick-me-up. The supporters of withdrawal from Gaza argue that the removal of settlements, and the resulting redeployment of IDF forces, will greatly enhance Israel's defensive posture.

Yet, the \$64,000 question is whether the Palestinians will interpret a unilateral pullback as a sign of Israeli weakness. If this becomes the prevailing perception in the West Bank and Gaza, then Israel's withdrawal could bring, not quiet, but rather violence of redoubled intensity. One leading Israeli peace activist recently tried to differentiate between the Lebanese withdrawal of 2000 and the current Sharon proposal for a pullback from Gaza. "I think there's a basic difference because Lebanon was an adventure," said Hebrew University Political Science Professor Shlomo Avineri. Yet, with a charter that declares its dedication to Israel's annihilation, it remains to be seen whether a Palestinian terrorist group such as **Hamas** will accept any such a distinction.

Ted Lapkin is senior policy analyst for the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.

Load-Date: February 17, 2004

End of Document

Christians flee from Bethlehem crossfire

Sunday Times (London)

December 28, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; News; 18

Length: 766 words

Byline: Larry Derfner in Bethlehem

Body

IN a gift shop displaying a 12ft-high Santa Claus balloon, Victor Hosh asked an elderly customer buying Christmas decorations about his son Salim.

"He's taken his family to Sacramento in California," said the old man. "Ah, God bless him," said Hosh.

"I wish I could go myself," the customer added, and the two men laughed quietly.

On St Paul Street, Bethlehem -souvenir shop row -about half the Christian owned stores with their stone walls and turquoise-painted metal doors are shuttered.

Graffiti sprayed on the walls by **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian terrorist groups reads: "Eternity for all our martyrs."

Fingering the cross hanging around his neck, Hosh, 38, said two of his brothers had moved abroad since the Palestinian intifada began more than three years ago.

A new wave of violence appeared to loom this weekend as Israeli officials and Palestinian militants warned of retaliation for violence on Christmas Day. A Palestinian suicide bomber killed four Israelis near Tel Aviv moments after Israel carried out an airstrike in which three militants and two civilians died in the Gaza Strip.

Hosh nevertheless plans to stay in Bethlehem to look after the family business, minuscule though it may be now there is a dearth of tourists across the economically devastated West Bank. He envies his brothers in the United States and Honduras. "There you are secure, there you can live a normal life," he said.

The Christian community of Bethlehem has been dwindling for at least a century because of economic and political hardships, but now it is haemorrhaging. "Five Christian families left for Sweden yesterday," noted Hanna Nasser, Bethlehem's Roman Catholic mayor.

He said 2,000 local Christians had moved overseas since fighting began, leaving one Christian for every two Muslims in this city of 28,000.

Nasser blamed the exodus on the "bloody Israeli occupation" and the economic effects of the conflict. Unemployment in Bethlehem is 60%. Average family income has dropped from £1,400 a year before the intifada to £225 now.

Christians flee from Bethlehem crossfire

Compared with the rest of the West Bank, however, Bethlehem is calm. Israel withdrew its tanks and soldiers from virtually all of the city in July and gave responsibility for security to the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian police are highly visible at checkpoints, on streets and outside the Church of the Nativity in Manger Square, the scene of a fierce battle between the Israeli army and Palestinian militias last year.

Sitting at his lathe, crafting manger tableaux out of West Bank olive wood for the overseas trade, Nakhleh Lolas said he had been much safer since the Palestinian Authority took over Bethlehem and his nearby village of Beit Jallah.

Now he is protected not only from the Israeli army, but also from the violent, criminal behaviour of the Palestinian militias who have often terrorised local Christian residents.

"There were lootings, robberies, extortion ... that sort of thing," said Lolas, 55, whose daughter's family moved to California last year. "There were many acts of hostility and aggression against women and innocent civilians. Because they had rifles, (the gunmen) thought they could do anything they wanted."

The mayor insists that Christian-Muslim tension in Bethlehem is felt only in "isolated incidents", and that on the whole the city is a "model of co existence".

But a Christian businessman who plans to move with his family to Europe early next year said this was a facade.

"You can get along with your Muslim neighbours, you can say 'Good morning' and 'Good evening' to each other but there's always something underneath," said the businessman, who declined to be named.

Adel Manna, director of the Institute for Israeli-Arab Studies at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, says Muslim antagonism towards Palestinian Christians comes almost entirely from Islamic and nationalist militants. They resent the Christians for staying out of the intifada, as well as for their relative prosperity.

"Their attitude is, 'We fight and die for the homeland, and you just make your money and live your life'," said Manna.

Christians are a community caught in the crossfire. The businessman bound for Europe had to repair his house repeatedly after damage caused by Israeli tank shells and Palestinian bullets. He hardly cares that he can sell it at only one-quarter of its pre-intifada value.

"This is the land where Jesus Christ walked, but it's not for us Christians any more," he said. "Demographically it's only for Muslims and Israelis, and now they're having their war, so I'm going to leave them here to fight it."

Load-Date: December 29, 2003

America is rolling back global terror

The International Herald Tribune

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 752 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is America's pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

The New York Times

1. In Libya, Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi took one look at America's Army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of U.S. military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, female-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under America's NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and Hamas terrorism -- the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot

who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood. 5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on

America is rolling back global terror

the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the United States did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; America is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to America's decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what the United States has been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right. * E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 13, 2004

End of Document

Study the Koran?

New York Sun (Archive)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 720 words

Byline: DANIEL PIPES

Body

'Anyone concerned with what's happening in our world ought to spend some time reading the Koran.' Andy Rooney, the famed CBS commentator, gave this advice shortly after 9/11, as did plenty of others.

His suggestion makes intuitive sense, given that the terrorists themselves say they are acting on the basis of the holy scripture of Islam. Accused 9/11 ringleader Mohammed Atta had a Koran in the suitcase he had checked for his flight. His five-page document of advice for fellow hijackers instructed them to pray, ask God for guidance, and "continue to recite the Koran." Osama bin Laden often quotes the Koran to motivate and convince followers.

Witnesses report that at least one of the suicide bombers who tried to assassinate Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, last month was reading the Koran before blowing himself up. Hamas suicide videotapes routinely feature the Koran.

And lots of non-Muslims in fact have been reading the Koran. In the weeks after September 11, the book's largest publisher in America reported that sales had quintupled; it had to airlift copies from Great Britain to meet the demand. American bookstores reported selling more Korans than Bibles.

All this, incidentally, was music to Islamist ears. Hossam Gabri of the Islamic Society of Boston, a group tied to a terrorism funder, considers non-Muslims trying to understand the Koran "a very good development."

But reading the Koran is precisely the wrong way to go about understanding "what's happening in our world." That's because the Koran is:

* Profound. One cannot pick it up and understand its meaning when nearly every sentence is the subject of annotations, commentaries, glosses, and superglosses. Such a document requires intensive study of its context, development, and rival interpretations. The U.S. Constitution offers a good analogy: its Second Amendment consists of a just 27 words ("A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed") but it is the subject of numerous book-length studies. No one coming fresh to this sentence has any idea of its implications.

* Complex and contradictory. Contradictions in the text have been studied and reconciled over the centuries through extensive scholarly study. Some verses have been abrogated and replaced by others with contrary meanings. For example, verse 9:5 commands Muslims not to slay pagans until the sacred months have passed and verse 9:36 tells Muslims to fight pagans during those same months. The casual reader has no idea which of these is operational. (In fact, the latter is.)

Study the Koran?

* Static: An unchanging holy scripture cannot account for change over time. If the Koran causes terrorism, then how does one explain the 1960s, when militant Islamic violence barely existed? The Koran was the same text then as now. More broadly, over a period of 14 centuries, Muslims have been inspired by the Koran to act in ways aggressive and passive, pious and not, tolerant and not. Logic demands that one look elsewhere than an immutable text to account for such shifts.

* Partial: Holy books have vast importance but do not create the immediate context of action. Reading the Bible in isolation gives limited insight into the range of Jewish and Christian experiences over the millennia; likewise, Muslims have read the Koran differently over time. The admonishment for ***female*** modesty meant one thing to Egyptian feminists in the 1920s and another to their descendants today. Then, head coverings represented oppression and exclusion from public life. Today, in the words of a British newspaper headline, "Veiled is beautiful." Then, the head-covering signaled a woman not being a full human being; now, in the words of an editor at a fashion magazine, the head-covering "tells you, you're a woman. You have to be treated as an independent mind." Reading the Koran in isolation misses this unpredictable evolution. In brief, the Koran is not a history book.

A history book, however, is a history book. Instead of the Koran, I urge anyone wanting to study militant Islam and the violence it inspires to understand such phenomena as the Wahhabi movement, the Khomeini revolution, and Al Qaeda. Muslim history, not Islamic theology, explains how we got here and hints at what might come next.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

End of Document

'SPINNING INTO CONTROL';
U.S.-LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL
COUNTRIES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 732 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

1. In Libya, Col. Gadhafi took one look at our army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible U.N. inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, ***female***-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and ***Hamas*** terrorism -- the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of

'SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But we did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; we are helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. Our new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The Washington Post columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to our decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what we have been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: January 15, 2004

End of Document

Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti-Saudi Remarks

The Forward

January 9, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 723 words

Byline: Eric Marx

Body

Participants in a panel discussion sponsored by The New Republic and Saudi Arabia are claiming that their most hard-hitting criticisms of the kingdom were edited out of a transcript that appeared in the magazine.

Billed as an opportunity to talk about Islam and its contemporary relationship with the West, the November 13 panel discussion was the second in a series of discussions organized by the Saudi government and the magazine, known for its support of Israel and criticisms of Arab regimes. Panelists Jonathan Schanzer of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Jay Tolson, a senior writer at U.S. News & World Report, told the Forward that they were surprised by the extent to which many of their criticisms of the Saudis were cut from a partial transcript of the event that ran as a four-page advertising supplement in the magazine's December 15 issue.

"The major points were covered, but I think that they were able to gloss over some of the things that made the Saudis look bad," Schanzer said.

New Republic editor Peter Beinart denied that the Saudis had any role in editing the supplement and pointed out that a Web address containing a copy of the full transcript was listed in the advertisement.

"All the panels are edited because you can't possibly put up the whole transcript," Beinart said. "They're never edited for ideological content whatsoever. Only for space."

The flap comes after initial news of the lecture series drew criticism in some circles. Some detractors focused on The New Republic's decision to disinvite Stephen Schwartz, a leading critic of the Saudi government, from an October 2 panel discussion. Others objected to a respected American journal agreeing to co-sponsor a lecture series with a government accused by some critics of financing radical Islam and in some cases terrorism.

The third forum was scheduled for December 9 but did not take place. Beinart denied that it had been canceled, saying the event would be rescheduled for a later date.

Participants in the November 13 forum discussed the roots of the Wahhabi strand of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia, the teachings of the Koran, America's support of authoritarian regimes and the Saudis' role in promoting Islam as a political mobilizing force.

During the event, Samer Shehata, a professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, and author Natana J. De Long-Bas attempted to distinguish the Saudi royal family from the more extremist proponents of Wahhabist ideology.

Panelists Claim New Republic Cut Their Anti- Saudi Remarks

Schanzer and Tolson, however, were critical of the Saudi government's role in financing extremism. Schanzer pointed to the government's continued support for the dissemination of Dar es Salaam Korans, which are published in Saudi Arabia and condemn Jews and Christians as nonbelievers, and then turned his sites on three American-based charities with Saudi connections that he accused of helping to fund terrorist attacks.

In the published transcript of the recent event, Schanzer's accusation about Saudi funding for Hamas remained, but not his other criticisms regarding Saudi-linked charities. Similarly, Tolson's description of Saudi Arabia as a society that denies women equal rights but enlists them to run between one-third to one-fourth of the small businesses in cities such as Jeddah and Riyadh was cut out of the transcript.

Beinart insisted that only space considerations were at work in the editing process. But such financial arrangements between publications and advertisers are bound to raise questions of editorial independence, said Aly Colon, a professor of ethics at the Poynter School for Professional Journalism.

For the past two years, The New Republic has held monthly public policy discussions in conjunction with business sponsors such as United Parcel Service, the Nuclear Energy Institute and the American Gas Association.

Through September The New Republic reportedly had suffered a 14.1% drop in advertising pages over the prior year. The magazine, according to the Mediaweek Monitor, an industry trade publication, entered into a mid-six-figure deal with the Saudi government in exchange for running 12 ad pages and four panel discussions.

As a result of such a deal, The New Republic runs a risk of having people question its overall credibility, Colon said. Readers often "know you by the company you keep."

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

Saturday Review : Annus horribilis: Michael Meacher looks back: The Guardian Year 2003 edited by Luke Dodd 304pp, Guardian, \$:14.99

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 13, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Saturday Pages, Pg. 13

Length: 709 words

Byline: Michael Meacher

Body

Very aptly the cover picture is of a crying baby, eyes filled with anguish, fear and hurt. It could have been in Baghdad, Gaza or Bunia - or the child of an asylum- seeker being deported. The mood of 2003 has been baleful, yet it contains the glimmerings of new forces at work curbing the ascendancy - Bush forced into retreat over Iraq and steel tariffs, the US-EU conclave upended by the Group of 21 at Cancun, and Tony Blair pressed into "the big conversation" at home to reconnect with the voters.

Yet the message is elusive because so many cross-cutting themes crowd the picture, and this is precisely what makes Guardian Year such a riveting read. Of course Iraq is central, sickeningly portrayed by Suzanne Goldenberg's "Picture of Killing" and Audrey Gillan's "Death by Friendly Fire" - though there's too little about the aftermath or about Hutton's inquiry into how we were duped.

But other themes flood in - Hamas's "total war" (omitting that it is because the Middle East peace map has been distorted by Sharon into a road to nowhere), and Sarah Boseley's heart-rending picture of a soon-to-die mother in Malawi, illustrating the fate of 29 million people with Aids in sub-Saharan Africa.

Martin Kettle assesses the neocon hard-right assault on US affirmative action and pro-diversity laws. Raekha Prasad denounces the UN "protection areas" for refugees that enable Britain to deport more asylum-seekers. Polly Toynbee dissects the growing trade of female trafficking, a modern variant of the slave transportation of past centuries, with 2 million women trafficked each year - a less remarked-on aspect of globalisation. Martin Jacques chronicles the jeering and booing at the Williams sisters and their father in middle-class, lily-white tennis. Racism is never far beneath the surface, and the accentuation of inequality in 2003 has served only to make it more pronounced.

The American imperium, with its unalloyed unilateralism, entered this year in full spate, and leaves it in deep disarray. But its workings are a great deal subtler and more pervasive than merely enforcing regime change. Ian Traynor recounts the brute diplomacy to secure war crimes immunity deals for Americans and the exercise of the aid card to bring vulnerable countries into compliance with US demands for exemption from the international criminal court. And George Monbiot admirably captures the new messianic order: America is not so much a project as a religion. It's not just that Americans are God's chosen people; America now perceives itself as on a divine mission for the liberation of mankind.

But this anthology is not all heavy politics. It is beautifully leavened with vignettes that go all the way from the funny to the outrageous. From "Disgusted of Highgrove" via inflatable plastic tanks as the British Army's latest hi-tech

Saturday Review : Annus horribilis: Michael Meacher looks back: The Guardian Year 2003 edited by Luke Dodd 304pp, Guardian, \$:14.99

military hardware (classified? Haven't the baldiest, it blew away), on to the wee mystery of asparagus (why, after eating it, does one's pee smell so extraordinary?), and the difference between a dik-dik and Prince William.

Some of the best pieces are in praise of, or mockery of, the cult of the great and good (or not so good). There's Mick Jagger rushing around the stage, flapping his hands, like a man in the gents who has just discovered the hand-drier isn't working. And Becks, despite being chased on to the pitch at the Beijing Workers' Stadium by 50 white-capped nurses, is still no match for the Chinese Dragons' left-back, Wu Cheng Ying.

It would have been nice, but not essential, to have had an angle on the rise and rise of the corporate state, the first clear signs of the coming oil crunch, the collapse of party democracy, the plague of obesity, the neglect of global warming as the greatest threat to the planet, and the rebellion against spin . . . But you can't have everything.

And at least the Guardian ad-mits when it's wrong. One correction reads: "We omitted a decimal point when quoting a doctor on the optimum temperature of testicles. They should be 2.2 degrees Celsius below core body temperature, not 22 degrees lower." Phew!

Michael Meacher is former environment secretary and MP for Oldham. To order The Guardian Year for £14.99 with free UK p&p call Guardian book service on 0870 066 7979.

Load-Date: December 13, 2003

End of Document

'Spinning Into Control'

The New York Times

January 12, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 730 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE; E-mail: , safire@nytimes.com

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of American action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

1. In Libya, Colonel Qaddafi took one look at our army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible U.N. inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, ***female***-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and ***Hamas*** terrorism -- Dictator Bashar al-Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasir Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

'Spinning Into Control'

5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Teheran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But we did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; we are helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the U.S. has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. Our new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to our decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what we have been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 12, 2004

End of Document

**Israelis kill 8 in Gaza incursion;
Officials find tunnel used to smuggle arms**

The International Herald Tribune

December 24, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 707 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Israeli troops killed eight Palestinians, both militants and civilians, as tanks and armored vehicles charged into a refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip early Tuesday and uncovered a weapons smuggling tunnel, according to officials on both sides.

Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen clash frequently in the town of Rafah, but the death toll there Tuesday was the highest in a single day in Gaza in the past two months, which have been comparatively calm.

The Israeli raid began only hours after two Israeli Army officers were killed Monday night by Palestinians on a road in southern Gaza. The two Palestinian assailants were also killed. That gun battle took place less than 16 kilometers from Rafah, at the southern end of Gaza, on the border with Egypt.

The New York Times

Also Monday, Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmed Maher, met Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, as part of broader efforts to work out a cease-fire and revive a top-level dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians.

"The attack in Rafah is blatant aggression and a crime," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister.

But Israel says it will press ahead with such operations because the Palestinian leadership has not acted against Palestinian groups responsible for violence against Israel. The Israeli military said Tuesday's incursion located its target: a large smuggling tunnel with an entrance hidden inside a three-story house.

The tunnel acts "as an oxygen pipe for terrorist organizations operating in the area," said Colonel Pinky Zuaretz, the commander of the area. The tunnel was used to bring in weapons from Egypt and also allowed Palestinian fugitives to flee to Egypt temporarily, the colonel told Israel radio.

An additional 5 to 10 tunnels are believed to be in the area, he added.

Before dawn, several dozen tanks, jeeps and armored vehicles roared into Rafah's densely packed refugee camp, and as is typically the case, Palestinian gunmen soon opened fire.

Israelis kill 8 in Gaza incursion; Officials find tunnel used to smuggle arms

In intermittent gun battles that lasted through the night and much of the day, Israeli forces hit eight Palestinians armed with guns or explosives, the military reported. However, the military said it did not have information on whether they were killed.

Three militants taking cover in one house were killed, along with a policeman who was shot while on his way to work, according to Palestinians.

Ali al-Najar, one of the gunmen killed, heard the Israeli tanks and immediately rushed out of his home to fight, said his father, Hussein al-Najar.

Ali al-Najar and two fellow militants were preparing their weapons in another house when it was hit by an Israeli shell, killing all of them, the father said.

But Palestinians said several of those killed Tuesday were civilians, including Weam Musa, 27, a medic who was hit by shrapnel while helping treat the wounded, according to his cousin, Dr. Ali Musa, the director of Rafah Hospital.

Over all, 8 Palestinians were killed and about 40 wounded, with women and children accounting for several of those injured, Ali Musa said.

Several Palestinian houses were destroyed and Israeli troops commandeered several tall buildings as lookout posts, Palestinian witnesses said.

Palestinian gunmen maintained a steady barrage of fire in an attempt to prevent the Israeli armored vehicles from reaching the house with the tunnel, the military said.

But the soldiers eventually reached the house and found the tunnel in the afternoon, about 12 hours after the operation began.

The tunnel descends about 12 meters underground and was among the largest of the more than 40 such tunnels the military has uncovered this year in Rafah, the military said.

The passageways connect houses on the Gaza side of the border with those on the Egyptian side.

Smugglers have used the tunnels for years to bring in assorted contraband, but Israel has aggressively targeted them during the current round of Mideast fighting, saying large quantities of weapons are now being imported from the Egyptian side.

In another development, the army said Tuesday that it had arrested 22 members of the Hamas faction in and around the West Bank city of Ramallah over the past few days.

Those arrested were suspected of involvement in attacks that have killed 10 Israelis, the military said.

Load-Date: December 24, 2003

Telling Friend From Foe

New York Sun (Archive)

November 28, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 779 words

Byline: By DANIEL PIPES

Body

If militant Islam is the problem and moderate Islam is the solution, as I often argue, how does one differentiate between these two forms of Islam? It's a tough question, especially as concerns Muslims who live in Western countries. To understand just how tough it is, consider the case of Abdurahman Alamoudi, a prominent American figure associated with 16 Muslim organizations.

FBI spokesman William Carter described one of those, the American Muslim Council, as "the most mainstream Muslim group in the United States." The Department of Defense entrusted two of them, the Islamic Society of North America and the American Muslim Armed Forces and Veterans Council, to vet Islamic chaplains for the armed forces. The State Department thought so highly of Mr. Alamoudi, it hired him six times and sent him on all-expenses-paid trips to majority-Muslim countries to carry what it called "a message of religious tolerance."

Mr. Alamoudi's admirers have publicly hailed him as a "moderate," a "liberal Muslim," and someone known "for his charitable support of battered women and a free health clinic."

However, this image of moderation collapsed recently when an Alamoudi-endorsed chaplain was arrested and charged with mishandling classified material; when Mr. Alamoudi himself was arrested on charges of illegal commerce with Libya, and when Mr. Alamoudi's Palm Pilot was found to contain contact information on seven men designated by our government as global terrorists.

Distinguishing between real and phony moderation, obviously, is not a job for amateurs such as American government officials. The best way to discern moderation is by delving into the record - public and private, Internet and print, domestic and foreign - of an individual or institution. Such research is most productive with intellectuals, activists, and imams, all of whom have a paper trail. With others who lack a public record, it is necessary to ask questions. These need to be specific, because vague inquiries - such as "Is Islam a religion of peace?" and "Do you condemn terrorism?" - have little value, for they depend on definitions (of peace, of terrorism, etc.).

Useful questions might address subjects such as:

Violence: Do you condone or condemn the Palestinians, Chechens, and Kashmiris who give up their lives to kill enemy

civilians? Will you condemn by name as terrorist groups such organizations as Abu Sayyaf, Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, Groupe Islamique Armé, Hamas, Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, and Al Qaeda?

Telling Friend From Foe

Modernity: Should Muslim women have equal rights with men (for example, in inheritance shares or court testimony)? Is jihad, meaning a form of warfare, acceptable in today's world? Do you accept the validity of other religions? Do Muslims have anything to learn from the West?

Secularism: Should non-Muslims enjoy completely equal civil rights with Muslims? May Muslims convert to other religions? May Muslim women marry non-Muslim men? Do you accept the laws of a majority non-Muslim government and unreservedly pledge allegiance to that government?

State Imposition of Religious Observance: What do you think of banning food service during Ramadan? When Islamic customs conflict with secular laws (e.g., covering the face for drivers' license photographs), which should give way?

Islamic Pluralism: Are Sufis and Shiites fully legitimate Muslims? Do you think that Muslims who disagree with you have fallen into unbelief? Is takfir (condemning fellow Muslims with whom one has disagreements as unbelievers) an acceptable practice?

Self-criticism: Do you accept the legitimacy of scholarly inquiry into the origins of Islam? Who was responsible for the September 11 suicide hijackings?

Defense Against Militant Islam: Do you accept enhanced security measures to fight militant Islam, even if this means extra scrutiny of yourself (for example, at airline security checkpoints)? Do you agree that institutions accused of funding terrorism should be shut down, or do you see this a symptom of bias?

Goals in the West: Do you accept that Western countries are majority-Christian and secular or do you seek to transform them into majority-Muslim countries ruled by Islamic law?

It would be ideal if these questions were posed publicly - in the press or in front of an audience - thereby reducing the scope for dissimulation.

No single reply establishes a militant Islamic disposition (plenty of non-Muslim Europeans believe the Bush administration itself carried out the September 11 terrorist attacks); and pretence is always a possibility, but these questions offer a good start to the vexing issue of separating enemies from friends.

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

Israel destroys empty Gaza buildings, Blasts are reprisal for attack on settlement

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

October 26, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P4A

Length: 789 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak The Associated Press

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli forces retaliated Sunday for a deadly attack by militants on a nearby Jewish settlement, blowing up three large, empty buildings in Gaza after evacuating 2,000 Palestinians from their homes.

Huge blasts rocked the area for miles around, sending plumes of black smoke and debris into the air. The operation came as tensions rose once again in the three-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The developments, coupled with continued political uncertainty in the Palestinian leadership, pushed Mideast peace efforts further into the background.

The Israelis targeted three unfinished 12-story buildings on a sandy hill overlooking the heavily guarded settlement of Netzarim, where two Palestinian gunmen infiltrated early Friday morning and killed three Israeli soldiers, including two women. One of the gunmen escaped, while the other was shot and killed by other soldiers.

The Israelis first blew up a Palestinian police post where the Israeli military said the attacker fled. They then set off explosives in and around the three tall buildings, which belong to Palestinian Preventive Security, the main Palestinian force in Gaza.

Before the huge blasts, Israeli soldiers ordered nearby residents in southern Gaza City out of their homes. The military said the evacuation was for their protection, to avoid harming civilians during the destruction of the three buildings.

Mohammed Hassan Ali, 39, a father of five, said, "I can see dozens of people from the building leaving, mostly on foot. We don't know where to go."

Residents said soldiers told the people to move toward the Nusseirat refugee camp, about two miles away.

Maj. Sharon Feingold, an Israeli military spokeswoman, said it was a "temporary evacuation for their own safety," and after the operation ended, the residents were permitted to return to their homes.

Palestinian militants used the unfinished buildings as lookout points to help prepare the deadly Friday infiltration into Netzarim, an isolated settlement southwest of Gaza City, the Israelis said.

As Palestinians left their homes, the settlers at Netzarim moved into bomb shelters for protection, the military said.

Israel destroys empty Gaza buildings, Blasts are reprisal for attack on settlement

On Saturday, a Palestinian wounded in Monday's Israeli missile strike in the Nusseirat camp died, raising the toll to 11. Israeli helicopters targeted a car carrying suspected militants, killing and wounding bystanders.

The military moves overshadowed the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan meant to stop the violence and lead to a Palestinian state in 2005. Contacts over the plan have been frozen for weeks, both because of the violence and because of internal Palestinian political turmoil.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia has threatened to resign Nov. 4, when a one-month mandate of his emergency Cabinet, appointed by Yasser Arafat, expires. Israel and the United States are boycotting Arafat, charging that he is responsible for Palestinian violence, and the absence of a stable Palestinian government has stymied contacts between the two sides as violence continues.

In Jerusalem on Saturday night, Israeli peace activists blamed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for the stalemate and bloodshed.

About 4,000 Peace Now demonstrators gathered in front of Sharon's residence, chanting "Sharon, go home" and carrying torches. One banner read "Sharon: Terminator of Israel," an expression of the crowd's anger at the prime minister's frequent crackdowns on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The economy is in a grave decline. There is no security. Civilians and soldiers are killed every day," said Ran Cohen, a legislator from the dovish Meretz party.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, masked Israeli troops raided two Palestinian hospitals Saturday, arresting two suspected militants - one of them in critical condition - in a commando-style operation the army said would be replicated in other hospitals where there might be terror suspects.

The troops, wearing black ski masks and carrying assault rifles, entered the Nablus hospitals before dawn Saturday, snatching one militant from his hospital bed and finding a second hiding in a basement with pistol in hand, the army said.

One militant belonged to **Hamas** and the other the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a militant group with links to Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

Human rights groups and Palestinians condemned the raids, fearing hospitals no longer are neutral ground in the ongoing fighting and saying international law bans military operations in medical facilities.

The army countered that international law prevents militants from seeking refuge in a hospital. Including Saturday's raids, the army has carried out four hospital raids in the last two months, and army officials said they were planning more.

Load-Date: October 28, 2003

Robert Fisk: Ramadan revenge - a message sent and a lesson learned

The New Zealand Herald
October 29, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 The New Zealand Herald. All Rights Reserved.

Section: NEWS; Dialogue

Length: 749 words

Body

Understanding the brain. That's what you have to do in a guerrilla war. Find out how it works, what it's trying to do.

Ramadan? An attack on US headquarters in Baghdad and six suicide bombings, all at the start of Ramadan? Thirty-four dead and 200 wounded? Where have I heard those statistics before?

And how could they be so well co-ordinated - not sophisticated, perhaps, but well-timed, down to the last second? And why the Red Cross?

I knew that building, admired the way in which the International Red Cross staff refused to associate themselves with the American occupation - even at the cost of their lives, because the guards outside their Baghdad headquarters carried no guns.

So here's the answer to question one. Algeria. After the Algerian Government in 1991 banned democratic elections that would have brought the Islamic Salvation Front to power, a growing Muslim revolt turned into a blood-curdling battle between the Islamic Armed Group - many of its adherents cut their battle teeth in Afghanistan - and a brutal Government army and police force. Within three years, the Islamists - aided, it seems, by army intelligence officers - were perpetrating massacres against the villagers of what was called the "Blida triangle", a three-cornered territory around the Islamist city of Blida outside Algiers.

And the worst atrocities - the beheading of children, the raping and throat-cutting of **women**, the slaughter of policemen - were committed at the start of Ramadan.

At Ramadan - newspapers like to call it the "holy fasting month", which is accurate up to a point - Muslim emotions are heightened.

In these most blessed of days, a Muslim feels that he or she must do something important so that God will listen to him or her.

There is nothing in the Koran about violence in Ramadan or, for that matter, suicide bombers - any more than there is anything in the New Testament urging Christians to carry out the genocide or ethnic cleansing at which they have become experts in the past 200 years - but Sunni Wahabi believers have often combined holy war with the "message", the "dawa", during Ramadan.

So what was the message? In Baghdad, the political message of the weekend was simple.

Robert Fisk: Ramadan revenge - a message sent and a lesson learned

It told Iraqis that the Americans cannot control Iraq; more importantly, it told Americans that they cannot control Iraq.

Even more important, it told Iraqis they shouldn't work for the Americans. Who wants to be an Iraqi policeman this morning?

It also acknowledged America's new rules of combat: kill the enemy leaders.

The United States killed Saddam's two sons (and grandson).

It has boasted of killing al Qaeda members in Afghanistan and Yemen, just as Israel kills Palestinians in **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

So was it by chance that the Black Hawk helicopter shot down in Iraq was hit over Tikrit just after Paul Wolfowitz had passed through town?

And the assault on the al-Rashid Hotel - a far more efficient version of the rocket attack more than six weeks ago - almost killed Wolfowitz. He was "a room away" from one of the missile explosions.

The architect of the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq was almost assassinated by America's enemies. Did they know where he was sleeping in the hotel? Given the number of Iraqi staff in the al-Rashid, probably.

And then there is the Red Cross, the last neutral humanitarian organisation - after the double suicide attack on the UN - which might have provided some communication between the US and its antagonists.

Now it, too, has been smashed.

Some of America's enemies may come from other Arab countries, but most of the military opposition to America's presence comes from Iraqi Sunnis - not from Saddam "remnants", "diehards" or "deadenders" (the Paul Bremer cover-up titles for a real and growing Iraqi resistance), but from men who in many cases hated Saddam.

They don't work "for" al Qaeda. They don't work for Mullah Omar or Osama bin Laden.

But they have learned their own unique version of history. Attack your enemies in the holy month of Ramadan. Learn from the war in Algeria. And the war in Afghanistan.

Learn the lessons of America's "war on terror". Go for the jugular. "Bring'em on." Kill the leadership. You're with us or against us, collaborator or patriot. That was the message of yesterday's bloodbath in Baghdad.

- <http://www.independent.co.uk> INDEPENDENT

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/features/iraq/> Herald Feature: Iraq

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=2351419&thesection=news&thesubsection=world&reportid=562588> Iraq links and resources

Load-Date: October 28, 2003

Israeli strike incurs world's wrath - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

The Australian

October 7, 2003 Tuesday NSW Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 799 words

Byline: * Correspondents in New York and Cairo

Body

WORLD leaders -- with the notable exception of US President George W. Bush -- yesterday condemned Israel's air strike on Syria, warning such action would only further destabilise the Middle East.

Arab nations led the outcry as Syria urged the UN Security Council to condemn Israel for a breach of the UN Charter and international law.

The Arab League warned the Israeli action, taken in retaliation for a weekend suicide bombing at a Haifa restaurant that killed 19, could spark "a whirlwind of violence" as militant groups such as **Hamas** vowed to hit back.

"This dangerous aggression is a dangerous escalation that threatens regional and international security and peace," the 22-member pan-Arab organisation said.

Reuters, AFP

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak slammed the "aggression ... against a brother country". Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Moasher also condemned the "aggression against a brother country" which could "drag the entire region into a downward spiral of violence".

Calling the raid "flagrant aggression" by Israel, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah warned "this serious military escalation will thwart the peace process".

The condemnation was not confined to the Arab world. Other leaders, including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, deplored both the suicide attack and the Israeli response.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who was meeting Mr Mubarak in Cairo, said that "violating the sovereignty of a third country ... cannot be accepted".

The British Foreign Office acknowledged Israel's right to self-defence but cautioned that such actions must be within international law.

France condemned the air attack as "an unacceptable violation of international law".

"In a Middle East rocked by crises, it is everybody's responsibility, especially that of states in the region, to not add to the instability and tensions," the French Foreign Ministry said.

Russia also warned the raid threatened to spread the conflict beyond Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Israeli strike incurs world's wrath - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

China "strongly condemned" the Israeli action. "China strongly calls for the involved parties to exercise utmost restraint to avoid further deterioration of the situation in the region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said.

Israel said its air force hit a training camp deep inside Syria allegedly used by militant groups including Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the weekend suicide bombing in the Israeli coastal city of Haifa.

The blast inside a crowded restaurant killed 19 people, as well as the female bomber.

The UN Security Council held an emergency session to debate the Syrian resolution on Israel. However, the meeting adjourned without taking a vote. "Consultations will take place as soon as possible," the US ambassador to the UN, John Negroponte, said. No date for the resumption of the meeting had been set, he said.

Lebanon lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council in solidarity with Syria.

"Lebanon will stand, as always, by Syria's side during this difficult historic time because Syria has always been a support to Lebanon," Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri said.

Syria warned it was capable of taking its own military action. Government newspaper Tishrin reported: "Syria's military forces led by President Bashar al-Assad must be prepared in the face of an enemy who seeks escalation and commits terrorist acts."

Israel defended the strike as a legitimate act of self-defence against a state that supports terrorists.

In this it won support from the US, which refused to criticise the Israeli action.

"The United States believes that Syria is on the wrong side of the war on terrorism," Mr Negroponte said.

Israel's UN ambassador, Dan Gillerman, said: "For Syria to call a Security Council meeting is as if (Osama) bin Laden had called a Security Council meeting after 9/11."

The Israeli attack was its first incursion into Syria since the Yom Kippur war 30 years ago. The area was sealed off by Syrian authorities and reporters and photographers stopped from entering.

Damascus said the attack hit a civilian area, causing material damage. A Syrian official in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon said Israel's target was an abandoned training camp used by a leftist Palestinian group.

"For Syria to call a Security Council meeting is as if Bin Laden had called a Security Council meeting after 9/11."

- Israel's UN ambassador Dan Gillerman

"Syria is not incapable of establishing a resistance and deterrent balance that would force Israel to reconsider its calculations."

- Syria's UN ambassador Fayssal Mekdad

"The United States believes that Syria is on the wrong side of the war on terrorism."

- US ambassador to UN John Negroponte

"This (Israeli) aggression could drag the whole region into a violent whirlpool."

- Arab League statement

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

Israeli strike incurs world's wrath - MIDDLE EAST MAYHEM

End of Document

A Gaza Settlement Is Threatened

New York Sun (Archive)

October 27, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 722 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN

Dateline: NETZARIM, Gaza Strip

Body

Moderates in Israel's Cabinet called yesterday for the evacuation of this tiny Jewish settlement, which relies on an entire army battalion for protection, after three soldiers were killed there by Palestinian militants.

Prime Minister Sharon believes a pullout from the enclave in Gaza would show weakness and encourage Palestinian violence, and one former Israeli commander says Netzarim must remain a strategic "bone in the throat" of the Palestinians. Others in the military say using an estimated 350 soldiers to guard 400 people is a waste of resources.

In this quiet, leafy enclave just 2 1 /2 miles from the border with Israel and surrounded by Palestinians on all sides, people remain confident they will stay right where they are.

"God promised this area to Israel," said Yossi Krakover, 35, who has lived there for 12 years.

The debate over Netzarim exploded after two Palestinian militants shrouded in fog cut through a fence early Friday and crept up on the army base inside the settlement. The militants entered the barracks and shot soldiers as they slept, killing three - including two women - and wounding two others.

Soldiers killed one of the militants, who was from Hamas. The other, from Islamic Jihad, escaped.

Netzarim is a common target for militants, and soldiers guarding the settlement say it is one of the most dangerous places to be posted. Several Palestinians have been killed trying to break in.

Nine soldier guards and two residents have been killed during the three-year uprising, and the settlement also is a frequent target of rocket attacks.

Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, leader of the moderate Shinui Party, told the Cabinet yesterday the time had come for a serious discussion of the Netzarim settlement.

"Is it right that a battalion of soldiers should guard only 60 families?" Mr. Lapid asked, according to spokesman Tzachi Moshe.

About 350 soldiers serve in an average battalion, though exact numbers are classified.

Shlomo Avineri, one of Israel's leading academics, said it was time to pull out of Netzarim.

A Gaza Settlement Is Threatened

"The 5 million Jews living in the state of Israel have a right and a moral obligation to say something simple [but quite difficult] to the...families living in Netzarim: 'Come Home!' "he wrote in the Yediot Ahronot daily.

Still, there is a strong reluctance in Israel to concede any territory - or dismantle any settlements - without getting something in return, and a peace deal with the Palestinians does not seem near.

Beyond that impasse, some say the site of Netzarim is strategically important for Israel. Netzarim was founded in 1980 southwest of Gaza City, overlooking the Mediterranean coastline and Gaza's port.

"It is like a bone in the throat for the Palestinians," Zvi Fogel, an ex-general who was the head of Israeli's southern command, told Israel Radio. "From a military perspective, it allows the army to put up checkpoints at any time they want and to divide the strip into three parts."

About 6,500 Jews live in 17 settlements in Gaza, where Israel controls about one-third of the territory. More than 1 million Palestinians live in the rest of Gaza, which is 25 miles long and only a few miles wide.

While nearby Gaza City is a crowded, dusty concrete jungle, Netzarim is a tree-lined community of lush lawns and rows of concrete houses, each topped with a roof of red ceramic tile. Laughing groups of children play on swings as their friends run around nearby.

But residents who need anything more make a run for the border in the company of a military convoy, which includes a bulletproof bus that leaves every hour.

Mr. Krakover pulls on a bulletproof vest and a helmet for his daily commute to his job as a school principal in a settlement in Gush Katif in southern Gaza. In addition to the soldiers guarding the settlement, the residents have their own nightly patrols.

But many Israelis are growing tired of paying a heavy price for the preservation of isolated settlements deep in Palestinian-populated areas, on land which many believe ultimately will be transferred to Palestinian control.

When Krakover moved here 12 years ago, there were only seven families. Now there are 60 - about 400 people - he said, then nodded toward his 4-year-old daughter, Maayan, resting in his arms.

"We will see our daughter married in Netzarim, God willing. I don't have any doubt about it."

Load-Date: October 27, 2003

Two beacons of hope amid Middle East gloom

The Straits Times (Singapore)

October 14, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

Section: Commentary

Length: 718 words

Body

By SUNANDA K. DATTA-RAY FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

FROM the chaos and carnage of the Middle East comes a glimpse of human faith, hope and courage that may yet succeed in arresting the present stampede towards a far worse catastrophe than anything Jews and Palestinians have suffered before.

Two reports of incipient people power deserve the world's respectful attention.

First, the selfless initiative of a man and woman, both Israeli, who each lost an offspring in the conflict.

Second, the dedication of foreigners who are prepared to lay down their lives rather than let harm come to Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat.

A matching Palestinian response would be a tremendous triumph for peace.

A Palestinian suicide bomber killed Mr Amiram Goldin's son, Omri, on a bus at Meron junction in Israel's far north. For all his grief, Mr Goldin is not consumed with bitterness, and certainly nurses no lust for vengeance.

On the contrary, he has led other bereaved parents on a slow pilgrimage of peace from the scene of his son's murder to Jerusalem's Zion Square, near the grave of Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister who was brave enough to shake hands with Mr Arafat and paid with his life for his vision and courage.

Mr Goldin has called on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to reflect on his tactics towards the Palestinians and 'to switch the train from the track of blood to the track of peace and stop the cycle of revenge and killing'.

With passions riding high after the Haifa bombing, it is not a popular cause. Militant Israelis are pressuring Mr Sharon to redeem his pledge to crush the Palestinian resistance. Hence, possibly, a diversionary attack on Syria to placate hardliners.

Mrs Efra Spigel, whose 21-year-old son was killed in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon, has responded to the challenge of hate-driven politics by joining Mr Goldin.

'Cooperation is a hope for peace,' says her placard, aimed directly at Mr Sharon who was defence minister during the invasion and whom Israel's own Kahane commission held 'personally responsible' for the slaughter of 1,700 Palestinian civilians - men, women and children - in Lebanon's Sabra and Chatila refugee camps.

Two beacons of hope amid Middle East gloom

The no less inspiring second manifestation of goodwill concerns 18 activists who have formed a human shield around the ailing Mr Arafat in his shell-damaged headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Only a few dozen oil drums, sandbags and bodyguards protect the complex from assault. The voluntary defenders, four of them British, call the risk they are taking an 'act of human solidarity'.

Three of the Britons are in their late 20s. The fourth, Mr Roy Ratcliffe, a venerable 61, argues that Israel has no right to exile or eliminate Mr Arafat.

'It's up to the Palestinian people to remove their president,' he said. 'We're here to defend their democratic rights.'

The only **female** among them, Miss Elaine Westblade, a 26-year-old charity worker, goes to the heart of the matter.

'We believe that in order to end the violence, you must end the occupation of the Palestinian territories,' she said.

That would exculpate Israel, meet Palestinian aspirations and defang organisations like **Hamas**, Hizbollah and Islamic Jihad. Israel's withdrawal would be a real gain for the so-called Middle East road map.

The alternative of annexing the entire West Bank (as Israel has already annexed parts of Syria's Golan Heights and Jordanian east Jerusalem) is fraught with permanent peril.

The West Bank's 200,000 Jewish settlers and a fence that runs deep into Palestinian territory to deprive villagers of their fields and livelihood feed the rage that terrorists exploit. People go with the land, and the conquered will pose an even greater threat to the conqueror's security if they lose all hope of liberation.

Let the indomitable Mrs Spigel, who understands that Jews cannot live in peace if Palestinians do not, have the last word. Her ultimately successful campaign against Israel's military occupation of Lebanon lasted 18 years.

'We got the army out of Lebanon,' she recalls of that achievement of people power. 'It was a very difficult struggle but at last we got public support. It can happen again.'

Amen to that.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of South-east Asian Studies. The views expressed here are his own.

Load-Date: October 13, 2003

TWO DIE, MANY INJURED AND HOMES IN RUINS AS ISRAELIS BOMB GAZA

The Independent (London)

October 21, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 676 words

Byline: JUSTIN HUGGLER IN GAZA CITY An injured Palestinian girl is carried to hospital in Gaza after an Israeli helicopter strike Reuters

Body

NASSER MATAR was holding a petrol pump, about to fill up a car, when Israeli helicopter missiles slammed into a pick-up truck a few metres from him.

"I was about to switch the pump on," Mr Matar, a garage attendant, said. "If I had switched it on, or if the missiles had hit the petrol stores, there would have been a huge fire. You would not see a trace of this building."

Yesterday was the day of the missiles in Gaza. In a few hours, the Israeli military made three air strikes on the Gaza Strip. Even by the standards that have become routine here in the past three years of violence, so many air strikes in a single day are unusual. Israel has called up hundreds of reservists, and the Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat accused Israel of planning to invade and reoccupy Gaza.

In the first air strike, at 8.15am, at least two civilians, a mother and her adult daughter, were injured when missiles hit a half-built house the Israeli military claimed was used to make rockets militants fire across the fence at Israeli towns. Two next-door houses were left uninhabitable; the women were in one of them when they were hit by shrapnel, and more than 30 people were left homeless.

The second was at the petrol station where Mr Matar works, at 11 am. A pick-up in which two Hamas militants - one was identified as Khaled al-Masri - were travelling was hit. The Israeli military claimed the men had loaded it with weaponry from the house targeted in the first attack. The militants were killed. So was an innocent bystander.

In the third attack, an isolated hut in a citrus grove was destroyed, but there were claims that another car was the target. There were no reports of injuries.

Mr Matar said he had heard nothing suspicious before the attack at the petrol station. There were radio reports that Israeli helicopters were over Gaza, but they did not hear the sound of the rotor blades at the petrol station. They had no idea what was coming. There were people walking in the street, including schoolchildren on their way to afternoon classes.

"There was a Peugeot pick-up stopped at the red light," Mr Matar said. The traffic lights were a few feet from the fuel storage for the station. "I heard an explosion. Fire shot out of the Peugeot. We have three fire extinguishers here, and we took them and put out the fire. There is a lot of fuel here. If the fire extended to here we would have a terrible situation." The owner of the petrol station and two employees were hit by shrapnel.

TWO DIE, MANY INJURED AND HOMES IN RUINS AS ISRAELIS BOMB GAZA

Israel claims its assassinations of militants prevent suicide bombings and other attacks. But Mr Matar said: "This is terrorism. Their intention is to make us panic. To terrorise us. Look, I am still shaking. I could have been killed. I have two children, one is five, the other seven. If I am killed who will feed them? I never supported the suicide bombings. I always believed targeting civilians was not good. But now I support them."

In the first air strike yesterday, there were reports of as many as 23 injured, but we could confirm only two: 54-year-old Ihsan Bulbul, and her 33-year-old daughter, Iman, both hit by shrapnel which flew straight through the house between theirs and the targeted building, and landed in their kitchen.

But the casualties could have been far worse: a piece of concrete lay in a cradle in the family house; Na'ima Bulbul had snatched her 18-month- old baby out of the cradle when she heard the missile hit, moments before the wall partly collapsed on to the cradle.

In the next-door house, Huda al-Widiyeh managed to scramble out of bed before several pieces of concrete fell through the roof on to it.

The house that was targeted was, the Israelis claimed, used by militants to make Qassem rockets. The local Palestinians denied it. The half-built house, which had no walls, looked a poor hiding-place. A house nearby that belonged to the Islamic Jihad leader Abdullah Shami escaped without a scratch. The Israeli military said it was not the target. Fifteen people ended up homeless in the Widiyeh family, 17 from the Bulbuls.

Load-Date: October 21, 2003

End of Document

A Shattered Childhood

The Forward

September 19, 2003

Copyright 2003 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: Forward Forum; Pg. 13

Length: 673 words

Byline: Frimet Roth

Body

As I write this, my son and daughter are attending a double funeral. David and Nava Applebaum, the father and sister of their friend, were among those murdered last week in a Jerusalem café. Within minutes of the attack, my son was out hunting with his distraught friend for the missing father and sister in Jerusalem's hospitals.

It was a familiar experience: After the Sbarro suicide bombing on August 9, 2001, my son helped me hunt for Malka, his sister and my daughter, in the very same hospitals and with the very same prayers. But Malka, like David and Nava Applebaum, wasn't found on an operating table or lying unconscious in some emergency room. Not for us that good fortune.

The dead sister of my son's friend was to be married the night after the café bombing. Now my son is standing beside him in a graveyard instead of in a wedding hall. The young bride-to-be was buried with the wedding band her fiancé placed beside her.

My oldest daughter is 14. She cried all morning after hearing of the late-night café attack. Then she phoned me from school; she and her schoolmates huddled in the corridors, sobbing and hugging while waiting for the bus to take them to the funeral. The teachers, who had taught the dead girl and her sister and my own dead child as well, were themselves paralyzed with grief, unable to control the chaos.

Most women three times my daughter's age have never known the pain she lives with every day. Though I have rarely seen her cry these past two years, she recently confided to me that she does - but only at night in bed.

We Israelis are a stoic people. We shed tears at our funerals, then wipe them away. We pick up the pieces of our broken hearts and move on. We grab normality and cling to it by our fingernails.

Conventional Israeli wisdom dictates such conduct to us. Any hint of a chink in our coping facade increases the enemy's resolve and heightens his glee, goes the logic.

Thus, hours after a terrorist attack, our journalists return to the site and are impressed: with the traffic jams, the hustle and bustle, the already-underway renovations to the demolished premises. It won't be long, they predict, before the place will be filled to capacity again, just as it was on the night of the bombing. And they are invariably right.

But I have my doubts. We may be digging our own graves with this stiff upper-lipping. The world hears of our losses, and then sees that we're functioning just fine, thank you. They couldn't possibly be victims, it figures. Hold the sympathy.

A Shattered Childhood

It is now the start of the week of the shiva, the customary Jewish mourning period. My son and daughter are helping to keep the bereaved family surrounded by visitors. It was the same at our own house the week of our shiva. Seated on low chairs all day long, we told and retold again and again about our 15-year-old treasure with a heart of gold, felled by monsters with hearts of stone.

The adults came and went. But my children's friends stayed all day during that week. Israel's children are grappling with adult-size grief.

Other children are saddled with adult-size hatred. We watched news footage of Palestinian children in Gaza after last week's massacre. They laughed, waved ecstatically at the camera and passed out candies. So much to celebrate: Two suicide bombings and 15 Israelis dead, all in one day.

America, remember those jubilant Palestinian children and the education they have received: the school maps that carry no mention of Israel; the Hamas summer camps that train them for battle; the school skits re-enacting suicide attacks; the miniature replicas of the Sbarro pizza shop where my daughter Malka died; the ubiquitous portraits of the murderous martyrs.

So before you send us your next road map or peace plan, ask: Will it manage to deprogram these children? Will it revamp their school curriculum? Because without that there will be no peace. They are the next generation of suicide bombers, well primed and eagerly waiting in the wings.

Frimet Roth is a New York-born freelance writer living in Jerusalem.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

Arafat best bet for lasting M-E solution

The Straits Times (Singapore)

September 29, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

Section: Commentary

Length: 755 words

Body

By SUNANDA K. DATTA-RAY FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

THE United States has done it again. Its veto of the United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to 'remove' Palestinian President Yasser Arafat may not give 'a green light to Israel to implement its threat', as the Americans point out. But it reiterates US determination not to allow Israel to be brought within the discipline of international law at a time when even some Israeli air force pilots are repudiating their government's strategy of selective assassination.

Always present, US concern for Israel is especially marked in the run-up to an American presidential election. As former US president Harry Truman explained when reneging on Franklin D. Roosevelt's pledge of a Palestinian homeland, he had to answer to hundreds of thousands of people who were anxious for the success of Zionism, but he did not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among his constituents.

But the lone superpower has a wider constituency than presidential voters. American isolation there was exposed again when the UN General Assembly took up the thwarted Security Council resolution. Only the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Israel supported the US.

Of course, Israel's security must be guaranteed. Of course, **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade militants would deserve rigorous punishment if they persisted in terrorism after Israel vacates its legally and morally indefensible occupation of Arab land which provokes retaliatory violence.

President George W. Bush has a tremendous opportunity to reaffirm that the US is a force for political democracy and economic justice by breaking this cycle of death and doing right to a wronged people. Success in Palestine would help enormously his mission in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Instead of dismissing Mr Arafat as a 'failed' leader who should be removed, he should recognise him as the 'legitimate' leader who 'embodies the Palestinian identity and national aspirations', to quote UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen.

In adversity, Mr Arafat regained much of the popularity he had lost in power. Palestinians honoured him even more for standing firm when subjected to the continuous torture of blaring loudspeakers and blazing arc lamps in his gutted headquarters, with water and electricity cut off and key aides incarcerated in jail. The probable objective was to reduce him to a cipher by targeting loyalists and pressuring the populace.

Arafat best bet for lasting M-E solution

Already, 75 per cent of Palestinians live below the poverty level. The US Agency for International Development says that 30 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and 21 per cent from acute malnutrition. Anaemia afflicts 45 per cent of the young and 48 per cent of women of child-bearing age.

Nearly a third of the Palestinians depend on food handouts. Not one of 300 households surveyed in the West Bank town of Nablus had potable water. Thanks to Israeli curfews, the Palestinian health authorities operate at 30 per cent capacity. Poor sanitation warns of communicable diseases.

Israel's proposed 595km security fence, biting deep into the West Bank to protect 200,000 Jewish squatters, threatens the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian villages by cutting them off from their land. Even Mr Bush calls it a 'problem'. The US might make a token cut in its US\$9 billion (\$15.6 billion) loan guarantee to bail out Israel's recession-hit economy.

Mr Arafat did not launch the intifada (uprising) that forced Israel to the negotiating table. Palestinian radicals and intellectuals like Professor Edward Said accuse him of selling out. He cannot tackle the terrorists without risking civil war. The murder at which Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert hinted would make him a martyr. Others, less prepared to compromise, would take his place. Palestine would give short shrift to a Bantustan-type puppet chieftain imposed by the US and Israel.

Mr Arafat is the best bet for a lasting solution. Instead of sidelining him, the US should strengthen his hand so that he can show his people that he has won a just peace. That means withdrawal from the territories - Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, east Jerusalem and the West Bank - that Israel seized in 1967.

Whether or not Palestine is ever conceded sovereignty, there will be no peace in the Middle East so long as Israel is allowed to enjoy the fruits of conquest.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of South-east Asian Studies. The views expressed here are the author's alone.

Load-Date: September 28, 2003

The best bet for peace - Arafat

South China Morning Post

September 30, 2003

Copyright 2003 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Global Village; Pg. 15

Length: 763 words

Byline: Sunanda Kisor Datta-Ray

Body

The United States has done it again. Its veto of the United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to remove Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat reiterates the US' determination not to allow Israel to be brought within the discipline of international law - at a time when even some Israeli air force pilots are repudiating their government's strategy of selective assassination.

Always present, the US concern for Israel is especially marked in the run-up to an American presidential election. As former US president Harry Truman explained when reneging on Franklin D. Roosevelt's pledge of a Palestinian homeland, he had to answer to hundreds of thousands of people who were anxious for the success of Zionism but he did not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among his constituents.

But the lone superpower has a wider constituency than presidential voters. American isolation there was exposed again when the UN General Assembly took up the thwarted security council resolution. Only the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Israel supported the US.

Of course, Israel's security must be guaranteed. Of course, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade militants would deserve rigorous punishment if they persisted in terrorism after Israel vacates its legally and morally indefensible occupation of Arab land, which provokes retaliatory violence.

President George W. Bush has a tremendous opportunity to reaffirm that the US is a force for political democracy and economic justice by breaking this cycle of death and doing right to a wronged people. Success in the Israeli - Palestinian conflict would enormously help his mission in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Instead of dismissing Mr Arafat as a failed leader who should be removed, Mr Bush should recognise him as the "legitimate leader" who "embodies the Palestinian identity and national aspirations", to quote UN envoy to the Middle East Terje Toed-Larsen.

In adversity, Mr Arafat regained much of the popularity he had lost in power. Palestinians honoured him even more for standing firm when subjected to the continuous torture of blaring loudspeakers and blazing arc lamps in his gutted headquarters, with water and electricity cut off and key aides incarcerated. The probable objective was to reduce him to a nonentity by targeting loyalists and pressuring the populace.

Already, 75 per cent of Palestinians live below the poverty level. The US Agency for International Development says that 30 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and 21 per cent from acute malnutrition. Anaemia afflicts 45 per cent of the young and 48 per cent of women of childbearing age. Nearly a third of the

The best bet for peace - Arafat

Palestinians depend on food handouts. Not one of 300 households surveyed in the West Bank town of Nablus had potable water. Thanks to Israeli curfews, the Palestinian health authorities operate at 30 per cent capacity. Poor sanitation warns of communicable diseases.

Israel's proposed 360km security fence, biting deep into the West Bank to protect 200,000 Jewish squatters, threatens the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian villages by cutting them off from their land. Even Mr Bush calls it a problem. The US might make a token cut in its US\$ 9 billion loan guarantee to bail out Israel's recession-hit economy.

Mr Arafat did not launch the intifada (uprising) that forced Israel to the negotiating table. Palestinian radicals and intellectuals like the late Professor Edward Said accuse him of selling out. He cannot tackle the terrorists without risking civil war. Were Mr Arafat to be murdered, as Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert hinted may happen, it would make him a martyr. Others, less prepared to compromise, would take his place. The Palestinians would give short shrift to a Bantustan-type puppet chieftain imposed by the US and Israel.

Mr Arafat is the best bet for a lasting solution. Instead of sidelining him, the US should strengthen his hand so that he can show his people that he has won a just peace. That means withdrawal from the territories - the Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, east Jerusalem and the West Bank - that Israel seized in 1967. Whether or not a Palestine is ever conceded sovereignty, there will be no peace in the Middle East as long as Israel is allowed to enjoy the fruits of conquest.

Sunanda Kisor Datta-Ray is a visiting senior research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. The views expressed in this article are those of the author

Load-Date: September 30, 2003

End of Document

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s. But often it seems that radical ideology is not the end in itself, but an outlet for a violent predisposition that changes aimless, identity-less losers into 'agents of destiny,' Don Butler reports.

Ottawa Citizen

April 3, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: Saturday Observer; Pg. B1; Feature

Length: 2451 words

Byline: Don Butler

Body

It may take months before the courts determine whether Mohammad Momin Khawaja, the Ottawa software developer charged this week with terrorist activity, has done anything wrong. But guilty or innocent, the 24-year-old fits the terrorist profile in one irreducible respect: he is a young male.

Whether they act in the name of al-Qaeda, the Irish Republican Army or Peru's Sendero Luminoso, those who embrace terrorism are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of men in their teens or 20s.

Some have only known poverty and strife, like the suicide bombers recruited from refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza by **Hamas** and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, and thus may feel they have nothing to lose. But others are educated and live seemingly comfortable lives in Europe or North America, making their embrace of terrorism unfathomable to Western minds.

The Ottawa Citizen

Case in point: 22-year-old Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, who pleaded guilty in U.S. court earlier this year to conspiring to kill Americans and attack American property, grew up in St. Catharines, Ont.

Five of the so-called "Lackawanna Six," a group of young men of Yemeni descent who have pleaded guilty to supporting al-Qaeda, were born and raised in the United States.

The eight men arrested in Britain this week for plotting a huge bomb attack there were all British-born citizens of Pakistani descent. Most are between 17 and 22.

Obviously, there is more going on here than just the rage of the oppressed and dispossessed. What induces young males to pick up rocket-launchers and plant bombs in the name of a cause?

There are many answers to that question, ranging from demographics and the allure of tribalism to the influence of male authority figures and the often-turbulent psychology of males as they come of age.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

Certainly, part of the explanation lies in misplaced idealism -- the embrace of a cause that resonates with their still-developing sense of what is just and unjust.

But youthful idealism crosses gender lines -- young women feel just as passionately about perceived injustice. Why aren't they on the terror frontlines, shoulder-to-shoulder with their male comrades?

In fact, occasionally they are. Left-wing terror organizations in the 1970s -- such as the Baader-Meinhof group, the Red Brigades and Action Direct -- all had prominent female members. And women have become the delivery vehicles of choice for Tamil Tiger suicide bombs.

Mostly, though, terrorism is a man's game, with the prime demographic being males between 18 and 24, says terrorism expert Brian Jenkins, a senior advisor to the president of the Rand Corporation, a non-profit U.S. policy think-tank.

Older males are involved in planning or financing terror, notes University of Pennsylvania professor Stephen Gale, but they are no longer limber -- or perhaps reckless -- enough to undertake front-line operations. Those are assigned to young men eager to prove their commitment and dedication.

This should come as no great surprise, Mr. Jenkins says. "Young males are young males," he observes, his redundancy suggesting the point is self-evident. Or as Mr. Gale, who specializes in terrorism issues, puts it: "Your hormones are raging, your passions are crying out to be fulfilled."

"Young males are inherently warriors," argues Mr. Jenkins. "Not to make invidious comparisons, but whether we're talking about jihadists, the military or street gangs, it's all roughly the same age group."

Wesley Wark, a University of Toronto history professor and terrorism specialist, notes that most adolescent males go through a phase where rebellion and even fantasies of violence have appeal.

"It shouldn't surprise us that there might be a connection between the universal phenomenon of teenage rebelliousness and a sudden receptivity to the very violent and very simplified and conspiratorial message of jihad," he says.

Anthropologist Lionel Tiger, writing in The Guardian a month after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S., said figuring out what to do with young males is one of the most difficult tasks for any social system.

"These are inevitably the most impressionable, energetic, socially exigent and politically inept members of any group. The terrorism of (Osama) bin Laden harnesses the chaos of young men, uniting the energies of political ardour and sex in a turbulent fuel."

Being accepted into a terrorist organization confers a type of prestige, in the same way that membership in a street gang does for some youths. And in the case of al-Qaeda, Mr. Tiger writes, "it confers unquestionable, if radical, Islamic credentials, and associates them with the tides of history sketched for them in their training."

Most terrorists are not lonely psychopaths, he says, "but demented special forces wearing anonymity like a uniform. For many, nothing in the rest of their often-sorry existences can compare with the authoritative drama of what they hope to do."

The danger of the enterprise actually enhances their excitement, Mr. Tiger says, and "feeds their sense of worthwhile enterprise. Their comrades provide them an emotional haven and a clear focus for the turbulent energies at the intersection of youth and despair."

John Thompson, of the Toronto-based MacKenzie Institute, says many young men are drawn to terrorism because they want to change their self-identity and self-image.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

"Often you want to rework yourself into something more exciting than you actually are. You want to be the big hero of history, the agent of destiny."

The allure of this sort of reinvention is powerful, he says, especially to a young man. And terrorism offers a sort of criminal shortcut to attaining it.

Young males are in the process of defining themselves, Mr. Jenkins notes. "They are often seeking affiliations that will provide them with status, self-esteem and the opportunity to participate in adventure."

"For many, belonging to the terrorist group may be the first time they truly belonged, the first time they felt truly significant, the first time they felt that what they did counted," Jerrold Post, an American professor of psychiatry, political psychology and international affairs, writes in the 1990 book *Origins of Terror*.

For some young men -- particularly those who feel inadequate or alienated -- membership in a terrorist group connects them with like-minded people who reassure them that others, not themselves, are to blame for their problems.

In *White Boys to Terrorist Men*, Randy Blazak of Portland State University found this dynamic operating within Nazi skinhead groups.

"Nazi skinheads can serve as 'big brothers' or 'friends in need' to frustrated boys whose fathers have been laid off or who have been harassed by minority peers," he writes.

"Like the members of cults, skinheads provide a sympathetic ear, a critical explanation of the problem, and an action program that appears to (somewhat) resolve the problem."

The violent solution these groups offer will appeal to anomic young men because of its simplistic reality, writes Mr. Blazak.

"Wars are won. Evil conspirators are banished. The mythical past of unchallenged, straight, white male hegemony is restored. For a generation weaned on video games and violent media, the world of Aryan terrorists can be intoxicating."

This is not so very different from the vision that Islamist terrorist groups conjure up for their young male adherents.

"One thing we don't understand about the jihadist message," says Mr. Wark, "is just how familiar, in a way, it is as a conspiracy theory -- and, therefore, how inevitably attractive it is to certain kinds of

people who are looking for very simplified messages of what's wrong with the world."

The need of insecure young men to prove their masculinity plays into this as well. Mohammed Atta, the leader of the Sept. 11 terrorists, grew up a shy and polite mama's boy. "He was so gentle," his father has been quoted as saying, "I used to tell him, 'Toughen up, boy!'"

Terrorist groups emphasize manly virtues, such as courage, prowess and sacrifice, that resonate with young men unsure of their own masculinity.

"It's the antidote to humiliation, to a lack of self-esteem," says Brian Jenkins. "That has great, great power."

What unites terrorists like Mohammed Atta, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and

fanatics like Adolf Hitler, says Michael Kimmel, a sociology professor at the State University of New York, is their sense of masculine entitlement and thwarted ambitions.

"They accepted cultural definitions of masculinity, and needed someone to blame when they felt that they failed to measure up," Mr. Kimmel argues in a 2002 article on gender, class and terrorism in *The Chronicle Review*.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

In the article, he looks at the characteristics of American white supremacists -- mostly young, lower-middle-class men educated through high school and often beyond. Buffeted by global political and economic forces, they face a spiral of downward mobility and economic uncertainty.

Their villains are women, immigrants, minorities, homosexuals -- and above all, the "international Jewish conspiracy," Mr. Kimmel writes.

"American white supremacists thus offer American men the restoration of their masculinity -- a manhood in which individual white men control the fruits of their own labour and are not subject to emasculation by Jewish-owned finance capital or a black and feminist-controlled welfare state."

If the state and the economy emasculate them, he adds, "then only 'real' men can rescue America from a feminized, multicultural and androgynous melting pot.

"Sound familiar?" Mr. Kimmel asks. "For the most part, the terrorists of Sept. 11 come from the same class, and recite the same complaints, as American white supremacists."

Psychological motives like these have more to do with why young men turn to terrorism than ideological beliefs, argues John Thompson.

"It's never the ideology," he says. "What you have is people often shopping for an ideology. It argues that there's already a predisposition to behave this way."

Some of these same factors are at play when young Muslim men in the West turn to terrorism. Thwarted in their career ambitions by

latent discrimination and sickened by the excesses of their adopted societies, they soak up the fundamentalist message preached by Islam's most militant adherents as an antidote to their frustration and disillusionment.

"As they tried to enter Western society," says Stephen Gale, "they found it was no better and in many ways much worse, because they were never truly accepted anyway. They were always carrying the baggage of culture.

"They said, 'Look, as long as I'm carrying the baggage, I might as well use its strength.' "

Some young Western Muslims, such as Mr. Jabarah and the Canadian sons of Ahmed Said Khadr, an al-Qaeda operative killed by Pakistani troops last year, fell under the influence of a patriarch with jihadist views.

"This would fit another pattern among more traditional Muslim families of very strong patriarchy," says Mr. Wark. "Perhaps there is something to the experience of an immigrant family with a very strong family figure, with very strong authority never being questioned, and that father figure dispensing a very activist political ideology."

In Britain, where a national debate is raging over why some young British Muslims are attracted to terrorism, that authority figure may be a radical cleric preaching jihad to receptive and impressionable young men.

Even Western popular culture, denounced by jihadists as fatally corrupt, is being used to win youthful adherents in Britain.

A rap video called Dirty Kuffar -- Arabic for non-believer -- has been posted on a British website run by Islamic extremist Mohammed al-Massari.

Full of violent images, its lyrics denounce Tony Blair and George W. Bush as "dirty Kuffars," praise Hamas and Hezbollah, and include this couplet: "OBL (bin Laden) pulled me like a shiny star/Like the way we destroyed them two towers ha-ha."

According to news reports, the video has been a hot seller to young men in British mosques and is in heavy demand overseas.

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

This hints at another powerful force that attracts terrorist recruits -- tribalism. Terrorism, says Mr. Gale, "is always tribal in a very broad sense." For insecure young males, the allure of belonging to a tribe, particularly one with a warrior tradition, is overwhelming.

Patrick Dixon, one of Europe's leading futurists, describes tribalism as the most powerful force on Earth, one that feeds terrorism's voracious appetite for acolytes.

"Tribalism is intimately connected with terrorism," he writes on his website, Globalchange.com. "When one mass of people identify only with themselves and their values, and see others as lesser beings, then the ground is set for permanent conflict."

In the case of al-Qaeda, says Mr. Gale, Osama bin Laden's great achievement has been to convince regional jihadist groups to work together. "He was able to broaden the tribe to cover all of Islam."

This is a particularly ominous development, if you believe demographic research that sees a link between violence and societies with large populations of young males.

Christian Mesquida and Neil Wiener, two research psychologists at York University, have found that young males are more likely to engage in violent behaviour when the ratio of men between 15 and 29 rises to a high level -- between 70 and 80 young men for every 100 men older than 30.

At such levels, too many young men are seeking mates, jobs and recognition, creating unrest and instability, particularly in nations with weak or corrupt governments.

Based on changing male age demographics, the authors predicted in 1997 that Northern Ireland would become more peaceful -- a prediction that has since been borne out.

But applying the same analysis to Islamic nations provides no such comfort. According to an article by Donald Collins on the Pop!ulation Coalition website, in 2001 there were 110 young men for every 100 men over 30 in Iraq. In Syria, the ratio was 106, and it was 90 in Iran and Afghanistan.

(By contrast, in Canada there are only about 28 young men for every 100 over 30, perhaps accounting for our relative placidity.)

And the developing world's demographic profile won't improve any time soon, warns Paul Ehrlich, president of the Stanford Center for Conservation Biology.

"Huge numbers of boys now under 15, many in Muslim nations acquiring a hatred for the United States, will soon enter their high-crime years," he wrote in the Stanford Report in 2002.

All of which suggests that the world will have to deal with murderous young men bent on terror for the foreseeable future.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis, The Associated Press; Palestinian youth Hussam Abdo stares at journalists as Israeli soldiers present him to the media at a West Bank checkpoint in March. Israel says Hussam approached the crowded checkpoint wearing a bomb vest in an effort to kill soldiers.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, above, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, above, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.;

What turns young men into terrorists?: From al-Qaeda to the IRA to skinheads and street-gang members -- those who embrace terrorism and violence are overwhelmin....

Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, above, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta.; Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri, above, and Mohamed Atta.; Colour Photo: The hijackers from American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11, 2001. Satam M. A. Al Suqami, Abdulaziz Alomari, Waleed M. Alshehri, Wail M. Alshehri and Mohamed Atta, above.; Photo: Jim Argo, The Daily Oklahoman; The Associated Press; The 1995 Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people, including 19 children. Psychologists say it is not surprising young men are the most susceptible to extreme acts of violence.; Photo: Jim Bourg, Reuters; Experts suggest Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh was motivated by feelings of not measuring up to society's standards of masculinity.; Photo: Mohammed al-Ghoul, a 22-year-old member of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, was identified as the bomber in a 2002 attack on a Jerusalem city bus in which 19 passengers were killed and at least 55 wounded.

Load-Date: April 3, 2004

End of Document

Israel agrees to free hundreds of prisoners

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 7, 2003 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A3; News

Length: 740 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand and agreed Sunday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds.

But Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the move will be limited and depend on the Palestinians cracking down on militant groups that have carried out attacks.

It was not clear how many prisoners would be released, but earlier Sunday Sharon met Avi Dichter, the head of the Shin Bet security service, who presented him with a list of several hundred prisoners slated for release. Israel's Channel 2 TV said 400 would be released.

Associated Press

Meanwhile, Palestinian security officials said early Monday that police arrested a woman who was planning a suicide bombing attack against Israelis. They said she was in her 20s and was arrested after parents reported to police that she had left behind a note. They said she was questioned and released into her parents' custody, and the investigation would continue later Monday. They gave no further details.

The prisoner release is aimed at strengthening Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has pledged to support the internationally-backed "road map" peace plan.

A top Palestinian official, however, expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, immediately condemned it.

The United States and Israel are strongly backing Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasser Arafat and as a Palestinian leader they feel can crack down against radical groups and help bring peace.

"All professional assessments which were submitted to Prime Minister Sharon indicated that releasing prisoners is likely to significantly contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, with whom we are negotiating," Israel's cabinet said in a statement. "A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest."

The cabinet decision Sunday calls for the release of prisoners excluding members of militant groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad who oppose peace with Israel and Palestinians who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis.

In Israel, the arrest of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the vote in the cabinet was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10 to 10 and only confirmed the measure by a 13-9 vote after the

Israel agrees to free hundreds of prisoners

cabinet agreed to set up a committee that would monitor Palestinian compliance with the road map, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said.

"The release would be carried out in tightly supervised, small and measured doses in relation to proven Palestinian actions in the security sphere; in other words, if terror continues and there is no genuine Palestinian effort to fight and eliminate it, the releases will stop," Sharon said after the cabinet meeting.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said that releases will not begin immediately.

"I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," Mofaz said at a press conference.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed that the release was so limited.

"We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Dahlan said after meeting Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released will be people who have been detained without trial and have only a few months to serve, people under the age of 18 or over 60 or women, an Israeli official said.

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said the Palestinian Authority will "continue working for the release of all prisoners regardless of their political affiliations."

In Gaza City, some 1,200 people marched through the streets Sunday, carrying pictures of family members in Israeli jails and chanting "No peace without the release of all detainees."

Nafez Azzam, a spokesman for Islamic Jihad, warned that all prisoners must be freed for the week-old ceasefire to hold.

"Holding the Palestinian detainees behind bars will leave no hope for the continuation of any peace efforts," Azzam said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, issued a statement late Sunday demanding that all prisoners be freed and threatening that otherwise, "We are ready to carry out the most powerful and dangerous military attacks inside Israel and in the settlements."

Graphic

Photo: Efrem Lukatsky, Associated Press; A Palestinian girl holds an Islamic Jihad flag during a march in Gaza city, Sunday. About 1,200 people took to the streets calling for the release of their relatives from Israeli jails.

Load-Date: July 7, 2003

Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners to be set free

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 7, 2003 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 779 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand and agreed Sunday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the move will be limited and conditional on the Palestinians cracking down on militant groups that have carried out attacks.

It was not clear how many prisoners would be released, but earlier Sunday Sharon met Avi Dichter, the head of the Shin Bet security service, who presented him with a list of several hundred prisoners slated for release. Israel's Channel 2 TV said 400 would be released.

Meanwhile, Palestinian security officials said early Monday that police arrested a woman who was planning a suicide bombing attack against Israelis. They said she was in her 20s and was arrested after parents reported to police that she had left behind a note. They said she was questioned and released into her parents' custody, and the investigation would continue later Monday. They gave no further details.

Associated Press

The prisoner release is aimed at strengthening Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has pledged to back the internationally-backed "road map" peace plan.

A top Palestinian official, however, expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, immediately condemned it.

The United States and Israel are strongly backing Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasser Arafat and as a Palestinian leader they feel can crack down against radical groups and help bring peace.

"All professional assessments which were submitted to Prime Minister Sharon indicated that releasing prisoners is likely to significantly contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, with whom we are negotiating," Israel's cabinet said in a statement. "A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest."

The cabinet decision Sunday calls for the release of prisoners excluding members of militant groups like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel and Palestinians who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis.

In Israel, the arrest of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the vote in the cabinet was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10 to 10 and only confirmed the measure by a 13-9 vote after the cabinet agreed to set up a committee that would monitor Palestinian compliance with the road map, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said.

Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners to be set free

"The release would be carried out in tightly supervised, small and measured doses in relation to proven Palestinian actions in the security sphere; in other words, if terror continues and there is no genuine Palestinian effort to fight and eliminate it, the releases will stop," Sharon said after the cabinet meeting.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said that releases will not begin immediately.

"I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," Mofaz said at a press conference.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed that the release was so limited.

"We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Dahlan said after meeting Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released will be people who have been detained without trial and have only a few months to serve, people under the age of 18 or over 60 or women, an Israeli official said.

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said the Palestinian Authority will "continue working for the release of all prisoners regardless of their political affiliations."

In Gaza City, some 1,200 people marched through the streets Sunday, carrying pictures of family members in Israeli jails and chanting "No peace without the release of all detainees."

Nafez Azzam, a spokesperson for Islamic Jihad, warned that all prisoners must be freed for the week-old ceasefire to hold.

"Holding the Palestinian detainees behind bars will leave no hope for the continuation of any peace efforts," Azzam said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, issued a statement late Sunday demanding that all prisoners be freed and threatening that otherwise, "We are ready to carry out the most powerful and dangerous military attacks inside Israel and in the settlements."

Dahlan and Mofaz also discussed Israeli plans to withdraw from additional Palestinian cities.

Israel last week withdrew its forces from Bethlehem and parts of Gaza and has promised further pullbacks, in line with the road map.

Load-Date: July 7, 2003

**Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem;
At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19,
had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 23, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 792 words

Byline: Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A frequently attacked bus stop and popular hitchhiking post on Jerusalem's northern edge was the target of another deadly suicide attack yesterday when a Palestinian woman detonated a bomb she carried in a backpack near a group of pedestrians awaiting rides.

The afternoon explosion at French Hill killed two border police officers, who had intercepted the bomber at the stop, and wounded at least 17 people, two of them critically, police said.

Jerusalem has been on a heightened state of alert for the last two days, and that quick action by the officers prevented what would have been a larger tragedy had the woman been permitted to board a bus.

"The operation of border police officers today in Jerusalem . . . prevented a very big attack," Jerusalem Police Chief Ilan Franco said at the scene.

Witnesses said the 19-year-old woman, draped in a Muslim head scarf, was stopped by the officers when she approached the small sheet-metal shack where they check identity papers - about 50 yards from the junction's main bus shelter.

Words were exchanged. The officers refused to let her pass. "She threw her head back. There was an explosion. Her body burst into flames," one witness, Debbie Segal, told Israeli Army Radio.

"It was a grave attack, something which obliges us to continue fighting terrorism as we have in the past," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Israel's Channel 1 TV.

The blast came three weeks after two ***Hamas*** suicide bombers killed 16 people on two buses in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba in what the group said was revenge for Israel's killing of its leaders in Gaza.

Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.

Yesterday's attack was the first suicide bombing in Jerusalem since Feb. 22, when a bomber killed eight people on a city bus.

The French Hill junction, where three highways come together near a tall stone retaining wall, has been the scene of four suicide bombings, multiple shootings, sporadic stabbings, and at least one incident in which a Palestinian motorist ran down Israeli pedestrians, police spokesman Gil Kleiman said.

Yesterday's explosion occurred just feet from two plaques embedded in the wall commemorating victims of previous attacks since the start of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000.

Israel two years ago beefed up security at the site, after a bus bombing there that killed six and wounded 50. It installed fences, temporary barricades, and a military pillbox atop the wall. The checkpoint staffed by the border police was a more recent addition.

"It was put here to prevent such bombers from walking in among the passengers," Kleiman said. "We have a high success rate curtailing terror.

"Unfortunately, it's never 100 percent."

Palestinian sources identified the bomber as Zeinab Ali Issa Abu Salem, from a family of 10 children in the Askar refugee camp near Nablus.

Her father, Ali Abu Salem, 48, collapsed and his wife, Sahar, wailed at the news of their daughter's attack.

"Why? Why is this happening to us?" Sahar asked.

Israeli media said she was the eighth **female** suicide bomber to strike Israel in four years of seesawing violence.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, calling it vengeance for Israel's recent killing of several of its members in the West Bank. Israeli forces killed five Palestinian gunmen and an 11-year-old girl last week in a raid in the city of Nablus.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat denounced yesterday's violence. "We condemn this attack and any attack that targets civilians, whether Palestinians or Israelis," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Palestinian Authority to "take all necessary measures to put an end to terror and bring to justice the organizers of such heinous crimes."

Israeli sources identified the border officers as Mamoya Tahio, 20, of Rekhovot, in central Israel, and Menachem Komeni, 19, from Moshav Aminadav outside Jerusalem.

Standing amid the charred debris as city work crews swept up, Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupoliansky said the incident underscored Israel's urgent need to complete the security barrier it is building across the West Bank.

Sharon, meanwhile, dropped a plan to evacuate 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip simultaneously at the beginning of next year, reverting to an earlier formula - a staged pullout in the summer of 2005.

He said evacuation of the settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank would take about 12 weeks to complete. That fits into his original unilateral-disengagement plan, which includes a three-stage withdrawal.

In August, Sharon said he favored an accelerated schedule, emptying all the settlements simultaneously early next year.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign@phillynews.com.

Blast kills two officers in Jerusalem; At least 17 people were injured. The bomber, 19, had been intercepted as she tried to board a bus.

Load-Date: August 31, 2005

End of Document

News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JUNE 21, 2003 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2003 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 784 words

Body

In the Nation

Runaway train cars

wreck homes near L.A.

* A line of train cars broke loose yesterday in a switching yard and rolled 30 miles toward Los Angeles, picking up speed before derailing and hurling tons of lumber onto trackside homes in the suburb of Commerce. The wreck demolished two homes and damaged two others, and left a massive tangle of rail cars and lumber; rescue workers examined a dozen people but found only four minor injuries.

Court backs freezing

of Muslim charity's assets

* A federal appeals court yesterday upheld the government's decision to freeze the assets of a Texas-based Muslim charity accused of funding the militant Islamic group Hamas. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the Treasury Department had enough evidence to link the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development to terrorism when it shut down the organization in December 2001.

Ex-priest gets 30 years

for sexual battery in Fla.

* A former Roman Catholic priest in St. Petersburg, Fla., was sentenced yesterday to 30 years in prison after he admitted improper behavior with two boys nearly 20 years ago. Robert Schaeufele, 55, pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted sexual battery in a plea deal with Pinellas County prosecutors to avoid more serious charges.

Firefighters press on after blaze destroys 250 homes

* Firefighters yesterday moved through the charred streets of Summerhaven, Ariz., digging lines to protect what was left of the mountaintop resort a day after a wildfire swept through, destroying 250 homes. The fire, which grew

News in Brief

from an estimated 465 acres Thursday to about 3,200 acres early yesterday, could eventually burn tens of thousands of acres, fire officials said.

Embattled police chief resigns in Shreveport, La.

* Shreveport, La., Police Chief Jim Roberts resigned yesterday following two months of criticism over his handling of the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man by police officers. Black activists and ministers had been pushing for Roberts' resignation since he said officers acted properly when they shot and killed Marquise Hudspeth, who had left his car holding a cell phone in both hands as if it were a gun.

EPA standards on reducing arsenic in water upheld

* A federal appeals court in Washington yesterday upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's requirement that water agencies significantly reduce arsenic levels in drinking water to 10 parts per billion. The tougher standard, due to go into effect in 2006, was challenged by the state of Nebraska and the city of Alliance, Neb., which argued unsuccessfully that regulating drinking water was a state responsibility.

Fugitive cosmetics heir begins serving sentence

* Cosmetics heir and former fugitive Andrew Luster yesterday began serving a 124-year sentence in California he dodged for months by fleeing to Mexico after his conviction for drugging and raping three women.

In the World

Two U.N. observers

in Congo are abducted

* Two U.N. observers in Congo were missing after being taken from their office in the northeastern town of Beni by unidentified abductors, a U.N. spokesman said yesterday. The incident late Thursday followed the killing last month of two U.N. observers in Congo. The U.N. declined to reveal the nationalities of the missing observers.

Jailed Zimbabwe opposition leader released on bail

* Zimbabwe opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was released on bail yesterday after spending two weeks in jail on treason charges. Under the conditions of his release, Tsvangirai is barred from advocating the removal of President Robert Mugabe by what Judge Susan Mavangira termed "violent or other unlawful means." Tsvangirai, the head of the Movement for Democratic Change, was arrested June 6 after a week of antigovernment strikes.

Two set themselves ablaze at French embassy in U.K.

* Two men set themselves on fire outside the French Embassy in London yesterday, bringing to nine the number of people who have set themselves ablaze to protest France's crackdown on an Iranian opposition group. French police said they had detained 208 people for violating the country's new ban on protests by supporters of the Mujahedeen Khalq. All but 18 have been released.

Sri Lankan rebels dismiss call for peace negotiations

* Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday dismissed a call to resume talks to end two decades of war, saying the entire peace process had to be overhauled.

Latvia's president easily wins her second term

* Vaira Vike-Freiberga easily won a second term yesterday as president of Latvia, the pro-Western Baltic republic that she helped guide into NATO and the European Union. Latvia's parliament voted 88-6 to give the 65-year-old leader an additional four-year term.

Load-Date: August 1, 2005

End of Document

In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
October 14, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 779 words

Byline: The Gazette

Body

Allawi warns Al Fallujah

Background: Last year, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan was marked by a surge in attacks in Iraq. To prevent a repeat, U.S. troops have stepped up offensive operations in Sunni Muslim strongholds to the north and west of Baghdad.

New: Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warns residents of insurgent bastion Al Fallujah to hand over terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi or face military action. Details, Page A16

Israeli officer suspended

Background: The Israeli military has the Gaza Strip and the Hamas presence there under heavy pressure over the past month.

New: An Israeli platoon commander is suspended after he was accused of shooting a girl who was already dead, in violation of army rules.

Next: Tensions are likely to continue through Ramadan. Israel says it will restrict Muslim access to a Jerusalem shrine. Details, Page A20

Grenier blames girlfriend

Background: Eric Grenier is on trial for murder in the 2002 death of Sacha Vallee. Grenier is accused of fatally beating the 4-year-old boy while babysitting.

New: Grenier takes the stand in his own defence yesterday and claims his girlfriend, who had adopted the boy as an orphan from Russia, abused the child.

He also says he used only "reasonable" force with Sacha in the days leading up to his death. Details, Page A6

Ramadan a celebration

Background: Ramadan is the month in which Muslims fast during the day.

In Focus

New: A new local arts festival, Les Nuits montrealaises du Ramadan, kicks off

Sunday. The month-long event is meant to show that Ramadan is not just about privation, but also about celebration.

Next: A second cultural festival, Le Festival du Monde Arabe de Montreal, is to begin Oct. 29 and ends Nov. 14. It will feature entertainers, painters, photographers and chefs. Details, Page A7

Hydro rate hike pushed

Background: Pierre Fortin, an economist at Universite du Quebec a Montreal, has advised federal and Quebec governments of all stripes.

New: If Quebecers paid the same for electricity as Ontario residents, Fortin says, the province would have an additional \$4 billion a year for health, education and paying down the debt. Details, Page A15

Move over, Viagra

Background: Testosterone is produced naturally in a woman's ovaries and adrenal glands and has long been linked to female sexual function.

New: A North American clinical study shows a female testosterone patch significantly improved the sexual function in naturally menopausal women who were concerned about decreased desire. Details, Page A13

Marijuana bill high on Liberal agenda

Background: A bill to decriminalize possession of marijuana was first introduced by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler's predecessor, Martin Cauchon.

New: Cotler is poised to reintroduce the controversial legislation and will accompany it with a bill giving police the power to test drivers to determine whether they are driving while stoned.

Next: Both bills are expected in the next month. Details, Page A12

Business

Cargo unit eyes growth

Air Canada's cargo unit wants to cut its dependency on transporting goods in the bellies of passenger planes and will soon start leasing its own aircraft in a bid to double revenues within five years. Details, Page B1

Vegetable prices to rise

Shoppers might be faced with wide price swings for fresh vegetables this fall and winter because of losses and disruptions caused by the hurricanes that devastated Florida last month and then swept north to Georgia. Details, Page B1

Sports

Habs getting paycheques

Two Canadiens will be receiving paycheques despite the NHL lockout. Patrice Brisebois has joined a Swiss team, while Mike Komisarek will get his NHL pay while he rehabilitates an injury suffered last season. Details, Page C3

Als' captain: Don't panic

Alouettes defensive captain Timothy Strickland says it's not time to panic. The team is still among the CFL's elite despite two straight losses. Details, Page C5

Arts & Life

The Stranglers hot again

Thirty years after their founding in Guildford, England, and 14 years after the original lead singer, Hugh Cornwell, exited the band, The Stranglers are back with their hottest album since their heyday in the late 1970s punk era. Details, Page D1

Film festival roars in

Montreal's Festival du Nouveau Cinema kicks off with a bang tonight - the NFB short Ryan and the feature film Clean, starring Nick Nolte, Maggie Cheung and Beatrice Dalle. The event, the oldest film festival in Canada, will wrap up Oct. 24.

Details, Page D1

Follow-Ups

Locust plague spreading: Swarms of locusts that have devastated crops and pastures across west Africa might hit countries as far away as Pakistan, a UN agency said yesterday as it announced an intensified control campaign. Page A18

Graphic

Photo: (The Stranglers);

Photo: (Prime Minister Ayad Allawi)

Load-Date: October 14, 2004

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

New York Sun (Archive)

October 22, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 7

Length: 802 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Senator Kerry in 2002 welcomed the groundbreaking of a mosque in Boston that has come under recent scrutiny among some of the city's religious leaders for its ties to the radical strain of Saudi-exported Islam known as Wahhabism.

On November 7, 2002, the Massachusetts lawmaker drafted a statement "recognizing the outstanding work of the Islamic Society of Boston." The occasion was the start of construction of a new cultural center and mosque that was to build a partnership with the neighboring Roxbury community.

In recent months the center and the ISB have come under fire from citizens who say the group has espoused a moderate version of Islam for English-speaking audiences while the Arabic materials inside are anything but.

"I visited this mosque one time with my wife," a former Harvard University professor, Ahmed Mansour, told The New York Sun in an interview. "I found their Arabic materials full of hatred against America. I recognized they were Wahhabis."

Mr. Mansour is in a position to know. He taught at Harvard's law school through a program the university established for scholars persecuted in their home countries. In Egypt, Mr. Mansour crossed the country's Islamic fundamentalists, and he has devoted much of his academic work to the study of radical Islam.

Mr. Mansour is one of 20 Boston community leaders that formed Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, a group challenging the city's subsidy of the mosque: It sold the land to the ISB for far less than the market value. Its promotional materials say the mosque has received "most of the \$22 million" to finance the new mosque from donors in Saudi Arabia.

The disclosure could undermine the Democratic presidential nominee's argument that he takes a tougher line on the Saudis than the president. This summer, to cheers at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Mr. Kerry famously said, "I want an America that relies on its own ingenuity and innovation, not the Saudi royal family."

Another member of Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, Dennis Hale, a political science professor at Boston College, said he chalks up Mr. Kerry's early welcome of the mosque to poor staff work.

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

"I could blame Kerry for many things; I don't blame him for that. That's the kind of thing any senator would do, a welcome-to-the-neighborhood sort of thing," Mr. Hale said. "If he were not running for president and he was a senator, he would look into this more carefully and I would think the Saudi connection would bother him."

The controversy over the mosque in Boston flared in October 2003, when Mr. Kerry was still an underdog in the Democratic primaries and Governor Dean was surging. The Boston Herald published articles on October 28 and October 29, 2003, disclosing that the ISB's founders included Abdurrahman Alamoudi, who is now in a federal prison for accepting funds from Libya's Muammar Gadhafi and raising money for foreign terrorist organizations like Hamas.

Mr. Alamoudi was part of an Islamic delegation invited to the Bush White House in 2002 for an Iftar dinner.

He founded the ISB in 1982 but has not been associated with the organization for several years. The Herald also reported the close ties between the ISB and the Islamic Society of North America, which is being investigated by the Senate Finance Committee for raising money for terrorist organizations. Both groups have the same mailing address on their tax forms.

Boston's other newspaper, the Globe, wrote an October 15 editorial this year saying that the IBC had changed its ways and its new leadership had promised not to give a forum to radical speakers who espoused anti-Semitism. The mosque recently fired its treasurer, Walid Fitaihi, whose Arabic writings on Jews prompted an outcry from Boston's Jewish community. The leaders of the mosque this month sent a letter to Mayor Menino disavowing Mr. Fitaihi's views. Nonetheless, Mr. Fitaihi, who now resides in Saudi Arabia, remains a trustee of the mosque.

A spokesman for Boston's mayor, Seth Gitell, told the Sun, "These allegations of hate do not represent the community that Mayor Menino knows and the ISP's letter of last week reinforces that."

The former communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Hussein Ibish, said that in his dealings with the ISB he did not believe the mosque was a cover for radical ultra-conservative Islam. "The reading materials that may have come in for free from well-funded right wing foundations don't necessarily reflect the beliefs of the leadership. I met with two young women who represented the center, who seemed to be very moderate in their religious and political outlook," he said. Mr. Ibish added that Wahhabi organizations would never allow uncovered women to meet with outside officials.

The Kerry campaign did not respond to calls for comment.

Load-Date: November 17, 2004

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

New York Sun (Archive)

October 22, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 7

Length: 802 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Senator Kerry in 2002 welcomed the groundbreaking of a mosque in Boston that has come under recent scrutiny among some of the city's religious leaders for its ties to the radical strain of Saudi-exported Islam known as Wahhabism.

On November 7, 2002, the Massachusetts lawmaker drafted a statement "recognizing the outstanding work of the Islamic Society of Boston." The occasion was the start of construction of a new cultural center and mosque that was to build a partnership with the neighboring Roxbury community.

In recent months the center and the ISB have come under fire from citizens who say the group has espoused a moderate version of Islam for English-speaking audiences while the Arabic materials inside are anything but.

"I visited this mosque one time with my wife," a former Harvard University professor, Ahmed Mansour, told The New York Sun in an interview. "I found their Arabic materials full of hatred against America. I recognized they were Wahhabis."

Mr. Mansour is in a position to know. He taught at Harvard's law school through a program the university established for scholars persecuted in their home countries. In Egypt, Mr. Mansour crossed the country's Islamic fundamentalists, and he has devoted much of his academic work to the study of radical Islam.

Mr. Mansour is one of 20 Boston community leaders that formed Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, a group challenging the city's subsidy of the mosque: It sold the land to the ISB for far less than the market value. Its promotional materials say the mosque has received "most of the \$22 million" to finance the new mosque from donors in Saudi Arabia.

The disclosure could undermine the Democratic presidential nominee's argument that he takes a tougher line on the Saudis than the president. This summer, to cheers at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Mr. Kerry famously said, "I want an America that relies on its own ingenuity and innovation, not the Saudi royal family."

Another member of Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, Dennis Hale, a political science professor at Boston College, said he chalks up Mr. Kerry's early welcome of the mosque to poor staff work.

In 2002, Kerry Welcomed Boston Mosque Now Suspected of Ties to Wahhabism

"I could blame Kerry for many things; I don't blame him for that. That's the kind of thing any senator would do, a welcome-to-the-neighborhood sort of thing," Mr. Hale said. "If he were not running for president and he was a senator, he would look into this more carefully and I would think the Saudi connection would bother him."

The controversy over the mosque in Boston flared in October 2003, when Mr. Kerry was still an underdog in the Democratic primaries and Governor Dean was surging. The Boston Herald published articles on October 28 and October 29, 2003, disclosing that the ISB's founders included Abdurrahman Alamoudi, who is now in a federal prison for accepting funds from Libya's Muammar Gadhafi and raising money for foreign terrorist organizations like Hamas.

Mr. Alamoudi was part of an Islamic delegation invited to the Bush White House in 2002 for an Iftar dinner.

He founded the ISB in 1982 but has not been associated with the organization for several years. The Herald also reported the close ties between the ISB and the Islamic Society of North America, which is being investigated by the Senate Finance Committee for raising money for terrorist organizations. Both groups have the same mailing address on their tax forms.

Boston's other newspaper, the Globe, wrote an October 15 editorial this year saying that the IBC had changed its ways and its new leadership had promised not to give a forum to radical speakers who espoused anti-Semitism. The mosque recently fired its treasurer, Walid Fitaihi, whose Arabic writings on Jews prompted an outcry from Boston's Jewish community. The leaders of the mosque this month sent a letter to Mayor Menino disavowing Mr. Fitaihi's views. Nonetheless, Mr. Fitaihi, who now resides in Saudi Arabia, remains a trustee of the mosque.

A spokesman for Boston's mayor, Seth Gitell, told the Sun, "These allegations of hate do not represent the community that Mayor Menino knows and the ISP's letter of last week reinforces that."

The former communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Hussein Ibish, said that in his dealings with the ISB he did not believe the mosque was a cover for radical ultra-conservative Islam. "The reading materials that may have come in for free from well-funded right wing foundations don't necessarily reflect the beliefs of the leadership. I met with two young women who represented the center, who seemed to be very moderate in their religious and political outlook," he said. Mr. Ibish added that Wahhabi organizations would never allow uncovered women to meet with outside officials.

The Kerry campaign did not respond to calls for comment.

Load-Date: October 22, 2004

**Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance**

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

USA TODAY

March 31, 2004, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 1578 words

Byline: Ellen Hale

Dateline: QALQILYA, West Bank

Body

QALQILYA, West Bank -- For three months every year when her children return from college, Rasmiya Hannoun holds them hostage in their own home.

Fearful of Israeli soldiers patrolling the security wall that encircles the house, and just as scared they could be lured into a Palestinian terror group, she keeps them under virtual lock and key.

Son Fadi, 23, enrolled at Cairo University, spends so much time lifting weights he looks like his movie hero, Jean-Claude Van Damme. Hadi, 19, a student at nearby An-Najah National University in Nablus, plays endlessly on his computer. Daughter Shatha, 24, also at Cairo University, watches television. Cooped up, frustrated and bored, they can't wait to leave.

"Shatha says she would rather kill herself than come back here," says Hannoun, 55, a clinical psychologist who teaches at An-Najah. "You see what it is like to be a mother now?"

In a conflict where children are in constant peril of becoming accidental victims of violence or being sucked into dangerous activism, Palestinian mothers face obstacles and dilemmas few in the Western world can envision. Some, like Rasmiya Hannoun, go to radical lengths to protect their offspring.

Poverty, lack of education and unemployment mean many have little control over their children. Others anguish over the conflict between religious expectations and the basic instincts of motherhood. "I have to counsel so many mothers because they want to keep their children locked up, even away from school, for fear of bombing" attacks by Israeli forces, prominent Gaza psychiatrist Eyad al-Sarraj says. He also hears from those racked with guilt because they don't want to sacrifice their children to become martyrs in the pursuit of a Palestinian state.

In the 31/2 years of the intifada, or uprising, against Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, 426 Palestinian children and teens have been killed in the fighting, more than half of them under the age of 15, according to the Human Rights Monitoring Group, a Palestinian organization. An estimated 92 Israeli children under the age of 18 have been killed, the group says. More than 2,800 Palestinians and 870 Israelis have been killed since fighting erupted in September 2000.

Last Wednesday, Israeli defense forces announced they had stopped a 16-year-old boy from Nablus with an explosives-packed vest strapped to his body. A week earlier, they discovered an 11-year-old boy who apparently unwittingly tried to carry a bomb in a bag across a checkpoint.

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

The cases, Israeli officials contend, indicate an increased use of children and teenagers by Palestinian groups to carry out terror attacks, including suicide bombings -- and reflect the success of Israel's tough security measures.

Palestinians and Israelis, including Palestinian groups that carry out so-called martyrdom missions, condemned both incidents. But Palestinian leaders also questioned the claims, and suggested the boy with the vest was set up by Israelis to attract sympathy and deflect worldwide condemnation for Israel's recent assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

'We have no control'

Whatever the truth, the incidents and the widespread attention they received reinforce the sense that some Arab mothers hate Jews more than they love their children, a belief said to have been expressed decades ago by Golda Meir before she became Israel's prime minister.

Eugene Rogan, head of Middle East studies at Oxford University in England, says by emphasizing the role children and teenagers play in the conflict, the Israeli government tries to paint Palestinian mothers as "bad mothers."

"This image of the Palestinian family being different has to be revised -- it isn't true, and it doesn't get us anywhere," cautions Arie Shalev, head of the department of psychiatry at Hadassah University Hospital. In families he treats at the hospital's Mount Scopus facility in Jerusalem, "we don't see any differences: They love and care for their kids like any family."

Even so, Shalev points out, parenting is at best "very difficult" in conflict zones.

"It's almost impossible to be a good mother under the circumstances we live in. We have no control over anything," concedes Wasfiya Idris, 60, whose daughter, Wafa, the first female suicide bomber, blew herself up in Jerusalem in January 2002. One wall of Wasfiya's small home in the al-Amri refugee camp on the edge of the West Bank city of Ramallah is papered with a floor-to-ceiling poster of Wafa that praises her martyrdom mission. Three of Idris' grandchildren scabble about the crumbling house or are confined to a small yard. Unlike most families of suicide attackers, her home has not been demolished, probably because it so closely abuts other houses.

But to suggest she failed as a mother because her daughter became a suicide bomber does not mesh with Idris.

"If I had known Wafa's intentions, I would have hidden her under the bed," Idris says. "Whoever says a mother is happy when her child becomes a martyr is lying."

"My biggest fear is that my sons might get swept up within this," says Mervat Idris, 31, Wafa's sister-in-law, whose husband recently was picked up by the Israeli military for his alleged involvement with the militant Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, said to operate from the refugee camp.

Studies of Palestinian mothers and children suggest how difficult it is to safely raise children here. In a survey of 800 Gaza children ages 12 to 16 that Sarraj did last summer, 36% of boys and 17% of girls said that to die as a martyr "is the best thing in life." The finding is not surprising, he says. "Life here is dominated by this struggle."

"At the age of 12, children start to look for role models. In the States, you have celebrities and athletes," Sarraj says. "In our part of the world, it is the martyr."

Compounding the problem is the image children have of fathers, many of whom have been imprisoned or killed. Even those who are present often are seen as powerless in the face of Israeli military might, Sarraj says.

Children also are common witness to houses being demolished by the Israeli army to punish the families of militants and serve as a warning to anyone who wants to join the intifada.

Motherhood and martyrdom

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

Religious mothers have a particular conflict in child rearing; in Islam, life on Earth is considered a test for getting into heaven. Dying as a martyr ensures immediate ascent there. Sarraj recounts an incident last week involving a devout mother suffering immense guilt because her son kept telling her he wanted to die as a martyr. " 'I don't want him to die,' " Sarraj says the mother told him. " 'But at the same time, I'm a good Muslim.' " "

Experts discount claims that any Palestinian mother would wish her child to die as a martyr, even though the mothers of suicide bombers commonly are quoted as glorying in their child's death. Such comments are meant to provide a show of strength and assuage political and community pressure, mental health experts say.

"Families are families across the world, and they do their best to care for their children," Shalev says in a phone interview from New York. "When any child does something a parent would not support, the first response will always be to still endorse them, because you must believe in your children."

In an informal study Rasmiyah Hannoun did of 151 Palestinian mothers -- 78 whose children were killed in Palestinian-Israeli violence and 73 whose children were imprisoned -- she found that the mothers whose children died suffered profound sadness and depression. Many also developed physical problems such as digestive ailments that she says can be traced to their distress.

"They act happy because in the beginning everyone tells them their child will go to paradise," Hannoun says. "But the emotion is there inside like a fire."

For Hannoun, the task of protecting her children requires relentless vigilance. When Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, was killed last week, she was teaching at the university where her youngest son, Hadi, studies engineering. She tracked him down and refused to let him join other young men as they took to the streets in protest.

She is careful to point out, however, that she and her husband have the financial means to protect their children, including being able to buy Fadi body-building equipment and getting Hadi a computer to keep him entertained.

In al-Amri refugee camp in Ramallah, many mothers find themselves unable to control their children. Some as young as 10 must work to help support their families. In the streets, they can be drawn into political groups, starting off as scouts or couriers and gradually winding up involved in militant activities. It's not unlike youngsters living in poor neighborhoods in New York and other cities in the USA who get tempted by gangs and wind up using drugs, Shalev notes.

"Children here are lured into things because of the poverty," says Amina Salhiya, 75, whose five grandchildren live with her. "For a shekel, or a cigarette, these thugs hook them in."

Salhiya and her daughter Nirhaya, a widow, keep strict watch on the five youngsters. They impose curfews and give them pocket money so they don't find themselves swept up in gangs. But the poverty there is profound. Salhiya reaches into her apron pocket to show the restaurant's earnings that day: 6 shekels -- less than \$ 2.

"I am a mother," Salhiya says. "I sleep with my worries. I wake up with my worries. I worry all day long. I place nothing above my children."

Graphic

GRAPHIC, B/W, USA TODAY (MAP); PHOTO, B/W, David Silverman, Getty Images, for USA TODAY; PHOTO, B/W, Flash 90 via Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, David Silverman, Getty Images, for USA TODAY; Suicide bomber: Wasfiya Idris holds portraits of her daughter, Wafa, as her daughter-in-law, Mervat, says midday Muslim prayers at their home. <> I worry all day long": Amina Salhiya, right, with her daughter Nirhaya and granddaughter Fardous, in their restaurant in al-Amri refugee camp. <>Stopped: Youth in explosive vest is detained at Nablus checkpoint.

For Palestinian moms, some painful choices

Load-Date: March 31, 2004

End of Document

***Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance***

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis

Ottawa Citizen

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A7; David Warren

Length: 766 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

It is a fixed principle of human nature, true in all cultures at all times and places, that if you reward bad behaviour, you will get more of it. This is not rocket science, and yet in the name of "compassion" or from several lesser desiderata, the fixed principle of those who are weak in heart and mind, is to go right ahead. "Liberals" I call them, but the reader may call them anything she pleases.

They are the people who can always find a reason to reward bad behaviour -- invariably at the price of punishing the opposed good behaviour. This in turn leads to transvaluations of good and bad, demanding further cartloads of "nuance."

The usual, if rarely acknowledged, reason to reward bad behaviour, is to avoid immediate pain, or more precisely to trade it -- a smaller pain now, for a larger pain later. Cowardice has never been short of plausible arguments and, conversely, courage requires at least a moment of silence, for the "still small voice."

Why am I moralizing? Because we have to start somewhere in considering the latest challenge presented in Iraq which, if it is not dealt with effectively and memorably, will soon be a problem far outside Iraq.

The current issue is the kidnappings, which are quickly becoming standard procedure among the jihadis. It is now arranged in a standard format. A suitable person or small group is apprehended, a video is made of them begging for their lives, this is shown gleefully and internationally by the Arab TV network, Al-Jazeera -- the smiling media face of the jihad -- and then, depending on the whim of the kidnappers, the victims are either gorily murdered (for another video), or casually set free. Casually setting some captives free is part of the psychological game, intended to contribute to panic by enhancing the adversary's feeling of helplessness.

The jihadis are adopting kidnapping because it is working for them better than other methods. For instance, car bombings are proving, in Iraq at least, much less effective, now that they are taken for granted. They are dealt with more and more like any kind of car "accident" -- just a price you pay for having roads.

At the moment of writing, the jihadis have Paris in convulsions over two journalists they may behead -- Georges Malbrunot of Le Figaro, and Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale. This is an act which they have presented for western consumption as if it were a challenge to the recent French law banning Muslim women's headscarves (and other religious paraphernalia) from French public schoolyards -- a law which President Jacques Chirac could not now overturn except by extra-constitutional means.

Encouraging bad behaviour can only help the jihadis

At the same time, another cell has grabbed the attention of Kathmandu, by "executing" a dozen Nepalese contract workers. From the final video, a feed of which Al-Jazeera was happy to provide into Nepalese homes, the jihadis seem to have got bored after decapitating the first, and just shot the rest. They were then at pains, in an accompanying message, to show solidarity with Nepal's own Maoist terrorists, which should help answer the oft rhetorically asked question about whether terrorists could co-operate across the Sunni-Shia divide. (Outlaws and other outlaws have always found common interests: It is another one of those fixed rules. It's a snip when they have common enemies.)

President Chirac's response -- after the surprised popular outpouring, "Why us? We're as anti-American as you are!" -- has been to send his foreign minister on a whirlwind tour of Arab capitals to get help pleading for the captives' release. He found that he could call upon the good offices of Yasser Arafat, ***Hamas*** and Muqtada al-Sadr, in addition to more conventional diplomatic contacts, to make this pitch. We will see if it works.

It might, because the jihadis in question -- the same cell that beheaded Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni last week, and which from the quality of its captives obviously has its own good media connections (just a small hint to investigators) -- will have been able to show the whole French state bowing and scraping before it for mercy. This will in turn enhance their fellow jihadis' prestige across Europe.

And it might not: The jihadis may butcher their latest victims as they did the last. Either way, it would appear that the French have had another opportunity to join the "coalition of the willing" against the international jihad; but have again chosen to encourage it, and promote kidnapping, rather than take sides with the Americans.

Seven-day subscribers can read previous columns by David Warren at www.ottawacitizen.com.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets

The New York Times

August 6, 2004 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 758 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 5

Body

The Israeli military pulled back its forces in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday after a five-week operation intended to stop Palestinian rocket fire. Within hours of the retreat, Palestinians unleashed a new round of salvos.

During the incursion, the Israelis destroyed buildings and flattened orchards, which militants have used for cover. About 20 Palestinians have been killed since tanks and other armored vehicles entered the area in and around the town of Beit Hanun in late June.

Standing amid orange and lemon trees that were bulldozed, Immidhat Hamad, 70, said: "These trees are my life. This is what I've done all my life, and it was ruined within minutes."

Mr. Hamad's wife, who noted that her extended family included 15 people, said, "I don't know how we'll live." She added that she was not aware of any Palestinian factions using her orchards to fire rockets.

Despite the Israeli presence, **Hamas** and other Palestinian factions were still able to fire rockets periodically at the Israeli town of Sederot, a short distance beyond Gaza's perimeter fence.

While Israel pulled its troops out of Beit Hanun and other areas in Gaza, the forces maintained a presence just outside the town, according to Palestinian residents. The military described the move as a "redeployment" and said the operation to prevent the rocket fire was continuing. But shortly after the Israelis pulled back, Palestinians fired at least six rockets. All landed in fields, causing no damage or injuries.

The Palestinians have fired more than 300 Qassam rockets from Gaza in the past few years, including more than 40 in the past month, according to the Israeli military. The Israelis entered northern Gaza after a rocket attack on June 28 that killed two Israelis, including a 4-year-old boy.

Meanwhile, Israel is pursuing a plan to link Jerusalem and the largest settlement in the West Bank, Maale Adumim, the settlement's mayor, was quoted as saying Thursday. The government did not comment publicly.

But Benny Kashriel, the mayor of Maale Adumim, told the newspaper Maariv that government ministries were working to expand the settlement westward and effectively connect it to Jerusalem, about four miles away. Such a move would go against the Middle East peace plan, which calls for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity.

Israeli Pullback in Gaza Met With Palestinian Rockets

Maale Adumim is in a delicate position because it is so large and so close to Jerusalem. The Palestinians want a capital in east Jerusalem, but Arab neighborhoods in that part of the city are increasingly surrounded by Jewish settlements, Palestinians say. "This is a flagrant violation of the promises Israel has made to President Bush," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator. "This is a land grab, and if the Israelis carry out this program, there will be nothing left to negotiate."

Israeli trucks and bulldozers were at work on Thursday on a new road on the western side of Maale Adumim. The settlement, which has about 30,000 residents, already serves as a suburb of Jerusalem.

"Contiguity between Maale Adumim and Jerusalem is necessary," Yuval Steinitz, who heads the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Parliament, told Israeli radio.

Earlier this week, Israel's Defense Ministry confirmed a separate plan to build another 600 homes in Maale Adumim. The United States State Department responded by urging Israel to stick by its pledge to halt settlement expansion. On Thursday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the American envoy Elliott Abrams that Israel was not planning to connect Maale Adumim to Jerusalem, the Israeli media reported.

Also on Thursday, the Israeli military said it would open the border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt on Friday, a move that would permit an estimated 2,000 stranded Palestinians to return home. Israel has kept the crossing closed since July 18, saying it was concerned about a possible attack. Palestinians stranded at the terminal on the Egyptian side of the border include pregnant women and some who had gone for medical treatment in Egypt.

In another development, Israel will permit some Palestinian police officers in the West Bank to resume carrying weapons in public for the first time in more than two years, The Associated Press said, citing Israeli officials. Neither side announced an agreement, though Mr. Erekat, the Palestinian negotiator, said the two sides were trying to arrange a meeting for Friday.

"We can't be expected to take control of security if our police can't be on the streets with their weapons," Mr. Erekat said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian man sat atop the rubble of buildings demolished by the Israeli Army yesterday in the town of Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli military pulled back its forces from the region yesterday. (Photo by Mohammed Abed/Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)Map of Israel highlighting Sederot: Despite Israel's presence in Gaza, rockets were fired at Sederot.

Load-Date: August 6, 2004

COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

July 22, 2004 Thursday City Edition

Copyright 2004 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A-11

Length: 769 words

Body

Selected picks from the hothouse of recent quotations on items in the news...

Martha Stewart's lawyer Robert Morvillo, urging the court to give his client a lenient sentence: "She has brought a measure of beauty to our everyday world with defined color schemes, floral arrangements, and culinary delights. She has stood for the values of quality and making products as perfect as possible."

* * *

Liberal syndicated columnist Richard Cohen, on the Kerry campaign's decision to invite Ron Reagan, son of the late President, to address the Democratic National Convention next week: "Ron Reagan is going to speak [there] because his name is Ron Reagan. He is not a famous Democrat and he is not a well-known ethicist or medical researcher. He will be there just to stick it to the GOP and Bush and to suggest, as do the selfish when they would rather golf than attend a funeral, that they have the permission of the deceased. There's a term for this sort of thing: grave robbery."

* * *

Bill Cosby, in a second blast at certain elements within the African-American community: "You've got to stop beating up your women because you can't find a job - because you didn't get an education and now you're [earning] minimum wage... Dogs, water hoses that tear the bark off trees, Emmett Till - and you're going to tell me you're going to drop out of school? You're going to tell me you're going to steal from a store?"

* * *

Washington Post reporter Josh White, on two Army enlisteds charged in connection with detainee abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison: "In dozens of images obtained by The Post, [Pfc. Lynndie] England is captured in various stages of nudity and in explicit sexual poses with [Spec. Charles Graner]Graner, 35, has been charged with abuses and has been described in an Army investigative report as a ringleader in the scandal. He was involved in a romantic relationship with England, 21, and England's attorneys have said that their client is six months pregnant with his child."

* * *

The Post's Jackie Spinner, writing from Baghdad about Iraqi sentiments regarding proposals to bulldoze Abu Ghraib: "Ghassan Abbas rolled his mustard-yellow prayer beads through his fingers as he sat Tuesday afternoon on a cushioned stool outside his tobacco shop in the eastern part of the capital and asked a practical question of

COSBY, MCCAIN, HILLARY, MARTHA, FENCES, ABU GHRAIB, ETC.

President Bush, who in a televised speech Monday night proposed demolishing the Abu Ghraib prison. Why get rid of a perfectly good prison? 'Abu Ghraib is the biggest one and can keep many detainees,' Abbas said, shaking his head. 'How can they demolish it?'"

* * *

The Wall Street Journal, in an editorial: "The message [from a key Senate vote on a nominee to the federal bench] seems to be: Liberals will keep their private views private but conservatives cannot be trusted to do so. If Mr. Kerry's Catholic beliefs don't disqualify him from becoming President, and they shouldn't, then the same religious beliefs of conservative judicial nominees shouldn't disqualify them from service as federal judges."

* * *

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's finance minister and former prime minister, on the Israeli fence: "Despite what some have argued, fences have proven highly effective against terrorism. Of the hundreds of suicide bombings that have taken place in Israel, only one has originated from the Gaza area, where Hamas and Islamic Jihad are headquartered. Why? Because Gaza is surrounded by a security fence. Even though it is not complete, the West Bank security fence has already drastically reduced the number of suicide attacks."

* * *

Columnist Arnold Beichman: "Western society agrees to a common morality - core values - in that it accepts the validity of laws barring polygamy, men seducing young boys, marriage of children, etc. If the concept of marriage can be redefined to establish the validity of [homosexual] union, then why frown upon the antics of the North American Man Boy Love Association? The age of consent for girls in Canada is 14 years, so why not 13, 12 - whatever?"

* * *

Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton, addressing a three-day "Take Back America" conference in Washington featuring Howard Dean and sponsored by the progressive group, Campaign for America's Future: "Do you remember I once mentioned the vast right-wing conspiracy? Some doubted me."

* * *

Republican Senator John McCain, responding in an interview with AARP magazine to the question, "Are you becoming more liberal?": "I am a committed Republican and will remain so. I am a Republican of the Abraham Lincoln/Theodore Roosevelt garden variety, and I want my party to move back to those principles and practices."

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: July 23, 2004

Israelis compromise on Gaza

The Toronto Star
June 7, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 820 words

Byline: Ramit Plushnick-Masti, Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government yesterday approved in principle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but a last-minute compromise with cabinet hardliners diluted a historic decision and shrouded the fate of 21 Israeli settlements in Gaza in uncertainty.

The wording of the decision was vague enough to allow both Sharon and rebellious ministers from his Likud party to claim victory. It deferred a political crisis, but did not resolve the deep divisions within Sharon's centre-right coalition over the dismantling of settlements.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting, ministers were asked to approve a revised version of Sharon's U.S.-backed "disengagement plan," which calls for the gradual dismantling of all Gaza settlements and four in the West Bank by the end of 2005. A majority of Israelis back a withdrawal.

The plan endorsed yesterday authorizes the government to begin preparations for the dismantling of settlements.

But Likud hardliners attached a disclaimer, insisting the vote did not amount to approval for removing settlements.

However, Sharon said after the meeting that "disengagement has begun."

"The government decided today that by the end of 2005, Israel will leave Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank," Sharon told a large crowd of Jewish teens visiting Israel.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said Palestinians "welcome any Israeli withdrawal from any part of our Palestinian land ... if the withdrawal is total and comprehensive, which includes dismantling all the settlements."

Other Palestinian officials responded with skepticism.

"If approving this fragmented plan took the Israeli government this long, I wonder how much time it will take to implement it," said Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

An Israeli hardliner who voted against the plan said that despite the confusing formulations, the vote meant Gaza settlements would be dismantled.

Israelis compromise on Gaza

"No word laundry can bleach one of the blackest decisions ever taken by an Israeli government, which means expulsion of thousands of residents and the creation of a Hamas terror state," said Housing Minister Effie Eitam, leader of the National Religious Party.

A vote on the dismantling of settlements would only be held by March, giving settler patrons in the government time to try to sabotage a Gaza withdrawal.

It's not an unrealistic goal, since Sharon's government has been weakened by the withdrawal debate and there's talk of early elections by the fall.

Sharon, until now the champion of settlement expansion, has staked his credibility on the withdrawal plan, saying it will reduce friction with the Palestinians and allow Israel to keep large settlement blocs in the West Bank.

Sharon has forged ahead with the plan despite fierce opposition from many Likud politicians and two pro-settler coalition partners, the National Union and the National Religious party.

Sharon fired the National Union on Friday, removing the party's two ministers from the cabinet, to secure a one-vote majority for the Gaza plan.

In the end, a wording compromise gave him a 14-7 margin of victory.

The National Religious party was divided yesterday over whether to quit the coalition as well. If it does, Sharon would lose his majority in Israel's 120-member parliament, a further blow to the once popular leader.

However, he appears in no immediate danger of being toppled. Sixty-one legislators are required to bring down a government, a majority Sharon's opponents are unlikely to muster. The first test will come today, when parliament votes on several motions of no confidence.

Opposition to the withdrawal plan in Likud was led by three senior politicians - Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Education Minister Limor Livnat.

Over the weekend, Sharon's aides held marathon negotiating sessions to bring the three on board, even though Sharon had already secured a majority with the dismissal of the National Union ministers. Sharon courted the three to avoid triggering an immediate rebellion in Likud, whose rank-and-file had rejected the withdrawal plan in a referendum last month.

The cabinet said preparations could begin for the removal of Gaza settlements.

"After completing the preparations, the cabinet will reconvene to decide whether to evacuate settlements, how many and at what pace, based on the circumstances on the ground," the statement said.

Days of political wrangling watered down what could have been a dramatic decision by a hard-line Israeli government to withdraw from a large chunk of land Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War. Israeli troops withdrew from 60 per cent of Gaza in the mid-1990s as part of interim peace agreements with the Palestinians.

But during more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, Israeli troops repeatedly raided Palestinian-controlled areas.

Sharon's "disengagement plan" was his first serious diplomatic initiative since he took office in 2001.

Graphic

Israelis compromise on Gaza

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS ap Members of the Israeli right-wing Women in Green group demonstrate outside Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office in Jerusalem yesterday. They oppose his Gaza withdrawal plan. A last-minute compromise with Likud hardliners diluted Sharon's original proposal.

Load-Date: June 7, 2004

End of Document

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

Ottawa Citizen

May 18, 2004 Tuesday EARLY Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A10; News

Length: 750 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Israeli bulldozers began knocking down structures at the edge of a Palestinian refugee camp early today, minutes after residents said a helicopter fired three missiles that killed three Palestinians and wounded six others.

Residents said the huge, armoured bulldozers moved to the edge of the Rafah camp near the border with Egypt and began demolishing structures in what appeared to be the beginning of a large-scale Israeli operation aimed at widening a border buffer zone.

The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically.

Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Associated Press

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces.

Israel Radio reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Yesterday, residents were fleeing the camp, expecting the Israeli operation after Palestinians blew up an armoured vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

Frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighbouring town, also named Rafah. The UN Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled firewood onto a horse cart.

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah, out of a population of 90,000, have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of about 250 metres, almost double its current size in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now.

"We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable.

Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

Yesterday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Mr. Shaath told Ms. Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives. "She said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Mr. Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation. "We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

Palestinian legislator Mohammed Hijazi said hundreds of families have left the camp since the exodus began Sunday; officials put the number of evacuees at more than 2,000. The UN relief agency said Israel has demolished or damaged nearly 2,000 houses in Rafah since 2000.

Also yesterday, the political leader of the terrorist group **Hamas** rejected the Palestinian Authority's proposals for a ceasefire, saying his people were suffering a "war of annihilation" by Israel.

"It is not reasonable that there is a talk about a ceasefire in the shadow of a sweeping aggression," Khaled Mashaal said.

Mr. Shaath had said Sunday after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell that Palestinians are ready for a ceasefire with Israel as a first step toward reviving the stalled U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Graphic

Photo: Kevin Frayer, The Associated Press; A Palestinian man stands with some of his belongings as a **female** family member throws a mattress out a window as they prepare to leave their home in an area marked for possible demolition by the Israeli army in the Rafah refugee camp.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Three killed by missiles as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

End of Document

Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 3, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: Sports; Pg. C6

Length: 816 words

Body

In a year in which Israelis have had little to cheer about, they finally have something to celebrate: their sports teams are coming home.

As Paul Carbray briefly mentioned in these pages last week, the European soccer federation recently announced it was lifting its two-year security ban on the playing of international games in Israel. The first match of the new era takes place Saturday, when the Israeli national women's team plays Estonia in Tel Aviv.

Now that its soccer teams can finally stop roaming the globe, Israeli officials are hopeful that other international sports officials who had taken a similar stand - with handball, say, or volleyball - will also allow their athletes to compete in Israeli-hosted competitions.

The Gazette

In March, for example, a basketball team from Spain pulled out of a game in Israel in the Euroleague, citing security fears in the wake of the assassination of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin.

There are far worse problems in Israel than the obstacles facing its sports squads. And the teams of Israel hardly roamed through Europe in search of temporary homes as long as their biblical forebears wandered through the desert. Still it was an imposition and a psychological blow when European soccer authorities ruled - in the wake of a March 2002 terrorist bombing at a restaurant in Tel Aviv - that matches with foreign teams were too unsafe to be held in Israel.

Israel, after all, is as sports-crazy as most of the rest of the world. How sports mad? A Likud party referendum on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial plan to withdraw from Gaza had to be postponed from Thursday to yesterday to avoid a conflict with the televising of a home basketball game in the Euroleague semifinals involving Maccabi Tel Aviv. Party leaders feared the game would keep thousands away from the polls, possibly affecting the outcome.

The ban also hurt in other ways. Israel, like other nations, uses athletics to further international ties. Deprived of the considerable advantage home field usually provides, the performance of Israeli teams suffered greatly. Most important, many Israeli citizens and public officials felt persecuted, arguing that it was wrong to penalize their nation for the terrorism of others.

"I'm delighted that terror has not been rewarded further," said Israeli national soccer team coach Avraham Grant when the news of the lifting of the ban was announced in late April. It was the conclusion to an unfortunate chapter in an Israeli sporting history which has had far more lows than highs. Eleven of its athletes and officials were killed in a terrorist incident at the 1972 Munich Olympic games.

Israeli soccer teams are finally coming home to play: European federation lifts its two-year ban imposed because of security concerns

Its national soccer teams used to play in the Asian region - like every other nation in the Middle East - but had to move to Europe because so many Arab nations refused to play them.

Even in Europe, things have hardly gone swimmingly. Israeli teams are frequently the target of threats and protests, as well as outright anti-Semitism. In 2002, for example, when an Israeli club team went to Vienna to play an Austrian team, they were serenaded with chants about concentration camps.

In its enforced travels throughout Europe, Israel's soccer teams were forced to adopt some odd places to call home. (To add insult to injury, the Israelis had to pick up the often considerable security costs as well.) The Israelis actually wanted to play in far-away Georgia, which still has a sizable Jewish population and offered to pay for security itself. Those plans were rejected, however. Thus, during the ban, Israel played "home games" in, among other places, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, and that hotbed of Israeli sympathy, Turkey. Then, of course, when Istanbul became the target of terrorism last year, Israel was forced to move its matches out of there too.

Empty stadiums were par for the course: in Palermo, security forces almost outnumbered fans. When one Israeli soccer team played another "home game" in Rotterdam, Holland, all of 350 fans turned up.

The irony is that the ban was instituted, in part, because Israeli teams were cleaning up in international matches at home because so many opposing players were refusing to make the trip - out of either real or exaggerated fears. Hapoel Tel Aviv, for example, upset Chelsea right before the ban was instituted when several key Chelsea players opted out of the trip on questionable grounds. For example, according to published reports, Marcel Desailly told journalists a dental infection had spread to his Achilles tendon.

Are things safer in Israel than before? Probably not. But in a world where the threat of terrorism now seems to be almost everywhere, Israel had argued that things were as safe there as anywhere else - if not safer.

After two years and countless terrorist tragedies elsewhere, officials have finally had to concede the Israelis had a point.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004

Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

April 23, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Western Morning News

Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 13

Length: 821 words

Body

Showering tons of lethal hardware from a great height on to densely populated civilian "targets" and calling it precision bombing, is not the answer to bringing peace and harmony to the Middle East. Granted, armchair pontification is all very well, but what does it solve? Very little.

What is needed are constructive ideas and advice. How about this for starters? As a matter of urgency, invoke United Nations jurisdiction to quell this anarchic and murderous aftermath resulting from the gung-ho adventure in Iraq. It beggars belief that such an essential body has been treated in an offhand and cavalier fashion by both the President of the USA and our own Prime Minister.

I feel that the UN should be allowed to take over at the time the misconceived and illegal war was declared over.

With our great wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill's famous saying, "More jaw-jaw, less war-war" in mind, why not urge the UN to invite the Muslim brotherhood to take a chair on the Security Council and have its representative put the Arab world's case for peace? At least we would be jawing together and that is surely a step in the right direction.

Sending more bombers and troops to Iraq can only exacerbate an already overheating, and extremely dangerous, situation.

I see and hear the word "implode" creeping into media reporting on tragic Iraq.

Having spent some 30 years travelling widely in Arabia, I judge myself something of an Arabist and have become increasingly concerned about the position exploding outwards, to include the entire Arabian peninsula and Middle East region as a whole.

Unless our leaders begin to listen seriously to occidentals who have studied the area and its inhabitants in some depth, the future bodes ill for world peace and brings the dreadful concept of third world conflagration that much closer.

Tony Jarvis Ermington, Ivybridge More of the same "STUDENTS today show poor knowledge in general culture and an inability to express themselves articulately in English.

The general illiteracy is the price we have to pay for the so-called democratisation of higher education.

Iraq needs 'jaw-jaw' not more 'war-war'

Probably there are more able students today than ever before but the proportion of weaklings is much higher, and unfortunately it is the inferior type who set the pace which the teachers must follow.

The only way to solve the problem is for the able students to be separated from the dullards and taught apart on entirely different lines. To do this would be to involve large additional staff and considerable expenditure." What is remarkable about this statement, still applicable today, is that it was written 73 years ago.

It is an editorial extract from The Scotsman newspaper, published in March 1931 in response to a letter to the paper by Professor C Sarolea, a lecturer at Edinburgh University.

Harvey Thane Higher Clovelly North Devon Cash isn't everything WILL we be conscripted into the grey army of the European Union by stealth? How often one reads a news item about some problem, the solution to which cannot be resolved because of the EU directive on this issue.

A nice soft word is "directive". Will it become stronger one day? Do we follow these "directives" until even our laws and housekeeping are massaged to suit the continental mandarins? Overlarge concerns always fail. People forced into large combines with an overall order find it too irksome. They wish to be in a country whose size they can comprehend and in which their views and wishes can have some weight.

The British Empire disintegrated because of the power of these sentiments.

The proposed EU is about money and trade. Very important things, but not the whole of life.

There are the imponderables such as traditions, customs, usages, beliefs, and the individual pride of an island people, all of which colours everything.

France and Germany, once deadly enemies, are now bosom friends.

With Gallic cunning and Teutonic thoroughness, they would set up a bastion in the middle of the EU to dominate the scene.

As the two strongest powers on the continent they would have an overwhelming influence on any assembly.

The only point of a union is for countries to surrender their sovereignty by having their resources put at the disposal of a general vote. This was a real sticking point, which spelled the end of the old League of Nations.

For their part, the individual nations must make their own sacrifices, with the approval of their people if there is going to be any improvement in world affairs.

The explosions of today are the result of better communications whereby the Third World is able to compare its lot with ours.

G R Cook Okehampton Two wrongs...

FOREIGN Secretary Jack Straw says the killing of the Hamas leader by the Israelis was illegal.

Does he think that the planning, organising, arranging and perpetrating the killing of Israeli civilians - including women and children - is legal and acceptable? L A Parry Falmouth

Load-Date: April 24, 2004

A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of

Australian Financial Review

April 22, 2004 Thursday

Late Edition

Copyright 2004 Fairfax Media Publications Pty. Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 64

Length: 701 words

Byline: Peter Ruehl

Body

No school holiday is complete without the obligatory family trip to a fun-filled resort area, where, in true family bonding style, the children try to get as far away from you as possible. Sometimes they've walked all the way home, which is really fun-filled because you're not there.

One feature of these brief vacations is you do them with at least one other family, or in our case last weekend, five other families.

It was sort of like a re-shoot of *The Grapes of Wrath* for people with disposable income. Or at least people who think they had disposable income until they see what a few days of this does to a family budget.

You think you're going to save money because you and the others have rented these cottages that have kitchens and you've brought all this food along. This not only saves the expense of eating at the resort's restaurant, where the cheapest main course is an \$18 hamburger, but also means the kids will have a healthy diet. Or at least healthier than the stuff at their school's tuckshop, where most of the items don't meet nuclear-waste standards.

The problem is the only meal the children actually eat at the place you are paying \$853 a day for is dinner. You think you're just giving them a dollar or two here and there, but by the end of three days you realise you've handed them enough for you and your wife to have had the chateaubriand for two at the resort restaurant.

You tell them you're not giving them any more money and they still manage to get their hands on more food. I think they've got a counterfeit machine that prints American currency so they can take advantage of the exchange rate.

But you actually don't mind if they miss a few meals around the cottage. You discover this the first night when you have to feed them all. What has happened is you've got not only your kids and the other parents' kids, but they all managed to bring friends along. You know, just in case the noise level dips below that of a ***Hamas*** rally.

By our count, we had 20 kids spread over five families. They seemed to range in age from about three to 37, although at the upper end it gets hard to tell, especially with boys. I've been 17 and I've been 37, and I don't remember much difference. And in this type of situation, kids don't eat food; they sort of inhale it and then come back for more.

So we had a barbecue, which wasn't done on a grill, but in the great Australian tradition, on what amounts to an outdoor frying pan.

A family fun - filled holiday . . . sort of

One of the mothers, Liz, had invested her life savings on what looked to me to be the biggest box of lamb and chicken kebabs outside of Lebanon, packed so tight they'd have needed three weeks on Maui to defrost.

I forget whether I volunteered or got volunteered, but I ended up cooking these things. You haven't lived until you've done about 70 or 80 kebabs with 20 kids around sounding like a Boeing 747 on approach.

Thank you, God, for gin.

That much meat sheds enough grease for a lube job on a fleet of Abrams tanks. It wouldn't have been so bad if the smoke they give off made you smell like lamb or chicken, but about a half hour after you've stopped, it's more like New Jersey roadkill.

Even I didn't want to be near me; I know how everybody else must have felt.

And, of course, no gathering like this would be complete without some drama involving teenagers of the male and female persuasions, and an irate mother. How best to describe this without ending up dead or divorced?

My daughter, her friend and one of the other daughters snuck into the swimming pool late at night. What happened next involved tripping laser alarms, a security guard showing up and, oh yeah, the two oldest boys in our entourage being present from the beginning. People of the wrong sex ended up hiding in the men's toilet.

First time in history anything like this has happened.

My wife returned from playing cards at one of the other cottages (two of the fathers and I had been working the kinks out of the republic issue in our place) and wanted to know where the girls were. Duh . . . So she took off for the pool, and at this point it went downhill, with an angry mother climbing pool fences, finding girls in men's pissoirs, etc.

It's over now, but don't blame me. I just do kebabs.

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 26, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P10A

Length: 831 words

Byline: Sarah El Deeb The Associated Press

Body

CAIRO, Egypt - A tape purportedly recorded by Ayman al-Zawahri, the No. 2 man in the al-Qaida terrorist group, called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "traitor" Thursday and urged Muslims to overthrow his government.

The pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera broadcast a seven-minute excerpt from a tape it received Thursday. Its authenticity could not be verified immediately, but the speaker sounded like al-Zawahri and made references to the Islamic holy book, the Quran, which is known to be al-Zawahri's style.

The speaker also called for a military uprising in Pakistan.

"Musharraf seeks to stab the Islamic resistance in Afghanistan in the back," the speaker said.

"Every Muslim in Pakistan should work hard to get rid of this client government, which will continue to submit to America until it destroys Pakistan."

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said the government has no immediate comment on the purported al-Zawahri tape. When an al-Zawahri tape released in September called for Musharraf's overthrow, the government said it would not be deterred in its pursuit of terrorists.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he heard news reports about the tape and said if it was authentic, the speaker "is clearly an individual who is very high-ranking and is capable of, and has in the past killed innocent men, women and children. And so one has to recognize that."

The tape comes as Pakistani troops are in the second week of a campaign along the Afghan border in South Waziristan, a longtime hiding place and stronghold of Islamic militants from al-Qaida, Afghanistan's Taliban and their Pakistani supporters.

It was not known when the tape was made, but the speaker appeared to be referring to the conflict in South Waziristan when he said, "I call on the Pakistani army: you, poor army, what a miserable state Musharraf has put you in ... Musharraf ruins your natural fences - those tribes on the border - by engaging you in a fight with them. Then he removes your nuclear weapons.

"Will you stay silent until Pakistan is divided again?"

The speaker repeatedly named the Pashtun and Baluch border tribes and urged them to close ranks with the Taliban against the Pakistani army.

Tape urges overthrow of Pakistan government

"Taliban and their supporters are your brothers," the speaker said, "so how can you allow the agents of crusaders and Jews to hurt them?"

He used the word "crusaders" for Americans as Islamic militants often do.

The speaker said such military operations on the borders violated Islamic law by pitting Muslims against each other at America's bidding.

"Every soldier who finds this act to be legitimate is an infidel, according to Islamic law," the speaker said.

After Musharraf spoke hopefully of capturing a "high-value target," there was speculation that al-Zawahri might be in the rugged border area where local tribes have more power than the Pakistani federal government.

Pakistan Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayyat said Thursday that more than 50 terrorists have been killed in the operation. More than 150 suspects have been captured, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, chief of security in Pakistan's tribal areas.

The speaker did not mention Israel's Monday morning assassination of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, which suggests the tape was recorded before then.

Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said the Qatar-based channel received the tape Thursday, but he declined to reveal how. The tape is 17 minutes long.

"Indications are that it is authentic," Ballout said, "the voice, the nuances."

In the United States, an intelligence official said the CIA was reviewing the tape to determine whether it was authentic. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism chief, said the rapid response of the tape suggests that al-Zawahri was nowhere near the Pakistani fight zone. He said the message was essentially a call to kill Musharraf.

A Cairo expert on Islamic militants, Dia'a Rashwan of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said the tape indicated al-Zawahri was close to the action in South Waziristan.

"This is a counterattack. It reflects how he can feel the tremendous security effort exerted at the borders," Rashwan said.

In urging the tribes to rally to his side, al-Zawahri seems to realize that the Pakistanis are much more dangerous for him than the Americans, Rashwan said.

The speaker also urged Islamic clerics to tell the Pakistani people "the truth about Musharraf, the traitor and killer of Muslims."

"They should incite the nation to expel the crusaders from Pakistan," the speaker said.

"The crusade in Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya and Palestine is targeting Pakistan primarily, because America does not want Pakistan to be a special power in the center of Asia."

Al-Zawahri is believed to have provided much of the ideology driving al-Qaida since his Egyptian Islamic Jihad merged with Osama bin Laden's network in 1998, experts say. The United States has offered a \$ 25 million reward for his capture.

Load-Date: March 26, 2004

The week that was

The Times (London)

September 13, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 20

Length: 1684 words

Body

IRAQ AND MIDDLE EAST

* President Bush told Americans that the war in Iraq would "take time and require sacrifice". It would also take a lot more money, he said, asking Congress for another \$ 87 billion for 2004. The US will spend \$ 20 billion on reconstruction, but it believes that Iraq will need up to \$ 75 billion soon and wants oil sales and other countries to fill the gap.

* Ceremonies to mark the second anniversary of the September 11 attacks were much more subdued than last year. Relatives of World Trade Centre victims said this should be the last commemoration.

* A new tape, apparently from Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, his No 2, emerged on September 11. It praised the suicide hijackers as "the most honest and the bravest". The hour-long audiotape, played on the al-Jazeera television network, accompanied video footage showing the two men picking their way down a ravine. They looked healthy, but older and thin.

* Israel provoked an international outcry by its decision "in principle" to expel Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, but it left the timing open. Washington and Moscow told Israel it was a bad idea. Ahmed Qureia, Mr Arafat's nominee for Prime Minister after the weekend resignation of Mahmoud Abbas, said that Israel's move made it futile for him to try to form a new government.

* Earlier in the week, Israel narrowly missed killing a **Hamas** hardliner, Mahmoud al-Zahar, in its retaliation for two Palestinian suicide bombings, in which 15 Israelis died. Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister, cut short a landmark visit to India to fly home. The latest tit-for-tat war, triggered by a suicide bomb on August 19, has shattered the peace process.

* The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency met in Vienna to discuss whether Iran has a covert nuclear weapons programme. America failed to get support to refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council for breach of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. But many members favoured a new resolution giving Iran a deadline of October 31 to reassure the agency. "This is their last chance," Peter Jenkins, the British envoy, said.

* The Pentagon told more than 20,000 reservists that they will have to spend a full year in Iraq. Most had not expected to serve there at all, and anxious e-mails home have stirred public unease.

AMERICAS

The week that was

* World Trade Organisation talks opened at the Mexican resort of Cancun. Despite the recent deal allowing poor countries to make cheap versions of drugs, the talks were immediately mired in a row over European farm subsidies. James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, told the world not to expect a big breakthrough.

* Speculation grew that Howard Dean, the front-runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, might ask Wesley Clark, the retired general, to join his ticket. Senator John Edwards, of North Carolina, said that he would drop his bid for reelection to Congress to concentrate on fighting for the nomination. He attracted early attention as a photogenic Southerner, but has trailed in polls.

* The Boston archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church agreed to pay more than \$ 85 million to 542 people who say that they were sexually abused by priests. The victims will be able to charge therapy bills to the Church. The priests abused about a 1,000 children in the past 60 years, according to an earlier report issued by Thomas Reilly, the Massachusetts Attorney-General.

* The long battle over US campaign finance spending finally reached the Supreme Court. Justices are considering whether to uphold the McCain-Feingold law, passed last year, which limits contributions. Opponents say that it breaches the right to free speech.

* Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Ambassador to the UN, challenged a ban on smoking in the UN building in New York, saying that Kofi Annan lacks the authority to enforce it. "The Secretary-General is just a hired manager," he said.

* Chileans staged a rock concert to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the coup that overthrew the left-wing Government of Salvador Allende. Stars performed in the national stadium, the site of atrocities by the Government of General Augusto Pinochet.

EUROPE

* Anna Lindh, the Swedish Foreign Minister and advocate of the euro, died after being stabbed repeatedly by an unknown assailant. Goran Persson, the Prime Minister, said all parties agreed that Sunday's vote on whether to join the euro should go ahead.

* Battle resumed over the European constitution, before the intergovernmental conference on October 4. Tony Blair set out Britain's opposition to anything that undermined Nato. He said that this summer's draft was "not perfect", but that eventually the treaty would be "good for Britain and good for Europe". Italy, which holds the rotating EU presidency, acknowledged that the draft was not a done deal. "Everyone wants something," Franco Frattini, the Foreign Minister, said.

* Russia objected to Britain's decision to grant asylum to Boris Berezovsky, the business tycoon wanted by Russia for fraud. The Home Office told Mr Berezovsky, once regarded as the most powerful man in Russia, that it would grant him refugee status. He now hopes to challenge President Putin and his allies in parliamentary elections set for December.

* France could escape heavy fines for breaking the eurozone's budget rules if it promises that it is serious about cutting its deficit. The European Commission hinted that it might be persuaded to treat the global recession as a "special circumstance" affecting the French economy.

* Leni Riefenstahl, Adolf Hitler's favourite film-maker, died aged 101, at her home in a small town in Bavaria. Triumph of the Will, her depiction of the Nuremberg rally, has been hailed as the best propaganda film ever made. She admitted that she had been seduced by Hitler's "enormous, hypnotic power", but denied persistent rumours that she was his lover.

* Silvio Berlusconi's "immunity law" came under fresh attack, when opponents said that they had 500,000 signatures on a petition for a referendum to overturn it.

Italy's highest court must now decide whether a vote should be held. The law, passed in June, gives immunity to prosecution to the five highest state officials.

The week that was

It has frozen a trial in which the Italian Prime Minister was accused of bribing judges in a 1980s corporate takeover row. Mr Berlusconi, who denies the charges, says partisan judges are trying to overthrow him.

ASIA and AUSTRALIA

* North Korea hailed its 55th anniversary with a display of synchronised flag-waving and a parade of 20,000 troops. But there was no nuclear test, no parade of missiles and no sign of the new missile said to be capable of hitting Guam.

* Singapore reported a new case of Sars, the first since the global outbreak of the respiratory disease, which killed more than 900, was declared over in July. The World Health Organisation said that the case did not pose an international risk.

* The Australian serial killers John Bunting and Robert Wagner were found guilty after an 11-month trial. The judge said that they were likely to be the only prisoners in South Australia never to be released. They stored body parts from their victims, homosexuals and paedophiles, in vats of acid in a disused bank.

* The number of Japanese centenarians reached a record of 20,561 this month, more than twice the number five years ago. Nearly 85 per cent are women.

AFRICA

* Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, stole Pounds 1.8 million that had been donated by Taiwan for disarming combatants, the UN said. Diplomats say that Mr Taylor is trying to retain control over the Liberian economy from his mansion in Nigeria's jungle.

* Rwanda's long-time leader Paul Kagame was sworn in as its first elected President since the 1994 genocide. Mr Kagame has led the country since his rebel troops marched into the capital nine years ago, ending the government-orchestrated slaughter in which up to a million people died.

They said ...

'Sweden has lost its face towards the world' Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, on the killing of Anna Lindh, the Foreign Minister

'Marked for death' The verdict from Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, on all Hamas leaders after the group's suicide-bomb attack on a Jerusalem bus last month, which killed 21 Israelis

'The real battle has not started yet' Ayman al-Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's No 2, in an audiotape released for September 11

'I don't believe it's our job to reconstruct that country after 30 years of centralised, Stalinist-like economic controls. The Iraqi people are going to have to reconstruct that country over a period of time' Donald Rumsfeld, US Defence Secretary

'You don't expect your children to get killed in a war we are not even fighting' Marion Bruce, sister of Darryl Dent, the 139th American killed in Iraq since President Bush declared hostilities ended on May 1. In the six-week war, 138 US soldiers died

'Don't abandon the wedding feast, it's all been paid for' Vincenzo, a bridegroom in Naples, who caused a near-riot when he panicked at the altar and fled

'Thick gold chains around the neck, sovereign rings on three of the five fingers...all this has to go' Kyriakos Protopapas, the president of Cyprus's taxi-licensing authority, on what the island's ill-groomed cabbies need to do to improve their image

The week that was

'He could have flown first-class for that' Richard Phillips, head of the freight company that unwittingly shipped a man hiding in a crate from New York to Dallas for \$ 550

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 14

Sweden holds a referendum on whether to join the euro.

Monday, September 15

International Atomic Energy Agency general conference opens in Vienna.

The treason trial of Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of Zimbabwe's opposition Movement for Democratic Change, resumes in Harare.

Tuesday, September 16

Opening of the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Thursday, September 18

Annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund starts in Dubai.

Saturday September 20

The Oktoberfest, the biggest beer festival in the world, begins in Munich.

Load-Date: September 13, 2003

Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth

University Wire

April 22, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Daily Titan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 786 words

Byline: By Ryan McKay, Daily Titan; **SOURCE:** California State U. - Fullerton

Dateline: FULLERTON, Calif.

Body

President Bush's support of the recent political assassinations of Palestinian leaders will do nothing to curb the escalation of violence in the Middle East. In fact, all it will do is bring it right into our own backyard.

Israel has recently vowed to kill anyone who opposes the nation's end goal of the elimination of the Palestinian people, and judging by the events of last week, they aren't bluffing.

Saturday's assassination of **Hamas** leader Abdulaziz Rantisi is the most recent in a long series of political assassinations by the Israeli government.

Apparently, Israel thinks the best way to achieve long-lasting peace with the Palestinians is to kill their highly popular leaders.

While the elimination of political adversaries is common practice for Ariel Sharon and his cronies, this case is different because the assassination was endorsed by the president of the United States himself.

The response to the assassination in the Arab world has been sharp and overwhelming. Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets worldwide to mourn his death and have vowed to avenge his murder.

This reciprocal relationship of killing and retaliation between Israelis and Palestinians has occurred since Israel claimed the Palestinian homeland as its own in 1948.

Israel claims the land is theirs for the taking because God said they could have it. The Palestinians think it's theirs because they were there long before the Israelis.

Both sides are firmly entrenched in their beliefs and are willing to fight for it to the death. Much of the anti-American sentiment in the Middle East stems from the United States' unequivocal support of Israel.

Not only does the U.S. support the political policies of Israel, but U.S. taxpayers pay for the tanks, missiles and bullets that kill thousands of innocent Palestinian **women** and children every year.

The Israeli government regularly conducts Nazi-style round-ups of all Palestinian males over 13 and tattoos numbers on their arms similar to those used in concentration camps. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been evicted from the homes where their families have been for generations.

Terrorism by any other name still reeks of death, dearth

Armed with only rocks and the most primitive weapons, there is no way for the Palestinians to thwart the onslaught of the U.S.-equipped Israeli army.

The only type of response the Palestinians are capable of launching is waves of suicide bombings.

While there is no doubt these bombings are atrocious, what else can the Israelis expect?

Put yourself in the shoes of the Palestinians for a minute. Imagine a foreign offense comes to Southern California and claims it as its own. They take your home, put you in squalor, tattoo a number on you and strip you of all your possessions.

Now imagine they possess weapons far superior to yours and there is nothing the U.S. government can do. What would you do?

Sometimes when people have nothing to live for, they are willing to do anything they can to make a difference. In World War II we called these people freedom fighters. Today we call them "insurgents" and "terrorists."

Last week's assassination of a Palestinian leader was a terrorist act; just don't expect to hear that from the mainstream "liberal" media.

This assassination was meant to further break the spirit of the Palestinian people. Israel is attempting to dehumanize the Palestinian people by taking everything that can be taken from them. In doing this, the Israelis hope to have the region for their taking.

Israel seems convinced they have the Palestinian people under their thumb and President Bush seems to agree with this synopsis.

Yet, the Palestinians aren't so convinced and have vowed to fight to the bitter end. Many of the people in the Middle East have always felt that the U.S. is responsible for much of the conflict in the region and they are right.

While there have been a number of attacks and attempted attacks by terrorist groups in and around the U.S. for many years, the "success" of these attacks have been limited. President Bush's endorsement of the assassination of Abdulaziz Rantisi will only foster American resentment in the rest of the world and in turn spur more attacks against the United States.

It is now only a matter of time until we will experience atrocities of the Middle East right here at home.

The most effective way to achieve a long-standing peace with the rest of the world is to start treating them with the dignity and respect all human beings deserve.

We the people of these United States can no longer afford to be in constant conflict with the rest of the world. Despite all of our military might, we cannot fight everyone on this planet and if we try, we will surely follow in the footsteps of the Romans.

(C) 2003 Daily Titan via U-WIRE

Load-Date: April 22, 2004

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; Column

Length: 786 words

Byline: Bill Dunphy

Body

This was no Kristallnacht. In early November, 1938, a young Jewish man, furious over the expulsion of his family from their home in Germany, killed the German third undersecretary, one Ernst von Roth, at the embassy in Paris, France.

The death was used by the Nazi party leadership as a pretext to launch the first large-scale pogrom against German Jews since the Middle Ages.

On Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, synagogues across the country were burnt to the ground, over 90 people were murdered, and Jewish shops and homes were trashed and looted. It came to be known as Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass.

The Hamilton Spectator

This past weekend, Israeli security forces assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza.

In Toronto neo-nazi vandals went on a four- or five kilometre rampage late Friday night, toppling tombstones, smashing synagogue and school windows, and defacing dozens of Jewish signs with spray-painted swastikas.

You might be tempted to draw a parallel. Don't.

For one thing, this latest rampage -- and another the previous weekend in a nearby neighbourhood across the border in Vaughan -- predated the killing of Yassin.

More importantly, these ugly outbursts of hatred and rage served not to isolate Toronto's Jews, but to unite them with the broader community.

For every person left shaken and fearful by the attack -- and I met several yesterday -- it seems another is proud to step forward and call the vandals by their true name: cowards.

And for every Jew that stepped forward to decry the attacks, 10 gentiles have stood beside them.

It is a remarkable lesson in the value of building bridges, or as it is now known in Hamilton, strengthening communities.

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Within hours of the full extent of the rampage becoming known on Sunday morning, Ontario's Attorney General Michael Bryant was on the scene lending support. As was Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino. Premier Dalton McGuinty and Prime Minister Paul Martin denounced the attack and offered support.

In Nazi Germany, in 1938, the government planned the riots and the police helped carry them out.

Yesterday, after spending an hour or so in the cemetery where 27 tombstones were toppled, I reached Frank Dimant of the B'nai Brith on his cell phone as he left Queen's Park, where an all-party resolution of support had just been passed.

"There were some very moving speeches from the party leaders, it was a strong statement against hate," Dimant said. "It was frightening to some people, but we don't have panic, people understand that it is escalating, but it didn't just happen suddenly," he said.

The support came from more than politicians.

Bernie Farber, of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said yesterday that the community response has been remarkable.

"We have so many people of different religious affiliations coming up and saying they want to work together.

"It's a lesson in how to respond when your neighbour is under threat. This has been an incredibly painful experience, but to receive all of these e-mails and words of comfort is like a giant hug, in our time of need, if you will. It's a shoulder to cry on. It's just remarkable."

The vandals' trail of destruction seemed to move in a southward line from Steeles Avenue, south through the Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park cemetery, past the Pride of Israel synagogue where five stained glass windows were shattered and swastikas painted on the walls, past a Jewish school where more windows were broken, and more Nazi symbols were splashed, and out to Bathurst Street, where they continued south, overturning a clothing donation box and spray-painting Jewish charity appeal signs almost as far south as Finch Avenue.

Farber noted with some wonder that he's had calls from churches asking for copies of the appeal signs so they can plant them on their front lawns, as a sign of solidarity.

And while there is some fear, Farber says mostly what he hears is anger.

Two women I spoke with in the cemetery -- out of a constant stream of relatives rushing in to see if their family graves had been desecrated -- spoke of weeping at the sight of the tombstones of Holocaust survivors toppled by cowards in the night.

"This is how it started in Germany," said the older of the two, who was born in a refugee camp in Germany after the war.

"It's scary, because what happened 50 to 60 years ago is happening here.

"But this is Canada," she added shaking her head.

Hours after the interview, the two called me -- separately.

The younger woman, born in Hamilton, asked me not to use her name.

"I live (nearby) and well, we don't know who these people are. I'd rather you didn't use my name."

The other woman, her aunt, Helen Kamin Lokash, called to make sure I did use her name.

Jews, gentiles stand together; Torontonians united in strengthening community against cowardly acts of vandalism

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

End of Document

Israeli bank raid breaks new turf

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

February 27, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 06

Length: 744 words

Byline: By Ilene R. Prusher and Ben Lynfield

Dateline: JERUSALEM AND RAMALLAH

Highlight: Israel raided three banks in the West Bank city of Ramallah this week and seized at least \$6.7 million.

Body

Israel sees it as an audacious and definitive blow to the financial base of terrorism. But Palestinians view the army's unprecedented raid on Ramallah banks as a targeting of their economy as a whole.

The fallout from the raids, which ended at 2 a.m. Thursday, was being gauged by the Palestinian financial sector. Bankers were hoping the army's seizure of 30 million shekels (\$ 6.7 million) in assets would not touch off a run of withdrawals from customers fearing for the safety of their money.

"Now no institution is safe," said Omar Abdel-Razeq, senior research fellow at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute. Its offices near the raided Cairo Amman Bank were converted into a military post during the raids. Israeli troops also raided the Palestine International Bank and the Arab Bank, forcing employees to operate computer systems and hand over money from the vaults, employees said.

The soldiers seized assets Israel said were being used to sponsor attacks by Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese Hizbullah organization, and other groups. "The benefits of this will hopefully be understood over the long term. This is a blow to them because the terrorists who use these banks accounts will be more careful. You create obstacles for these terrorists," said army spokesman Capt. Jacob Dallal. "It took a lot of intelligence to identify the accounts of people who are terrorists" or who support terrorism, he said.

But the US State Department criticized the raids, saying Israeli actions "risk destabilizing the Palestinian banking system."

"We would prefer to see Israeli coordination with the Palestinian financial authorities to stem the flow of funds to terrorist groups," department spokesman Richard Boucher said. Israel says the seized money is to be spent on charity for the well-being of the Palestinian population.

Palestinian Authority leaders dispute that the funds seized were used for terrorism. "Israel will use any excuse to destroy the Palestinian economy," says Local Government Minister Jamal Shobaki. "The economy is the pillar of stability and this harms the very stability of Palestinian society." He termed the raids "armed robbery."

Mr. Abdel-Razeq predicts that the effects of the seizures "could be drastic. It all comes down to public confidence now. The stability of the banking system is very important to Palestinian investors both outside the country and locally. This will certainly add to the difficulties of the investment environment," he said.

Israeli bank raid breaks new turf

Eighteen Palestinians were injured by gunfire in clashes that erupted as troops entered Ramallah Wednesday morning. But the operation actually began before dawn, when the Arab Bank's director of information technology, Ahmed Abu Ghosh, was arrested at his home, according to Ahmed-Samah Abu Rajai Aweidah, a vice president. Soldiers later forced him to come to the bank and give them access to the computer system, Aweidah said.

Twenty-five soldiers with guns took over the Arab Bank's al-Bireh branch, an employee recalled. Its regional headquarters was also taken over by troops. At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Aweidah said, "I was sitting with a customer. I saw an Israeli soldier pointing an M-16 in my face and asking me to put my hands up. We and the customers were held up at gunpoint. Some of the soldiers spoke fluent Arabic, and they ordered us to go into the corridor. Once they made sure all of the offices were empty, they split us into two groups, males on one side and females on the other."

"At 12:30, they let the women go out. They checked the IDs of all the men and let all the male employees leave by 2:30. As senior management, we agreed with the soldiers that we would stay. By threat of force their hackers went through the system. They forced us to print out the balances for the accounts. They forced us to open the safe. They had dynamite ready to blow it open if we didn't. Our teller went in and counted the money and gave it to the soldiers. The soldiers gave us a receipt and took the money out of the bank."

Captain Dallal responded: "Obviously we needed the assistance of some bank employees to locate the whereabouts of the accounts. That's true. There was no abuse of the people."

Zeev Schiff, military-affairs analyst for Ha'aretz newspaper, said: "Maybe people will be hurt by this and we have to compensate them. But we have to be tougher on the families of suicide bombers and take money from them as well."

(c) Copyright 2004. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: February 26, 2004

End of Document

Standing at the Crossroads of Mitzpeh Yitzhar

New York Sun (Archive)

June 25, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 4

Length: 1588 words

Byline: FIAMMA NIRENSTEIN

Body

Mitzpeh Yitzhar, the first important outpost where settlers and soldiers have clashed, is nothing and everything. Set high in the middle of the Samarian plain, it is nothing: A patch of desert, scrub grass, a few olive trees in the distance, some rocks and splashes of yellow, a couple tufts of pink and blue flowers, three or four pre-fabricated houses. Twenty settlers live there.

Yet it is everything: It is where Israel has come to clash over the road map. On this hill last week Israel fell into two distinct camps, each as doleful and determined as the other. In one were thousands of settlers from Judea and Samaria, who climbed the tall hill to help their friends. In the other, hundreds of soldiers who had come from all over and were prepared for an all-out war, with tanks and armored vehicles, bulldozers and ambulances.

Only this time, their hands were empty. They held no weapons, not even the machine gun soldiers carry at all times, even when they sleep. There will be no civil war here - those were the orders. The boys who clung with their bodies to the bulldozers' talons were given the same orders - by their rabbis. If it hadn't been for their yarmulkes and tzitzit, the white fringes observant Jewish men wear under their shirts, they could have passed for agitated environmentalists.

But the two sides did clash. By the end of the day, dozens of soldiers and young settlers had been wounded. No matter how you put it, this is a war - Prime Minister Sharon's surprise war against a part of his electorate. Dismantling Mitzpeh Yitzhar was not a casual choice. It was as if Mr. Sharon, speaking from on high, had told all the settlers, "I'm not afraid of you. We'll do what we have to do. If I can do it here, I can do it anywhere."

Mitzpeh Yitzhar, traditionally, is not terribly familiar with the notion of compromise. Its residents come from the religious school of the Tomb of Joseph. Enraged by the Palestinian desecration of their holy site, many have been wounded and killed in violent clashes with Palestinians. About 500 yards from Mitzpeh Yitzhar is an outpost with about 100 families, whose sentries look down on the Palestinian-Arab village of Hawara. Residents there have been responsible in recent years for the deaths of several Israelis. Indeed, the Israelis of Mitzpeh Yitzhar have such strong feelings about their Palestinian-Arab neighbors that in the past the Israeli army has been called in to protect Arab citizens.

Mitzpeh Yitzhar is in the heart of Samaria. Not far away lies Ofra, the mother of the legal settlements, then Eli, and a little farther off Beit El and Tapuah. Together, these form the core of a community of settlements that more than 200,000 now call home. Many are third-generation inhabitants.

Standing at the Crossroads of Mitzpeh Yitzhar

The outpost controls access to a little valley where dozens of civilians and Israeli soldiers have been killed. There was one ambush in which Palestinian-Arab snipers killed nine travelers and soldiers who were standing guard - as if they were hunting game. A major highway runs nearby. Built by Yitzhak Rabin when he was prime minister, the right-wing Likud Party criticized it, saying it was an excessive expense. The sarcasm around here is even darker than you would expect.

When we reached Mitzpeh Yitzhar last week, the hill was completely engulfed in flames. The settlers had burnt the fields to prevent the soldiers from reaching the pre-fab trailers and big tent that served as volunteer headquarters. For hundreds of yards you could see streams of gasoline running down the hills, burning a trail through the shrubs and grass. Someone with a water pump was trying to save a grape vine from the flames; the same person who had set it alight may well have cultivated it for years.

To reach the hill

we had to pass through a series of checkpoints. We left the car where the fires began. As we walked up the hill, we met dozens of young settlers and hundreds of soldiers. "Sharon let us down," the young settlers said. "Let's hope he's only bluffing, that he's doing it to put smoke in the eyes of the Americans. We can't believe he'd kick us out of our own homes! Think of the strategic importance of our outpost, considering those endless suicide bombings."

"No one but us has ever lived in this place," they continued. "This is the land where Abraham walked with his children, and now they want to push us out, like strangers. Now he's kicking us out of our homes. Next the Palestinians will kick him out of Jerusalem." That was the song an excited chorus of Mordechais and Michaels and Shlomos sang to this journalist.

The army moved the burnt-out ruin of a car, and then another, and another. A stone barricade that had been constructed overnight stretched as far as the big tent. For the first few hours, the settlers stopped the soldiers. Then the bulldozers cleared the obstacle.

When we reached the peak, where the first pre-fab houses sat, it was as if we were looking into the very heart of the strategy behind the settlements. On one side, young people threaded their way between tanks. They sat on bulldozers and climbed on the armored cars until the soldiers inside pushed them away, trying not to hurt them.

But the women formed the real barricade. Almost all were quite young, and their children hung around their necks in colorful pouches, or sat cross-legged in their strollers. The children, their faces red from the sun and the anguish of fighting against their fellow citizens and brothers, went up to the soldiers and offered them water and sandwiches. "Please," one young woman said to a soldier named Itzick, "You can't, you shouldn't obey the orders. It's taking the name of God in vain. What have we done wrong?"

"We're tending the land of our ancestors, the land that was returned to us after thousands of years. Do you really think that if you send me away from here with my child, it will bring about peace? Do you think Hamas will be happy? Do you want to help [Hamas spiritual leader] Sheik Yassin? Leave us alone. Go home. You know very well it's not a good idea to raise your hand against your brothers. That's just helping the terrorists. You're leaving another door open for them to get to your house, then to Tel Aviv, to Haifa, to Petach Tikva."

But the soldiers had their orders. They were silent but for the occasional uttered apology.

Some of the settlers seethed with hatred. Hatred against the soldiers, and the hatred against the press. They feel isolated and abandoned. As we approached a grape vine, one young man who had been trying to climb onto a bulldozer and block it, came our way instead, yelling. He accused the journalists of dismissing the settlers as "crazy fanatics." "Why did you come here to see this zoo? You've grown incapable of understanding what an ideal is," He said. "And you," he said, pointing at me, "Women can't cross this line. The religious don't want any women crossing this line."

Others came to defend us. Many didn't mind being in the presence of a woman journalist, including one man on horseback who rode up and down from the tent at the top of the hill to the guard shacks at the bottom. Soon the

Standing at the Crossroads of Mitzpeh Yitzhar

soldiers, constantly drinking water, started down the hill under the blazing sun. Down there in the stronghold people were being pushed and shoved. Some had bloody noses. Others had fainted. The people of Israel were fighting among themselves. The soldiers opened their hands to show they were unarmed, but the air smelled of blood and dust and smoke. It overpowered the smell of the blue and pink flowers and the licorice.

Soldiers revealed their hatred too. More than a few were sick of risking their lives standing guard all night, every night, in two shacks open to attack. They lived in two miserable rooms with one little toilet and a hot plate to cook a few meals, to watch the backs of a handful of children playing in a dangerous area, full of snakes and ambushes by Palestinian-Arabs. These soldiers were tired of dying for strangers. You could see their rage directed toward the equally enraged boys in yarmulkes playing cowboy.

Although they are theoretically bound by the Israeli government decision to follow the road map and dismantle other settlements, a handful of Knesset members came to show solidarity with their constituents. There were three of them. Pinchas Wallerstein, the head of the Yesha Council, the settlers' group, kept saying, or rather threatening, "They can dismantle us as much as they want, it doesn't matter. Tonight or tomorrow we'll be back. It's no use. It's harmful. It's not true that we have Molotov cocktails hidden away. That's slander. We've chosen to follow a path of non-violence, and our rabbis have, too."

All this has made the settlers develop a dark and sullen sense of humor. They thought that the great wave of terrorism had finally convinced everyone - especially the Israeli government - to follow their lead, that their presence in the territories was the only way to safeguard the land of Israel. They thought Mr. Sharon would always be their man. Things didn't work out that way. Some of the young settler boys were crying from their wounds, the smoke, the disappointment. A lot of soldiers couldn't bear what they had been asked to do. Some of them were crying, too. They were 20 years old and had already been through three years of funerals. In the background, the mountain was burning, the tent deflating. Colin Powell was on his way.

- Ms. Nirenstein is an Italian journalist living in Israel. Her column was translated from the Italian by Rachel Donadio.

Load-Date: May 11, 2004

Israel's human rights leadership still being ignored

University Wire

January 22, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Swarthmore Phoenix via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 789 words

Byline: By Randy Goldstein, Swarthmore Phoenix

Dateline: Swarthmore, Pa.

Body

When Reem Raiyshi set off a metal detector at a border control station while passing from Gaza City to Israel last week, she explained that her leg contained pieces of metal from a surgical procedure.

Twenty-two-year-old Raiyshi, a mother of two, was neither harassed nor humiliated by the soldiers on duty. Rather, she was escorted to the privacy of a nearby room, where she was told to wait for a **female** soldier who would perform a body search. That **female** soldier never came, however, as Raiyshi seized the opportunity to run several meters into a nearby building and blow herself up, killing four soldiers and wounding seven others, both Israelis and Palestinians.

Swarthmore College

While this story certainly demonstrates the vile lengths to which Islamic Palestinian terrorists will go to wage war with Israel, it also contains a more subtle truth. **Hamas** sent Raiyshi on this horrific mission because she was a woman. Had she been a man, the soldiers on duty would have certainly been more wary of her claims. However, in their effort to accommodate this woman with the dignity of a private search by a member of the same sex, these soldiers sadly allowed Raiyshi the opportunity to complete her task.

It is difficult to find an unbiased opinion of what goes on in Gaza and the West Bank between Israelis and Palestinians. It is not difficult, however, to recognize that Israel has demonstrated clear moral leadership in many facets of human rights. Sadly, those who are so quick to criticize the necessarily severe restrictions of passage between Gaza and Israel would likely refuse to recognize that the country's reverence for gender privacy resulted in the death of four of its own soldiers.

Many of Israel's human rights stances would be well cited as exemplars for human rights in the region and the rest of the Arab world. Unlike its antiquated neighbors, Israel has embraced its homosexual community.

Same-sex unions are officially recognized, and dual parenthood is awarded to homosexual couples with children. Homosexual Israelis serve openly in the army. If a homosexual soldier is killed, his or her partner is awarded the same benefits a heterosexual partner would receive. Even Israel's parliament, the Knesset, now has homosexual representation.

Israel's effort to protect alternative lifestyles does not stop at its proper borders. As per a 1951 United Nations resolution, Israel grants asylum to anyone facing gender persecution, which has been interpreted to include persecution of homosexuals. As such, Israel has become a safe haven for Palestinian homosexuals who face

Israel 's human rights leadership still being ignored

abuse, torture and death from the Palestinian Authority and often from their own families. Rather than suppress their true identities in such an intolerant setting, Palestinian homosexuals frequently attempt to flee to Israel, where there is no pressure to mask their sexual preferences.

Also in grave contrast with its neighbors, Israeli law has afforded women the greatest equality of any in the Middle East. Israel is one of the few countries in the region in which women, regardless of their religion, may vote in elections, drive automobiles, dress in any manner they choose and make their own decisions regarding sexual activity. Women serve as corporate CEOs, Air Force pilots and government and civil service officials. Perhaps anti-Israel activists would find worth in demonstrating against the many Arab countries in which women can only dream, in secret, of such equality.

A final example of Israel's passion for human rights is its consistent offering of humanitarian relief in times of need around the world. Israel has sent countless amounts of food and medical supplies to all parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Albania, Venezuela, Rwanda and China. This generosity has been largely embraced as a demonstration of Israel's global humanitarian concern.

Sadly, the Iranian government recently rejected an Israeli offer of aid after an earthquake in the ancient city of Bam killed tens of thousands of people. That Israel would offer humanitarian aid to a country that has historically funded terrorism against Israeli civilians is telling. Sadly, it is even more telling that Iran would reject the aid while its civilians perished under the rubble.

It is unfortunate that critics of Israel have failed to laud the country's record on these and other issues as a model for the rest of the Middle East. When the current conflict has ended, these issues will remain crucial to the lives of ordinary civilians. As such, recognition of Israel's human rights successes will be pivotal in the evolution of individual rights for Israel's neighbors in both the near and distant futures.

(C) 2003 Swarthmore Phoenix via U-WIRE

Load-Date: January 22, 2004

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya, Afghanistan, Iran, the Mideast and North Korea

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 14, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A19

Length: 734 words

Byline: WILLIAM SAFIRE

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is the pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defence: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in anti-democratic hands.

New York Times

In Libya, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi took one look at the U.S. army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and - in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion - promises civilized behaviour. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, **female**-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under the NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry - and exporter of Hezbollah and **Hamas** terrorism - the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to reopen negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria - on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers - further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an anti-terrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , th....

In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighbouring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses by everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the U.S. did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; it is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defences in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

A Washington columnist cautions it is too early to proclaim nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to America's decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case what it had been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

Graphic

Photo: SAMIR MIZBAN, REUTERS; Iraqis watch as members of the new Iraqi army practise manoeuvres in Baghdad. A rudimentary federal republic is forming, with all of the customary growing pains.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

NEWSDESK

The Forward

November 7, 2003

Copyright 2003 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 846 words

Body

Israel Introduces U.N. Resolution

After facing hostile resolutions at the United Nations for a half-century, Israel this week introduced its own resolution in a General Assembly committee, voicing concern for Israeli children living under the threat of Palestinian terrorism.

"Until now we were only playing defense; now we are playing offense," said Ambassador Arye Mekel, Israel's deputy permanent representative to the U.N.

Introduced Monday, Israel's resolution comes in the wake of an Egyptian-sponsored resolution expressing concern for Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation. It also comes as Israel fights off several Arab and European attempts at the U.N. to force Israel to make concessions.

In what has become an annual ritual, the General Assembly passes almost 20 anti-Israel resolutions per year.

Israel's recent resolution adopts similar language to the Egyptian one, even invoking the same U.N. conventions. For example, the Egyptian resolution expresses concern over the "continuous grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of the continuing Israeli assaults and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, resulting in the dire humanitarian crisis."

Israel's version expresses concern for the "continuous grave threat to Israeli children from Palestinian terrorism, and about the severe consequences of continuing terrorist attacks by Palestinian terrorist groups such as ***Hamas***, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade directed against Israeli civilians, including children."

"We are presenting them, we believe, with a moral dilemma," Mekel said. "We are putting them to the test."

Israeli Poverty, Joblessness Up

Poverty and unemployment are rising in Israel, according to figures released by the Israeli government last week. More families are living under the poverty line this year than in 2002, and Israel's poor include 618,000 children, or 29.6% of all children, according to the poverty report released by the Social Affairs Ministry.

Recent figures released by the Bank of Israel show that the number of families living below the poverty line tripled from 100,000 to 300,000 between 1988 and 2001.

NEWSDESK

Meanwhile, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of Israelis registered as unemployed at the end of September was 227,000, up from 216,400 in August.

Pressure Builds on Ford

The Ford Foundation is facing new scrutiny in Washington for funding anti-Israel groups. Following a Jewish Telegraphic Agency investigative series, New York Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler told a foundation official Monday that the group should stop giving grants to Palestinian and other nongovernmental organizations that engage in anti-Israel and antisemitic activity. The foundation, which insists it opposes such activity, gave millions of dollars to Palestinian and other groups that oppose the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, a State Department official said the agency is reviewing Ford's support of these groups for possible Justice Department action. The American Jewish Congress also is contemplating legal action.

Women's Group Rejects Prayer Site

An Israeli government plan to renovate an alternative prayer site at the southern end of the Western Wall is drawing fire from a group that has been pushing for equal-prayer rights at the wall for women.

The \$380,000 plan provides an expanded plaza at the Robinson's Arch segment of the Wall, to the south of the main plaza. The renovation would allow worshippers to touch the Wall and provide a wheelchair-accessible walkway and storage space for Torahs and prayer books, as mandated by an April 6 High Court of Justice decision.

The High Court of Justice said the government had one year to provide an appropriate prayer site for the religiously diverse Women of the Wall group, or else the group would be allowed to pray in front of the Western Wall, despite vocal opposition by Orthodox Jews.

But Women of the wall members insist on being allowed to pray in the women's section directly in front of the Western Wall.

Israel's Conservative movement, known as Masorti, has already been using the site directly below Robinson's Arch for egalitarian prayer services. Rabbi Andrew Sacks, director of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly in Israel, called Robinson's Arch "a wonderful place to pray." He also said, however, that his movement has "not abandoned our desire and our contention that we have the right and should ultimately be able to pray in the Western Wall Plaza."

David Bar-Illan Dies

David Bar-Illan, a former editor of the Jerusalem Post and aide to then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, died Tuesday in Jerusalem. Bar-Illan was 73 and had been in failing health following a heart attack three years ago. A renowned concert pianist before he took up journalism, he served as editor-in-chief of the Post from 1992 to 1996 and as director of communications in the Prime Minister's Office under Netanyahu from 1996 to 1999.

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

ISRAEL KILLS SIX IN TANK ATTACK ON GAZA CAMP CAMP

The Independent (London)

October 11, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 707 words

Byline: JUSTIN HUGGLER AND SA'ID GHAZALI IN JERUSALEM Top, a sister of 12-year-old Palestinian Sami Salah and other relatives weep at his funeral, and below, Israeli tanks advance on Rafah refugee camp AP/AFP

Body

AT LEAST six Palestinians, including two children aged eight and 12, were killed by Israeli forces yesterday in the biggest military operation in the Gaza Strip for three months, witnesses said.

Residents of Rafah refugee camp contacted by phone told of families fleeing in panic from their homes as Israeli bulldozers advanced on them, and civilians, including children, so badly wounded their limbs had to be amputated.

The Israeli army said the aim of the operation was to find and cut off tunnels used by Palestinian militants to smuggle in arms under the border with Egypt. But with the Israeli Defence Minister, Shaul Mofaz, planning to call up reserves at the end of a week-long Jewish holiday, there will be concerns the incursion may be the prelude to wider military action.

It was impossible to verify accounts from Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip, yesterday, because the area has been almost entirely cut off since Saturday, when the Israeli army cut up the coastal road south from Gaza City and closed a military checkpoint on the only road that was open, trapping thousands of residents in the Rafah area.

Up to 80 Israeli tanks, bulldozers and armoured Jeeps were on the move, one witness said, starting at 11pm on Thursday. The operation was confined to the refugee camp. There were street battles with Palestinian militants, and the Israeli army said shoulder-launched rockets were fired and grenades thrown.

Rafah refugee camp sprawls close to the border with Egypt, overlooked by Israeli watchtowers, and the houses are pocked with bullet-holes. "Three bulldozers entered our neighbourhood, and 20 armoured vehicles, APCs and tanks," Iyad Barhoum, a 24-year-old resident of the camp, said by phone. "They spoke on microphones asking people to evacuate their homes within half an hour. They said that they are going to stay for a week. They occupied the rooftops of six buildings.

"Suddenly, a bulldozer was hitting the back of my house. We were 10 people. We ran away. I saw barefooted women carrying children, with hardly any clothes on. I and my family went to Kholafa al Rashedeen mosque. The army dug holes around my house. I am in the mosque with 200 people. Our house is 150 metres from the border. Now it is partly demolished."

Reports from Rafah said most of the casualties were caused when an Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a building. The Israeli army claimed it fired at gunmen. Mr Barhoum said a missile hit a house as those inside tried to flee. "There were about 150 people in the house of my relative, Mousa Barhoum," he said "As the people started

ISRAEL KILLS SIX IN TANK ATTACK ON GAZA CAMP CAMP

leaving, a missile hit. Mousa was hit in his face and foot. Doctors amputated his foot. Reem Mousa Abu Jazar was hit in the face and legs.

"Louai Barhoum, my cousin, was shot and his right arm was amputated. He is 11. I helped him across the street; later on, I learned he had been shot."

Residents identified the dead as eight-year-old Ibrahim Qrenawi, 12-year-old Sami Salah, Mohammad Abd al-Wahab, a 23-year-old **Hamas** militant, and Naher abu Taha, a militant from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, also 23.

It was not clear whether 33-year-old Alaa Mansour, who was also killed, was a civilian or a militant. A sixth body was not identified. Dr Majdi Khalifa said Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital had 43 wounded, and transferred 15 serious cases to other hospitals. Reports spoke of at least 50 wounded in total.

The Israeli army said it had gone into Rafah because it had intelligence that Palestinian militants were trying to smuggle anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles through the tunnels under the Egyptian border at Rafah.

Mr Barhoum added: "Last week they destroyed 21 houses, to destroy two tunnels. There is no tunnel in my house, because I live in it. I refused to sell. For the past three years, merchants have been buying houses and paying large amounts for them, to dig tunnels. They smuggle weapons: rifles and bullets. A group of Egyptians are involved. We are the victims of both sides.

"This will not decrease the number of tunnels. It will increase it, because the Israeli army makes no distinction between the guilty and the innocent. If any house can be destroyed, like today, then people will sell their homes to these merchants."

Load-Date: October 11, 2003

End of Document

Dinner at the Pope's Place

New York Sun (Archive)

October 27, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 723 words

Byline: By R. H. SAGER

Body

The pope's place at Jerusalem might seem an unlikely venue for a barbecue, but on Thursday night it was the site of an illuminating dinner conversation between a group of 12 Germans, 12 Israelis, and one American.

The occasion was the first night of the second half of the Bertelsmann Foundation's German-Israeli Young Leaders Exchange, which I was invited to as something of an international observer. In a session in Germany in July, the group had covered the ground of the Holocaust and German abandonment of Israel. This week and last week serve as the time for a pilgrimage to the land of terror.

The fourth-floor terrace of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, directly owned by the Vatican and recently host to Pope John Paul II on the occasion of his jubilee, looked out over the Old City. I write on a bus to Nazareth from Jerusalem and on the condition of vagueness, to protect participants, if not anonymity.

It did not take long over appetizers of humus, olives, and pita bread for the topic to turn to terrorism. A German radio correspondent, who had arrived a day earlier, described his dilemma the night before. "I had drinks with a friend from Tel Aviv, but I wanted to make it quick, just one drink," German Radio said. "But then they made the second drink free."

"You do something I would not do," an Israeli television anchor, a great big ham of a man who lives in Tel Aviv, said.

"So, you do not go out?" asked a **female** Ha'aretz reporter who also lives in Tel Aviv.

"I'm already married and have a little girl," Israeli Television said.

"So, what, you're saying is, my life is cheap?" Ha'aretz shot back, mostly kidding.

"It is my wife, she keeps me home," Israeli Television joked. "It's the Intifada in my living room. **Hamas** just gives me an excuse."

Despite the laughter, there was despair around the table - on the Israeli side at least.

"There cannot be peace in my lifetime," Ha'aretz said. "There is so much hatred on both sides."

The Germans were more hopeful, but the feeling seemed to fade with every breath of the warm Jerusalem night air.

Dinner at the Pope's Place

The buses? How does anyone take a bus here? So asked a German newspaperman of Iraqi-Jewish extraction. And if you must take the buses, how come there cannot be better security on them?

"If they can't blow up a bus, they'll blow up a movie theater. And if not that, a restaurant. And if not that, something else," Israeli Television said.

The Germans asked the Israelis what they thought of the fence, or the wall - or, well, what should they call it?

"The terms are not so loaded here," Israeli Television explained. "It will help, but some will still get through."

The questioning then turned back on the Germans. An Israeli asked how the United Nations could vote to condemn even the building of a security barrier as Israelis died daily. The Germans had no answer.

"You know, there are only three countries that vote with Israel at the U.N.," Israeli Television said. "America, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands."

"I did a documentary about it," he said. "I looked at who the f__ is Micronesia? The F-word featured prominently."

A night later, the group was treated to a dinner talk by a senior lecturer in history and law at Haifa University, Fania Oz-Salzberger. What Israel needs to do, she argued, is talk to America less and to Europe more. America can't be an honest broker, she said, so Europe must take the lead and talk tough to Israel.

The Israeli reaction to this was chilly at my table, and even the Germans did not warm to the notion. Our Iraqi-Jewish German newspaperman was in agreement with others that Europe would be of no use - or worse - in the Middle East. "Not just Germany, of course," he said. "France, too, with the new anti-Semitism."

Perhaps more Europeans need to be asked why it would be desirable to maintain neutrality between terrorist murderers and a democracy seeking peace. It is a different type of tough talk than Ms. Oz-Salzberger had in mind, but the Germans here seem receptive.

During dinner on Thursday, noises would pop out of the night that sounded like gunfire or small bombs. Most of the Israelis did not even flinch, but each German's (and this American's) head would jerk up.

"Do not ask me," Israeli Television said. "I don't live here."

"I wondered," he said, "how many of the Germans would chicken out and not come to Israel?" None had.

Load-Date: October 27, 2003

Yom Kippur War

New York Sun (Archive)

October 6, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 861 words

Body

Thirty years after Israel's Arab enemies sought to annihilate the Jewish State by launching an attack on Yom Kippur, the war is widening again. And Jerusalem's decision to bomb a terrorist training camp in Syria in retaliation for Saturday's suicide bombing attack on a Haifa restaurant has all the usual suspects criticizing Israel.

The foreign minister of Jordan, Marwan Muasher, criticized what he described as Israeli "aggression" and a "dangerous Israeli escalation," according to the Jordanian news agency Petra. The foreign ministry of Egypt, which receives about **\$1.9 billion a year in American foreign aid, issued a statement condemning the "provocative and aggressive Israeli policies" and proclaiming its "solidarity with the Syrian people," the Agence France Presse reported. The secretary general of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, said the Israeli raid "amounts to state terrorism," the AFP said. The Arab League, recall, now includes a representative of the Iraqi governing council installed at the cost of billions of American dollars and hundreds of American lives.**

The American State Department yesterday made the mistake of calling on Israel to exercise "restraint." More appropriate was President Bush's own statement Saturday after the terrorist attack on the restaurant in Haifa, in which at least 19 were killed. "I condemn unequivocally the vicious act of terrorism committed today in Haifa, Israel," Mr. Bush said. "This murderous action, aimed at families gathered to enjoy a Sabbath lunch, killed and injured dozens of men, women, and children. This despicable attack underscores once again the responsibility of Palestinian authorities to fight terror, which remains the foremost obstacle to achieving the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security. The new Palestinian cabinet must dedicate itself to dismantling the infrastructure of terror and preventing the kind of murderous actions that we witnessed today."

The president's statement went on, "The American people join me in expressing condolences to Prime Minister Sharon and all the people of Israel, and in reiterating our common dedication to the cause of fighting terrorism."

Mr. Bush's response had the virtue of highlighting the difference between his approach and that of the leading Democratic presidential candidate, the former governor of Vermont, Howard Dean. "I deplore violence of any kind, especially violence perpetrated by terrorists against innocent civilians," said Dr. "Do Not Take Sides" Dean. "Despite these tragic events, the United States must continue to take the lead in seeking the resolution of this seemingly endless conflict. I urge President Bush to further engage in the process so that the voices of moderation that represent the majority of people on both sides of the issue prevail."

Dr. Dean's statement, unlike Mr. Bush's, failed to criticize the Palestinian leaders. His reference to "the voices of moderation that represent the majority of people on both sides of the issue" raises more questions than it answers. Does Dr. Dean consider Prime Minister Sharon to be a voice of moderation? What about the polls that show between 60% and 70% of Palestinian Arabs support suicide bombings? Given how Israel marginalizes its own

Yom Kippur War

extremists, what animates someone to compare them to the 400 795 548 807 Palestinian terrorist organizations, which are tolerated, even encouraged, and funded, by the Palestinian, Arab, and Iranian leaderships?

As for General Clark, his most detailed comments on Syria came in an interview last week with talkingpointsmemo.com, when he suggested that it was less of a problem than Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. He also suggested that the Bush administration's hostility toward Syria was motivated by "more or less settling scores against the Soviet surrogates in the Cold War in the Middle East," a motivation he seemed to view dimly. Among the Democrats yesterday, it was Senator Lieberman who struck exactly the right note when, on Fox News Sunday, he described the Israeli strike as "Not unlike what we did after September 11 in attacking Al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan."

Indeed, there are plenty of ties between Syria and Al Qaeda, starting with the fact that an American air force translator was indicted last month for spying for Syria on the American prison camp at Guantanamo Bay where the captured Al Qaeda terrorists are being held. An Israel Defense Forces spokesman said the camp struck in Syria is a place "where operatives of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad train, while enjoying the backing of Syria." The statement also said "Iran provides funding and direction" to the terrorist groups.

Jews around the world gather today to observe the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur. Among the prayers said is one asking God for peace. If the Jews of the past generation were accustomed to peace, or if they lived in a friendlier neighborhood, the appeal for divine intervention probably wouldn't be so urgent. In the absence of the intervention of a supernatural power, the hope for peace rests - as it has for so long - with Israel's own army and the friends, such as America, of the Jewish State.

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

End of Document

Saudis Fostering terrorism? September 19, 2003, Friday

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

September 19, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 Charleston Newspapers

Section: Editorial; Pg. P4A

Length: 815 words

Byline: Gzedit

Body

SOME scholars say humanity is suffering World War IV, the fourth global conflict within a century. No. 3 was the long, destructive Cold War between communism and capitalist democracy. No. 4 is the far-flung conflict by armed Muslim fanatics against "infidels."

Former CIA Director James Woolsey supports this view. He told University of California students: "This fourth world war, I think, will last considerably longer than either World War I or II."

The new global "war" has many, many battlefronts: Muslim and Christian tribes trading massacres in Nigeria; Chechen suicide bombers destroying Russian apartment towers; Kashmiri zealots locked in deadly conflict with Hindus; Muslim-Christian rioting in Indonesia; the disintegration of former Yugoslavia in the 1990s; Lebanon's terrible civil war in the 1980s; Islamic rebels fighting in the Philippines; Algerian rebels shooting unveiled high school girls in the face; Muslim-Christian strife in the Caucasus; fanatics who fire-bombed a Bali nightclub; Palestinian suicide bombers in Israel; and, of course, the al-Qaida plotters who wrought the 9/11 tragedy.

A "clash of civilizations" is how Harvard professor Samuel Huntington describes the widespread hostility, which produces new bloodshed daily.

Nobody could trace the roots of all the conflicts involving extremist Muslims - but some part of the horror can be linked to the fierce, rigid, puritanical Wahhabi faith in Saudi Arabia. The current Time magazine has a cover story on this problem, titled, "The Saudis: Whose side are they on in the war on terror?" It gives this history:

In the 1740s, Arabian prophet Mohammed al-Wahhab launched a movement to "purify" Islam of worldly influences. He preached hostility not only for Christians and Jews, but also Shiite, Sufi and Sunni Muslims - many of whom were slaughtered. Local Arabian leaders teamed up with Wahhabi holy warriors to drive Ottoman rulers out of Arabia. The latter reconquered the peninsula in the 1800s, but Wahhabi descendent Abdul Aziz ibin Saud united Wahhabi fighters and regained it in the early 1900s, making himself absolute king. Soon afterward, oil was discovered.

Today, ruled by Saud's huge family, Saudi Arabia is a "backward, authoritarian, fundamentalist state" saturated with bigoted religion, Time says. Imams in mosques pray, "O God, please destroy the Jews, the infidels and all who support them." Schoolbooks teach children that God cursed Jews and Christians, turning some of them into apes and pigs. Ninth-graders are taught that Judgment Day won't come "until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them."

Harsh religious punishments of beheading, flogging and amputation prevail. "Jidda's Juffali Mosque is next to Chop-Chop Square, so called for the work of the executioners who practice there," the magazine says.

Flush with oil wealth, the ruling family pays for many efforts to implant Wahhabism in other Islamic lands. For example, rich Saudis send \$ 1 million a year to Tanzania, "where fundamentalists have taken over 30 of the 487 mosques in the capital and have begun bombing bars and beating women who go out without being fully covered," Time relates.

Exported Saudi money funds Pakistan's narrow-minded "madrasah" schools that breed fanatics. Saudi "charities" funnel oil money to foreign Wahhabi centers, where part of it is diverted to buy weapons for insurgents, the magazine adds.

Of the 19 al-Qaida zealots who inflicted the 9/11 horror on America, 15 were Saudis. For months, Saudi rulers refused to acknowledge this ugly fact, or cooperate with probes into the terrorist connection.

When Congress completed a report on 9/11, the Bush White House blacked out 28 pages dealing with Saudi Arabia, "producing the smell of a cover-up of complicity in the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history," Time commented.

Wednesday, The New York Times reported that half of the annual budget of Hamas, the Palestinian fanatic group which sends suicide bombers into Israeli cities, comes from Saudi Arabia.

Six hundred families who lost loved ones in the 9/11 strike filed a \$ 1 trillion lawsuit against the House of Saud, alleging that it fomented the horror. In July, 191 members of Congress voted for a bill to add Saudi Arabia to the list of states sponsoring terrorism, but the bill failed.

Saudi Arabia suffered a jolt in May when, for the first time, al-Qaida terrorists struck Islam's homeland. Nine suicide bombers devastated three Riyadh housing complexes, killing themselves and 26 others. Since then, sobered Saudi rulers have waged a police crackdown on terrorist cells, and purged mosques of imams preaching hate. Reportedly, bigoted passages have been removed from school texts.

The Saudi actions seem to be a strong reversal of past compliance with extremists. We surely hope so. It will be a step toward world safety if the Wahhabi country stops spawning fanatics and starts jailing them.

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 12, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: World; World Report; Pg. B2; Brief; News; Sports; Crime

Length: 1765 words

Body

MIDEAST

HAMAS MILITANTS DISPLAY ISRAELI SOLDIERS' REMAINS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- **Hamas** militants triumphantly displayed remains of some of the six Israeli soldiers killed in a roadside bombing in Gaza City on Tuesday, prompting Israeli threats of punishing reprisals if all body parts are not returned.

Eight Palestinians were killed and 123 wounded in a battle that pitted hundreds of gunmen against Israeli troops firing from tanks, helicopters and rooftops.

The violence began after midnight, when a small Israeli force entered the crowded Zeitoun neighbourhood to look for weapons workshops.

As the troops withdrew around daybreak, an armoured personnel carrier transporting at least 100 kg of explosives for use in the raid was shredded by the roadside bomb.

LEADERS AGREE TO POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO STANDOFF

NAJAF, Iraq -- Radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr will end his violent standoff with American troops if the U.S.-led coalition postpones its legal case against him and sets up an Iraqi force to patrol his stronghold of Najaf, Iraqi leaders in the city said Tuesday.

Compiled from Star News Services

About 40 Iraqi political and tribal leaders, including a senior aide to al-Sadr, agreed on the proposal at a meeting at the most prominent shrine in the holy Shiite city, where American forces have fought the cleric's fighters this month. The violence comes as U.S. forces try to improve security ahead of a June 30 deadline for the restoration of sovereignty to Iraqis.

MEMO SAYS BEATINGS WERE 'JUSTICE' FOR LYNCH ATTACK

BAGHDAD -- A **female** soldier in the army's 320th Military Police Battalion took "vigilante justice" on Iraqi prisoners who she believed had raped army Pte. 1st Class Jessica Lynch.

Lt.-Col. Jerry Phillabaum, commander of 320th Military Police Battalion, levelled the allegation in a rebuttal to charges against his leadership of the 320th, some of whose soldiers were also charged with abusing prisoners last fall at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

World Report

Phillabaum said Master Sgt. Lisa Girman, 35, and three other MPs abused the prisoners at Camp Bucca in Iraq on May 12, 2003.

"When Master Sgt. Lisa Girman returned to Camp Bucca shortly before midnight, she took 'vigilante justice' against EPW (enemy prisoners of war) that she believed had raped Pte. 1st Class Jessica Lynch," he said.

GUNMEN ATTACK U.S.-RUN CIVILIAN CONVOY IN IRAQ

BAGHDAD -- Gunmen attacked a U.S.-run civilian convoy in Iraq's western desert and some personnel were unaccounted for, U.S. officials said Tuesday. Iraq's oil minister said a weekend bombing at a southern pipeline had cut oil exports by 30 per cent.

The attack on the convoy came as one Russian worker was confirmed dead and two others abducted in another attack on foreigners working in Iraq.

The officials said the convoy was operated by a subcontractor of KBR, or Kellogg, Brown & Root, which is in turn a subsidiary of Halliburton.

EUROPE

OFFICIAL SAYS BOMBINGS WERE 'HIGH TREASON'

ATHENS -- The triple bombing of a police station last week was "high treason" that blackened Greece's image and its security efforts for the Olympics, the public order minister said Tuesday.

The minister, Giorgos Voulgarakis, was in Washington for talks on efforts to safeguard the games when the bombings occurred May 5, the start of a 100-day countdown to the opening ceremony. Nobody was injured.

"Such events -- no matter how small and isolated they are -- amount to high treason," Voulgarakis said.

The bombings raised global concern about Greece's ability to protect the Aug. 13-29 Olympics.

WHO URGES SMALL CLINICS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH HIV

GENEVA -- AIDS programs in developing countries put too little emphasis on treatment, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, urging for more small community-based clinics to be opened to treat HIV-infected people.

An estimated 36 million to 46 million people are living with AIDS, two-thirds of them in Africa, but only 440,000 people in developing countries were receiving treatment by the end of 2003, some 300,000 of them in Latin America, where Brazil has spearheaded AIDS treatment, the UN health agency said in its annual report.

"Without treatment, all of them will die a premature and in most cases painful death," the WHO said in the 169-page World Health Report.

WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook said community-based treatment should be added to disease prevention and care for sufferers in AIDS programs.

"Future generations will judge our era in large part by our response to the AIDS pandemic," Lee said.

4 KILLED IN GLASGOW PLASTICS FACTORY BLAST

GLASGOW, Scotland -- An explosion destroyed part of a plastics factory in Glasgow on Tuesday, killing four people, burying at least 11 in rubble and injuring about three dozen, police and the fire brigade said.

A midday blast at Stockline Plastics wrecked much of the building and left 37 people injured, 16 seriously, the Strathclyde fire brigade said.

World Report

Strathclyde firemaster Brian Sweeney said six injured people had been pulled out of the collapsed building and firefighters were in vocal contact with five more still buried underneath. He said he did not know whether there were more people trapped under the bricks.

It was not clear what caused the blast, but Strathclyde Police Chief Supt. David Christie said there was "absolutely no" indication that it was terrorism related.

POWELL TO SPORT SCOTTISH COAT OF ARMS

GLASGOW -- Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state, has commemorated his Scottish roots by having a coat of arms commissioned by Scotland's heraldic authority.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms is likely to hand over the coat of arms, which also illustrates his distinguished military career, at a ceremony in Washington in September.

The Lord Lyon, Scotland's equivalent of the College of Arms in London, will bestow the coat of arms in memory of Powell's late father, Luther.

The Heraldry Society of Scotland helped with the design of the arms, which depict two swords arranged in a diagonal cross to mark Powell's military career.

Also included are a lion, a symbol traditionally associated with the Powell surname, and an eagle, which signifies America and is also a reference to the badge of the 101st Airborne Division, which Powell commanded.

Four "mullets stars Argent" arranged around the swords refer to Powell's status as a four-star general with the U.S. military.

RUSSIA

SMOKING SOLDIERS BLAMED FOR FIRE AT ARMS DEPOT

MOSCOW -- Two soldiers smoking cigarettes were blamed Tuesday for a huge blaze at a Ukrainian arms depot.

Explosions sent shells and shrapnel hurtling into nearby villages, killing five people, forcing 7,000 to flee their homes.

At the height of the fire, which began last Thursday, more than 5,000 explosions an hour were recorded at the Melitopol warehouse complex, where about 90,000 tons of munitions were stored. Two servicemen working in the arsenal started the fire, Hryhory Reva, the emergencies minister, told the Ukrainian parliament.

PUTIN VISITS CHECHEN CAPITAL AFTER LEADER KILLED

MOSCOW -- President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday made a clandestine visit to the war-ruined capital of Chechnya, whose Kremlin-backed leader was killed by a bomb two days earlier.

Putin, on returning to Moscow, vowed to cabinet members that Russia's efforts to bring stability to Chechnya were irreversible. But the secrecy surrounding his morning visit to Grozny, the Chechen capital, underlined the region's tenuous security.

Despite a massive troop presence in Grozny, rebels and sympathizers commit frequent attacks in the capital. Elsewhere in Chechnya, rebels kill Russian soldiers almost daily and Russian air and artillery assaults are unable to uproot them from their mountain encampments.

The fighting, the second war in Chechnya in a decade, began in September 1999.

Putin's trip, which wasn't announced until he had returned to Moscow, came about 48 hours after Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov and at least six other people were killed.

AFRICA

NO FAMINE HERE, SAYS HUNGRY ZIMBABWE

HARARE -- Zimbabwe, where more than five million people face famine, Tuesday claimed it had enough food to feed its population and would not seek aid supplies this year.

The claim was dismissed as ridiculous by agricultural experts and aid workers who said it was an attempt by the regime to secure full control over food supplies in the run-up to next year's parliamentary elections.

While there have been relatively good rains this year, the claim by Paul Mangwana, the labour and social welfare minister, flew in the face of all empirical evidence.

"We don't need food aid from outside the country," Mangwana said. "We generally believe we produced enough for local consumption, and we have told our international partners about this.

"There are some areas that would have food deficits, but these would be covered through internal food distribution."

NORTH AMERICA

OPRAH'S FITNESS GURU BACKS SPONSOR, MCDONALD'S

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. -- The fitness guru who trimmed Oprah Winfrey and is riding his bicycle across the United States to promote health and wellness is sticking up for his sponsor, McDonald's.

Bob Greene is biking 5,000 km over 36 days as part of the fast food restaurant's "Go Active!" challenge. Greene said that those who criticize McDonald's -- like Morgan Spurlock, director of the new documentary Super Size Me -- are just taking cheap shots at the restaurant.

Greene said McDonald's is spending money to promote fitness and healthy menu items, like salads.

Spurlock's movie opened last weekend. In it, he chows down on a McDonald's-only diet for a month in an examination of American obesity.

McDonald's has introduced new meals specially for adults with salad, bottled water and pedometers.

FORMER STUDENTS SAY THEY WERE RAPED BY NUNS

BOSTON -- Nine former students at a Boston Roman Catholic school for the deaf filed a lawsuit Tuesday alleging they were raped, beaten and tormented decades ago by the nuns who ran the place.

They accused at least 14 nuns in the lawsuit, along with a priest and a male athletic instructor at the now-defunct Boston School for the Deaf, and a former top official of the Boston Archdiocese, said their lawyer, Mitchell Garabedian.

The alleged victims -- three women and six men -- ranged in age from seven to 16 when, they said, they were sexually and physically abused between 1944 and 1977.

The Boston School for the Deaf, in Randolph, Mass., was run by an independent, non-profit corporation until it closed in 1994. "They are all speech-impaired and hearing-impaired," said Garabedian.

Graphic

World Report

Colour Photo: Associated Press photo; NO MORE CLOWNING AROUND: A Greenpeace protester dressed like Ronald McDonald waves from a police car Tuesday after he was removed from the gates of the distribution centre of fast food giant McDonald's in Wiri, Auckland, New Zealand. Greenpeace claims that McDonald's uses chickens that have been fed food which includes genetically engineered products.

Load-Date: May 12, 2004

End of Document

Besieged Arafat backs down over militants

The Times (London)

August 4, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 13

Length: 820 words

Byline: Robert Tait in Jerusalem

Body

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, backed down yesterday from a confrontation with militants hunted by Israel after trying to expel them from his headquarters in Ramallah.

He agreed to a deal allowing 17 members of al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades to remain in his compound pending further talks between Israel and the Palestinians on what should be done with them.

The climbdown came after he tried to banish the men to Jericho in an effort to persuade Israel to lift the siege that it has imposed on him for the past 18 months.

The militants have been sheltering in the Muqataa, Mr Arafat's bomb-damaged compound, for months in the face of Israeli insistence that they are wanted on terrorism charges.

Mr Arafat had the militants summoned to his office and told them that they were being sent to Jericho, a West Bank town that Israel has offered to hand over to Palestinian control as part of a deal brokered with the United States. Israel has indicated that it will lift the siege on Mr Arafat if he expels the wanted men.

However, in a revealing sign of his diminished status, Mr Arafat agreed to let them stay for the time being, after a threat from other al-Aqsa Brigades cells to "strike with an iron fist" against Israel.

Earlier he had ordered the arrest of the men at gunpoint after only five of them agreed to go to Jericho, while the others threatened to go on hunger strike. One accused Mr Arafat of "yielding to the conspiracies of the Zionists and Americans".

Kamal Ghanem, one of the leaders of the detained men, who is accused by the Israelis of trying to send two **female** suicide bombers into Israel, said yesterday that they were to be allowed to remain in exchange for agreeing to refrain from violence and to have contact only with their families. They would remain until talks between the Israelis and Palestinians were completed, he said.

Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli Defence Minister, promised Mohammad Dahlan, the Palestinian Security Minister, that Israel would not arrest such men if they are kept in a Palestinian prison in Jericho, where they would be under international supervision. Nevertheless, Palestinian sources say that the militants are reluctant to go for fear that Israel may try to assassinate them.

Israel has offered to withdraw troops from Jericho and one other West Bank city and to transfer control to Palestinian security forces in confidence-building steps intended to boost the United States-backed "road map" to

Besieged Arafat backs down over militants

peace. But it has refused to yield to Palestinian demands to withdraw from Ramallah, partly because Mr Arafat is sheltering wanted militants there.

The stand-off exposed unhappiness within Fatah -the political grouping to which Mr Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Prime Minister, belong and to which al-Aqsa Brigades is linked -over the three-month ceasefire that militant groups have declared as their contribution to the road map.

Many al-Aqsa Brigades members complain that the truce was imposed without consultation and have threatened to break ranks.

As Mr Arafat reached a compromise with the militant factions, however, Silvan Shalom, the Israeli Foreign Minister, rejected an offer last night from Nabil Shaath, his Palestinian counterpart, to make the three-month ceasefire "absolute and permanent".

After a meeting in Jerusalem, between the two men, Mr Shalom insisted that the Palestinian Government must confront and dismantle militant groups, something that Mr Abbas has said that he will not do for fear of provoking a civil war. Israel argues that the militant groups are simply using the present truce to rebuild their strength.

Sources present at the meeting said that Mr Shalom had called for "100 per cent effort" to dismantle Palestinian "terror networks". Mr Shaath replied that he did not have "200 tanks to fight Hamas", the extremist Islamist group, but added that the present truce could extend "for three years or even 27 years" if Palestinians experienced improvements in their daily lives.

Four Israelis, including a woman, her nine-year-old daughter and another child, were injured last night in a shooting attack on two cars near Har Gilo, a Jewish settlement south of Jerusalem.

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that the incident proved the need for an onslaught by the Palestinians against militant groups.

In further violence, a Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli soldiers at a road block near Ramallah. The Army said that the man did not obey instructions to stop his car.

AIRLINER BAN

Israel is to ban foreign airliners without bulletproof cockpit doors from flying over the country or landing at its airports.

The Israeli Transport Ministry said that some airlines with older fleets, particularly those from Eastern Europe, had yet to install the safety doors. The International Civil Aviation Organisation wants every airline to install reinforced cockpit doors by November.

Load-Date: August 4, 2003

French hold hectic talks on captives

The International Herald Tribune

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 874 words

Byline: Elaine Sciolino

Dateline: PARIS:

Body

France on Tuesday stepped up its diplomacy to win the release of two French journalists taken hostage in Iraq as the deadline set by their kidnappers drew near.

But the French government refused to give in to the kidnappers' demand that it rescind the new law banning Islamic headscarves and other conspicuous religious symbols from public schools.

"France as a democracy has laws, values and traditions," President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, where he was meeting President Vladimir Putin of Russia and the German chancellor, Gerhard Schroder.

"Under the given circumstances," Chirac said, "we are concentrating all our efforts on freeing the hostages and we appeal for their immediate release."

The New York Times

It was a day of roller-coaster diplomacy.

Hopes for the release of the journalists Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot seemed to dim as another militant Iraqi group announced on an Islamist Web site that it had executed 12 hostages from Nepal who were kidnapped earlier this month.

Nepal, like France, was not involved in the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the men had come to Iraq to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian company.

Then came news on the Saudi-based Al Arabiya satellite channel that the release of the French hostages was imminent.

"The air is filled with a rumor of hope and then comes a rumor of pessimism," said a French official involved in the diplomatic efforts.

The seizure of two Frenchmen has been a stunning surprise for France. It has gripped the country since Saturday night when the kidnapping by the little-known Islamic Army of Iraq was announced on Al Jazeera television, along with the demand that the religious-symbol law be rescinded within 48 hours.

French hold hectic talks on captives

On Monday night, the kidnappers extended the deadline another 24 hours in a subsequent video broadcast on Al Jazeera. In the video, the two hostages asked the French government to meet the group's demand so that their lives would be spared.

The kidnapping has also shattered any notion that France might have enjoyed immunity from terrorism emanating from Iraq because of its staunch antiwar stance and its refusal to send any troops to the country, even to train soldiers and police officers.

Finally, the crisis is a personal challenge to Chirac, who has spent much of his four decades in elected office cultivating relationships with leaders in the Arab world and considers himself as an expert on Arab politics.

"Until our hostages are freed we will be in a state of anxiety that can't be described," said France's communications minister, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres.

As the crisis deepened, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier continued his whirlwind mission Tuesday, visiting Amman, the Jordanian capital, and Alexandria, in Egypt, to explain the new law, which takes effect when elementary and high school students return to their classrooms this Thursday, and to win Arab and Muslim support for the hostages' release.

"The honor, the history of our country and of the French republic are to guarantee to all those who live in France the same protection, the same freedom of conscience and of worship," Barnier said Tuesday in Amman in defending the law in the name of the country's secular, republican ideals.

Francois Fillon, the minister of national education, who is responsible for enforcing the new law on religious symbols, meanwhile, abruptly canceled a news conference scheduled for Tuesday to explain how the law would be implemented.

The Islamic world seems to be speaking with one voice in denouncing the kidnapping and demanding that the journalists be freed.

In Gaza on Tuesday, the Palestinian Islamic militant group Hamas said the journalists were innocent victims who should be released, and that because France had been antiwar, it should not be made to suffer. "France has been taking a positive stand in support of the Iraqi cause," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for the group.

Even those opposed to the headscarf ban condemned the kidnappers, insisting the matter was a purely domestic affair to be debated in France.

In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Arab world's largest Islamist organization whose supporters in France have led the protests against the headscarf ban, has called for the hostages' release.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which requires women to hide their hair and had also condemned the law, on Tuesday condemned the kidnappers.

"Human values and Islamic principles do not condone such methods," Hamid Reza Asefi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, was quoted by the official news agency IRNA as saying.

Other commentators noted that France, despite its antiwar stance, was now suffering the ripple effects of terror spawned by the war in Iraq.

"We are all hostages," announced the newspaper El Pais of Spain, which suffered the trauma of terrorist bombings in Madrid last March.

Amid the show of support, there was also an undercurrent of hostility.

"Good luck, Mr. Barnier," said a commentary in Tuesday's editions of The Independent of London.

French hold hectic talks on captives

It added, "France, in this moment of crisis, finds itself confronted with the limitations, and contradictions, of its efforts to develop an alternative (i.e. non-American) policy towards the Islamic world."

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

End of Document

French try to answer Iraq's anarchy with charm

The International Herald Tribune

September 13, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 913 words

Byline: Elaine Sciolino

Dateline: PARIS:

Body

Geopolitical question of the week: What do Carlos the Jackal and the pope have in common?

Answer: Both have condemned the taking of two French journalists as hostages in Iraq and appealed for their liberation.

So have Muammar el-Qaddafi of Libya, King Abdullah of Jordan, Iraq's Sunni clerical leaders, the Palestinian militant group ***Hamas*** and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. Also, some of the world's leading Muslim clerics and assorted political leaders, journalists and humanitarian organizations.

The New York Times

The groundswell is a result of what might be called France's turban diplomacy, an intense public campaign to persuade the Islamic world to throw its support behind the hostages and therefore behind France.

There is a perception in Washington that France was smug, that President Jacques Chirac and his lieutenants felt themselves somehow immune from terrorism emanating from Iraq because of their fierce opposition to the U.S.-led war and their refusal to send troops in the aftermath. Among France's American critics, the events of the past two weeks confirm the view that France cannot protect itself by refusing to embrace the Bush administration's war on terror.

But as the French hostage crisis proves, what animates the French and their Islamic adversaries is not a battle over the future of Iraq.

The Muslim militants make no distinctions in their war against the West. The kidnappers' demand dealt with a social problem involving the Muslim population in France: They wanted the French to rescind a new law banning Islamic head scarves and most other religious symbols in public schools, a demand France rejected.

French leaders say they were never naive about terrorism. The official French position from the start, as expressed by Chirac, has been that terrorism thrives in disorder, and that the prospect of unleashing anarchy in Iraq was one reason for opposing the U.S.-led invasion there. This anarchy, the French say, is the principal reason their journalists were kidnapped, and justifies their global charm offensive.

Support for the view that France deserves a special status has come from some surprising quarters. Jordan's main opposition party, the Islamic Action Front, referred to "France's distinguished position in rejecting the Anglo-

French try to answer Iraq 's anarchy with charm

American occupation of Iraq." And Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal), the terrorist convicted in kidnappings, bombings and killings in the 1970s and '80s, sent a handwritten statement from a prison outside of Paris. It said all nationalities in the "service of the imperialist aggressor" were legitimate targets in Iraq but argued that because of its opposition to the war, "In Iraq, France must not be attacked."

Ten days ago, the turban offensive seemed to be working and France's culture minister expressed hope that the hostages' release was only hours away.

But that hope proved to be a mirage. France learned the hard way -- in Algeria in the 1950s, in Lebanon in the early 1980s -- that the effectiveness of negotiations and public diplomacy and even appeals to logic was unpredictable in dealing with hostage-takers.

If the dashing of French hopes proved anything, many commentators here say, it is that France was right in opposing the Iraq war. Where anarchy rules, and faceless thugs operate, it can be futile to try to figure out what might motivate them to release a hostage.

Hostage-taking in Iraq has included attacks by groups with clear political aims, especially those trying to force U.S. allies into withdrawing troops. The captors of two Italian female aid workers kidnapped last Tuesday promised to punish Italy for basing troops in Iraq.

There is also kidnapping for money, as in the case of seven foreign truckers ransomed for \$500,000. Or there is kidnapping purely to express hate, the apparent motive behind the slaughter of 12 kidnapped Nepalese contract drivers.

Against that range of possibilities, France has found it difficult to plot a strategy. "These are opportunistic people looking for any target," said Olivier Roy, a prominent French scholar of Islam.

"They don't care about Iraq. They are striking at the West as a whole."

The French know better than most that there is no refuge from terrorism. In October 1983, when a suicide truck bomber in Beirut blew up the U.S. Marine barracks there, killing 241 servicemen, another truck exploded at a French barracks two miles away, killing 58 French troops. And when France had citizens taken hostage by Iranian-backed Shiite radicals in Lebanon later in the 1980s, seeking their release proved humiliating, as it did for the Americans.

The United States sold Iran weapons in a vain effort to get the hostages freed. Chirac, who was prime minister then, is still suspected of involvement, widely rumored but unproved, in reportedly paying ransoms for French hostages.

Before and since the invasion of Iraq, the French angered the Bush administration when they lectured that the war would produce chaos and breed terrorism. Now, believing they are suffering the consequences of just such disorder, they have tried to curry favor with whichever group or individual, however radical or fundamentalist, might have a chance to win the hostages' freedom.

In their own descriptions of their motives, they sound neither noble nor naive. Just scarred. And, perhaps now, wary. After the open appeals failed to yield results, the French throttled back to a more traditional form of negotiation last week, one of behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

Load-Date: September 13, 2004

LETTERS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 12, 2003 Thursday

Late Edition

Copyright 2003 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 18

Length: 788 words

Body

No excuse for putting

partner's life at risk

I applaud the decision to award compensation to a woman as a result of two doctors failing to warn her then fiance of his obligation to tell her that he was infected with HIV ("Wife given HIV by husband awarded \$727,000", Herald, June 11).

Silence can never be an acceptable response for life put at such dreadful risk.

The appalling reality in Africa, where whole nations have been crippled by HIV/AIDS, is that the vast majority of women have been unknowingly infected by their husbands.

There must be a mutual regard for sexual health and safety between all partners.

Brian Haill,

President, Australian AIDS Fund Inc,

Frankston (Vic), June 11.

Ironic that a person has a right to be told that her partner has AIDS but there is a move to prevent men from obtaining a DNA sample without the mother's permission in order to establish if a child is really theirs as is alleged by the mother.

Surely a man has the right to know if he is being held responsible for the upkeep of a complete stranger while the responsible person escapes because of a fraudulent claim which cannot be contested except with the consent of the fraudster.

Michael Sobb,

Rydalmere, June 11.

Film ban: please explain

LETTERS

I have just spent four days watching films at the Sydney Film Festival together with hundreds of normal-looking adults. We have 10 more days to go. But there is one film that Messrs Williams and Debus, our federal and state attorneys-general respectively, have decided we cannot see. It is Ken Park, which has been shown in festivals and on commercial release around the world.

That film was selected by normal adults as a worthwhile contribution to film art. What gives Mr Williams and Mr Debus the gall to believe that they have some special ability to be arbiters of what so many of their fellow citizens are allowed to see? Do they believe they are saving Sydney from a libidinous mob pouring into King Street at the end of the screening?

If they have other good reasons why Australia should break step with the rest of the Western world, let them come to the State Theatre stage and tell us. Otherwise they should review their decision.

John Warren,

Annandale, June 11.

The swollen tide

People who come to these shores in leaky boats after paying thousands of dollars to people smugglers are called "boat people" and "queue jumpers".

What should we call people who jump the queue after swelling the coffers of the Liberal Party with hefty donations? How about "bloat people"?

Christopher Dunne,

Chatswood, June 11.

Dissolving claim

Regarding Professor George Williams's claim ("Fixed terms hold the key to breaking the Senate's legislative deadlock", Herald, June 11) that prime ministers have used double dissolutions as vehicles for early elections.

On every occasion there has been a double dissolution the prime minister could have had an election for the House of Representatives alone.

Such an election would not have solved their problem, which was lack of a majority in the Senate. This was especially irksome for the recently elected prime ministers in 1914, 1951 and 1974, who brought on double dissolutions not much longer than a year after election.

The double dissolutions of 1983 and, more so, 1987, represented the forlorn hopes of prime ministers thinking they might secure a Senate majority by taking advantage of the leadership strife of their opponents.

Professor Williams would have been on more certain ground had he drawn attention to the use prime ministers made in 1955, 1977 and 1984 to take advantage of a periodical election for half the Senate to shore up their positions in the House.

J. R. Nethercote,

Canberra, June 11.

Amid the howls of "obstructionist" aimed at the Senate, reality seems to have stepped out for a coffee. Some 188 pieces of legislation have been enacted since January last year. Presently there are four bills that could trigger a double dissolution, with three more waiting in the wings. The Government dominates the lower house. The other parties combined have a majority in the Senate. The important factor is that all the other parties must vote the same

LETTERS

way to disallow a bill. They've done this less than 4 per cent of the time. That doesn't look particularly obstructionist to me.

James Mason,

Redfern, June 11.

A move for the map

Contrary to the hysterical claims of some, Israel's attempted assassination of Abdel Aziz Rantisi was not an attack on the road map ("Missile blows hole in road map", Herald, June 11). Just the opposite: Dr Rantisi is probably the most vehemently opposed to the road map. He has vowed that **Hamas** will continue its murders of Israelis no matter what. Eliminating him only lends support to the road map's success.

Adam Levy,

Bondi, June 11.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Marital woes under martial law

The Australian

June 19, 2003 Thursday NSW Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-TYPE- REVIEW-COLUMN- VIEW, THEMEDIA; Pg. B24

Length: 718 words

Byline: Patricia Karvelas

Body

Compass: A Wedding in Ramallah

9.30pm, ABC

MANY recent images that have made their way out of Palestine to the western media show disenfranchised youngsters throwing rocks at Israeli tanks or suicide bombers blowing up teenagers in night clubs. So it's refreshing to be offered such a different side of Palestinian people in tonight's documentary.

While the view may still be a little dark, it's based on the real lives of complex people. It's a story with a depth that can't be offered in a nightly newflash, a tale that draws us in with some likeable characters and some rather repellent villains.

MATP

A Wedding in Ramallah focuses on an arranged marriage between a US-based Palestinian man and a 25-year-old local woman who has lived a traditional village life, never spending even a night away from home.

Directed by Australian film-maker Sherine Salama, this documentary is confronting and devoid of rigid structure. The format is raw and the interviews are frank. It's a very personal piece with a story that could work as a fictional account in an art-house film, but it's all the more engaging because it's real.

We meet Bassam Abed in a taxi, recently returned to Palestine from his now-native Cleveland, Ohio. Some years before he was exiled by Israeli authorities who threatened to jail him for links to **Hamas**. He built a new life in his new country, a life that included a marriage that ended when his wife left him -- an abhorrent act according to Bassam's traditional beliefs. So his return to Palestine is driven by his desire to find a "good girl". He entrusted the task to his family, and now that an adequate bride has been found he's in town for a month to meet her and wed her.

In early scenes, Bassam talks to the camera about the way Palestinians are portrayed as terrorists in the West. He asks "What's making you, like, trust me? ... I could be a kidnapper." Salama puts it down to his "open face".

And it is this question and the ease with which Salama answers it that sets up the journey. Salama gains Bassam's trust by first giving her own, and with that act she's welcomed in to his world to document an amazing story.

The wedding takes place in the summer of 2000, a relatively peaceful period in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The pictures are beautiful. The village is alive with the buzz of a wedding and there's excitement in the air.

Marital woes under martial law

But soon after the wedding, the peace talks at Camp David are breaking down and the intifada begins.

When the marriage celebrations are over, the new bride Mariam leaves her village to live with her husband's family in Ramallah. Bassam soon returns to the US to continue working, and tries to arrange a visa for her to join him. Mariam's sister-in-law also lives with Bassam's parents. She's been waiting for eight years for her American-based husband to come for her. Although she maintains hope, it's clear that she and her young daughter are likely to wait in limbo for some time for Bassam's sullen brother, Moussa, who also remarried after a failed American marriage.

And it's the sister-in-law Sinora, desperate to go to America, who tugs the most at our heart strings. At 15 she married the much older man, already a father of three children, with the hope of a new life in a new country. We meet her eight years on in a pathetic situation. Her mother-in-law seems to hate her, viewing her as a trouble-maker when she buys a new mobile phone or visits her family to escape her drudgery. Her husband tells us that marriage without love is worthless, like sleeping with a whore. He doesn't go on to explain how his own situation came about.

We follow the emotional journey of both women waiting for their husbands.

Mariam's departure is delayed by the increased tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. But it's clear that her situation is much less dire.

While countless documentaries have been made about the Arab/Israeli conflict, this is a fresh view of women leading seemingly normal village lives, working and gossiping while buildings around them are shelled.

By the end of the documentary, Mariam's situation has changed while Sinora is left in despair. But neither is granted a happy ending.

Salama's film provides a female take on life under occupation. At times it's both heart-warming and heart-breaking. It's always compelling.

Load-Date: June 18, 2003

Is it okay to love a robot?

The Nelson Mail (New Zealand)

July 31, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: FEATURES; GENERAL;

Length: 785 words

Byline: DOVER Mic

Body

I see the Womad festival has just finished in my old UK hometown of Reading - Womad originally stood for World of Music, Arts and Dance but now it's mainly a world music event.

Why Reading of all places? All the organisers did was replicate the logistics behind the long-established Reading Rock Festival, book the same field from the same farmer and Caramba! Another successful festival.

But Womad can be held in an open space anywhere (there's now a version in Taranaki I believe), so maybe we should forget about the Trafalgar Centre and think of what Nelson could do with a far better climate for outdoor events than England, as well as no shortage of paddocks. How about Nomad - the Nelson Outdoor Music, Arts and Dance festival?

Plus a bit of theatre of course. Outdoor Shakespeare was massive in my hometown, despite the inevitable rain. The UK is a country where more people go to see plays each week than attend football matches - not many people know that.

And these people don't start fights, unless you count the scrum to get a drink in the interval. Nor do they chant mindless songs like "Why are we waiting, why are we waiting, oh why are we waiting, waiting for Godot?" or "He's big, he's round, he bounces on the ground, Bernard Shaw, Bernard Shaw".

That live theatre is probably the most underrated art form on earth was hit home to me last weekend, when I had the privilege to be in a sold-out Suter Theatre, watching a live recording of the winning plays in the recent Haven Realty/Fresh FM radio drama competition.

Modesty forbids me from commenting on my own play, but the quality of all the other winners, especially in the younger age-group categories, was truly stunning and the equal of new writing I've seen in fashionable drama festivals in London, Oxford or Edinburgh.

That same weekend (busy, busy) I also caught a movie two days running - I, Robot, then next day, Michael Moore's follow up to Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11.

On the face of it, it would be hard to find two more different films. I, Robot - a slick, 21st century, megabucks Hollywood movie, with oodles of computer-generated action - and Fahrenheit 9/11, a low budget documentary that relies on clever editing of archive footage, talking heads and some gut-wrenching, real life human misery.

Is it okay to love a robot?

But both movies deal with a conspiracy - the robot flick portrays the betrayal of mankind by the machines they created, deciding they know what's best for us. Moore's film evokes the betrayal of America by a powerful elite ("the haves and the have mores") who have also decided they know what's best for us - or rather, what's best for them.

One thing about that big screen experience is you get to see people's faces in the kind of detail that rarely happens in real life - Michael Moore's nose for instance or George W's eyes.

Both movies reminded me of the importance we humans attach to eyes. There's a robot called Sonny who has gorgeous deep blue eyes - hmm ... is it ever okay to love a robot? Is it?

Anyway, these limpid pools of blue "humanise" Sonny in a way no other feature could -but here's the spooky thing - when you look into George Bush's eyes the opposite seems to happen; he gets less human. Do you have that saying here, "the lights are on, but there's no-one at home"?

But for me, the strangest thing of all about Fahrenheit 9/11 is how party political the movie is. In Moore's book Stupid White Men he devotes a whole chapter to the view that, for ordinary Americans, there is little difference between Democrats and Republicans.

Everyone knows that any serious US presidential candidate, of either party, has to have the backing of the richest corporate elites in the world before they'd even consider him. Her? Forget it.

These shadowy people obviously don't consider Moore much of a threat - if they did, surely some right wing, ute-drivin', gun-totin' good ole boy would have blown him away by now. Moore's continued survival on earth almost makes you suspicious.

And what is Moore doing with all the money from these books and films? Hang on, if he's now a multi-millionaire, why doesn't he run for president?

But good on you Kiwis for having had two female leaders already. And let's give poor old Helen a break: she's one of the few politicians in the world to stand up to Bully Boy Bush, yet here she is, forced to travel to official functions on the 39 bus, where any Tom, Dick or Hamas can have a ping at her.

Doesn't anyone remember what happened to the Swedish prime minister a few years ago when he went for an evening stroll around Stockholm, supposedly the safest city on earth?

For safety's sake, give the woman a Lear jet - if Richard Branson's got one, then Helen deserves three at least.

Load-Date: August 2, 2004

News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 11, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 820 words

Body

In the Nation

AP, Miss. paper file suit

over erased Scalia tapes

* The Associated Press and the Hattiesburg (Miss.) American filed a lawsuit yesterday against the U.S. Marshals Service over an incident in April in which a federal marshal erased reporters' recordings of a speech Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave to high school students. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Jackson, Miss. Don Hines, a spokesman for the Marshals Service in Washington, said yesterday that while the agency was aware a lawsuit had been filed, "we have not seen it."

Boston vandals damage

statue of Civil War soldier

* In Boston, vandals toppled a 127-year-old bronze statue of a Civil War soldier, snapping off its head and musket. Authorities believe the 1,000-pound statue on the Boston Common was pushed over Saturday night. The statue of the Union soldier is part of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the city's most elaborate memorial. Officials think the figure can be repaired. Police said yesterday that no arrests had been made.

Despite her birth control,

zoo's orangutan pregnant

* Despite a daily regimen of birth-control pills, Merah the orangutan is pregnant. And St. Louis Zoo officials are uncertain who the father is. "Needless to say, we have a lot of unanswered questions," primate curator Ingrid Porton said. "It's a little embarrassing, I have to admit." Diligent about trying to prevent overcrowding and inbreeding, zookeepers have been giving 35-year-old Merah a daily birth-control pill mixed into yogurt and honey. Porton suspects the mixture either spilled or was swiped by Sugi, her 8-year-old son.

Charged in 12 murders,

News in Brief

man pleads not guilty

* A man accused of strangling 12 women between 1977 and 1993 pleaded not guilty yesterday in a Kansas City, Mo., courtroom filled with victims' families. After Lorenzo Gilyard's arraignment on 12 murder charges, his attorney said additional charges were possible. "It's my understanding that the state is actively reviewing homicides, missing women," said the lawyer, Donald Williams, adding that the last body was found more than 11 years ago and "the experts on serial killings say that you just can't stop."

Speeding SUV clips car,

kills seven in Maine

* A rented SUV was speeding at more than 90 m.p.h. when it clipped a car it was trying to pass and veered out of control, killing seven residents of South Portland, Maine, including four young children, authorities said. The Ford Explorer went airborne, slammed into trees in the median of Interstate 95 and landed on its roof. The crash, which killed the SUV driver and six others in the vehicle, happened Sunday about 10 miles west of Bangor.

In the World

Bush plans trips to Italy,

Normandy next month

* President Bush will make two trips to Europe next month. White House officials said yesterday that Bush's travels will begin in Italy on June 4, the anniversary of the liberation of Rome during World War II. On June 6, he will join other world leaders at Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landing. On June 25, he will return to Europe for a summit with the European Union in Ireland, then will travel to Turkey for the NATO summit June 27-29.

Ousted Haitian leader

seeks asylum in S. Africa

* Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has officially asked South Africa for asylum until his personal situation "normalizes," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said yesterday - the first official indication that he intends to go to South Africa after months of speculation as to where he will seek refuge. He was ousted Feb. 29 after a three-week armed revolt and is currently in Jamaica.

Bush to impose sanctions

on Syria over terrorism

* President Bush will order economic sanctions against Syria - perhaps as early as today - for supporting terrorism and not doing enough to prevent militant fighters from entering neighboring Iraq, congressional and administration sources said. Syria has been on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring nations for supporting groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Exit polls in India vote show

support down for coalition

* As India's three-week-long election ended yesterday, exit polls showed Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's coalition nowhere near the majority it needs to control Parliament and lead the nation for five more years. The vote also could decide the future of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, with opposition leader Sonia Gandhi's Congress party making solid gains and her son, Rahul, entering politics for the first time. Final results are expected Thursday.

Arab ministers to try

again to stage summit

* Arab ministers agreed yesterday to try again to hold an Arab League summit, on May 22 and 23 in Tunisia. Efforts to hold a meeting in March collapsed at the last minute because of differences about the conflict in Iraq, peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians, and a U.S. proposal for political and social reform in the Middle East.

Graphic

PHOTO;

JAMES POULSON, Associated Press

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter arrives at the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry LeConte after the 235-foot vessel struck a rock yesterday 25 miles north of Sitka, Alaska, and began taking on water. All 86 passengers and 23 crew members were evacuated safely from the vessel. Three people were hospitalized.

Load-Date: August 25, 2005

End of Document

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
May 18, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A20

Length: 801 words

Byline: TAMER ZIARA

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing seven people.

Early today, Palestinian security officials said armoured bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began levelling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

AP

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armoured vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

Broadening the Israeli buffer zone means bulldozing rows of houses in Rafah, leaving Palestinian refugees who fled during the 1948 Middle East war homeless again.

In the first Israeli air strike, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

Shortly before dawn Tuesday, a second Israeli helicopter fired another missile in the camp, killing four people and wounding 17, witnesses said. The air strike, near a mosque, came as people were gathering for morning prayers, they said.

The Israeli military said the target was armed Palestinians in the camp.

Frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighbouring town, also named Rafah. The UN Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food.

"Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want because we all are brothers," he said.

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah, out of a population of 90,000, have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of about 250 metres, almost double its current size in some places.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said yesterday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of that their name not be published, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and Hamas abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling. Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

Yesterday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

Rice "said that she and President (George W.) Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

Graphic

Color Photo: MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS; A Palestinian man rests in the street next to destroyed houses at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Panicked Palestinians fled their homes as Israeli forces massed for threatened assault, despite the Palestinian PM's appeal to the White House to intervene.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

End of Document

The ones who are not news

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

April 24, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Western Morning News

Section: Features; General; Columnist; Pg. 13

Length: 823 words

Body

'If anyone else had committed such an act it would rightly be described as a crime against humanity' HE was as sweet a looking girl as any five or six-year-old might be. She smiled shyly for the camera in the same way that any child who was posing for her picture on a sunny day on the beach might do. Her father, I recall, was laughing in the background as he cradled a baby, and other restless children looked on enthusiastically.

I think back on this girl and dug out the photograph I took last September after seeing the way three boys - must be the same age - played with my dog, and found him so amusing, as I walked him in Plymouth's Victoria Park an hour ago.

It was a wonderful time in the park, with the evening light and long shadows, the smell of the newly-cut grass and the hound, released from his captivity now that I was home from work, sniffing about and haring after tennis balls.

But what strikes me about the similarities is the stark contrast in which we view them. Two hundred yards or so beyond the girl's head when I took her photograph was a sandbank, on the top of which were nested heavily camouflaged machine-gun emplacements. I took that picture on the outskirts of a refugee settlement in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. And the very next day I learned - along with my friend David Halpin, with whom I'd travelled - that four children had been seriously wounded by Israeli gunfire on a water container along the same street.

Palestinian youths had stoned a tank that had been sent in to the street and been met by bullets.

I don't know, and there is no way of knowing, whether that small girl, whatever her name might be, was among the victims, and I won't be sentimental about it. Is her life any more important just because some Western journalist snapped her image and still possesses it in a cluttered pile in Plymouth? But those casualties, to the best of my knowledge, were never reported in the European Press. And if they were, they did not make headline impact.

I say this with caution because I know that anyone who has not witnessed the casual horrors and miseries that are inflicted on the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank, might think it exaggeration for effect. But I say it because it is happening still, continuously and with a routineness about which we are being kept in ignorance.

Two or three dead here, four or five there, it is just another day and, by the way we prioritise, skew, or interpret such events, it is hardly newsworthy.

A suicide, or a "human", bomber is a different matter. A few months ago the first ***female*** suicide bomber killed herself and numerous Israeli conscript soldiers at the Erez checkpoint, the only remaining point of entry into the

The ones who are not news

giant prison camp that is Gaza. I was deeply saddened too to be reminded of those skinny teenagers - hardly soldiers as we understand them - losing their lives in their prime, and in such agonies.

But it is not hard as well - while we are repelled by the effects - to understand (and I emphasise understand, as opposed to condone) why someone, robbed of their rights, their land, the very basics of an economy that make life worth living, could become infused by religious fervour or rationalise that this desperate act was the only way to make the world notice.

We are talking here about a society that has been held - deliberately I believe - in a regressed and impoverished state for generations.

It is easy, of course, to believe there is a conspiracy of silence over Palestine and the Palestinians.

But events elsewhere do point to a political thinking that they are expendable as a people and a nation. And those events link three men above all - George Bush, Tony Blair and Ariel Sharon. While we've all been reading about the 68 killed in suicide bombings in Basra - yet more slaughter of children - how often and how prominently have we read of the 600-700 Iraqis killed by US troops over the space of two weeks in Fallujah? Around 350 of them were women and children - how likely were they to be combatants? And that's just what we do know. If anyone else, al-Qaida or the IRA, had committed such an act it would rightly be described as a crime against humanity. The carnage and heartbreak would be the same - the grief that pollutes to hate - if it were a Hamas bomber in a Jerusalem street.

When it's "us", "the coalition", or the "allies" - whatever the sanitised term - it is reported in such a way that it barely registers in the public consciousness.

Post 9/11 a hierarchy has been promoted on the way we view the value of human life - and the effects of it are convulsing the world.

Would you feel outraged if those three boys who played with my dog in the park were shot to pieces by an occupying army? Of course. Their brothers or friends would be inflamed to a bloody revenge. And we'd never stop reading about it.

What's the difference between them and a child in Gaza? nyoung@westernmorningnews.co.uk

Load-Date: April 25, 2004

The Spectacle Of a Dirty War; THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

The Forward

May 21, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: Editorial; Pg. 8

Length: 883 words

Byline: Yossi Alpher

Body

A few days ago, in a conversation with a retired senior officer in the Pentagon's intelligence arm, the Defense Intelligence Agency, I dropped a derogatory remark about the now infamous posing of naked Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

"We learned it from you," the DIA man retorted.

"Not the taunting women and the photos," I replied.

"We're a more progressive army," he smiled.

That cynical exchange reflected three key dilemmas that Israel and America share in their respective wars: Can dirty wars like these be sanitized? What is the role of, for want of a better word, "spectacle" in today's wars? And are Iraq and Israel-Palestine essentially the same struggle?

A decade or so ago, Israel set out to rationalize its techniques for interrogating terrorist prisoners. In effect, this was an attempt to codify torture in legal terms, although the word never was mentioned and the closest the code comes is when it discusses "moderate physical pressure." The code banned, for example, the "shaking" technique that had caused the accidental death of several Palestinian detainees. But it did not prohibit, and indeed set standards for, acts like forcing Arabs to stand naked in order to humiliate them and putting sacks over their heads to disorient them.

This was an attempt by a democratic society to come to terms openly with the ugly necessities of fighting terrorism - a fight that inevitably, as we have learned most recently in Iraq, degenerates into dirty war. It was considered audacious by some, repugnant by others. The nasty techniques Israel perfected did indeed help break the resistance of "ticking bombs" and save innocent lives, and their codification and official legitimization enabled interrogators to look themselves in the mirror at the end of their day. But they did not end or solve the conflict, which escalated and eventually produced the suicide bombings, which in turn made the war even dirtier.

The Pentagon seemingly set a very different course at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. It also sought to humiliate, using the same techniques, but this time as sado-sexual theater. Prisoners were treated as subhumans, as untermenschen. The deed was digitally recorded for posterity, thereby reflecting the absence of any sense of culpability or shame. Nobody knows who gave the orders or what those orders were; some of the interrogators are civilian contractors, outside a seemingly nonexistent chain of command.

The Spectacle Of a Dirty War THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

The Israeli approach to interrogation is undoubtedly problematic. But in Iraq it has been turned into a cruel joke - and a highly counterproductive one, to judge by the reaction of some Arab regimes that know the real meaning of torture.

War as spectacle or theater in the Middle East is not limited to the Abu Ghraib interrogation chambers. On the same day last week that hooded Al Qaeda operatives in Baghdad cited the Abu Ghraib "torture" as justification for decapitating Nicholas Berg on camera, their Hamas and Islamic Jihad counterparts in Gaza posed almost cannibalistically with body parts of slain Israeli soldiers. For a brief video moment, not only were many Arabs claiming that "Iraq is Palestine" and that Arab fighters were combating imperialists at both ends of the Middle East - but the grisly images also drew together Jews in Israel and America in their confrontation with Islamic terrorists.

But Iraq is not Palestine, even if the Palestinian cause is a handy public relations excuse for Muslim terrorists everywhere. For all its faults and its failures, America's post-September 11 strategy in the Middle East has demonstrated that the Arab world is weak, fragmented and diffuse, and that most of what goes on in the region has little to do with the Palestinians.

Nor, in the Israeli case, do the Palestinians have a monopoly on nastiness or on a morbid preoccupation with human remains. Israel has, over the years, frequently refused to hand over Palestinian bodies and body parts for burial. And in a conflict where both civilians and soldiers are being blown apart by the enemy, the Israeli insistence on scraping and digging out for burial every "sacred" gram of victims' remains sometimes seems to exceed the commendable injunction to give slain Jews a proper funeral; to bespeak morbidity, not Halacha. Again, a photo - of soldiers on their hands and knees, pawing the sands of Rafah in southern Gaza in search of their slain buddies' body parts - reflects everything that is both admirable and unsettling here.

Death in war has taken on an additional dimension of spectacle in Israel that is not yet recognizable in America, where soldiers who fall in Iraq seem to be buried almost secretly. In our case, the omnipresent media has now empowered grieving families to declare their political demands - stay in Gaza, leave Gaza, reverse the Likud referendum decision - even before they have buried their loved ones. Seldom are the cameras waved away from the funeral and the ensuing shiva.

By and large, then, it is not the same war. And by and large, a dirty war can be sanitized only up to a point. And, sadly, far too much of this is spectacle.

Yossi Alpher, a former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and former senior adviser to Prime Minister Ehud Barak, is co-editor of bitterlemons.org and bitterlemons-international.org.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006