

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

Job Number: 223361723

Documents (100)

1. [In brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [CONGRESS MUST RIGHT FCC'S WRONG](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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3. [Israeli leaders will free some Palestinians; Officials on the other side - and those of radical groups - decried the limited release.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [ISRAEL AGREES TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS; OFFICIALS SAY THERE ARE CONDITIONS, WHICH ANGERS SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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5. [SINGER APPEALS TO KIDNAP PERS TO SHOW MERCY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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6. [Missile-carrying Israeli choppers pound suspected weapons factory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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7. [SAS lauded](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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8. [QUOTES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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10. [Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [*Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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12. [*Suicide bomber targets Israelis*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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13. [*Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [*Misleaders lead to more murders*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [*Creeping Democracy*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [Fight for peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [From Iraq , democracy creeps forward](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [Fears Brigitte was hunting recruits](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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20. [National Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [*Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

22. [*Palestine Campaign Has Gone Too Far*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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23. [*Melbourne women cheat death in blast*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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24. [*Israeli troops wound 3 in raid; Soldiers storm cafe, fire at fleeing men in hunt for fugitives*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [*CARTOONS & COMMENT; VIEWPOINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. [*Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

27. [Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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28. [Two scenes of fire, blood and mayhem: Death on Jerusalem, Gaza City streets. People toward front of No. 14 bus died; in Gaza, targeted car was on crowded street](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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29. [A Troubled Bush](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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30. [PALESTINIAN DECREE OUTLAWS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ESPOUSE VIOLENCE; ACTION MEETS ISRAELI DEMAND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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31. [Deadly push begins in Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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32. [DOOM & GLOOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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33. [NEWSDESK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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34. [Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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35. [Israeli troops strike Rafah: Missiles kill seven as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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36. [ON THIS DATE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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37. [*Israel bombs Syrian camp Air strikes in retaliation for suicide attack that killed 19*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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38. [*Three generations of two families killed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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39. [*MOB ATTACKS RESEARCHERS WHO FOUND FEW PALESTINIANS WANT THEIR OLD HOMES NOW IN ISRAEL*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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40. [*YOUR SAY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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41. [*I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

42. [Word choice matters in Mideast reporting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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43. [IN BRIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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44. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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45. [Your say](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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46. [Teen bomber kills policemen](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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47. [*Palestinian gunmen abduct, then free, 3 church volunteers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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48. [*Arafat urges radical shake-up of PA;*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

49. [*Pride restored*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

50. [*Bush plea as lives hang on knife-edge*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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51. [*Swift revenge after gunmen kill settler family;*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

52. [*Foot soldiers of nihilism*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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53. [*Shadowy foe of Mideast truce bides his time*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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54. [*At Home With the Killers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [*NATION; WORLD*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [*Sharon May Shuffle Cabinet, Rebuild Labor Coalition THE SITUATION*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. [*At least 14 killed in Gaza firefight: Palestinians vow revenge for deadliest Israeli raid in 17 months*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [*Where Compassion Is a One-Way Street*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [*Israeli moderates want Jews out of Gaza Strip: Why, they ask, is an army battalion of 350 guarding a settlement of 400 people?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [*THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [*Terrorism's triumphs*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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62. [*Elmasry's interview started firestorm*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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63. [*Israeli tactics assure future bombings, Palestinians assert*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [*The bomber's father*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [*Palestinians freeze assets of charities*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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66. [*I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [*Palestinian gunmen release three foreigners*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. ['Sinful human heart' on sad display in trying times](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [Mideast road map can't be a path to failure](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [Repeating the mistakes of Oslo pact: Pragmatism has pitfalls. U.S. and Israel cannot allow Palestinians to alter road map to peace after the fact](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [Move over, Osama: The Arab version of American Idol, representing some of the worst aspects of Western culture, is taking the Middle East by a storm](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [OSAMA'S GREATEST ENEMY: HASSAN THE HEARTTHOB](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [Dignity was lost as Arabs danced in the streets](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [FIGHTING IN GAZA KILLS 2 ISRAELIS, 1 PALESTINIAN, TRAPS RESIDENTS IN HOMES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [Yesterday's assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of Hamas, will probably be on the agenda at next week's summit in Tunis. But many in the region are concerned with the survival of existing regimes, write Roula Khalaf and Guy Dinmore](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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76. [HUSSAM ABDO'S FAILED SUICIDE ATTACK SHOCKED THE WORLD BUT MANY SUCH YOUNGSTERS, TRAINED EVEN AS TODDLERS, ONLY AWAIT THEIR TURN; HOW KIDS BECOME WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [On the West Bank, a Hint of Resistance Without Blood](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [FBI CHIEF HAILS HELP OF ARAB, MUSLIM NATIONS/ HE REPORTS COOPERATION AGAINST
TERRORISM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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79. [Muslim leader gives Cook a shaking](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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80. [Israeli Army Splits With Poles On How to Govern Territories THE SITUATION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [The Pilots' Rebellion](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [The moral nihilism of suicide bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [Day of bloodshed in northern Gaza Strip](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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84. [READERS RESPOND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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85. [Five children killed in Gaza Strip battles](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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86. [Suicide bombings in Israel kill at least 16](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. [WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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88. [*Fresh violence stirs Mideast tension*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

89. [*Time for the truth about this sinister brotherhood*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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90. [*Fighting rages in Gaza Strip: 3 dead, homes razed as troops seek dead comrades*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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91. [*Murder in the guise of honour*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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92. [*U.S. - Israeli link outrages Arabs; Palestinians, Iraqis decry their 'occupiers'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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93. [Political oxymorons](#)

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. [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

95. [Three women, three faiths, one hope; Speaking tour examines conflict in Holy Land](#)

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. [Brigitte wed bride in Lakemba prayer hall](#)

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. [Law: Defence or murder?: Does Israel have a legal right to assassinate its enemies - or are such executions war crimes? After two years deliberating, its supreme court is set to decide.](#)

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. [24 hours](#)

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. [Pressing Times for Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [Palestinian laborers get a break: Work](#)

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

In brief

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

August 26, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 711 words

Body

Bali accused defiant

DENPASAR, Bali -- Indonesian prosecutors yesterday demanded a death sentence for the man they accuse of being the ringleader of the Bali bombings last October, saying he had shown only happiness for what he had done. They accused Muklas, who is also known as Ali Ghufron, of inspiring his cohorts to carry out the deadly attack. The 43-year-old cleric who has boasted of knowing Osama bin Laden while training in Afghanistan in the late 1980s, remained defiant, yelling Allahu Akbar (God is Great) and punching the air as the hearings began and finished.

Ferry under suspicion

NIIGATA -- Japan began inspecting a North Korean ferry suspected of smuggling weapons parts and illicit funds for Pyongyang after it glided into port yesterday following a seven-month hiatus and was met by hundreds of police and protesters swarming the waterfront. The white-hulled Mangyongbong-92, with North Korea's red star emblazoned on its funnel, has long been a focus of suspicion during its regular visits to the northern Japanese port of Niigata. But tensions have peaked amid new allegations the boat is a conduit for communist espionage.

Accused denies murder

A GOLD Coast builder intends to plead not guilty to murdering his wife, who went missing from the couple's luxury home more than a month ago. Clive Anthony Nicholson, 52, appeared in the Southport Magistrates Court yesterday charged with the murder of his 48-year-old wife, Julie, whose body has not been recovered. Nicholson, who surrendered to police yesterday, was not required to enter a plea, but his lawyer said he would deny the charge of murder.

Fire in department store

A FAN left on all weekend has been blamed for a potentially disastrous fire in a Brisbane department store yesterday. The blaze broke out after the fan was left operating on an office desk on the fifth floor of David Jones, which has frontages on Brisbane's Queen Street Mall and Adelaide St. Queensland Fire and Rescue co-ordinator Grant Gaskin said smoke was seen billowing from the fifth floor of the building around 7.30am. Mr Gaskin said piles of paper in the office had fuelled the blaze but the sprinkler system had stopped it spreading throughout the department store.

Israelis kill militants

In brief

GAZA -- Israeli forces killed a commander and three other members of Hamas's armed wing in a helicopter missile strike, prompting a vow of revenge from the Palestinian militant group as a US-backed peace plan took another battering. Hamas said it could go on fighting Israel forever if necessary and dismissed Palestinian Authority plans to crack down on militants in the Gaza Strip as demanded by the Jewish state and the United States.

Artificial limb 'disgrace'

LONDON -- A black woman who is to undergo a foot amputation in Britain was initially offered a white artificial replacement because they were cheaper, a hospital has admitted. The unnamed woman, from Calcot near Reading, is yet to have the operation and health chiefs have now backed down and offered her prosthetics matching her own skin colour after she complained. But the Disability Rights Commission has branded the case "an absolute disgrace". The local health authority, the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust, said yesterday that only white artificial limbs initially had been made available.

Judge preyed on women

SANTA FE -- A judge has been sentenced to three years' jail after being found guilty of offering female defendants lighter sentences in exchange for sex. Supporters of former Espanola municipal judge Charles Maestas filled the courtroom yesterday, and more than 150 letters were submitted on his behalf, but Judge Michael Vigil said he deserved prison. "Your situation's real disturbing," Judge Vigil told Maestas. "You will never know the damage you have done to the judiciary." Maestas, who could have received more than 50 years in prison, was convicted of rape and bribery. Six jurors later claimed they had not meant to convict Maestas of rape, but Judge Vigil denied the former judge's request for a mistrial. Prosecutor Julie Ann Meade described Maestas as a "serial rapist" who victimised vulnerable women who appeared in his court. "He used the very fact that he was a judge as his weapon to commit this crime," she said.

Load-Date: August 26, 2003

End of Document

CONGRESS MUST RIGHT FCC'S WRONG

Daily News (New York)

July 26, 2003, Saturday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; EDITORIAL

Length: 663 words

Body

The House of Representatives, the peoples' house, was exactly that this week when members voted overwhelmingly to reverse the Federal Communications Commission's terrible new rules that would have allowed megamedia consolidation, further reducing the number of hands controlling the public airwaves. The happily lopsided vote, 400 to 21, represents a victory for democracy and for choice in the marketplace. It also is a message to President Bush: Back off!

The House bill retains the 35% cap on the number of households nationwide that a single TV broadcaster can reach. The FCC, with Bush's stalwart support, had raised that to 45%. Too much, and too dangerous.

Despite White House pressure, the Senate is expected to approve legislation that would even further undo the FCC changes - such as the commission decision to allow even more companies to cross-own newspapers and television stations in the same market. Why this has become such a strong bipartisan issue is clear: Cross-ownership is bad for a pluralistic society where a multiplicity of views is essential.

The unelected FCC bosses, chief among them Michael Powell, defended the changes as adjustments that would foster competition in a new media environment. Baloney. The so-called reforms are a carte blanche for these near-monopolies. At a time when most American cities have only one daily newspaper, getting rid of the ban on cross-ownership of TV stations and newspapers in the same market threatens to give a single large corporation an inordinate say over which issues are covered and how.

The FCC tried to quash public input, but the public found a way to speak out. The disparate coalition of groups that came together to oppose the rule changes included the National Rifle Association, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Organization for Women, organizations that rarely make common cause on anything. But in this case, they were able to agree on the need for diversity on the dial.

The FCC didn't listen to them, but Congress did.

And Congress acted.

There aren't many issues that gain the support of 400 members of the House. Bush should take heed and allow the TV ownership rules to be rolled back to where they were.

Mr. Abbas goes to D.C.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas went to Washington yesterday with a lengthy wish list. He left with the political equivalent of "all I got was this lousy T-shirt." Yes, President Bush admitted, the 200-mile-long security wall

CONGRESS MUST RIGHT FCC'S WRONG

Israel is putting up could conceivably be regarded as a bit of a "problem." (Especially to Palestinians seeking to do harm to Israelis.)

And thus Abbas goes home with this small crumb the President deemed it useful to throw him. Sending him back entirely empty-handed, Bush well understood, would not have been smart. For Abbas is plainly still on the short leash of those terrorist gangs he is supposed to be controlling. He had to appear to win something from the White House.

But Bush wisely gave him no promise that the U.S. would ask Israel to release those 6,000-7,000 detainees that the **Hamas** goons and their associates have decided must be freed if the ceasefire is to continue. Israel, of its own volition, is already loosing several hundred of them, even though no such release is stipulated in the White House-brokered road map to peace. The Jewish state is making a concession here, but opening up the jailhouse doors and letting them all walk is unthinkable.

So the detainees stay in the jug. Abbas can say that he did at least try to spring them. And he can boast that the President of the United States told him, yes, to his face, that Israel's wall is something of a "problem." Perhaps, for the moment, this triumph will let him keep his position and continue to do his various jobs. One of which, by the way, is to disarm and dismantle and obliterate **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad, Yasser Arafat's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the other mobs.

He hasn't done that yet.

Which is why they're still calling the shots.

Load-Date: July 27, 2003

End of Document

**Israeli leaders will free some Palestinians;
Officials on the other side - and those of radical groups - decried the limited
release.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JULY 7, 2003 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 607 words

Byline: Louis Meixler ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel yesterday took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand by agreeing to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the limited move would be conditioned on the Palestinians dismantling armed groups.

The release aims to strengthen the rule of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has vowed to carry out the U.S.-supported peace plan known as the road map.

A top Palestinian official, however, expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, condemned it.

The United States and Israel are strongly supporting Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasir Arafat and as a Palestinian leader they believe can crack down on 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 agreeing to the release. "A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest."

The cabinet decision excludes members of groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel, and it excludes Palestinians who carried out or planned attacks against Israelis. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Arafat's Fatah movement are observing a cease-fire of at least three months.

It was unclear how many prisoners would be released, but Sharon met earlier yesterday with Avi Dichter, head of the Shin Bet security service, who gave him a list of several hundred prisoners. Israel's Channel 2 television said 400 would be released.

Israeli leaders will free some Palestinians; Officials on the other side - and those of radical groups - decried the limited release.

In Israel, the arrests of members of radical groups have been credited with helping to reduce attacks, and the cabinet vote was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked, 10-10, and only confirmed the measure, 13-9, after the cabinet agreed to set up a committee to monitor Palestinian compliance with the peace plan, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said.

"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.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the releases would not begin immediately. "I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," he said.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed the releases would be so limited.

"We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Dahlan said after meeting with Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released have been detained without trial, have only a few months to serve, are either under 18 or over 60, or are women, an Israeli official said.

In Gaza City, 1,200 people marched, 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 cease-fire to hold.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, issued a statement 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 troops from Bethlehem and parts of Gaza, and it has promised further pullbacks in line with the road map.

Graphic

PHOTO;

HATEM MOUSSA, Associated Press

In a Gaza City protest, Palestinians hold portraits of Ahmad Sadat (left), held in a prison under British supervision, and Abdel Raheem Malouh, held by Israel. Both are leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Load-Date: August 2, 2005

**ISRAEL AGREES TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS;
OFFICIALS SAY THERE ARE CONDITIONS, WHICH ANGERS SOME
PALESTINIAN LEADERS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 7, 2003 Monday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 638 words

Byline: Louis Meixler Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand by agreeing Sunday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds. But Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the limited move will be conditioned on the Palestinians dismantling militant groups.

The release aims to strengthen the rule of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has vowed to carry out the U.S.-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 believe can crack down on 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 agreeing to the release.

"A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest," the statement said.

The Cabinet decision Sunday excludes members of groups like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel and excludes Palestinians who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Arafat's Fatah movement are observing a cease-fire of at least three months.

It was unclear how many prisoners would be released, but Sharon met earlier Sunday with Avi Dichter, 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.

ISRAEL AGREES TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS; OFFICIALS SAY THERE ARE CONDITIONS, WHICH ANGERS SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS

In Israel, the arrest of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the Cabinet vote was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10-10 and only confirmed the measure 13-9 after the Cabinet agreed to set up a committee to monitor Palestinian compliance with the peace plan, 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.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the releases will not begin immediately.

"I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," Mofaz said.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed that the releases will be so limited.

"We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Dahlan said after meeting with Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released have been detained without trial, have only a few months to serve, are either under 18 or over 60, or are women, an Israeli official said.

In Gaza City, about 1,200 people marched, 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 cease-fire to hold.

"Holding the Palestinian detainees behind bars will leave no hope for the continuation of any peace efforts," Azzam said.

Early today Palestinian security officials said police arrested a woman who was planning a suicide bombing attack against Israelis. They said she was in her 20s and was arrested after her parents reported to police that she had left behind a note about her plans. They said she was questioned and released into her parents' custody while the investigation continued.

Notes

PAGE 2

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by the ASSOCIATED PRESS - Palestinian men carry portraits of Palestinians Ahmad Sadat (left) and Abed Eirahim Malouh, who are being held in Israeli prisons, during a march in Gaza City on Sunday. More than 1,000 people took to the streets of Gaza calling for the release of their relatives and others whom Israelis hold in prisons.

Load-Date: July 9, 2003

SINGER APPEALS TO KIDNAP PERS TO SHOW MERCY

Daily Post (North Wales)

September 27, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: NW Merseyside Edition; NEWS; Pg. 4; Newspaper

Length: 271 words

Body

SINGER Cat Stevens has urged Ken Bigley's militant Islamic kidnap pers to show mercy to their captive "in the name of Allah".

The star, who converted to Islam and changed his name to Yusuf Islam in the 1970s, has written an open letter to the ruthless hostage-takers, begging them to release the 62-year-old.

His call is the latest in a series of efforts to free the Liverpool engineer, including emotional appeals by Mr Bigley's family, Christian and Muslim leaders, and a British Muslim delegation to Baghdad.

The singer's letter, dated September 24 and released via the British Embassy in Baghdad, reads "As a member of the Muslim Council, I request you, in the name of Allah, the Rahman, to release the British citizen, Ken Bigley, for the good name of our religion and according to the sayings of Allah. "

Since their capture, gruesome video footage of the beheadings of Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, who were seized with him, has been broadcast on the internet.

The Tawhid and Jihad group threatened to murder all three unless female prisoners were released from Iraqi prisons.

The singer hit the headlines this week after being detained and questioned by the FBI after his Washington-bound flight was diverted on Tuesday. He was then returned to the UK.

It later emerged the London-born star's name was spelled incorrectly on a "watch list" and was refused entry to the US because of fears he had financially supported the terrorist group Hamas, a claim he denied.

The move by the Americans sparked a protest to the US government by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, and angered Muslim groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

Load-Date: September 27, 2004

Missile-carrying Israeli choppers pound suspected weapons factory

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 31, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8; News

Length: 267 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

GAZA CITY (AP) -- Israeli helicopters launched a missile attack in Gaza City against a suspected weapons workshop Friday, in a building owned by the family of a female suicide bomber.

Medics at the scene said at least two people were injured.
Associated Press

One missile slammed into the three-story building, sending a huge fireball high over the city. A second missile failed to explode.

The Israeli military said the building in the Zeitoun district of Gaza was a bomb factory that produced explosives for the Hamas terrorist organization. Palestinian officials said it was a small factory that produced car batteries.

Israeli helicopters continued hovering over the site as ambulances raced to the scene. But the building was empty at the time of the strike, and two bystanders were treated at the site for minor wounds.

The target was on the middle floor of the building that belonged to the family of Reem Raiyshi, a 22-year-old mother of two who killed herself in an attack last January at the Erez Crossing, the checkpoint between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

In a separate incident, Palestinians shot four rockets at an Israeli town Friday, hours after Israel's army expanded an operation in the northern Gaza Strip.

Before daybreak, Israeli troops moved to the outskirts of Beit Lahiya, a town near Gaza's northern edge, residents said. Soon afterward terrorists fired four Qassam rockets across the border into Israel.

Two of the homemade rockets landed in residential areas of the town of Sderot, causing panic but no injuries, an army spokesman said. He said two more rockets hit open areas.

Load-Date: July 31, 2004

SAS lauded

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

June 10, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 304 words

Body

THE Special Air Service was commended at a special ceremony yesterday. Governor-General Michael Jeffery praised the SAS for consistently "outfighting, outsmarting and overwhelming" its enemy in Iraq. The Governor-General presented 1 SAS Squadron with the first-ever Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry in a ceremony at Perth's Campbell Barracks.

Minister quits

JERUSALEM -- Ariel Sharon's government faced new turmoil yesterday after the leader of one of his coalition partners quit the Israeli cabinet in protest at the prime minister's Gaza pullout plan. The move came as helicopter gunships attacked a suspected **Hamas** weapons workshop in Gaza City.

Lightning hits

PESHAWAR -- A lightning bolt struck a home in a remote area in northwest Pakistan, killing six people and injuring three others, police said yesterday. The bolt hit the home of Usmani Zar in the village of Ghan Shan in North West Frontier province late on Tuesday, killing his four grandsons and two **female** relatives, said Mohammed Iqbal Khan, a local police official.

Facing recall

CARACAS -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez will face a recall referendum on August 15 that could lead to an election for a new president a month later if he is defeated. National Electoral Council president Francisco Carrasquero said the body had ruled voters could go to the ballot box in August to challenge Mr Chavez, a former army officer accused by his opponents of edging Venezuela toward communism.

Building falls

DHAKA -- A six-storey apartment building collapsed early yesterday in the Bangladesh capital, killing at least 11 people and injuring several others. About 25 people were feared trapped inside, rescuers said. Some 60 people were asleep in the brick and cement building in Dhaka's impoverished Shakhribazar district when some of the lower apartments crumbled.

Load-Date: June 10, 2004

SAS lauded

End of Document

QUOTES

The Sunday Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

June 15, 2003 Sunday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-COLUMN- QUOTES24 / 7; Pg. 94

Length: 258 words

Body

"I can read and I can listen. I read the polls and I hear what people are saying -- and the fact is Kim Beazley has a better chance of getting the Labor message across."

MATP

Labor legend Bob Hawke on leadership challenger Kim Beazley.

"There were six years in which he had the opportunity to connect with the Australian people."

Opposition leader Simon Crean on Kim Beazley.

"They like soft and indecisive leaders -- soft and indecisive leaders with whom their interests will always prevail."

Frontbencher Mark Latham on Labor colleagues who publicly declared their support for Kim Beazley.

"The Labor Party is a very resilient organisation and it will recover. It will get its act together and it will be a tough challenge for us to win a fourth election."

Prime Minister John Howard.

"I don't think those of us who are said to be leaders are providing the leadership that is required."

Aboriginal leader Mick Dodson on the high level of violence against women and children in Aboriginal communities.

"With regards to the white victims, it serves them right."

Bali bombing defendant Amrozi, who told the court Westerners deserved to die because they were decadent.

"We call upon all cells to work fast on an earthquake-like response."

Statement by militant Islamic group Hamas after Israel ordered their destruction.

"You're kidding. I'm hanging off the bad side of a crocodile and they want to throw to a commercial!"

Crocodile hunter Steve Irwin on the perils of live television.

"Whoopee-do-dah."

QUOTES

Lleyton Hewitt's answer to critics questioning his form.

Load-Date: June 14, 2003

End of Document

TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS

The Express

March 8, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 302 words

Byline: By Greg Swift

Body

A SHELL explodes among Palestinians as Israeli forces raid two Gaza refugee camps killing 14 people, among them three children.

Yesterday's raids followed an attack by Palestinian militants on Israeli soldiers at Gaza's border.

Israel said 10 of the dead were gunmen - nine from the Islamist terror group **Hamas**. Hospital medics said the rest were civilians, including three boys.

Seventy-two Palestinians were hurt, many of them teenagers who threw stones and petrol bombs. The Israelis suffered no casualties.

Violence has escalated in the Gaza Strip since Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced a unilateral plan last month to evacuate Jewish settlers from occupied areas of the territory.

Analysts say militants are keen to bloody Israelis as much as possible beforehand to portray any pullout as their victory.

Under cover of darkness, dozens of armoured vehicles joined the sweep for militants in the teeming Nusseirat and alBureij camps in central Gaza.

Tanks and troops backed by helicopters fought militants armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers.

"Soldiers blasted their way into our housing block at 4am, " said Mahmoud Abu Hujair, a father of three. "They turned our roof into a base to battle gunmen. **Women** and children were screaming. The building was heavily damaged."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie's cabinet denounced the raids as "state terror against our people" which undermined calls for a mutual ceasefire and revival of a USbacked "road map" peace plan.

An Israeli army spokesman said the raids were to "pinpoint" pre-emptive strikes against "terror groups" who had been escalating attacks on Jewish settlements in Gaza and border areas for months. Israel blames the peacemaking impasse on the Palestinian Authority's failure to subdue militants opposed to the road map.

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

TERROR AS KIDS KILLED IN REVENGE RAIDS ON CAMPS

End of Document

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

The New York Times

June 29, 2004 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 1078 words

Byline: By JOSEPH BERGER

Dateline: SEDEROT, Israel, Tuesday, June 29

Body

Palestinian rockets killed two people on Monday just yards from a small kindergarten building in this town on the edge of the Gaza Strip: a 3-year-old boy on his way to the kindergarten with his mother, and a 50-year-old Bukharan immigrant from the former Soviet Union sitting on a sidewalk bench nearby.

The deaths were the first in Israel caused by a Qassam rocket fired from the strip, and the first civilian killings in Israel proper by Palestinians in almost three months.

For the past three years the people here have lived with the persistent shock of rocket attacks from Gaza, more than 200 of them, but they have withstood them because the notoriously crude rockets have fallen harmlessly in fields or backyards.

But now, residents said, they are wrestling with what the deaths mean for their future here.

"I didn't feel anything until today," said Chana Melul, 40, a mother of three who rushed to the one-story stucco kindergarten building called Garden of Lilacs to see what had happened. "You think about the children and you care more."

Residents along the quiet residential street wondered whether Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, just a couple of miles away, would increase their exposure to such deadly attacks or ease the assaults by bringing a measure of peace.

They also questioned why they lived in so vulnerable a spot. But Mrs. Melul and others quickly added that there was nowhere in Israel that was not vulnerable.

Some contended that Israelis had to face up to the fact that the rockets -- long steel-pipe missiles cobbled together in workshops by the militant group ***Hamas*** with fertilizer-based payloads of 20 pounds and ranges of up to six miles -- have become more powerful and accurate. But others said the attacks demanded an increased effort for peace.

"This has been my life for the past three years," said Martine Simone, 44, who was talking emotionally in the kindergarten's playground with parents and other residents. "I love my country and I don't have a choice but to live here. But I'm prepared to give up things for peace."

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

Mostly there was sorrow in a town of 24,000 that was started 50 years ago to absorb immigrants coming to Israel from Morocco, Algeria and other North African countries and that today is also absorbing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Five rockets struck Monday, the Israeli Army said, including one near a college and the one that fell just yards from the kindergarten, a stucco one-story building for 35 children.

The slain boy, Afik Zahavi, was late for school, said Simcha Revivo, a teacher, and so was outside when the rocket hit at 8:10, leaving a gash in the street 15 feet from the kindergarten and shattering cars, windows and a stone wall.

Ms. Revivo said she had heard the blast, rushed the children into a small shelter, then had peeked outside and seen the mother, Ruthie Zahavi, lying on her back embracing her son, who was lying on her stomach. She said his right arm had been severed, though other witnesses said the boy had lost a leg.

The mother and her son were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he died and where she remains in critical condition. The dead man was identified as Mordechai Yossepov, 50, a father of two and grandfather, who had been waiting outside the kindergarten while his daughter, Albina, dropped off her child. Nine other people suffered shock or slight injuries.

"He was very sweet, intelligent boy," Ms. Revivo said, her voice choking. "He usually came in early in the morning, and he used to tell me stories of his father and his mother's nieces and nephews."

Ariel Cohen said Afik had often played computer games at his house with his 5-year-old daughter, May, also a pupil at the kindergarten. As Mr. Cohen spoke, May clung in fright to his leg. "I don't know how to say to my daughter that the little boy will not be coming back," he said.

What was nagging at many residents was the question of whether the boy's death could have been prevented had the town had an ambulance fully equipped for handling major trauma. Mayor Eli Moyal said he was furious at the government, because he had been appealing for such an ambulance and other emergency measures for years.

Hamas took responsibility for the attack, Israel radio reported. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has a farm just outside Sederot, met with top security officials on Monday afternoon.

Early Tuesday, Israeli tanks rolled into the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun, where it believed the Qassam rockets were launched. Reuters reported that a 25-year-old Palestinian man was killed in an exchange of gunfire. Israeli helicopters also struck a weapons workshop in central Gaza, where it said rockets are made, and a **Hamas**-linked media center on the third floor of a building in Gaza City.

Mr. Sharon also discussed responses to an attack the night before in which Staff Sgt. Roi Nissim, 20, from Rishon Lezion, was killed by explosives planted in a tunnel that was dug under the Army's Orhan outpost in Gush Qatif.

Late on Monday, the army blew up two abandoned eight-story apartment buildings in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, adjacent to Gush Qatif. Military officials said the buildings had been used to conceal the burrowing of the tunnel to the Ohran outpost.

Israel responded to the Sunday attack with two missile strikes in Gaza City. One hit a metal workshop, Palestinian officials said.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Mr. Sharon, said Israel would proceed according to its timetable with Mr. Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza, but added, "Whatever the political developments, this will not prevent us from acting forcefully before, during and after withdrawal from whatever place they emanate."

The two victims of the attack on Sederot were buried late Monday in the town's bucolic cemetery. The boy's father, Itzik Ochayon of Beersheba, had to be held up by relatives as his son's small, cloth-draped body was lowered into a grave among the town's other dead children.

Rocket Attack at Israeli Kindergarten Kills Boy and Man

Before the funeral, the father said in an interview with Israel radio that Afik was "a wonderful child, an only child that came to me after 15 years."

"That's what God wanted," he said. "After 15 years he came, and that's it -- he is already not with me."

The country, he said, needs to do more to protect its children. "Who is guarding our children?" he asked. "There is nobody to guard them. And the children, they are our future."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Three **women** sitting in the yard of the Garden of Lilacs kindergarten after Palestinian rockets launched from the Gaza Strip nearby killed a 3-year-old pupil on his way to school and a 50-year-old man. (Photo by Reuters)

Mourners at the funeral of Afik Zahavi watched yesterday as the child was placed in his grave. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)Map of Israel highlighting Sederot: Sederot, a town of 25,000, was traumatized by the attack.

Load-Date: June 29, 2004

End of Document

Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle

New York Sun (Archive)

May 18, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 773 words

Byline: By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Body

As Israel Defense Force troops and Palestinian gunmen prepared for battle in Rafah on the Egyptian border, thousands of Palestinian Arabs were leaving their homes ahead of what both sides have promised will be a fierce confrontation.

The first shots have already been fired as an IDF position in Rafah came under small-arms fire last night. [Israeli tanks cut off Rafah from the rest of Gaza last night, the Associated Press reported. Helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing at least seven people and wounding two dozen, residents said.]

While the current build-up marks the largest operation in the Gaza Strip in years, officials stressed that it in no way resembles Operation Defensive Shield in Judea and Samaria in April 2002.

"The plan is to launch a series of operations on the ground and in the air, where and when deemed necessary," a senior IDF officer said.

Troops are expected to encounter fierce resistance, with terrorist groups calling on their members to prepare for the battle.

Islamic Jihad announced a "general call-up" of all its fighters, plus reserves to face IDF troops preparing to enter the city, Israel's Channel 1 reported. Television footage showed groups of armed Palestinian men booby-trapping alleyways and buildings. Islamic Jihad spokespeople promised to turn Rafah into "a graveyard for the Israelis."

The IDF divided the Gaza Strip into four sections yesterday in order to prevent armed Palestinian Arabs from passing from Khan Younis into Rafah and to prevent fugitives from escaping from Rafah into other areas.

The division is also aimed at preventing the passage of weapons from one section of the Gaza Strip to the other.

Blockades have been erected from the northern to the central Gaza Strip and from the center to the south. IDF officers said that the army is expecting a tough battle, with troops fighting house-to-house in search for Palestinian fugitives, weapons caches, and arms tunnels.

Sources in the IDF told Israel Radio that the recent difficult events in the Gaza Strip have opened what they called "perhaps a last chance" to create a new security situation in the Strip before a possible Israeli withdrawal. The sources said the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip would be carried out despite the opposition of the Likud right wing and the settler movement.

Thousands of Palestinians Flee Rafah Ahead of Battle

According to Palestinian reports, thousands of Rafah residents have abandoned their homes in advance of any IDF action. People are living with friends and families, at schools and in tents. Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and door frames, and men carted sofas away from the camp. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second floor, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

In Berlin, the national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, stressed that America is committed to bringing about Palestinian statehood during talks yesterday with Prime Minister Qurei, a Palestinian delegate told the Associated Press.

A senior American official said that Ms. Rice had urged the Palestinian Arabs to make more progress on political reform and security, and stressed that Washington views Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as a "negative and unhelpful" factor.

Ms. Rice's meeting with Mr. Qurei was part of a fresh push by the Bush administration to restore movement to Middle East peace efforts. It followed a meeting in Jordan Saturday between Mr. Qurei and Secretary of State Powell.

"Rice reiterated that they are committed to the two-state solution, and that Bush is the first president to commit to a Palestinian state," Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat, a member of Mr. Qurei's delegation, told the Associated Press. He described the encounter as "in-depth, constructive and positive."

Meanwhile, a Hamas leader, Khaled Mashaal, rejected the Palestinian Authority's proposals for a cease-fire, saying Israel was waging a "war of annihilation" against his people. "Our people will not be made refugees again," Mr. Mashaal said. "Our choice is between death and death. Our people will defend themselves until the last breath. The world left us no other choice.

"It is a war of annihilation, destruction of humans and land, a collective punishment in a vengeful way," Mr. Mashaal said. "The whole world is watching and listening, but is not moving" to stop Israel.

"It is not reasonable that there is a talk about a cease-fire in the shadow of a sweeping aggression," the Hamas leader said. "It is not reasonable that the victim volunteers to talk about a cease-fire while Israeli crime continues, and there is no sign of a change in the Israeli and American positions."

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Suicide bomber targets Israelis

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 280 words

Body

EREZ, Gaza Strip: A ***female*** Palestinian suicide bomber struck at the main border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least four Israelis and wounding at least seven, security sources said.

The woman blew herself up in a terminal where Palestinian workers were being put through Israeli security checks before entering an industrial complex.

Reuters

"Glass and black smoke flew everywhere," a Palestinian witness said. "Arabs were screaming, Jews were screaming, nobody knew what was going on."

It was the first Palestinian suicide attack since a December 25 bombing that killed four Israelis near Tel Aviv and raised more doubts about the prospects for reviving a US-backed peace "road map".

"A woman suicide bomber infiltrated the transit terminal and blew herself up," Yoav Peled, an Israeli security officer, told Army Radio.

"All of the dead were Israelis," a security source said.

The Gaza Strip is surrounded by an Israeli security barrier, and none of the suicide bombers responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people inside Israel in the past three years of violence have come from there. Erez, however, has been the target of occasional attacks.

Palestinian witnesses said a woman waiting to pass through to the Israeli side blew herself up. The soldiers then forced everyone out and shut down the crossing after the blast.

A Palestinian official said the aim of the bombing was to prompt Israel to declare a closure of the Gaza Strip and cut off access to jobs in Israel.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and the ***Hamas*** militant group claimed joint responsibility for the suicide bombing.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 23, 2004, Sunday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 778 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

TUNIS, Tunisia - Arab leaders convened their annual summit Saturday to discuss condemning terrorism, reiterating calls for Arab-Israeli peace and putting Arab nations on the road to political and economic reforms advocated by the United States.

But the opening session was overshadowed by the walkout of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who criticized peace efforts and threatened to pull his country out of the 22-member Arab League. Eight other Arab leaders, including Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, failed to show up.

"What's the significance of this Arab gathering?" Gadhafi said before packing up and leaving Tunis. "How can this summit convene while there are two Arab presidents in jail?"

"I am disgusted."

Gadhafi was referring to Saddam Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been holed up in his West Bank headquarters for more than two years, besieged by Israeli forces.

Gadhafi left while Arab League head Amr Moussa was speaking. Diplomats said the Libyan leader apparently was irked by Moussa's criticism of Arabs who act unilaterally - a veiled reference to Libya's decision to renounce programs pursuing weapons of mass destruction.

Gadhafi also skipped Saturday's closed-door session, where Arab leaders reviewed resolutions addressing the turmoil in their region.

One of the strongest proposals denounced the abuse inflicted on Iraqi prisoners by U.S. forces at the Abu Ghraib prison as "crimes and inhuman and immoral acts." It said the abuse constituted a "flagrant violation of human rights and international conventions" and demanded trials and punishment for those responsible.

Reports of degrading treatment, sexual abuse and torture have caused widespread outrage in the Arab world and damaged American credibility throughout the region.

The leaders' commitment to political, economic and social reforms is a response to a Bush administration plan for Mideast reform that has been criticized as brazen interference in internal Arab affairs.

Washington's Greater Middle East Initiative, which will be unveiled at the G-8 summit of major industrial countries next month in the United States, urges Arab states to promote democracy, human rights and economic

Disgusted by peace efforts, Gadhafi leaves summit

liberalization. While the plan has sparked Arab complaints of American meddling, it also has inspired them to draw up their own brand of reform.

The Arab reform proposal is short on specifics but pledges to respect human rights and freedom of expression, enhance the position of women in society and promote tolerance, according to a preliminary copy obtained by The Associated Press.

The proposal binds the greater participation to laws already in place, including Islamic law in some countries - an indication it likely will not require any nation to overhaul its system.

Strong opposition to calls for reform from Arab governments - which are mostly autocratic and long have been criticized for giving their 270 million people little or no voice - was cited as a reason for Tunisia's decision to postpone the March 29-30 Arab League summit 48 hours before it was scheduled to begin.

Jordan's King Abdullah II left after Saturday's closed session. His delegation issued a statement calling for a "permanent and comprehensive truce" between Israel and the Palestinians and a halt to attacks against civilians on both sides.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali opened the two-day summit by asking delegates to stand in a moment of silence for the Palestinian victims of Israeli actions.

He condemned the assassination of Palestinian political leaders and the killing of civilians, and called for more international efforts to reactivate the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan that envisages a Palestinian state by next year. He also called for international protection of the Palestinian people and a halt to Israeli "violations."

Arafat, who did not attend for fear Israel would bar him from returning, addressed the conference for the third year via video from Ramallah. He accused Israel of waging a "war of annihilation" against the Palestinian people but reiterated that the Palestinians were committed to "the peace of the brave" with Israel.

"I declare from the heart of the [Israeli] siege that occupation and military solutions will not bring peace, security and stability for the Israelis," he said.

Hamas, the Damascus-based Palestinian militant group responsible for scores of suicide attacks against Israelis, called on the Arab League to sever all contacts with the Jewish state.

In a faxed statement, **Hamas** also urged Arab leaders to declare that the peace process "has flagrantly failed despite the Arabs' sincerity and their continuing efforts on behalf of peace."

Load-Date: May 25, 2004

Misleaders lead to more murders

University Wire

April 1, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Daily Cougar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 666 words

Byline: By David C. Salinas, The Daily Cougar; **SOURCE:** U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

Body

Just over a week ago Israeli forces killed Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and a couple of his bodyguards with three missiles, and intensified a battle that has already seen more than enough bloodshed. Now I don't mean to say that Yassin was a good man -- he was the founder of the terrorist organization, *Hamas*, which has killed hundreds of people. But what does murdering an elderly, quadriplegic man do to further the peace process in the Middle East? Apparently it caused a teenager to strap a bomb to his chest and try to kill as many people as possible, including himself. Instead of thinking about girls or sports, this kid was contemplating suicide in an attempt to help his people's "cause." Unfortunately other children have been successful in this "mission."

Just imagine being a Palestinian child who sees nothing but violence and oppression, and has the belief that there is nothing left to do other than end your own life along with the lives of others around you. Now imagine being an Israeli child who kisses their parents goodbye as they go to school, not knowing if they'll return that night. Imagine being afraid to go to a mall because you may be blown up by the person standing next to you. In this conflict we are always too quick to vilify one side or the other, but it's important to remember that a majority of these people have nothing to do with this violence -- they are the victims. The leaders, on both sides, are the villains in this horrific situation.

The people to blame are the leaders -- I should say the misleaders -- like Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat, who have done nothing for the people they pretend to defend. We all know that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the terrorist group the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has been involved in the deaths of numerous innocent people, but many don't know about Ariel Sharon's destructive past.

In 1953, Sharon joined the Haganah, an underground military organization, and was given command of "Unit 101." His unit took part in the demolition of refugee camps, killing innocent people, including the elderly, *women* and children. In a village in Qibya he led a group that blew up 45 houses, killing 69 civilians, two-thirds of whom were *women* and children. This could not be chalked up to the miserable concept of "collateral damage" either.

So the first solution to this conflict might be to not let men who deal in violence lead the way to peace. Quite frankly, they wouldn't know how to get there. Over their lifetime, the answer to violence has been more violence. This vicious cycle hasn't seemed to affect them personally, so they, and groups like *Hamas* and Hezbollah, will perpetuate the bloodshed until they are removed from the process.

Misleaders lead to more murders

The next step is to find moderate, secular-thinking people and put them in charge of both sides. Of course this should be done as democratically as possible, but a little pushing and prodding by the United Nations wouldn't hurt. Then, and only then, can we get to some sort of compromise. The word "compromise" is thrown around a lot, but it's what is most needed here. Neither side can get exactly what they want, but if you give Palestinians a fair share of the land they desire, and give the Israelis the peace and security they want, I'm sure the people would be content, if not happy. Remember, it's not the people at large who have been causing the problems here.

I know this issue is more complex than I might realize, but I know you can't solve complexity with violence. For every Sheik Ahmad Yassin you kill, you create 100 more men like him, who are younger, angrier and more violent. They can't bomb their way out of this problem; they'll have to think their way out. I don't believe any of the current leaders there, or here for that matter, can come close to solving this problem. But someone needs to, and fast. Because no child, Israeli or Palestinian, should ever wake up from a nightmare only to realize their reality is much worse.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2004

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Creeping Democracy

The New York Times

March 22, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 23

Length: 726 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

"Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny we helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

In Iraq, we mourn our losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after we turn over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps TV sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now over 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. (The W.P.A. lives.)

We are training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," says one observer.

Creeping Democracy

Optimistic? In the grand design to uproot the causes of the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, defeat is no option. We have to believe in the popular success of a combination of democracy and prosperity. In this generation, the world has seen the power of the human desire for freedom.

From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution. Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen Bashar al-Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

A million and a half Kurds live in Syria, despised by the rulers in Damascus. After Syrian Kurds saw the blessings of freedom flow to their ethnic comrades in Iraq, some were emboldened to respond to Arab taunting at a soccer game. Bashar's goons, remembering his father's bloody "Hamas rules," shot a score of the unarmed protesters as a warning to the quarter-million Kurds the dictator keeps stateless.

Congress, more hawkish than President Bush on this state sponsor of terror, passed the Syria Accountability Act four months ago with large majorities; this week, he is expected to put some of its authorized economic squeeze on Bashar. He should consider that Step One.

This unified American message -- substantial largess for free Iraq contrasted with the start of serious sanctions for despotic Syria -- will not be lost on the Arab League meeting in Tunisia.

Success of democracy in Iraq is the key to democratic reform throughout the greater Middle East. When that reform dawns in Ramallah, there can be an independent, contiguous Palestine. When creeping democracy gradually brings a better life to people of the region, the basis for hatred and terror will erode and the suicide bomber will pass from the scene.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: March 22, 2004

Fight for peace

UK Newsquest Regional Press - This is York

January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 NewsQuest Media Group Limited

Length: 293 words

Byline: Reader's letter

Dateline: York

Body

I MUST take issue with David E Pegg and Roger Westmoreland (Letters January 12) and their references to Israel as an apartheid state.

An apartheid state by its very nature as witnessed in South Africa is one formed along racial lines.

So it is interesting to note the one million-plus Arab Muslim citizens of Israel who enjoy full freedom of religion movement employment and voting rights. Indeed there are three prominent Arab political parties in Israel all of whom hold seats in the Knesset (Parliament).

Before the intifada started tens of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel without discrimination and it is only the policies of terrorism as preached by Hamas Islamic Jihad Fatah etc that have stopped this.

Before a recent suicide bombing troops sent for a female soldier to check the female bomber out of respect for Muslim tradition.

As they were waiting the bomber blew herself up. This highlights the need for checkpoints and raises a further question: does this consideration which had such deadly consequences sound like the action of "racists"?

Despite this Israel continues to try to help Palestinians issuing more than 30 000 work permits in the past fortnight.

Mr Westmoreland says Palestinians "cannot fight Israel armed only with stones".

I suggest that instead of devising more ways of fighting and killing Israelis the Palestinians and their supporters should be more interested in fighting for peace fighting terrorism and the corruption of their own leadership.

The World Bank has estimated Yasser Arafat's fortune to be more than \$ 800 million.

Meanwhile his people are left poor Israelis and Palestinians are left dead and peace remains elusive.

Simon Taylor

Langwith College

University of York.

Updated: 11:55 Friday January 16 2004

Fight for peace

Load-Date: January 16, 2004

End of Document

From Iraq, democracy creeps forward

The International Herald Tribune

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 736 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

'Democratic creep' is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny that America helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

The New York Times

In Iraq, America mourns its losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam Hussein did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after America turns over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps television sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now more than 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. America is training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," one observer says.

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From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution.

From Iraq , democracy creeps forward

Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen President Bashar Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, and probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

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*

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 722 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

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Notes

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

Load-Date: April 1, 2004

Fears Brigitte was hunting recruits

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 5

Length: 278 words

Byline: CHARLES MIRANDA, IAN MCPHEDRAN

Body

THE Federal Government will today move to outlaw the militant Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group amid ASIO fears that terror suspect Willie Brigitte was recruiting Australian sympathisers.

The group is suspected of being behind a string of bombings in India, but authorities believe it may be receiving financial and other backing from Australia.

MATP

The move yesterday came amid new information about his five months in Australia recruiting for such a paramilitary group.

It also came after authorities identified a number of Sydney and Melbourne locals they believe are in contact with Pakistan-based extremists.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has asked Parliament to register the group to ensure any links and groups are disbanded and authorities have the power to arrest and search local members. He also moved to ban the military wing of **Hamas** from establishing a supporter network.

Brigitte's Australian wife has been identified as a former **female** army reservist who married him in good faith and was completely unaware of his violent plans.

According to a senior government source the woman had no reason to believe she was involved in anything other than a bona fide marriage.

"She is not under suspicion. She is an innocent party to this," the source said.

Authorities have also ruled out any suggestion that Brigitte targeted the woman because of her former army career.

She was not serving in the army at the time of the marriage and she was never involved in the intelligence area or in any sensitive military roles.

If the proposed ban does not get through Parliament by tomorrow, it cannot be passed until the end of the month when the House sits again.

Load-Date: November 4, 2003

Fears Brigitte was hunting recruits

End of Document

National Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

January 28, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. d5

Length: 678 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GLOBE, Ariz.

Body

3-year-old survives for days after crash

A 3-year-old girl survived five days alone in a car after an accident that killed her mother, authorities said.

Angel Emery was airlifted Monday to Maricopa Medical Center, where she was being treated for dehydration and severe frostbite on her feet. She was listed Tuesday in good condition.

Authorities said Angel's 44-year-old mother, Patricia Marie Emery-Wade, died in the wreck, which apparently happened the afternoon of Jan. 21 on U.S. 60 in the east-central part of the state.

The woman's car hit a tree about 40 feet off the highway and 20 feet down an embankment, making it nearly impossible to see from the roadway.

A passer-by finally saw the smashed car Monday morning and alerted authorities, who found the girl inside, wrapped in a blanket and cuddled next to her dead mother.

Woman sentenced for murder of 3 infants

MONTICELLO, N.Y.- A woman convicted of killing three of her newborn children in the 1980s was sentenced to 25 years to life Tuesday, less than a year after their mummified remains were found in a storage shed in Arizona.

Dianne Odell, 50, was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder in December. She told Judge Frank LaBuda on Tuesday that she did not kill the children.

LaBuda sentenced Odell to a minimum of 15 years to life for the first baby, 20 years to life for the second and 25 to life for the third. She will serve the sentences concurrently.

Mob killer sentenced to life in prison

BOSTON - Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a mobster who played a central role in a scandal that exposed the Boston FBI's overly cozy relationship with its underworld informants, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for 10 murders.

National Briefs

Flemmi, 69, struck a deal with prosecutors in October to avoid the death penalty, admitting his role in a string of slayings committed when he was a boss in the Winter Hill Gang.

Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger were the leaders of the South Boston gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets. The two were also high-level FBI informants, providing the bureau with information on rivals in the Mafia.

2 nurses charged with murder in jail death

MIAMI - Two nurses at a juvenile jail were charged with murder Tuesday, accused of failing to treat a 17-year-old inmate who died of a burst appendix after three days in pain.

In a scathing attack on the juvenile justice system, a Miami-Dade County grand jury said the women skipped examinations or falsified medical records on Omar Paisley, who spent his last days "in agony lying on a concrete bed."

Following a nine-month investigation, the grand jury noted in frustration that the state Department of Juvenile Justice is immune to criminal indictments.

Federal judge issues verdict against Hamas

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - A federal judge Tuesday ordered the Palestinian militant group Hamas to pay \$\$ @116 million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996.

The ruling upheld a magistrate judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar, who lived in Israel when they were killed.

Family members of Yaron Ungar sued in March 2000 under a 1991 law allowing relatives of American victims of overseas terrorism to seek damages in U.S. courts. Efrat Ungar was an Israeli.

Judge: Schwarzenegger's \$\$ @4 million loans illegal

SACRAMENTO - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger broke a state law during the closing weeks of the recall race when he took out \$\$ @4.5 million in bank loans to help his cash-starved campaign, according to a preliminary ruling from a superior court judge.

If Monday's decision is upheld, the governor could be forced to pay back the loans out of personal funds.

Judges rip new law

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. - The chief judges of federal courts in the West objected Tuesday to a new law limiting their discretion in sentencing people convicted of crimes, saying Congress should have consulted them before acting.

The opposition was voiced during a two-day meeting of the 15 chief district judges of the U.S. 9th Circuit that concluded here Tuesday.

Load-Date: January 28, 2004

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

The New York Times

October 9, 2004 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1591 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Mona El-Naggar contributed reporting from Taba, Egypt, for this article, and Neil MacFarquhar from Beirut.

Dateline: EILAT, Israel, Oct. 8

Body

Thousands of Israelis trudged by foot through the Taba border post on Friday, returning home like shocked refugees from a Sinai bloodied by the bombings of three tourist resorts on Thursday night, one of the largest and most skillfully executed terrorist attacks on Israelis in many years.

At least 29 people are dead, most of them Israelis but including some Egyptians and at least one Russian tourist, according to Israeli officials. More than 160 people were wounded, including 11 Russians and some Britons.

But the death toll is expected to rise as rescue workers from Egypt and Israel dig through the rubble of a collapsed 10-story section of the Taba Hilton hotel, which was hit first by a car bomb and then, as tourists fled, by a suicide bomber near the hotel's swimming pool.

Carrying children, luggage and beach paraphernalia across the border, Israelis mourned the loss of security in yet another beloved part of this region. One made the bitter joke that this was a "second exodus from Egypt."

Carmit Nave, 26, said she had been on a beach within sight and sound of the car bombings at the two other bombing targets, the bungalow camps of Ras al-Sultan and Nuweiba, down the coast from the Hilton. She said she had often visited Sinai, which remained a popular, inexpensive vacation spot even after Israel returned it to Egypt in 1982. "For me, this is the last time," she said. "If someone doesn't want me to come, forget it."

The Palestinian militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad said they had not carried out the bombings, and both reiterated their policy of attacking Israelis only at home. But Israel recently killed a **Hamas** leader in Damascus, for which **Hamas** promised retaliation.

Still, most political experts consider it unlikely that any Palestinian group would confront and embarrass the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, in such a fashion. Israeli officials speculated that an indigenous Egyptian radical group, perhaps with some affiliation to Al Qaeda or inspired by it, was responsible.

Egypt does have a history of radical Islamic groups, but it cracked down hard on them in years past. At the height of terrorist attacks in the country, in the early to mid-1990's, most were carried out by one of two main groups: the Islamic Group, consisting of followers of the blind cleric Omar Abdel Rahman, who is now serving a life sentence for

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

inspiring a thwarted terrorist bombing plot in New York; and Egyptian Islamic Jihad, run by Ayman al-Zawahiri, now the second in command of Al Qaeda. An audiotape attributed to Mr. Zawahiri last week called for attacks against Israel and "crusader America."

A previously unknown pro-Qaeda group called Islamic Tawhid Brigades claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack on a Web site, Reuters reported. The claim, as well as one from another unknown group calling itself the World Islamist Group, could not be verified.

Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, Israel's chief of army intelligence, told an emergency cabinet meeting Friday that he thought the most likely author was Al Qaeda, with help from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. That group says it is a nonviolent organization, interested in change through political organization; Cairo disputes that.

The Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, said it was too early to say who had carried out the resort attacks. Egypt, which is heavily dependent on tourism, is expected by Israeli officials to move quickly to try to discover those responsible and to crack down to try to restore confidence.

Egyptian tourism has never quite from the last big terrorist incident there, an Islamic Jihad attack on tourists in Luxor in 1997, when 68 people died. Egypt also suffered from the general falloff in tourism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The United States warned Americans on Friday to avoid travel to the resorts along Egypt's Sinai Peninsula north of Sharm el Sheikh.

Ziad Abu Amr, a moderate member of the Palestinian legislature in Gaza, said, "The Palestinian groups wouldn't do something like this to alienate their Egyptian friends.

"This should be seen in the broader context of the global war that President Bush talks about. It's a global war on both sides. If you continue to ignore the Palestinians, you can expect to see some kind of retaliation, if not from the Palestinians, then from others who uphold the Palestinian cause."

The wounded from the three resorts poured into Joseftal Hospital here, a 60-bed unit with 34 doctors that treated more than 120 of the wounded, including 16 children and 13 medium to severe cases, a hospital official, Naomi Halevy, said. Doctors on vacation in Eilat volunteered, and others drove from hundreds of miles away to help.

There were many reports of bureaucratic and practical obstacles to rescue efforts. Kobi Zuza, an ambulance driver from Israel, was at the Taba Hilton two hours after the blast, around midnight. It took 90 minutes for the Egyptians to let him in, he said. "When I got to the hotel, the situation of the dead was shocking," he said. "There were bodies and bodies without legs and body parts floating in the swimming pool."

Inside, he said, people were trapped and crushed by the collapsing wall, with an engine from the truck bomb burning in the lobby. "There was a woman trapped, and I couldn't get to her," he said, looking off into the bright desert sun. "We were afraid to pull her out because everything would have collapsed."

On the way back to the hospital, Mr. Zuza said, the Egyptian border guards insisted on having the passports of the wounded. "People were bleeding and screaming in the ambulance, shouting that their documents were still in the hotel -- and the guards then gave them forms to fill out," he said angrily.

Doron Kotler, an ambulance coordinator, said Israelis were not allowed to cross to reach Ras al-Sultan or Nuweiba until 4 a.m.

Shimon Romach, the Israeli fire and rescue commissioner, said his men had had to spend 20 minutes pushing their way through the border to get to the Taba Hilton and begin to extinguish the fire. "Egyptians were helping, but there was no professional Egyptian firefighters still," he said. One car bomb penetrated Ras al-Sultan, but another blew up outside the resort. Two Israelis were killed and 20 wounded.

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

Yael Ovadia, 25, and his friend, Moran, came to the hospital in Eilat with their arms around each other, their clothes covered in blood. Mr. Ovadia wore a T-shirt and tan shorts, all spattered with gore. "It's mostly the blood of other people," he said.

"I think it was a pickup truck and a Peugeot that blew up," Mr. Ovadia said. "We were staying on the beach, and there was a huge blast and a white light, and then everyone started to run, running and running and running." He and others spent the night by the water, waiting for the dawn, with no sign of any Egyptian police officers.

Yael, 24, an intern at a law office who did not want to give her last name, lay on a stretcher, her eyes red with smoke. She had come with two **women** friends, and remembered the warnings about possible attacks on Israelis in Sinai. "My parents told me not to go, and I told them that Tel Aviv wouldn't be any safer," she said. "Now I feel lucky. When I was on the beach, I didn't think I'd get out of there alive."

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, praised Mr. Mubarak and the Egyptians for their cooperation in allowing Israeli rescue workers, including members of the Israeli Army, to cross into Egypt. He said he and Mr. Mubarak had also "agreed to continue cooperation in the ongoing struggle against terror."

Mr. Sharon told his cabinet: "Terror does not distinguish between countries or human beings. Terror is global, and its goal is to strike at the free world. Therefore, there shall be no compromise with terror."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement, saying: "Tens of thousands of Israelis who have chosen the Sinai coast as a place to spend the holidays -- despite warnings about possible terrorist attacks -- as well as thousands of their Egyptian hosts, reflect the strong and courageous will of those who seek peace in the Middle East."

The terrorist attack, the statement continued, "is an assault on all those who search for peace, contentment, and calm in the Middle East," adding: "For Israel and Egypt, the Taba Hilton represents a bridge of understanding and peace. This despicable terrorist attack precisely on this symbol of peace is an attack on all those who look forward to a better future for the Middle East."

At the Eilat hospital, Edward Svarts still had the key to room 311 of the Taba Hilton in his hand. His wife, Ina, had been hurt by falling debris, and their daughter, Shannon, 7, wandered aimlessly.

"I saw the engine of the bomber's car burning in the lobby," he said. "Everything was on fire. We saw our car completely crushed from the lobby. We walked out through a hole in the wall."

Mr. Svarts began to breathe shallowly, pale and sweaty. "I saw plenty of small children dead," he said. "It was horrible, horrible."

[Israeli troops killed four armed Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Saturday as they pressed an offensive trying to stop militants from firing rockets, Reuters reported. Witnesses said two fighters from **Hamas** were killed in a gun battle at Beit Hanoun, one of the main launching grounds for the rocket attacks. Two Palestinian policemen were killed in an earlier missile strike on the refugee camp of Khan Younis, witnesses said.]

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Rescue workers searched for more victims yesterday in the rubble of the bombed Taba Hilton in Sinai. (Photo by Sebastian Scheiner/Associated Press)(pg. A1)

Israelis Trudge Home, in Shock After Bombings

Israeli tourists crossed the border at Eilat, Israel, yesterday after the bomb attacks on three resorts in Egypt. It was unclear who was responsible for the attacks, though there were two claims by obscure groups. (Photo by Pavel Wolberg/European Pressphoto Agency)

The destroyed facade of the Taba Hilton in Egypt yesterday after the hotel was hit first by a car bomb and then by a suicide bomber. (Photo by Sebastian Scheiner/Associated Press)(pg. A3)Map of Egypt highlighting Taba: Taba, Egypt, has been a popular Sinai vacation spot for Israelis. (pg. A3)

Load-Date: October 9, 2004

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Palestine Campaign Has Gone Too Far

THE BRISTOL POST

October 15, 2003

default

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Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 11 1510BRISEP2C5pales

Length: 280 words

Body

In recent months I have become increasingly concerned by the activities of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) and their members in Bristol. On Saturday, I encountered a PSC stall manned by three or four people on Gloucester Road distributing their skewed propaganda and as a counterbalance I stood next to them quietly holding my Israeli flag - the only image I had available at the time.

Whilst I was heartened to find some common ground with one of their *female* supporters, I was subjected to unprovoked abuse and aggression by the male friends. This is indicative of the attitude of the "campaign", whose propaganda is deliberately misleading and seeks to demonise the democratic State of Israel.

Israelis face the worst terrorism in the world today. PSC leaflets make no reference to the relentless Palestinian atrocities against innocent Israeli civilians - I've witnessed their members voice support for terrorist organisations such as *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

Last April I received antiSemitic abuse from one of their members in Broadmead.

Furthermore, their supporters have recently resorted to graffiti around The Arches - I'm sure Bristol City Council would be interested in talking to those responsible for wasting taxpayers money on removing their offensive slogans.

While I respect the PSC's right to free speech, their hostility to one person's peaceful presence brings their legitimacy into question - I was told to "stop occupying their pavement", and "go to Israel".

These people have scant interest in peaceful coexistence in the Middle East - apparently so ignorant that they cannot even share Gloucester Road with a peaceful Zionist.

Name and Address supplied.

Load-Date: October 16, 2003

Melbourne women cheat death in blast

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

September 11, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 281 words

Byline: HOLLY LLOYD-McDONALD

Body

A FORMER Caulfield teacher was one of three Melbourne women

to cheat death when a bomb ripped through a West Jerusalem cafe yesterday.

Tzippy Cohen, 25, who works in a New York school, was sitting in the trendy Cafe Hillel with friends Tova Ross, 24 and Rochelle Rostkier, 24.

A suicide bomber walked in and detonated his explosives,
killing seven customers and injuring 40 others.

Ms Cohen spoke to the Herald Sun last night from her bed after surgery in a Jerusalem hospital.

She said she and her friends had sat at the back of the restaurant in case of a bombing.

"I honestly think that's what saved our lives," she said.

"People were screaming, running and crying.

"There was blood everywhere and shattered glass."

Ms Cohen said the trio, friends from a Melbourne school, had been trying to be safety conscious.

Ms Cohen had pieces of shrapnel removed from her back.

Ms Ross was not injured and Ms Rostkier is in another hospital with shrapnel wounds to her body.

The bombing, at 11pm local time, came within six hours of a suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv bus stop near an Israeli army base. Eight soldiers were killed.

Palestinian militant group Hamas claims responsibility for the attacks.

Ms Cohen said: "I couldn't tell you what the sound was, but I felt the place explode and then there was absolute silence for about a split second, then chaos."

Melbourne women cheat death in blast

She said the trio bolted for the nearest exit away from the front of the cafe, stepping over glass shards and bodies, and ran up an alley.

"Someone came out from their apartment and very graciously took us in and called an ambulance and got us help," Ms Cohen said.

TWIN blasts, Page 31

Load-Date: September 11, 2003

End of Document

Israeli troops wound 3 in raid; Soldiers storm cafe, fire at fleeing men in hunt for fugitives

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

October 4, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A7; NEWS

Length: 722 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli troops raided a West Bank coffee shop filled with men playing cards yesterday morning, wounding three and arresting more than a dozen others during a search for fugitives, Palestinian officials said. The Israeli army said its soldiers fired at three men who had ignored orders to halt.

Two of the wounded were electricians doing repair work.

Israeli military officials said troops did not fire into the coffee shop. A reporter counted eight bullet holes in the windows of the coffee shop and 11 more inside, and saw glass shards on the floor.

Associated Press

The raid on the coffee shop in the northern West Bank town of Qabatiyeh began when about a dozen jeeps suddenly pulled up outside and soldiers jumped out, said Nasser Zakarneh, 30, who owns the shop next door.

Soldiers opened fire at the coffee shop filled with card players, he said.

Two electricians working inside ran out when they heard the shooting and were about 40 metres from the buildings when they were shot, Zakarneh said. A third man was shot about 20 metres away, he said.

The electricians, one of whom was in serious condition, were taken to Israeli hospitals, Palestinian security officials said. The third man was treated at a local clinic. About 20 people were detained for questioning and released last night, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli military said soldiers fired at several fleeing men after calling on them to halt. The officials said they did not immediately know whether any of the wounded were fugitives. The army put the number of people detained at about 30.

The raid came hours before Israel announced it was sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, keeping about three million Palestinians from entering Israel and preventing Palestinian residents of the West Bank from leaving their communities.

The closure was part of an effort to prevent militant attacks on Israelis over the Yom Kippur holiday beginning tomorrow evening.

Israeli troops wound 3 in raid; Soldiers storm cafe, fire at fleeing men in hunt for fugitives

About 3,000 Palestinians marched earlier in the day in a Gaza refugee camp in support of **Hamas**, the Islamic militant group that has staged suicide attacks against Israelis. Young men in black masks carried cardboard models of rockets and wore mock suicide bomb belts. Some burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

A senior Palestinian official, meanwhile, said Yasser Arafat has agreed to relinquish some control over security forces and boost the authority of incoming Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia's government. That would be in line with Israeli and U.S. demands that the Palestinians unite security forces.

Currently, Arafat directly controls four branches of the security forces, with the remaining four under the interior minister. Under the new arrangement, Qureia's designated interior minister, Gen. Nasser Yousef, would control all the branches, but would receive orders from the 13-member National Security Council, which Arafat heads.

Israeli security officials said they were debating how to deal with Qureia's incoming government. Some officials proposed giving him a boost by releasing Palestinian prisoners and removing a large number of army roadblocks. They also were looking into holding ceasefire talks.

Such moves have the support of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, the officials said, but substantial discussions on any such moves have yet to begin and would have to be approved by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Israel's position has been to keep up strikes against Palestinian militants and not negotiate a truce unless Palestinian security forces begin arresting militants. The overtures being discussed would depend on Qureia's actions against militants, the officials said. Qureia has said he will not risk a civil war by launching a major crack down on militants.

In another development, Richard LeBaron, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, met Thursday with Amos Yaron, the director of Israel's Defence Ministry, to discuss the route of a security barrier Israel is building around the West Bank.

This week, Israel's cabinet approved a plan to build a series of protective fences deep in the West Bank. The U.S. has said the barrier's route could be interpreted as an effort to define unilaterally the border of a future Palestinian state.

On Thursday, Yaron assured U.S. officials the new fences will not be linked to the main barrier, Israeli media reported.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian **women** in the Jabaliya refugee camp march in support of **Hamas** yesterday, carrying flags that read: "No God but God and Mohammed is the Prophet of Allah." They were also marking the third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

Load-Date: October 4, 2003

CARTOONS & COMMENT;
VIEWPOINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 19, 2003 Friday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B11; COMMENTARY

Length: 632 words

Body

ULTIMATE ELIMINATION

The world will not help us; we must help ourselves. We must kill as many of the **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad leaders as possible. . . . And we must kill Yasser Arafat, because the world leaves us no alternative. . . . Arafat's death at Israel's hands would not radicalize Arab opposition to Israel; just the opposite. The current jihad against us is being fueled by the perception that Israel is blocked from taking decisive action to defend itself."

-- The Jerusalem Post, Israel

THE PEOPLE SHOULD SPEAK

Finally, the Israelis have begun to realize what has always been clear since the beginning, that their present government, led by Ariel Sharon, has achieved nothing but total failure in three main fields: security, economy and the political solution. . . . It is also the appropriate time for the Israeli people to have their say, especially after the loads of unfulfilled promises given to them by their government.

-- Al-Quds, The West Bank

MULTIPLE FAILURES

The threat to kill Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian proto-state, is disastrous not just because it is uncivilized or morally repugnant -- although it undoubtedly is -- but because it would be ineffective. . . . It is a measure of the failure of Ariel Sharon's government that it has nothing to offer a frightened Israeli people but self-defeating gestures of bloodthirsty revenge.

-- The Independent, London

DANGEROUS OLD MEN

Yasser Arafat is 74, Ariel Sharon is 75. Both are long past the military service age limit, but despite this, they are fighting a fierce war. . . . It is obvious that Arafat will achieve nothing positive for his people. He has no influence, not only on Israel's actions, but also on Palestinian organizations like **Hamas** or Jihad. . . . Ariel Sharon . . . also suffers from the war veteran syndrome. Unable to get rid of military habits, he reduces his policy to a simple attack-counterattack principle.

CARTOONS & COMMENT; VIEWPOINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

-- Zycie Warszawy, Poland

EASY APPLAUSE

To receive a couple of cheers during his Iraq trip, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell had to go to Kurdish areas, actually to Halabja, where Saddam Hussein unleashed his murderous folly against thousands of innocent men, women and children. . . .

In all other parts of Iraq, Powell cannot expect to be cheered. It is not because Iraqis miss the brutal regime of Saddam. . . . The simple reality is that ordinary Iraqis of all religions and political creeds loath foreign occupation, including U.S. occupation.

-- Jordan Times, Amman, Jordan

ELECTION ON THE SKIDS

The recall bandwagon came to a screeching halt Monday as (a panel of) the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals (meeting) in Pasadena applied the brakes. . . . (T)his 11th-hour change is too costly and smacks of partisan manipulation. A delay now would almost certainly benefit Gov. Gray Davis, whose anti-recall fight is exempt from campaign finance laws, giving him more time to raise the necessary funds for his usual TV blitzkrieg.

-- Star-News, Pasadena, Calif.

FALSE RAPE?

The officer formerly in charge of cadet discipline at the Air Force Academy evidently is curious about what constitutes sexual assault.

In an interview transcript released by an Air Force panel investigating 142 rapes reported at the academy since 1993, Col. Laurie Sue Slavec pondered the difference between consensual sex and rape. . . .

(She) indicated she had never heard of a "true rape" at the academy, which she defined as "somebody who was taken by force . . . a true violent assault. . . ."

In minimizing nonconsensual sex that does not rise to her standard of "true rape," Slavec does a grave disservice to those who said no -- at any point during an intimate encounter -- and were ignored. Such survivors were raped, and suggesting otherwise is Neanderthal revanchism.

-- Daily Camera, Boulder, Colo.

Notes

COMMENTARY: A FORUM FOR OTHER VOICES, IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Graphic

GRAPHICGRAPHICS

(1) Graphic/illustration by MIKE LESTER, CAGLE CARTOONS - (MIDDLE EAST. Arafat holds leash of "Militant Groups" dog which is biting Ariel Sharon's leg and says: "I didn't say he didn't bite. I said he wasn't my dog.")

CARTOONS & COMMENT; VIEWPOINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

(2) Graphic/illustration by MARSHALL RAMSEY, THE MARION-LEDGER, COPLE NEWS SERVICE - (POSTWAR IRAQ. Hurricane "IRAQ" is heading for the White House BUSH POLL NUMBERS. The White House says, "We need more plywood. . . ")

(3) Graphic/illustration by FARINGTON, CAGLE CARTOONS - (MUSIC PIRACY. Police arresting young child at his computer. Another officer radios in: "10-4. . . We decided to skip the meth lab bust because we got a tip on a felony downloading of a Britney Spears single in progress. . .)

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

End of Document

Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians

The International Herald Tribune

July 7, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 783 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

After much debate and a close vote, Israel's cabinet agreed Sunday to release 300 or more Palestinian prisoners in the coming days. The move addressed a key Palestinian demand in the Middle East peace negotiations but fell far short of meeting it.

Even as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ministers were thrashing out the issue in Jerusalem, both Israelis and Palestinians were protesting in the streets on a scorching summer day.

Outside the prime minister's office, Israelis who lost family members in terror attacks held up posters of those killed and demanded that Sharon's government keep closed the jail cells of Palestinians convicted of violence. Aware of the sensitivities, Sharon told his cabinet "there is no way prisoners with blood on their hands will be released," according to an official at the meeting.

The New York Times

In Gaza City, Palestinians marched and raised placards of some of the roughly 5,500 prisoners seized by Israel during the current round of fighting that began in September 2000. The Palestinians are insisting that all be released if peace talks are to progress.

Elsewhere in Gaza City, Palestinian government workers began whitewashing graffiti that praises Palestinian militants. The elaborate, brightly colored paintings cover many of the city's walls, and Israel has demanded that the Palestinian Authority act to halt incitement against Israel.

In another development, Shaul Mofaz, Israel's hawkish defense minister, said talks with the Palestinian security chief, Muhammad Dahlan, were "very positive" and that the number of Palestinian attacks was down recently.

The Palestinians are demanding additional Israeli troop withdrawals from West Bank towns, to follow up on last week's pullout from Bethlehem and much of the Gaza Strip.

"We are ready to continue to hand over other cities," Mofaz said. "It will be done gradually."

The prisoner issue is a highly emotional one on both sides and could improve the climate for negotiations if increasing numbers of prisoners are allowed to go home, and the level of violence remains low.

Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians

The Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, has made the releases a top priority, and it is one of the quickest and most tangible ways he can demonstrate to Palestinians that he is winning concessions in talks with Israel. Abbas has met with Sharon four times in recent weeks, and another session is expected this week.

"We have an interest in seeing that the new Palestinian government is strong," Avraham Poraz, the interior minister in Israel, said following the cabinet meeting. "Those being released now are not murderers. We have to look to the future, and if we want less killing, and less terrorism, we will have to be flexible on this issue."

However, Palestinians are demanding freedom for all Palestinian prisoners, while Sharon's government appears willing to release them by the hundreds if relative calm prevails, but not by the thousands.

"The Israeli government should not make these decisions unilaterally," said Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian legislator and president of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, which assists those jailed. "What we are demanding is a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee that negotiates the criteria and approves the names of those to be released."

After an initial debate Sunday on releasing prisoners, the cabinet voted 10 to 10 with two abstentions. At that point, some ministers proposed a monitoring committee to review the releases and whether the Palestinians were working to halt violence.

The ministers then passed the measure 13-9, according to an official who briefed reporters.

The government did not give precise figures, but Poraz said he expected the releases to total about 300 over the next two weeks. The Israeli media said the number could reach 350.

Israel has freed about 300 prisoners in the past few weeks.

Israel placed numerous conditions for the releases. Most of those to be freed are being held under "administrative detention," which allows suspects to be held for renewable six-month stretches without charges being filed.

Women, prisoners under age 18 and over age 60 will also be given priority.

Prisoners belonging to **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, extremist groups that oppose negotiations with Israel, will not be freed.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the mainstream Fatah movement have all agreed to a truce that was declared a week ago, and a smaller Palestinian faction, the Popular Resistance Committees, signed on Sunday.

The group claimed had responsibility for firing rockets at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Abbas is extremely reluctant to send Palestinian security forces to confront militants. But he says he will not tolerate violations of the truce.

Load-Date: July 7, 2003

Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians

The International Herald Tribune

July 7, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 783 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

After much debate and a close vote, Israel's cabinet agreed Sunday to release 300 or more Palestinian prisoners in the coming days. The move addressed a key Palestinian demand in the Middle East peace negotiations but fell far short of meeting it.

Even as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ministers were thrashing out the issue in Jerusalem, both Israelis and Palestinians were protesting in the streets on a scorching summer day.

Outside the prime minister's office, Israelis who lost family members in terror attacks held up posters of those killed and demanded that Sharon's government keep closed the jail cells of Palestinians convicted of violence. Aware of the sensitivities, Sharon told his cabinet "there is no way prisoners with blood on their hands will be released," according to an official at the meeting.

The New York Times

In Gaza City, Palestinians marched and raised placards of some of the roughly 5,500 prisoners seized by Israel during the current round of fighting that began in September 2000. The Palestinians are insisting that all be released if peace talks are to progress.

Elsewhere in Gaza City, Palestinian government workers began whitewashing graffiti that praises Palestinian militants. The elaborate, brightly colored paintings cover many of the city's walls, and Israel has demanded that the Palestinian Authority act to halt incitement against Israel.

In another development, Shaul Mofaz, Israel's hawkish defense minister, said talks with the Palestinian security chief, Muhammad Dahlan, were "very positive" and that the number of Palestinian attacks was down recently.

The Palestinians are demanding additional Israeli troop withdrawals from West Bank towns, to follow up on last week's pullout from Bethlehem and much of the Gaza Strip.

"We are ready to continue to hand over other cities," Mofaz said. "It will be done gradually."

The prisoner issue is a highly emotional one on both sides and could improve the climate for negotiations if increasing numbers of prisoners are allowed to go home, and the level of violence remains low.

Israel agrees to release 300 jailed Palestinians

The Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, has made the releases a top priority, and it is one of the quickest and most tangible ways he can demonstrate to Palestinians that he is winning concessions in talks with Israel. Abbas has met with Sharon four times in recent weeks, and another session is expected this week.

"We have an interest in seeing that the new Palestinian government is strong," Avraham Poraz, the interior minister in Israel, said following the cabinet meeting. "Those being released now are not murderers. We have to look to the future, and if we want less killing, and less terrorism, we will have to be flexible on this issue."

However, Palestinians are demanding freedom for all Palestinian prisoners, while Sharon's government appears willing to release them by the hundreds if relative calm prevails, but not by the thousands.

"The Israeli government should not make these decisions unilaterally," said Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian legislator and president of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, which assists those jailed. "What we are demanding is a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee that negotiates the criteria and approves the names of those to be released."

After an initial debate Sunday on releasing prisoners, the cabinet voted 10 to 10 with two abstentions. At that point, some ministers proposed a monitoring committee to review the releases and whether the Palestinians were working to halt violence.

The ministers then passed the measure 13-9, according to an official who briefed reporters.

The government did not give precise figures, but Poraz said he expected the releases to total about 300 over the next two weeks. The Israeli media said the number could reach 350.

Israel has freed about 300 prisoners in the past few weeks.

Israel placed numerous conditions for the releases. Most of those to be freed are being held under "administrative detention," which allows suspects to be held for renewable six-month stretches without charges being filed.

Women, prisoners under age 18 and over age 60 will also be given priority.

Prisoners belonging to **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, extremist groups that oppose negotiations with Israel, will not be freed.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the mainstream Fatah movement have all agreed to a truce that was declared a week ago, and a smaller Palestinian faction, the Popular Resistance Committees, signed on Sunday.

The group claimed had responsibility for firing rockets at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Abbas is extremely reluctant to send Palestinian security forces to confront militants. But he says he will not tolerate violations of the truce.

Load-Date: July 16, 2003

Two scenes of fire, blood and mayhem: Death on Jerusalem, Gaza City streets. People toward front of No. 14 bus died; in Gaza, targeted car was on crowded street

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

June 12, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A18

Length: 622 words

Byline: GLENN FRANKEL

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The **female** passenger was on fire by the time Eliyahu Shmueli reached the bus. He tried to pull her out, but she was wedged between two seats.

"She was still alive," he recalled later from a bed in a nearby hospital emergency ward. "Her throat was burning, her face was burning, her chest, her feet, her legs." At least five others were also on fire. "It was like a big human barbecue there."

Washington Post; Los Angeles Times contributed to this report

Shmueli singed his hands as he tugged at the woman, who looked to be in her 20s. Rescue workers doused her with a fire extinguisher, but it was too late. "She died in my hands," he said.

Death came to the No. 14 bus at rush hour yesterday evening in a burst of fire and flame. At least 16 people died and 60 more were wounded in a deafening explosion that rocked the vehicle, hurling body parts, metal fragments and broken glass over a 90-metre radius and turning this section of the Jaffa Road, the city's main thoroughfare, into a charred slaughterhouse.

Fate was governed by geography. Many of those sitting or standing toward the front died, including the driver. Those in the back survived. Three passersby were also killed, according to police.

Some of the dead were slumped over seats. Some hung out of windows. A few remained upright, as if they were sleeping until the next stop. Around the bus, the petroleum-stained asphalt was littered with severed fingers.

Like many others, Shmueli dashed to the vehicle to try to help injured passengers. The doors and windows had been blown out. Some rescuers tried to enter the burning wreck while others pulled at victims from outside. A few managed to escape. By dousing passengers' faces with fire extinguishers, he said, some rescuers inadvertently made it harder for them to breathe.

Ayelet Yair, 32, and her two sons Ariel, 8, and Amitay, 6, were on their way downtown to buy presents. They were sitting in the rear seat. At a stop shortly before the explosion, she recalled, many people crowded on - including the Palestinian suicide bomber, according to police. Moments later, the blast lifted the vehicle.

Two scenes of fire, blood and mayhem: Death on Jerusalem, Gaza City streets. People toward front of No. 14 bus died; in Gaza, targeted car was on crowded street

"The first thing I did was hug my two boys," Yair said. "Then two people came from the outside and took us out the back window."

A similar scene of fire, blood and mayhem played out in Gaza City an hour later yesterday, when Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car in a crowded neighbourhood, killing at least seven Palestinians.

"I saw this car which was completely destroyed, and the ground was also burned," said Mohammed Wahidi, a Palestinian journalist and assistant to Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath. "The crowd was burned. I saw some parts of dead bodies, some of their clothes here and there, and people were running. Some people were totally shocked."

Suhaila Masri, a mother of five, had gathered her and her brothers' families for a Tuesday evening barbecue in their Gaza neighbourhood of Jabaliyeh. With the sun setting and the breeze cooling, parents roasted corn on the cob in the shade of a palm tree just outside the apartment building while their children played soccer in the street.

Everyone had heard of the Israeli army's attempted assassination of Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi earlier that day. But in the sprawling, battle-hardened Gaza, violence in one neighbourhood never means a pause in life in another.

Masri said no one had advance notice when two Israeli helicopters buzzed over their heads and fired missiles into the same road where a car filled with suspected Palestinian militants was driving by and an impromptu soccer game had just started.

"The first missile knocked us off our feet. It was like an earthquake," she said. "I remember laying on the ground thinking 'The children, the children.' "

Graphic

Color Photo: SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS; Palestinians run for cover after an Israeli helicopter gunship slammed missiles into a car (not pictured) in Gaza City yesterday. A top militant from the Islamic group Hamas was among seven Palestinians killed in the attack on the car, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Load-Date: June 12, 2003

[A Troubled Bush](#)

New York Sun (Archive)

June 11, 2003 Wednesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 763 words

Body

President Bush yesterday afternoon pronounced himself "troubled" by what he called "the recent Israeli helicopter gunship attacks." Mr. Bush said he was "concerned that the attacks will make it more difficult for the Palestinian leadership to fight off terrorist attacks." The president said, "I also don't believe the attacks help the Israeli security."

These objections to an Israeli raid on a terrorist kingpin, [Hamas](#) leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, were disappointing. How can Mr. Bush second-guess the judgment of Prime Minister Sharon, a legendary general who was twice elected by the Israeli people in free and democratic elections to assure their security? It's just hard to imagine that Mr. Bush, sitting in Washington and elected by Americans, has a clearer view of what helps Israeli security than does Mr. Sharon, sitting in Jerusalem and elected by Israelis.

Americans themselves grasp this point. In an April poll of 600 "opinion elite" voters that was commissioned by the Israel Project, the firm Public Opinion Strategies found that 61% of respondents agreed with this statement: "Given Palestinian non-compliance with past agreements, it is easy to understand Israel's insistence that the Palestinians take concrete action, especially against terrorism. Israel can no longer rely on empty promises."

In a May poll of 1,000 registered voters that McLaughlin & Associates did for the Zionist Organization of America, Americans were asked, "Which one of the following factors is the main obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs?" The most popular answer, at 23.8%, was, "the refusal of Palestinian Arab leaders to sincerely recognize Israel's right to exist." The next most popular answer, which 12.5% chose, was, "The ongoing violence by Palestinian Arab terrorists against Israel." Only 4.8% of respondents said the main obstacle was "the tactics used by Israel to combat terrorism."

In an e-mail yesterday, Christian conservative leader Gary Bauer cited American attacks on Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and terrorists in Yemen. "In each case we correctly asserted our right to defend ourselves and we told all critics to shut up," Mr. Bauer wrote. "What is the moral, political, strategic or ethical basis for any U.S. president to tell another free nation that it cannot defend itself?" The political calculators may claim these voters have nowhere else to go, but that's not necessarily true. They may stay home, or be less enthusiastic in volunteering, or they may even cross over to Senator Lieberman if he is the Democratic presidential nominee.

Yesterday, six major Orthodox Jewish groups issued a statement taking exception to the White House criticism and supporting Israel's acts of self-defense. The Anti-Defamation League's national director, Abraham Foxman, as reliable an indicator of mainstream, centrist American Jewish opinion as there is, issued a letter yesterday to Mr. Bush taking issue with the president's criticism of Israel. "Israel, like the U.S., has the right to defend itself from terrorism," Mr. Foxman wrote. "Ultimately it will be necessary for Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his forces to dismantle [Hamas](#). Until then, Israel cannot stand idly by while its citizens are slaughtered."

A Troubled Bush

A Democratic congressman from New York, Eliot Engel, last night made arguments similar to those made by Mr. Bauer and Mr. Foxman. "Just like the United States was right to seek out Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan and to use a drone to target terrorist leaders in Yemen, the Israelis have the right to try and stop terrorists from killing innocent men, women, and children. Until the Palestinian Authority can control the terrorist groups in the West Bank and Gaza, the Israelis have every right to self-defense," Mr. Engel said. And another New York Democrat, Senator Schumer, in a statement to The New York Sun, said, "What George Bush has always understood is that until the violence ends there can't be peace. Let us hope that he realizes that if Abu Mazen isn't capable of this - which seems unfortunately to be the case - Israel has to do it herself."

Mr. Bush will in the end have to reckon with these domestic political realities. Mr. Sharon will have to reckon with his own democracy, the realities of which are illuminated by the Jerusalem Post editorial in the adjacent columns. The one leader of the threesome that lacks the power that comes with a true democratic mandate is the Palestinian prime minister, Mr. Abbas. It's no accident that he's the one that so far has taken the weakest stance against the terrorists.

Load-Date: May 11, 2004

End of Document

**PALESTINIAN DECREE OUTLAWS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ESPOUSE
VIOLENCE;
ACTION MEETS ISRAELI DEMAND**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 21, 2003 Monday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 661 words

Byline: Joseph Coleman The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Palestinian Authority has outlawed groups that espouse violence, moving to meet a key Israeli demand for action against militants and boosting a U.S.-backed peace plan.

The decree - which came Sunday as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian premier Mahmoud Abbas met in Jerusalem - is identical to one issued in 1998 but rendered invalid during 33 months of violence that followed the collapse of American peace efforts.

In violence late Sunday, a Palestinian was killed while setting off a bomb aimed at an Israeli army vehicle near Jenin in the West Bank, the military said. No one else was hurt.

Sharon and Abbas met for two hours at the Israeli leader's residence ahead of the twin summits in Washington between each leader and President George W. Bush. Talks centered on Israel's demand that the Palestinians disarm militants, and Abbas' demand for the release of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli jails.

No bold steps came out of the meeting. Sharon's office said afterward that he had pledged to consider Palestinian requests for additional prisoner releases, further Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian towns and the dismantling of Israeli roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian lawmaker Saeb Erekat said the delegation called the meeting "a disappointment" because action was delayed until after the meetings in Washington. Abbas will meet with Bush on Thursday; Sharon meets him July 29.

The violence that has wracked the Mideast since September 2000 has dropped considerably since Palestinian militant groups declared cease-fires June 29. Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** declared a three-month truce; Arafat's Fatah movement called one for six months.

But disagreements have stalled progress on the "road map" peace plan, which calls for ending violence and establishing a Palestinian state by 2005.

PALESTINIAN DECREE OUTLAWS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ESPOUSE VIOLENCE; ACTION MEETS ISRAELI DEMAND

In an effort to satisfy Israel, the decree issued Sunday by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat bans "incitement that encourages the use of violence that harms the relations with foreign countries" and says violators would be judged according to Palestinian law.

In language that seems directed at militant groups, it also bans "illegal organizations that encourage violence and arouse the public to bring about change through force" and "incitement that encourages the violation of the agreements signed by the PLO and foreign countries."

The Palestinian news agency Wafa, which carried a text of the decree, said it was issued by Arafat to reaffirm the 1998 ban. The move follows a Palestinian statement Saturday pledging to restore law and order in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli statement after the Sharon-Abbas meeting did not mention the decree but repeated the demand for more action against militants, who have killed hundreds of Israelis over the past three years.

"The prime minister told his counterpart that the Palestinian Authority must act immediately and in a clear-cut way to dismantle the terror organizations," the statement said, setting such action as a condition for further Israeli moves.

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr, speaking in Ramallah, appealed to the U.S. government for help in winning Israeli implementation of the plan.

"We need all the support from our friends the Americans," Amr said.

Hopes on the Palestinian side increased in recent days that Israel was growing more willing to consider releasing more of its estimated 7,700 Palestinian prisoners. Israel has agreed to free several hundred but so far has resisted demands for a mass release.

Israeli officials also had angered Palestinians by ruling out releasing members of the Islamic militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad. But on Sunday, Cabinet minister Gideon Ezra said it would be possible to free members of those groups not implicated in deadly attacks.

The Israeli statement said a committee dealing with the releases would meet Wednesday but added that releasing Islamic militants would not be considered until Sharon returns from Washington.

Notes

PAGE 2

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Photo by PEDRO UGARTE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES - Extreme right wing Israeli activists from the **Women** in Green movement hold banners depicting Israeli victims and reading "Sharon is giving terror a state." The demonstration Sunday was in front of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's home, where he was meeting with his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas.; (2) Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Mohammed-Al Jabour, 4, displays a photo of his father, Tahir-Al Jabour, who is being held in an Israeli jail, during a rally Sunday to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Load-Date: July 21, 2003

PALESTINIAN DECREE OUTLAWS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ESPOUSE VIOLENCE; ACTION MEETS
ISRAELI DEMAND

End of Document

Deadly push begins in Gaza

The Toronto Star
October 1, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A07

Length: 813 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel opened a deadly new phase in its war against the Palestinian uprising yesterday, sending armoured forces deep into the most congested refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and claiming one of the highest body counts of the four-year intifada.

By nightfall at least 30 Palestinians and three Israelis were dead, the vast majority killed in the narrow, warren-like alleyways of Jabalya, a militant stronghold that is home to more than 105,000 Palestinian refugees. Until now, the camp was a no-go zone for Israeli military strategists reluctant to send soldiers into so hostile an urban environment.

Israeli officials last night confirmed the military operation, codenamed "Days of Penitence," would continue indefinitely as a sustained, large-scale effort to end of the lobbing of homemade Palestinian rockets into Israel proper.

"Israeli army activities in the Gaza Strip have a clear objective of enabling Israelis to sit in their living rooms and backyards in peace and without fear of being bombarded by Palestinian rockets and missiles," David Baker, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the Star.

"This is our inherent right, the right to live in peace, and Israel is committed to the security of its citizens."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Gideon Meir said early today that the unprecedented military operation will "send a strong message to the entire Palestinian population that they will pay a price unless they resist the terrorists among them.

"We are going to create a buffer of 9.5 kilometres between Sderot and the source of the missiles, which will put them beyond the range of Israelis. We are going to do it with much stronger force than ever before. It is going to work, because the present situation is untenable.

"The bottom line is that Israel has every intention of taking its civilian (settlers) out of Gaza in the coming year. But how can you remove them under fire? We have no choice but to act and act now," Meir said.

The flashpoint for the latest escalation was the deaths Wednesday of two Israeli preschoolers, brothers aged 2 and 4, killed in the random path of a Qassam rocket attack on the Israeli border town of Sderot.

Deadly push begins in Gaza

Sderot, an immigrant town of 2,000 people, has been vexed by an almost daily rain of Qassams from Gaza, despite repeated Israeli military reprisals.

The makeshift Palestinian projectiles seldom cause more than superficial damage. But Wednesday's deadly strike, and the fact that its victims were toddlers on a visit to see their grandparents for the Jewish festival of Succoth, appeared to spark a hardline resolve.

The operation began early yesterday with dozens of Israeli armoured vehicles lining up in northern Gaza with Apache helicopter gunships overhead, closing in on the towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya before plunging into Jabalya. An estimated 22 houses were partially destroyed as Israeli armoured bulldozers carved into the camp, widening the narrow passages for troop carriers.

More than a dozen Palestinians died in early morning clashes, mostly masked gunmen wearing the colours of Izzadine al-Qassam, the military wing of **Hamas**. But as the day wore on, an undetermined number of civilians were ensnared in the crossfire that left Gaza hospitals overflowing with at least 131 wounded Palestinians.

Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis - two soldiers and a **female** settler - in separate attacks in northern Gaza.

In the single deadliest incident, a tank shell directed at a group of Palestinian gunmen killed at least seven and wounded more than 20 near the United Nations school in the eastern end of Jabalya. Witnesses said many of the wounded were teenagers with no involvement in the heavy fighting that enveloped the camp.

Nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital was overrun with casualties, forcing medical staff to treat the wounded, including two legless men, on the floor.

Israeli commanders voiced regret for civilian casualties, saying the tank opened fire at men who then detonated a bomb that wounded several soldiers. Israeli helicopters dropped leaflets over the camp, warning in Arabic that "terrorism pushes you further into a life of poverty and misery."

Later in the day, after Palestinian militants managed to launch three more Qassams on Sderot despite a blockade, **Hamas** answered with a leaflet boasting of its success against "the most powerful army in the region with homemade weapons."

"The situation is clearly untenable and cannot go on. We are going to make every effort to avert unnecessary civilian casualties and property damage, but the IDF activities will continue as long as necessary," a senior government official told the Star on condition of anonymity.

Former Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan said the operation "will result in a bloodbath on both sides because the Palestinian people cannot remain silent in the face of this aggression."

Palestinian leaders called for outside help.

Graphic

MOHAMMED SALEM Reuters Palestinian medical staff treat a youth injured by Israeli tanks in the Jabalya refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

May 12, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 315 words

Body

EIGHT DIE IN GAZA CLASHES

A PALESTINIAN killed by Israeli troops in the Zeitun district of Gaza City last night was the eighth person to die in fighting during the day.

Rafiq Dormush, 30, was killed by gunfire in an operation that began at dawn. Six Israeli soldiers also died when their armoured personnel carrier was blown up in an ambush claimed by the Islamic group Hamas.

More than 120 people have been wounded in the fighting.

MURDERED HUSBAND IN FREEZER

A PORTUGUESE woman has confessed to killing her husband and hiding his body in a freezer for three years.

The man's brother found the rotting body on Sunday in Jolda Sao Paio. It was doubled up in the freezer under dirt, blankets and children's clothing.

The man's wife, 33, admitted she and a lover suffocated her husband, a 35-year-old construction worker, in June 2001. She and her three children then lived with the body stuffed in the freezer.

The body was found when the freezer was turned off and began to smell.

CHILDREN FOUND IN MASS GRAVE

FORENSIC experts have begun exhuming a mass grave in eastern Bosnia thought to contain the remains of more than 70 Muslim civilians, including women and children, slaughtered a decade ago.

"We recovered seven complete bodies, including two children," a member of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people, Murat Hurtic, said.

The grave near the eastern town of Vlasenica, discovered only last week, is believed to hold 72 bodies, including those of 16 children aged three to 15.

MILLIONS ORPHANED BY AIDS

ABOUT 14 million children under 15 have been orphaned, or lost at least one parent to AIDS, and that figure is likely to increase to 25 million by 2010, the World Health Organisation said today.

DOOM & GLOOM

The illness has become the world's most urgent public health challenge and is now the leading cause of death of adults between 15 and 59 worldwide, according to the World Health Report.

Load-Date: May 12, 2004

End of Document

NEWSDESK

The Forward
January 30, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 1779 words

Body

Judge Rules on Hamas

A U.S. federal judge ordered the Palestinian militant group Hamas to pay \$116 million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996.

The ruling Tuesday upheld a judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar, who lived in Israel when they were killed in a drive-by shooting. U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Lagueux awarded \$30.5 million each to the Ungars' children and \$15 million each to Yaron Ungar's parents, both of whom live in Israel. Three siblings were awarded \$7.5 million each.

Family members of Yaron Ungar sued in March 2000 under a 1991 law allowing relatives of American victims of overseas terrorism to seek damages in U.S. courts. Efrat Ungar was an Israeli.

It was unclear whether Hamas would honor the verdict or whether the group has the money to pay. Hamas has had no legal representation in the lawsuit.

Turkish Leader Praised

The American Jewish Congress is calling on the European Union to admit Turkey to the E.U. as soon as possible. During a luncheon honoring Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New York on Monday, AJCongress president Jack Rosen praised Turkey for its role as a bridge between the Islamic and Western worlds.

The EU is expected to rule on Turkey's admission at a summit in December 2004. Some European countries have expressed misgivings about admitting Turkey because of its human rights record and its unresolved territorial disputes with Cyprus. Some European politicians have expressed concerns over the cultural and religious differences between largely Muslim Turkey and Christian Europe.

Rosen praised Erdogan, who heads the main Islamist party, for promoting democracy, fighting terrorism and maintaining close ties with both Israel and the United States.

Erdogan also met with President Bush for the first time since American-Turkish relations soured after Ankara's refusal to allow American use of its base for the war in Iraq. Erdogan stressed that Turkey would not tolerate terrorism. "We will act in solidarity to wipe it from the face of the earth," Erdogan said, recounting the deadly bombings that rocked Istanbul in late November. Two synagogues and the British bank HSBC were struck.

NEWSDESK

He said the culprits had been swiftly caught by security forces, and he pledged to protect the Turkish Jewish community. "There is no need for our Jewish friends to be concerned about the security of the Jewish community in Turkey," he said. "Because they are our citizens and have been entrusted to us by the Jewish world."

Victims Compensated

Starting this week, 1,778 victims of Nazi medical experiments will get one-time compensation payments from Germany. The Claims Conference identified the victims who, under an agreement with the German government, will receive payments of about \$5,400 each. Under Nazi rule, German doctors and scientists conducted experiments on Jews including sterilization, amputation of limbs, organ removal, infusion of infectious diseases, immersion in ice water and the infamous experiments on twins. Most of the experiments tested how much pain, torture or disease human beings could endure before dying, so the vast majority of the subjects were killed. "For survivors, it is a day of muted triumph," said Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, at the news conference in New York announcing the awards.

Brits Oppose Jewish P.M.

Nearly one in five Englishmen would prefer that a Jew not be prime minister. One in seven think the Holocaust is exaggerated, according to a poll published last week in Britain's Jewish Chronicle.

The poll, which interviewed 1,007 people in England, Scotland and Wales, found that 18% disagreed with the statement, "A British Jew would make an equally acceptable prime minister as a member of any other faith."

Last Friday's Daily Telegraph suggested the findings could deal a blow to the electoral chances of Michael Howard, the current leader of the opposition Conservative Party. Howard, a former home secretary, belongs to a Reform synagogue. Britain's home secretary, David Blunkett, told The Guardian newspaper that he was disappointed by the poll's findings.

U.S. To File Fence Brief

The Bush administration will file a brief with the International Court of Justice in the Hague supporting Israel's position that the court should have passed on taking up the legality of the West Bank security fence, administration officials said.

The administration does not intend to endorse Israeli arguments in defense of the fence or its claim that the court has no jurisdiction. Instead, sources said, the Americans are expected to argue that the fence would best be addressed during negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians within the framework of an ongoing peace process.

The administration's apparent decision ended weeks of speculation among pro-Israel activists over how the administration would frame its discomfort with the court's handling of the issue. The White House has publicly blasted the fence in the past.

Israeli officials are content with the administration's decision, sources said.

According to sources familiar with the process, the Russian government rebuffed an administration request to file a joint brief. Russian officials, however, have assured the administration that their brief will offer similar arguments.

Briefs to the court must be filed by Friday, January 30. Court hearings are scheduled to start in late February.

Bush administration officials recently said that despite their objection, they expect the court to take up the issue and to rule against Israel. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, David Satterfield, was quoted as telling congressional staffers last week, in a closed meeting, that no one should delude himself into expecting a ruling in favor of Israel.

UJC Ousts Va. Federation

NEWSDESK

The North American federation system ousted the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Va., due to delinquency in dues payments. The move marks the first time a federation has been kicked out of the United Jewish Communities, said UJC chief executive officer Stephen Hoffman. The decision came in a unanimous vote by UJC officers Sunday night after a report on the federation by UJC's chairman of the board, Robert Goldberg.

After talking with the federation for 18 months, the UJC concluded, "Tidewater really had no intention of changing its position," said Hoffman, who added that the UJC had not yet given the federation the pink slip. No one could be reached at the Tidewater federation.

Birthright Slashes Spots

Birthright Israel is slashing the number of participants on its summer trips this year because of funding problems.

Some 3,500 participants, all but 500 of whom will come from North America, is all "we can manage in light of all the uncertainties," said Michael Steinhardt, a key Birthright benefactor.

This winter, Birthright took more than 10,000 youths to Israel, including 8,000 from North America. Now in the last of its five pilot years, the free trip to Israel for Jews between the ages of 18 and 26 has brought about 60,000 Diaspora youths to the Jewish state.

The future of the program - hailed as a revolutionary way to strengthen Jewish identity among Diaspora youths - is uncertain.

"We hold out as a serious option closing down the program," Steinhardt said.

When the program began, the North American Jewish Federation system, along with Jewish communities worldwide, the Israeli government and a group of 14 philanthropists, had agreed to divide evenly the funding for the \$210 million, five-year program.

But some of those sponsors have fallen short on their funding responsibilities.

While each party originally was slated to contribute \$70 million for the first five years, the Israeli government severely cut its funding this year. And the federation system now plans to pay only \$35 million, of which it is currently short \$4 to \$5 million. As a result, UJC's overseas partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel, has increased its contribution. The philanthropists have "carried the deficit," according to Marlene Post, chairwoman of Birthright.

Husbands Chain Wives

There are currently 150 women living in Israel whose husbands refuse to grant them a divorce, the director of the rabbinical courts, Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, told the Knesset Constitution Law and Justice Committee on Wednesday.

Ben-Dahan said that since a law was passed seven years ago giving the rabbinical courts powers to compel recalcitrant husbands to divorce their wives, the courts have issued 94 orders, prompting 77 men to agree to divorce their wives.

Under rabbinic law, a husband, being of sound mind and out of free will, must place the divorce decree, or get, into his wife's hands in order for the divorce to be completed. A woman is otherwise considered an aguna, or "chained woman," and is not free to marry.

The court has sentenced 16 men to short periods in solitary confinement (after which eight agreed to divorce their wives), and there are currently eight men imprisoned for refusing to divorce their wives. These husbands can be sentenced to up to seven months in prison.

The panel also approved a bill proposed by Knesset member Gila Finkelstein to extend the maximum period of solitary confinement from 5 to 14 days. Finkelstein said that in many cases the punishments imposed by the

NEWSDESK

rabbinical courts are too light, and extending the maximum period of solitary confinement could help "free" the women and enable them to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Court Rules Against Nazi

A federal appeals court in New York has ruled that an 84-year-old accused Nazi collaborator, who admitted that he shot his gun over the heads of Jews as they waited to die in a pit, had assisted in the persecution of Jews and must give up his U.S. citizenship, the Associated Press reported.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed with Jack Reimer's portrayal of himself as a victim who was captured by the Germans in the Soviet Union in the early 1940s and then forced to follow their orders or be killed.

Reimer, an ethnic German born in Ukraine, maintained that he was forced to be a German guard but that his duties were largely administrative, that he engaged in no personal act of persecution, and that he did not know people were persecuted because of their race, religion or national origin.

The appeals court judges said that to find in Reimer's favor, "we would need to close our eyes to the facts as found by the district court and overlook that many of these same defenses have been rejected by prior decisions of this court and the Supreme Court. We will do neither."

Graphic

IMAGE

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;

Morning Star

April 05, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 310 words

Body

ISRAEL'S weekly cabinet meeting exploded into a shouting match yesterday between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and hard-line ministers who are opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Mr Sharon has said that his "disengagement plan" is intended to separate Israelis from Palestinians after more than three years of fighting and reduce friction between the two peoples in the absence of any movement in peace efforts.

However, some among Mr Sharon's hard-line coalition strongly oppose any withdrawal and have threatened to pull out of the government.

During yesterday's cabinet meeting, the hard-liners, led by Tourism Minister Benny Elon, demanded that Mr Sharon immediately bring his plan to a cabinet vote so they could decide whether to pull out of the coalition, according to officials in the meeting.

The prime minister angrily retorted that the details of the plan had not been finalised and, if he brought it to the ministers, they would leak it to the press, the officials said.

"There is no obligation to be in the cabinet. It is very simple not to be here.

Anyone who wants to can get up and leave, " Mr Sharon said.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told the cabinet that a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain in effect until after Israel's Independence Day, April 26, to prevent Palestinian militant attacks on Israelis.

Meanwhile, police entered the offices of a foundation for Arab women in east Jerusalem which has been accused of being affiliated with leading resistance group Hamas, authorities said.

Police shut down the office for 15 days, detained two workers for questioning and applied for a warrant to freeze the group's bank accounts, according to police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

Police claim that the money may be being used to support families and prisoners connected to terror attacks.

Load-Date: April 6, 2004

Sharon cabinet meeting turns nasty;

End of Document

Israeli troops strike Rafah: Missiles kill seven as bulldozers move in to demolish Palestinian homes

Ottawa Citizen

May 18, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A10; News

Length: 756 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing amid fears of a major military operation. Helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing at least seven people and wounding two dozen, residents said.

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.

The Associated Press

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.

The gunships attacked twice after midnight. Palestinians said that around dawn, two missiles killed at least four people as they left a mosque following morning prayers. They said 17 others were wounded.

The military said it was targeting armed Palestinians. **Hamas** said three of the dead were members of the terrorist group.

A few hours earlier, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, Palestinians said.

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces.

Yesterday, residents were fleeing the camp in advance of the expected Israeli operation. 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: Missiles kill seven 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, **Hamas**'s political leader 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.

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

ON THIS DATE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 23, 2003 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: NATIONAL,; ALMANAC

Length: 310 words

Body

One year ago (Monday, Dec. 23, 2002)

* Senate Republicans unanimously elected Bill Frist to succeed Trent Lott as their leader in the next Congress.

Five years ago (Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1998)

* Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat freed Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin from house arrest, a move denounced by Israel.

Ten years ago (Thursday, Dec. 23, 1993)

* President Bill Clinton, under intense political pressure, instructed his attorney to give the Justice Department all records of his investment in an Arkansas real estate partnership linked to a failed savings and loan.

Twenty-five years ago (Saturday, Dec. 23, 1978)

* Reported from Matthews Ridge, Guyana: A coroner's jury ruled that all but two of the more than 900 persons who died at Jonestown, Nov. 18, were murdered because they were coerced into taking poison by cult leader Jim Jones and his henchmen. Jones' followers -- men, women and children -- who had believed Jones was a god, were "commanded" by Jones to swallow cyanide in a fruit-flavored drink. Those who refused apparently had had the poison injected into them.

Fifty years ago (Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1953)

* In Panmunjom, Korea, 22 American converts to Communism ignored their country's final plea to return home. The Americans, one Briton and 103 South Koreans repudiated their homelands and loved ones "in a weird orgy of wild dancing and singing of Soviet songs," even though Indian guards stood outside their compound ready to take them back to home, families and freedom.

One hundred years ago (Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1903)

* Mayor W.B. Hays and Director "Eddie" Bigelow, of the Department of Public Works, were working on a scheme to borrow from the banks sufficient money to pay all or part of the wages of the employees of the Bureau of Highways and Sewers for November. As it was, the workmen were without money for Christmas.

ON THIS DATE

Notes

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003

Graphic

PHOTO: Jim Jones

Load-Date: December 23, 2003

End of Document

Israel bombs Syrian camp Air strikes in retaliation for suicide attack that killed 19

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

October 6, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 11

Length: 291 words

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israel last night said its air force had attacked a training base used by Palestinian ***Hamas*** and Islamic Jihad fighters deep inside Syria, as a warning to Damascus that there would be no immunity for supporters of terrorist

organisations.

Syria said it would make an urgent complaint to the United Nations security council over the air raid, the first direct military confrontation between Israel and Syria since the Yom Kippur war 30 years ago.

AAPThe strike was launched in retaliation for a suicide bombing that killed 19 people and a ***female*** Islamic Jihad bomber in Haifa early yesterday.

"Following the bombing in Haifa, the Israeli army has begun to act against the authors of attacks, against those who support these attacks, and those who use the strategy of terror by killing Israelis," the military said.

"In the sphere of these operations, the Israeli army has acted deep inside Syrian territory and attacked a training camp used by terrorist organisations under the patronage of Syria."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesman Raanan Gissin told AFP that the surprise raid was intended to send a message to Palestinian groups and those who supported them that they would have no sanctuary, regardless of their geographic

location.

Islamic Jihad denied that it had any fighters in Syria, while Syrian and other sources said Israel had hit a camp which had been used by members of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- General Command (PFLP-GC).

The PFLP-GC spokesman in Lebanon, Abu Rushdi, said several civilians had been wounded in the strike on "one of our former training camps, which was evacuated more than a year ago, and where we had since housed families of Palestinian refugees living in Syria".

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

Israel bombs Syrian camp Air strikes in retaliation for suicide attack that killed 19

End of Document

Three generations of two families killed

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

October 6, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 308 words

Body

A SUICIDE bombing in the northern Israeli city of Haifa on the eve of the Yom Kippur Jewish holiday killed three generations of two families.

A total of 19 people, as well as the bomber, were killed in yesterday's attack in a restaurant in Haifa, which for long has been considered as a model of peaceful co-existence between Jews and Arabs.

Among the victims were five members of the Zev Aviv family, from the nearby Yagour kibbutz, who had travelled to the city for a shopping expedition, ahead of the Yom Kippur Day of Atonement, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

AP, AFP

Brouria Zev Aviv was expected to be buried with her son, Betselel,

his wife, Keren, and their two children, four-year-old Liran and 14-month-old Noya tomorrow.

Other victims included four

members of the Almog family: Zeve Almog, 71; his wife, Ruth, 70; his son, Moshe, 43; and his nine-year-old grandson, Tomer.

The Islamic Jihad bomber, a 29-year-old **female** lawyer whose brother and cousin had been killed by the Israeli army in June, struck about 2.15pm yesterday, when the restaurant was packed with families.

The radical Palestinian movement Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the suicide attack.

The bomber detonated the charge inside the restaurant.

Maxim restaurant has been co-owned by Jewish and Arab families for about 40 years, in a city that has a large Arab-Israeli population.

The Israeli army attacked an Islamic Jihad training base in Syria in retaliation for the suicide bombing, the army said last night.

The attack, took place at a base deep in Syrian territory used by several terrorist organisations, including **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, the army said.

Israel radio said the attack hit the Ein Saher camp.

Three generations of two families killed

Israeli helicopter gunships launched twin attacks in the Gaza Strip, targeting the homes of Islamic activists, Palestinian security sources said.

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

End of Document

MOB ATTACKS RESEARCHERS WHO FOUND FEW PALESTINIANS WANT THEIR OLD HOMES NOW IN ISRAEL

The Independent (London)

July 14, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 300 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM

Body

A MOB of about 100 Palestinian refugees stormed the office of a Ramallah polling organisation yesterday to stop it publishing a survey showing that five times as many refugees would prefer to settle permanently in a Palestinian state than return to their old homes in what is now Israel.

The protesters pelted Khalil Shikaki, the director of the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research, with eggs, smashed computers and assaulted the nine staff members on duty. A **female** worker was treated in hospital for her injuries. "This is a message for everyone not to tamper with our rights," one of the rioters said.

Dr Shikaki, a leading West Bank political scientist, was undeterred. He said he was still putting the survey results on the centre's website and seeking the widest possible exposure. "These people," he said, "had no idea what the results were. They were sold disinformation."

The poll, conducted among 4,500 refugees in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan, was the first to ask where they would want to live if Israel recognised a right of return.

Only 10 per cent of the refugees chose Israel, even if they were allowed to live there with Palestinian citizenship; 54 per cent opted for the Palestinian state; 17 per cent for Jordan or Lebanon, and 2 per cent for other countries. Another 13 per cent rejected all these options, preferring to sit it out and wait for Israel to disappear, while 2 per cent didn't know.

The future of more than three million refugees is critical to any lasting peace. It was one of the unresolved issues that caused the July 2000 Camp David summit to break down.

w The Palestinian militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad warned yesterday they would end a truce announced last month if the Palestinian Authority continued to try to disarm them.

Load-Date: July 14, 2003

YOUR SAY

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

November 6, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 17

Length: 828 words

Body

When loyalty means nothing

I HAVE been a loyal customer of the CBA for 30 years and used their EFTPOS facilities when I started a small business some five years ago.

However, a few months ago I noticed I was being charged 4.26 per cent on all credit card transactions and 1.65 per cent on all debit card transactions.

On top of this I am charged

a \$25 monthly merchant fee and \$35 per month for using the service.

I contacted all other banks and found they charged only half these monthly fees and a third to a half of CBA charges on credit transactions.

I contacted the CBA and have not had a reply. The CBA talks a lot about loyalty programs but what about bank loyalty to customers, especially small businesses?

Nick Gayed,

Melbourne

Moritt got it wrong

I THINK Simon Moritt is the one who is confused on his facts about Iraq and the Palestinians.

The majority of Iraqis were happy to get rid of Saddam and bombing Iraq was the only way to oust him.

The Iraqis and the Palestinians have not shown that they want democracy, far from it. They have been given the opportunity but have not put down their weapons.

This violence cannot be passed off as the work of a few extremists. Look at what extremists did to New York and Bali.

Israel has not threatened

its neighbours and Israelis are not flying airplanes into tall buildings.

YOUR SAY

Mark Faygale,

South Yarra

Hamas doesn't want peace

RE "Confused over Iraq" (November 3): Simon Morritt wants Israel to give the Islamic extremists a "worthy reason to cease suicide attacks".

Aside from the moral repugnance of his suggestion that such murderous attacks are acceptable in the absence of a "worthy reason", he should understand that, for **Hamas** and groups like them, the only sufficiently worthy reason will be the end of Israel's existence.

The last thing they want is a just peace. That's why they respond to each promising move towards peace with a further outrage.

It's why the attacks continued all through the Oslo years, and it's why the Palestinian Authority must dismantle these groups before any progress can be made towards Middle East peace.

Daniel Small,

Elsternwick

What's wrong with mini-skirts?

RE "Mini-skirt joke backfires" (November 5): the Supreme Court proceedings in Sydney, involving an Australian mother wearing a mini-skirt, is madness.

The woman was stopped by security guards at the Westfield shopping centre in Hornsby in September 2001 because someone made a complaint.

Who were those who complained? Were they Islamics who were challenging our personal rights and social activities?

If so, are our lifestyle preferences to be eroded by stealth by ethnic groups supported by fuzzy do-gooders?

None of this should have happened and to involve our legal system demonstrates this nation's stupidity.

Robert S. Buick,

Mountain Creek, Qld

Cup-goers get shabby travel

CONNEX put its oldest, most disreputable trains on the Belgrave/Lilydale line to carry passengers decked out in their finery for the Melbourne Cup.

There can be no excuse of newer trains being needed during peak periods. Where were they?

Carol Kelly,

Forest Hill

Asylum-seekers' nightmare

BEFORE **women** and children are moved into supervised residential housing at Port Augusta, the media should demand a tour of this facility.

YOUR SAY

They will find houses surrounded by razor-wire fences with one bedroom per family in two-to-three bedroom houses with a shared toilet and kitchen.

Swivel cameras inside the houses record their every move and guards access the houses at any time of the day or night.

Mothers are accompanied by at least two guards when they go shopping and are not allowed to greet friends when out.

Families agree to the separation in the hope it will help their children, but last week a mother asked to be returned to the detention camp at Port Hedland because her children were missing their father.

This is a "Sophie's choice" imposed on families for the crime of seeking asylum in this inhospitable land.

Pamela Curr,

Brunswick

Abbott favours physicians

COMPARE Tony Abbott's approach to doctors with his approach to the unemployed.

The jobless were required to fulfil additional obligations under threat of losing all or part of their ungenerous allowance.

Physicians, however, are being offered a carrot rather than a stick.

Former health minister Kay Patterson proposed bonuses for GPs who bulk-bill concession card holders, but Mr Abbott found this "very prescriptive".

Now, GPs who don't bulk bill all card holders may also get a pay rise. It seems preferable to be a doctor than unemployed, when Mr Abbott is in charge.

Brent Howard,

Rydalmere, NSW

Get rid of passive smoking

IT has been reported that in one town heart attacks dropped by 60 per cent when passive smoking in public buildings was eliminated. Just when are we going to have clean air in pubs, bars and clubs?

Bill Jordan,

Mentone

Load-Date: November 5, 2003

I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 787 words

Byline: Freya Petersen

Body

The Australian wife of the French terrorist suspect Willie Brigitte fears ASIO's investigations into an alleged Sydney terrorist cell could "stir trouble" and cause divisions in the Muslim community.

Breaking her silence to the Herald yesterday, the woman said she had no knowledge of her husband's alleged terrorist links, even though the Federal Government has accused Brigitte of plotting an attack in Australia.

Asked if she knew of the activities of which he has been accused, she said: "Obviously I have nothing to do with that. Ask ASIO."

She added that the intelligence organisation had been "professional" when dealing with her. "They haven't used heavy-handed tactics."

The woman, who confirmed she once served in the Australian Defence Force, but left and is now a student at a Sydney university, wants to maintain her privacy.

In a series of phone interviews initiated by the Herald yesterday, with additional comments sent by email, the woman who converted to Islam more than a year ago and took a Koranic name spoke calmly about the media speculation surrounding her.

She said she was not hurt by media reports quoting sources as saying Brigitte only married her so he could stay in Australia, because "I know that's not true".

Rather, she said, she entered the marriage "by the example of the Prophet", a term commonly used when referring to a small, private Islamic occasion.

The couple married under Islamic law in late August, signing a civil-law marriage certificate later the same day, only weeks before Brigitte was deported.

But the woman refused to reveal further personal details about her relationship with Brigitte.

"I don't really want to speak to anyone about this it's my business and nobody else's business."

In an email sent to the Herald on Monday, she said she was surprised that it had published a report about her husband going to Tony Mundine's gym at Redfern.

I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife

"With Sydney crime gangs shooting each other, issues of increased ASIO powers, Iraq war and Australian Idol you still managed to find space to tell Sydney that my husband went to the gym, and then he mysteriously stopped going, leaving the readers to speculate that he was off planning terror," she said.

"Perhaps he just wanted to spend more time with his wife!

"Having said this, I must admit that so far your reports on the subject of my husband have been fairly close to the truth except for one thing; linking my husband to the Lakemba prayer hall.

"In fact my husband rarely went there; he preferred to pray elsewhere. It is possible that many of the Lakemba prayer hall members raided by ASIO for having association with my husband had in fact never met him or heard of him."

ASIO has raided seven properties looking for links to Brigitte, six of them in the Bankstown-Lakemba area.

The Herald reported at the weekend that France's most senior counter-terrorism official was "90 per cent sure" that the 35-year-old Caribbean-born Frenchman was planning an attack in Australia.

But Brigitte's wife asked: "Did ASIO use my husband's case as a reason or an excuse to gain access to prayer hall regulars, stir trouble and create divisions within the Muslim community?"

The pattern of raids shows that ASIO, operating in tandem with federal and state police, is focusing on Brigitte's links with the prayer centre in Haldon Street, Lakemba, the base for the fundamentalist Muslim Wahabi sect.

One of its key figures in Sydney is the former Qantas baggage handler Bilal Khazal, whose passport was cancelled by the Federal Government last year amid fears of links with al-Qaeda.

But in concluding her email, Brigitte's wife said: "By the way, Wahabi is not a term used by us. We refer to ourselves only as Muslims. Regards, KB."

Fellow students at the campus she attends, several of them young Muslim women, yesterday described her as in her 20s, "Aussie", pretty, a dedicated Muslim and usually outgoing. But they were guarded and protective of her, revealing scant detail about her life.

Cynthia Banham reports: The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, said Brigitte's wife was not serving in the Defence Forces at the time of her marriage.

He said agencies had advised that "Australian security and law enforcement issues have not been matters which his wife was aware of in terms of security, and that she was not involved in any activities of security concern herself".

Mr Ruddock also announced the Government would introduce legislation to outlaw two terrorist groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba , or LET, and the military arm of Hamas.

He said the Government had been advised that LET had links with Australia and thus posed a threat.

While there were no direct links between Australia and Hamas, he said it was a "matter of prudence" it be outlawed anyway.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Word choice matters in Mideast reporting

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 31, 2003 Sunday

Copyright 2003 Times Publishing Company

Section: PERSPECTIVE; Pg. 3D; COLUMN

Length: 839 words

Byline: PHILIP GAILEY

Series: COLUMNS

Body

What is the difference between a "militant" and a "terrorist"?

It's a question that editors around the country are struggling with as their news organizations come under increasing criticism for alleged bias in their coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I'm afraid Webster's New World Dictionary isn't much help. It defines militant this way: "at war, fighting . . . ready and willing to fight; especially vigorous or aggressive in support or promotion of a cause." A terrorist is "a person or thing causing intense fear" and uses "force or the threat of force to demoralize, intimidate and subjugate, esp. such use as a political weapon or policy . . ."

The madness in the Mideast is all of those things and more, and the words you find in Webster's don't begin to describe just how horrible the terrorism and the military retaliation that follows each suicide bomber's success is in the daily lives of the Israelis and the Palestinians. When a Palestinian suicide bomber recently boarded a bus in Jerusalem and blew 20 men, women and children to bits, most of the wire service reports I saw, including one from the Associated Press, said the carnage was the work of Palestinian "militants."

By that standard, I suppose Osama bin Laden is a militant, as was Mohammed Atta, who led the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed more than 3,000 people in New York and Washington. And President Bush's war on terrorism is really a war on militancy.

For me, it's not a hard call. Acts of terror are committed by terrorists, and the horrific bus attack on Israeli civilians, like the dozens of suicide bombings that preceded it, was an act of cold, indiscriminate terror. So why do so many news organizations insist on describing terrorists as militants? I don't think militants set out to deliberately kill children.

Dr. Bruce Epstein wonders if the St. Petersburg Times is part of the problem, intentionally or not. In a recent letter, this Pinellas County physician complained that newspapers appear to want to "legitimize" Palestinian terrorists by describing them as militants. I happen to believe the Palestinian cause - an independent and free Palestinian state - is legitimate and that the Palestinian people do have legitimate grievances over the Israeli occupation. That said, I believe Epstein raises a fair question about news coverage of Mideast violence. He objected in particular to a recent headline in the Times on a story about the assassination of a senior leader of the Islamic Jihad, a terrorist group - "Militant's death sparks vengeance threats." He later noticed another headline - "Dealer sympathized with terrorists." That headline was on a story about the arrest of a man in the New York area who was trying to sell

Word choice matters in Mideast reporting

surface-to-air missiles to terrorists (they turned out to be undercover agents) to bring down U.S. commercial airliners.

Epstein writes: "In my mind, this double standard is both appalling and disturbing. If Americans are killed in a terror attack, the killers are called terrorists. If Jewish Israelis are killed in a terror attack, the killers are called militants. . . . By using the word 'militant' to describe a terrorist, the Times legitimizes the terrorist. When the Times substitutes the word 'militant' for terrorist, the newspaper conveys to its readers that these Palestinian (terrorist) groups are legal, legitimate and even moral."

Contrary to what Epstein and other readers suggest, the Times has no such motive or policy. It needs a policy on how to distinguish a militant from a terrorist, and newsroom editors are in the process of drafting one, as are editors at other newspapers around the country.

The Orlando Sentinel has been getting similar complaints from readers, and earlier this year its style committee reviewed the use of militant and terrorist and came up with this standard: "Use caution when using these terms (militants, terrorists), which can show bias toward one side in a conflict. Generally, 'bombers', 'attackers', or 'suicide bombers' are preferred terms."

Manning Pynn, the Sentinel's public editor, recently wrote that despite the style committee decision, the paper will continue to use "militant" to describe Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, both of which are on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations. "The term 'terrorist' certainly expresses judgment: It imputes to the person or organization being described the motive of trying to instill fear. 'Militant' seems to me much more neutral," Pynn wrote.

Foolish me. I thought instilling fear is exactly what Hamas and Islamic Jihad mean to do when they send their suicide bombers into markets, restaurants and buses to kill and terrorize Israeli civilians. I'm all for fair and balanced reporting (I hope the Fox cable news network doesn't slap me with a lawsuit for trademark infringement), but I also believe that words do matter. And if the word "terrorism" is to have any real meaning, then blowing up a bus crowded with women and children must be condemned for what it is - an act of terrorism.

Load-Date: August 31, 2003

IN BRIEF

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

October 19, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 365 words

Body

Fightback

PHNOM PENH, Monday -- A wife fed up with her husband's drunken tirades took matters into her own hands, literally, when she attacked him and attempted to rip off his testicles with her fingernails, police said today. The woman, identified only as Kim, 35, had become angry after her drunken husband slapped and kicked her, police said. No charges were expected to be filed as the case was a domestic dispute.

Fischer held

TOKYO, Monday -- Bobby Fischer's new lawyer has accused US officials of "grotesque" abuses of power in their bid to have the chess legend deported home from Japan. Fischer has been in Japanese custody since he was detained at Tokyo's international airport on July 13 for travelling on an invalid passport.

Hideaway

SUVA, Monday -- Pop diva Britney Spears arrived at a tropical Fijian island hideaway today with her new husband Kevin Federline, Fiji Television reported. Spears secretly wed dancer Federline last month, but failed to formalise the marriage for nearly three weeks, prompting speculation that the nuptials were fake.

Milk scandal

BEIJING, Monday -- Police said today seven people have been detained in north-eastern China for allegedly producing and selling 60 tonnes of fake milk powder, just months after 13 babies died and 189 were made ill in a major scandal. Two representatives of the Kangqing dairy product company have been formally arrested, while five other people were in custody.

Gaza killing

GAZA CITY, Monday -- Two members of the radical Palestinian movement ***Hamas*** were killed after they entered Israeli territory early today to carry out an attack, sources on both sides said. The two broke through a barrier separating Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip and were trying to attack the Holit kibbutz when they were spotted by troops, an Israeli military source said.

Tinting ban

RIYADH, Sunday -- Saudi Arabia today banned tinted car windows in a move aimed at preventing militants escaping detection on the kingdom's roads. Many cars in the Muslim Gulf state have darkened windows to protect

IN BRIEF

the privacy of passengers, particularly women. But officials say militants may have used tinted windows to avoid being spotted by security forces.

Load-Date: October 19, 2004

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B6; LETTERS

Length: 1316 words

Body

Medicaid cuts: worst bill in six years

Here I am sitting at my desk in Jefferson City at 12:45 a.m. March 18, pondering what the Missouri House of Representatives has done to some of our state's most vulnerable citizens by ramming through House Bill 1566. HB 1566 may lead to the elimination of health care for thousands of Missouri's poorest children, elderly and disabled.

In my six years in the Legislature, this is the worst piece of legislation I have ever seen.

In years past, the Legislature has had a public policy that the state would fund "optional programs." Such programs provide Medicaid for Missouri children who have no insurance (MC Plus for Kids); hearing aids, eyeglasses and dentures for seniors who are poor and incentives for disabled Missourians who go to work.

The bill would authorize the Legislature to choose not to fund some or all of these programs. This totally goes against everything my father and grandfather (both former state legislators) instilled in me about public service. One of the most important duties of government, if not the most important one, is to take care of those individuals who cannot take care of themselves. Children, the elderly and the disabled are such individuals.

The bill will now move to the Senate for debate. I urge the citizens of this area to call and write Missouri senators and encourage them to defeat this bill.

Rep. Ryan McKenna

D-Barnhart

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Keep Bill Haas

In her commentary of March 18, Amy White criticized those who do not clamor for the removal of the two St. Louis School Board members in the voting minority. Perhaps she should have consulted parents of students in the St. Louis public schools. Many of us think that it is important to have at least one voice on the board that will not rubber-stamp directives from the office of Mayor Francis Slay.

Bill Haas has indicated that he may resign from the board to pursue other elected office. Parents have begged him not to resign. Perhaps Amy White does not understand that parents are afraid of who the mayor would appoint to replace him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carol Prombo

St. Louis

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Cholesterol and cancer

In recent weeks, the news media have reported that some scientists have called into question whether high levels of HDL (the "good cholesterol") are always beneficial. And when these high levels are beneficial, the scientists are asking, how much good do they do?

They also advise that the recommended levels of LDL (the bad cholesterol) below which no therapy is needed be lowered from 100 to 65-70.

What has not been addressed is research dealing with low cholesterol levels and cancer mortality. I have in my file three studies carried out in the 1980s that address a possible connection.

While a study of 10,000 men reported in the medical journal the Lancet of May 9, 1981, found no clear-cut link between total cholesterol and cancer mortality, two other large studies found a link between low cholesterol levels and increased mortality from cancer.

One such study, of 361,662 men, was reported in the Feb. 20, 1987 Journal of the American Medical Association; the other, of 5125 men and 7363 women, was reported in Cancer Research for Jan. 15, 1988. While some may regard this as inconclusive evidence of a relationship between low cholesterol levels and cancer mortality, the public should at least be forewarned before people with cholesterol levels of 100 start taking cholesterol-lowering medication, to the benefit of the pharmaceutical industry.

Herman T. Blumenthal, Ph.D., M.D.

University City

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Love among the swans

The well-written March 11 commentary on the resurgence of the trumpeter swan was well received by our family. For several years, a small group (as many as seven or as few as three) of trumpeters has visited our lakes in mid-Missouri near Rolla. They originate from restoration projects at the Minneapolis Zoo and at the Hennepin Reservation in Minnesota. The swans arrive in early December and migrate back north in mid-March.

Sadly, earlier this year one of a group of five of these magnificent birds was somehow fatally wounded. Three of the group left early. However, the lifetime mate of the dead bird remained for some time and did not migrate north until recently, at the usual departure time.

These annual visits have brought delight to this whole area, and we feel fortunate that we have been the recipients of the efforts of these conservation groups. As your article pointed out, we are indeed fortunate that our federal government and some of our states recognized the wisdom of restoring these amazing birds to our natural environment.

Jane Scheidemantel

Lenox, Mo.

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Save St. Stanislaus

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Since Archbishop Raymond Burke arrived in St. Louis, I have a much better understanding of why the Protestant Reformation took place.

The short time that he has been here, he has managed to create animosity with politicians who support abortion rights, individuals who have been sexually victimized by priests and now the Polish community that has sacrificed for so many years to keep St. Stanislaus Kostka Church a viable house of worship.

Where was the St. Louis Archdiocese when this parish fell on hard times? It took sacrifices and hard work by the parishioners to rebuild this church. Archbishop Burke intends to gain control of the church and its \$9 million by withholding a priest to serve the parish.

Before giving in, the parish should approach priests from religious orders not under the control of the archdiocese to serve their church. If this is a viable option, then St. Stanislaus Kostka, with the grace of God, will continue for another 112 years.

Who will Archbishop Burke go after next? Since St. Louis is a hodgepodge of many nationalities, races and independent thinkers, there are quite a few targets remaining.

Edward Hamm

Chesterfield

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Spruce up the station

We have recently taken two trips by Amtrak and noticed how attractive all the little station stops are between here and Chicago and beyond. I know it will be years before St. Louis gets a new station, but can't we make the current one more attractive? Here are a few suggestions for making our downtown station more attractive and accessible:

- * Put up larger signs giving clear directions from Clark Street;
- * Pave the crushed-gravel parking lot, which gets muddy when it rains;
- * Replace the floors in both the waiting room and rest rooms. (The wood board in the ladies room is dirty and unsanitary).

Painting the exterior, putting up some pictures inside and planting some flowers outside would help make the station a pleasant place to depart from and return to.

Andrea Richman

St. Louis County

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Dying by the sword

Ahmed Yassin, the founder and mentor of the **Hamas** terrorist organization, died in a hail of rocket fire. **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades are calling for revenge and, your March 22 front-page story says, "declaring war on Israelis."

Now these terrorist organizations declare war on Israel? One must ask the age-old question: "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Both of these terrorist organizations were born avowing the destruction of the state of Israel and all its Jewish inhabitants. Both have dispatched hundreds of suicide bombers against innocent Israeli civilians, many on the order of Sheik Yassin.

Yassin's violent death as the creator and mastermind of **Hamas** lends credence to the adage: One who lives by the sword shall surely die by the sword.

Sidney Machefsky

University City

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Slandering Kerry?

I thought it a bit much when some editor put the headline "He even looks French" over a March 20 letter about John Kerry that did not even contain the word "French." Obviously, someone on your staff was determined, on no evidence whatsoever, to slander John Kerry.

And he-she was a bit behind the times, for considering the news of the last week, it would have been more appropriate if one's intent is slander to write he "looks Spanish."

D. Ferrel Atkins

Charleston

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

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Your say

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

March 25, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 1339 words

Body

Architect of destruction

WHY kill Sheik Yassin, an old man in a wheelchair?

Because he was the architect of the campaign of destruction that has killed one in every 6000 Israelis and wounded, or crippled, one in every 1000 over the past 3 1/2 years alone.

Because his "spiritual leadership" was the impetus for the Palestinian suicide-massacre strategy that other terrorist groups have copied.

The only reasons that Israel has not already suffered a mega-attack to make the twin towers, Bali and Madrid pale into insignificance have been divine providence and Israeli vigilance.

Judith Rona,

Bondi

Separated by their weapons

WHEN Palestine sends a suicide bomber it is called terrorism, when Israel rolls in the tanks and uses war planes to kill Palestinians, it is called the fight against terror.

So it seems the difference between terrorist and fighting against terrorism is the weapons you have.

But how do you classify assassination?

Ariel Sharon did not get his nickname of the Butcher of Beirut for no reason.

He should be judged on the war crimes he has committed throughout his life.

Nizar Ibrahim,

Bellfield

Yassin a proper target

SHEIK Yassin hid behind an artificial separation of Hamas into a political and military wing and sanctioned the murder of countless Israeli civilians.

Your say

The past five years have seen constant **Hamas** attacks on buses, pizza parlours and wedding parties.

No other country on earth would have put up with such a thing. If Yassin was not a military target, who is?

Bradley Dean,

Melbourne

Despicable murder

THE assassination of Sheik Yassin has plunged Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Government to new depths of depravity.

The death of the **Hamas** spiritual leader, who was a quadriplegic who used a wheelchair, will go down as one of history's most despicable murders.

Peter Smernos,

Maylands, SA

Yassin/Osama, birds of a feather

THE assassination of Sheik Yassin is being widely condemned by European foreign ministers and heads of state.

Would they condemn the US if Osama bin Laden were killed in a cave in Afghanistan, or even a house in Pakistan?

Yassin was a paramount terrorist leader who sent his minions to kill the men, **women** and children of democratic society, as does bin Laden.

Yassin lived under the protection of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, constantly ordering and praising suicide bombings against Israelis.

Adam Indikt,

Ringwood

Terrorism by a state

THE assassination of Yassin is just one more act of state terrorism by Israel.

Israel has killed three times as many Palestinians as Palestinians have killed Israelis.

Israel is violating international law in the occupied territories as well as stealing the good land and dividing the West Bank into ghettos.

When is the world going to rein in this rogue state?

Fiona Jordan,

Ferntree Gully

Israeli troops are criminals

RE "Israelis taking care of own" (March 23): Israeli troops are the biggest culprits of crimes against the Palestinians.

When talking about war criminals, don't forget to name the Israelis who direct troops to kill Palestinians in refugee camps.

Your say

It is very clear that Mr Sharon has no interest in peace.

Andrew Sayers,

Melbourne

Downer a disgrace

TO call anyone a "lousy, rotten disgrace" is serious and to make such a verbal assessment of the Foreign Affairs Minister is outrageous.

However, in the case of Alexander Downer and his statements concerning the federal police commissioner, many would agree.

Downer's comparison verged on the disgraceful and for him to then heap obviously insincere praise on Mick Keelty showed he was not only a disgrace but a bad actor.

John Sheen,

Shepparton

New lows in Canberra

ALL Australians, regardless of political colour, should have genuine concern over the Prime Minister's clumsy attempt to silence one of our most honest and forthright law officers.

Every time we think this mob in Canberra has reached rock bottom, they find a new low.

John X. Berlin,

Maclean, NSW

Freed far too soon

I AM amazed that two women serving 50-year sentences in Thai jails for trafficking drugs may spend only another five years in an Australian jail before being freed.

Only a few weeks ago David Hicks reportedly said he would be "happy to serve the rest of his sentence in Australia".

Of course he would, knowing our legal system releases criminals after they have served part of their sentences.

Why should we take back those who commit offences overseas? Let them serve their sentences there. But if we do take them back, they should serve exactly the sentence they were given in the country of their crime.

Cathryn Szondy,

Burwood East

Help tackle problem gamblers

NSW has more than 100,000 pokies and the same incidence of problem gambling as Victoria, which has 27,500 machines.

The clear evidence is that caps on machines simply don't address problem gambling.

The crusaders who believe that gambling is sinful might be comforted in thinking that there are fewer machines to facilitate gambling, but this will do nothing to reduce problem gambling.

Your say

The anti-gambling lobby refuses to address the hard issues.

It is time these prohibitionists joined the industry in developing more effective harm minimisation programs, such as the self-exclusion program.

Margaret Kearney,

executive director, Clubs Victoria

God didn't make our laws

WHILE I respect John Newton's religious devotion, God did not make the rules for Australians, our Government did ("Complain to God", March 22).

The churches and state are separate, so the perceived commands of the Judeo-Christian-Islamic God, or those of any other deities, while crucial to their followers, are totally irrelevant to lawmaking.

This, ideally, should ensure equal protection for all groups.

Roy Williams,

Clifton Hill

Bring back ashtrays

FRANK Sargent (50/50, March 22) was rightly upset when a burning cigarette was thrown at his car from a passing vehicle.

Many new vehicles have been made without ashtrays and irresponsible fools have taken this as a licence to improperly dispose of cigarettes.

When considering the huge fire risks in Victoria, it might be prudent for manufacturers, or the Government, to ensure that vehicles have ashtrays.

Bill McIntyre,

Narrawong

Remember these legends

WITH the new AFL season about to start, it's time to remember two great men lost in 2003, Jack Dyer and Bob Rose.

What an example to us all. Their dignity, humility and sense of humour is sadly missed. Compare them with the football identities presenting themselves today as "entertainers".

Jack Dyer didn't have to poke fun at the "different", or the poor, to make us split our sides. He didn't appeal to the base instincts of the mob. How we miss Bob and Jack.

Denis Jacka,

Keysborough

Speeding truckies

DON'T the trucks in the Burnley tunnel register on the speed cameras? As I was driving through the tunnel for the first time and obeying the speed limit signs, a large truck tailgated me, flashing its lights.

Your say

Both lanes were bumper-to-bumper. What was I supposed to do? I moved over when I could and the truck roared through to tailgate the next car.

Lexie Fredericks,

Forest Hill

Sex brings out the worst

IT seems recognition of same-sex relationships, a basic human rights issue, brings out the worst in social conservatives and religious fundamentalists.

Rene Day, in "An end to family history" (March 22) argues that same-sex marriages will remove genealogy.

Is this based on a misguided assumption that if gay marriage is legally recognised, there will be an influx of people rushing into same-sex marriages who might otherwise have lived a straight life?

Rene Day concludes by asking if this loss of genealogy is what we want.

What we all should want is a society that recognises the rights of all individuals and relationships, regardless of sexuality or status. In that context, the answer to the question is yes.

Neil Klemm,

Geelong

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

Teen bomber kills policemen

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

September 23, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 24

Length: 324 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A Palestinian teenager blew herself up at a busy Jerusalem bus station Wednesday, killing two Israeli policemen who stopped her for a security check and wounding 16 bystanders in an attack that evaded Israel's clampdown on the West Bank for the Jewish holidays.

Hours later, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at a Gaza refugee camp, wounding 12 people, Palestinians said. In earlier retaliation, Israeli tanks entered the Khan Younis refugee camp and a bulldozer tore down a house across from a bloc of Jewish settlements. The military said the purpose was to clear areas used by militants to fire at Israelis.

Prime Minister Ariel 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.

That prompted U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to say Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia -- and not Palestinian President Yasser Arafat -- should be empowered to take control of Gaza. Arafat "is not able to act in this manner," Powell said Wednesday. Israel and the United States are boycotting Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Authority.

Sharon also hinted that Israel might one day assassinate Arafat, as it did with two leaders of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** responsible for scores of suicide bombings.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group with ties to Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing, but it was unclear what would trigger an Israeli move to assassinate Arafat. Israel has not carried out earlier threats despite attacks with dozens of casualties.

The blast at a busy intersection in the French Hill neighbourhood of northern Jerusalem destroyed a nearby police post, leaving shards of glass in the road as the smell of burning rubber wafted in the air.

The Al Aqsa Brigades identified the bomber as Zainab Abu Salem, 19.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; Israeli police and rescue personnel carry a body to an ambulance after a **female** suicide bomber blew herself up near a bus stop. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

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Palestinian gunmen abduct, then free, 3 church volunteers

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 31, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A11; NEWS

Length: 372 words

Dateline: NABLUS, WEST BANK

Body

Palestinian gunmen abducted three foreign church volunteers in Nablus late yesterday, releasing them several hours later under pressure from Palestinian authorities and other militants.

The reason for the abduction was unknown but it came two weeks after militants in Gaza snatched four French charity workers amid a political crisis that shook the authority of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The four French were also released.

Associated Press

Five gunmen seized the foreigners -- an American, a Briton and an Irishman -- around midnight yesterday as they were returning to Nablus. Five foreign women accompanying the men were left unharmed.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which is affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement, said earlier it was helping track down the kidnappers, believed to be from a splinter faction of Al Aqsa.

The unidentified volunteers came to Nablus more than three weeks ago, apparently for missionary activities. They were abducted in an upscale part of town, where restaurants stay open late and young people often meet.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli helicopters launched a missile attack in Gaza City against a suspected weapons workshop in a building owned by the family of a suicide bomber.

Medics at the scene said at least two people were injured.

The Israeli military said the building in the Zeitoun district of Gaza was a bomb factory that produced explosives for the Hamas militant organization. Palestinian officials said it was a small factory that produced car batteries.

In a separate incident, Palestinians shot four rockets at an Israeli town yesterday, hours after Israel's army expanded an operation in the northern Gaza Strip.

Before daybreak, Israeli troops moved to the outskirts of Beit Lahiya, a town near Gaza's northern edge, residents said. Soon afterward militants fired four rockets across the border into Israel.

Two landed in residential areas of Sderot, causing panic but no injuries. Also yesterday, Israeli troops shot and killed several Palestinians they said were planting explosives near a Gaza Strip crossing to Israel.

Palestinian gunmen abduct, then free, 3 church volunteers

Israeli and Palestinians officials plan to meet this weekend at a hotel on the Dead Sea to discuss co-ordinating the Israeli pullout next year from the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: July 31, 2004

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Arafat urges radical shake-up of PA;

Morning Star

August 19, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 359 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat issued a plea for reform of the Palestinian Authority in an address to legislators at his battered headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday.

President Arafat has been under growing pressure internationally and from critics at home to implement reforms in the authority, which is widely accused of corruption.

"We have to be brave enough to admit mistakes, " Mr Arafat said. "We fortify our commitment to correct those mistakes."

During the speech he called for a "comprehensive workshop of reforms.

"It's true that there were wrongs and unacceptable practices by me and many others.

Even the prophets commit mistakes, " he said.

"There were wrong practices in some institutions and some misused their positions. There were not enough efforts to strengthen the rule of law, the independence of the judicial institutions. We have begun to take measures to solve this."

President Arafat called for a greater role for women and young leaders in politics. "We must open the doors wide for our young generation to seize the opportunity to serve our people, " he said.

The veteran leader's appointment last month of a relative to a senior security position in the Gaza Strip sparked violent protests and was followed by a wave of kidnappings and unrest.

Israel has pledged to withdraw from Gaza next year.

Egypt, which is acting as a mediator, has offered to help ensure peace in the area after the Israeli pullout, but is insisting that President Arafat reform his security forces.

In a show of solidarity with thousands of hunger-striking prisoners being held by Israel, Mr Arafat said that leaders of the various Palestinian factions had agreed to hold a fast day. He met leaders of Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, earlier this week.

Arafat urges radical shake-up of PA;

The Palestinian prisoners launched their hunger strike on Sunday, demanding more family visits and better communication with the outside world.

Mr Arafat said that the Palestinians have appealed for international intervention to pressure Israel into improving conditions for the prisoners.

Israel has said that it won't give in to the prisoners' demands.

Load-Date: August 20, 2004

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Pride restored

University Wire

August 19, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Technician via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 810 words

Byline: By Brian Onorio, Technician; **SOURCE:** North Carolina State U.

Dateline: RALEIGH, N.C.

Body

As I was watching the Parade of Nations during the Opening Ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, I was filled with an emotion that I haven't felt in quite a long time. Pride. As the Iraqi delegation took the field with a thunderous roar from the spectators, I was absolutely filled with pride for this nation. It is because of us that there are two more free nations that will compete in these games. The Iraqi Olympians no longer have to be afraid of the consequences of going home medal-less. Afghanistan sent the first women that have ever represented that country. No, I'm not asking for applause and a look what we did, but it's impossible not to sit back and say that what we did in Afghanistan, and especially Iraq, was wrong.

It's hard to feel pride for this nation. With constant attacks from within our own border, it makes it difficult to like this country. John Kerry has been slinging mud in every direction saying the country is on the wrong course, what we did in Iraq was wrong (no wait, he said it was right, no, he said he wasn't sure what he would do, then he said he would've done the same thing), he said that this President has destroyed all of our allies in Europe (meanwhile, President Putin of Russia announced that he still wouldn't send troops if Kerry was elected. You see John, these people will never work with us unless they're being invaded by the Nazi's), you have a propagandist (I mean documentarian), Michael Moore, lying and splicing a film to achieve a certain reaction (America-hating) and was endorsed by the Palestinian Terror group, Hamas, and it goes on and on and on. Indeed, pride is a difficult emotion when we're sitting in this kind of atmosphere. But seeing those Iraqi athletes take the field and not have to fear going back to Saddam restored the national pride I almost let John Kerry & Co. take away.

The Michael Moore/Howard Dean wing of the Democratic Party can preach peace. They can say all day that they don't want war; that war is ugly; that it wasn't worth one American life. They can talk about peace and reserve their spots on the beautiful grassy knolls of college campuses and wave their signs about America's illegitimate, racist (huh?) war all day long. They can make their patriotic films about how bad this country is and explain that it is patriotic to intervene when you believe the country has gone awry. They can receive their rave reviews from Hamas and claim that they would be just as effective as the President in fighting terror. But let me ask you one very simple question. For all of those people (and maybe even yourself) who preach love and peace, how much peace have you actually achieved? How many people have you liberated with your rhetoric? How many despotic regimes have you removed because of your flowing white gown and yard signs filled with America-hating slogans? How many of you that believe that peace is patriotic have helped to achieve anything remotely close to peace for anyone besides yourself?

Pride restored

No, Afghanistan and Iraq have not been perfect. I admit mistakes. We did not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. But it's a shame that the mistakes are allowed to be amplified to cast a shadow on what we actually have done. What war is perfect? Furthermore, if you were President and you were told that 1.) the CIA says Saddam has WMDs, 2) British Intelligence says he has them, 3.) President Putin says he's got 'em, 4.) The madman destroyed hordes of his own people with them, 5.) the worst terrorist attack in history happened just a few months ago on your own soil with weapons of non-mass destruction, what would you do? Try to gain international support? Yeah. Go for it. If 40 countries aren't enough, then I suppose you'll never be pleased.

But given our short-comings, it is important not to lose focus on the right we have done. Fifty-five million people will have free, democratic elections soon. Yes, these places aren't what you would call "peaceful" but it's a start. Hope has been restored to the citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan. Hope for a better future, not a continuation of a terrible past; hope for the education of women, not women who are chained and covered like property; hope for the next generation, not an insecure future at the mercy of madmen; hope for a better life, not a life insecure of a positive outcome.

It is important that we as Americans of either political party remain united in what we have done as a country and what we will do as a country. Elie Wiesel, survivor of the holocaust and author of the book "Night" understands the necessity of confronting evil. "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

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Load-Date: August 19, 2004

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Bush plea as lives hang on knife-edge

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 22, 2004 Wednesday

Third Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 779 words

Byline: Marian Wilkinson Herald Correspondent in Washington, and agencies

Body

Two hostages, one American and one British, were under threat of execution as President George Bush arrived in New York to ask the United Nations for more help in Iraq and to meet Iraq's interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi.

The beheading of an American hostage, Eugene Armstrong, put the Iraq invasion at the forefront of the US election campaign.

The execution video that showed Mr Armstrong, a construction contractor, blindfolded and screaming, brought home the horror of the war.

It was released as Mr Bush and his Democratic opponent, John Kerry, stepped up their debate about Iraq.

A US official in Washington confirmed that Mr Armstrong's body had been recovered soon after the videotape was posted on an Islamic website. It showed a terrorist, believed to be the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, carrying out the murder while a statement was read.

It referred to Mr Bush as "a dog" and said "the mujahideen will give America a taste of the degradation you have inflicted on the Iraqi people".

Mr Bush described the killers as "ideologues of hatred" who carried out the beheading "in order to shake our will".

Two other hostages, an American, Jack Hensley, and a Briton, Kenneth Bigley, remained under threat of execution.

Zarqawi's followers kidnapped the three Westerners last week and are demanding the release of all female prisoners from US custody in Iraq. The US military say two of Saddam Hussein's senior scientists are the only women being held. One of them is "Dr Germ", Rihab Rashid Taha.

The family of Mr Bigley yesterday begged the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to save his life.

"I ask Tony Blair personally to consider the amount of bloodshed already suffered," Mr Bigley's son Craig said on BBC television. "Only you can save him now ... Please meet the demands and release my father - two women for two men."

Bush plea as lives hang on knife-edge

In a message aired on the Arabic satellite television channels Al-Jazeera and Al Arabiya yesterday, a British official appealed for Mr Bigley's release, the Government said. The message made it clear that Britain was not holding any Iraqi women prisoners and therefore could not meet the kidnappers' demands, the Foreign Office said.

On the eve of Mr Bush's speech to the UN, Senator Kerry issued his most trenchant attack yet on Mr Bush's Iraq policy.

Senator Kerry called for "a great honest national debate on Iraq". For the first time, he said Mr Bush's Iraq policy "has not strengthened our national security. It has weakened it."

He accused Mr Bush of "colossal failures of judgement" and "incompetence", and said the overthrow of Saddam had not made America safer.

"The satisfaction we take in his downfall does not hide this fact: we have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure."

Mr Bush hit back, accusing Senator Kerry of "twisting in the wind, with new contradictions of his old positions on Iraq".

He noted Senator Kerry's vote last year to support the war and his continued justification of that vote.

"Incredibly, he now believes our national security would be stronger with Saddam Hussein in power, not in prison," he said.

Polls show Mr Bush is still significantly ahead of Senator Kerry on the question of which of them is better suited to handle the Iraq crisis, even though half of the country believes the war was a mistake.

The leader of the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which has claimed a string of suicide bombings in Israel, has urged Iraqi guerillas to stop taking hostages and concentrate on fighting the occupation of their country.

"We are against kidnappings, and we wish the Iraqi resistance would stay away from this behaviour and concentrate on its natural right in defending its land and people, by resisting the occupation forces, foremost the American occupation," said the head of the Hamas political bureau, Khaled Mashaal.

The US abuse of prisoners in Iraq was cited by the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in a warning to world leaders that international law was being "shamelessly disregarded" around the world. In a speech to the UN General Assembly, Mr Annan said: "Again and again, we see fundamental laws shamelessly disregarded."

He was to speak before Mr Bush on the opening day of the two-week session attended by 64 presidents, 25 prime ministers and 86 foreign ministers. A Turkish firm said yesterday that it was suspending its operations in Iraq to save 10 employees abducted by Iraqi militants at the weekend. "We are halting our activities in Iraq," Vinsan construction company said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

In a videotape aired by Al-Jazeera on Saturday, the Abu Bakr al-Seddiq Battalions threatened to kill the workers within three days if the company did not quit Iraq.

Graphic

PHOTO: Timeless terror ... the American construction contractor Eugene Armstrong kneels helplessly before his black-clad captors just moments before he was executed, as shown on the video on an Islamic website. Photo: AP

Bush plea as lives hang on knife-edge

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Swift revenge after gunmen kill settler family;

Irish News

May 03, 2004

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 317 words

Body

AN ISRAELI helicopter launched missiles at a 14-storey building in the middle of Gaza City yesterday, hours after a pregnant Jewish settler and her four young daughters were killed by Palestinian gunmen.

Part of the building's roof collapsed and screaming women stood on the balconies. People fled in panic after the attack on the building of apartments and businesses in the Rimal area.

Ambulances raced to the scene.

The building housed the offices for a radio station affiliated with Hamas and also offices of the main Palestinian newspaper al Ayyam.

The air strike followed an attack by Palestinian gunmen on a vehicle as it was driving out of Gaza. The attack - in which the two gunmen died - killed a pregnant woman and her four daughters, outraging Israelis.

The militant Islamic Jihad and Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group, claimed responsibility.

The violence came as members of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party voted in a referendum on his plan to pull out of Gaza.

There has been a reduction in violence in the Israeli-occupied territory since Mr Sharon announced, several months ago, his exit plan. Israel was on high alert ahead of yesterday's vote.

Earlier Mr Sharon issued a lastminute appeal to voters to support his withdrawal plan, saying rejection would threaten the country's future.

The Likud vote is a critical test for him. A loss would likely spark a major political crisis, including a possible cabinet reshuffle, a split in the hardline party or even early elections.

Some sources said Mr Sharon was determined to carry out the withdrawal, regardless of the outcome of the vote. Others said he might seek a nationwide referendum on the plan.

He proposes withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, including evacuating 7,500 settlers, taking down four small West Bank settlements and finishing the controversial West Bank "separation barrier" by the end of 2005.

Swift revenge after gunmen kill settler family;

Graphic

EXIT POLL: Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon votes in yesterday's Likud Party poll PICTURE: Kevin Frayer/AP

Load-Date: May 4, 2004

End of Document

Foot soldiers of nihilism

The Weekend Australian

June 26, 2004 Saturday NSW Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: REVIEW; Books; Pg. B10

Length: 852 words

Byline: Peter Coleman

Body

An attempt to explain the explosion in suicide bombings misses a few points, argues Peter Coleman

My Life as a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing

By Christoph Reuter, Princeton University Press, 200pp, \$44.95

WHAT makes young people turn themselves into human bombs? Here at last is a careful investigation of this atrocious epidemic. The author is a German journalist and Orientalist who has spent years in Arab and Muslim countries and speaks many of the key languages. He wants to help put an end to this era of unspeakable crimes.

Poverty and ignorance will not explain these suicides, he says. Some, like the September 11 bombers, are rich and well-educated. Nor is religious fanaticism, especially Islam, always a key. The Tamils are Hindu and the Tamil Tigers are secularist. Terrorism alone is not an explanation. The IRA does not practise suicide; neither does the Algerian GIA, which likes slitting throats but not their own. Even sex -- and the 70 black-eyed virgins with heaving breasts who will greet the martyrs in Paradise -- does not quite explain those suicidalists who fear and shun all contact with women.

MATP

Reuter has his own theory. It is not as comprehensive as he thinks but it helps. The suicide bombers are motivated, he believes, by their sense of powerlessness. After years of humiliation at the hands of the US, Israel, Turkey or the West in general, they have found a weapon that annihilates the logic of power. No credible threat can be made against someone who has no desire to survive. These martyrs demonstrate that the apparently powerful may also be made powerless.

Add an apocalyptic ideology and heroic myth of sacrificial defeat (as in the great battle of Karbala 1300 years ago) and you have an unstoppable force. As the early Christians found, armies crumble before the faith of the martyrs.

By becoming a human bomb, the young man becomes a hero. He does God's will and enters Paradise. The welfare department of the terrorist network takes care of the funeral, gives his family a few hundred dollars and will look after the children. (Hamas has an annual budget of \$100 million.)

But there is an element that Reuter neglects. Suicide killers are as old as history, but their victims were carefully targeted. The new terrorists kill innocent bystanders, often deliberately and with indifference (as in Bali). Only a sense of evil, however unfashionable that may be, can begin to explain murder on that scale. In his fear of being judgmental, Reuter sometimes tries too hard to understand.

Foot soldiers of nihilism

He begins his analysis with the Iranian suicide battalions of the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Early in 1984, Iraqi machine-gunners heard what sounded like swarms of locusts approaching from behind the hills. The sound swelled as tens of thousands of mouths roared "Karbala!". It was a human wave attack. But the attackers were children. The Iraqis shot them like rows of empty bottles -- until in the end some of the Iraqis went mad or fled. No one can go on shooting children in their thousands and stay sane.

The suicide weapon soon spread across the world to the Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, **Hamas** in Israel, to Turkey, Kashmir, Chechnya -- and al-Qa'ida from Indonesia to the US.

Human bombs are cheap. The only costs are nails, an explosive, a battery, a switch, some chemicals and a strong belt with pockets. The most expensive part is the taxi ride to the target site. Training has also been simplified. Years ago the candidate had to spend two days in a grave next to a corpse to show he was the right stuff. Then he had to learn all about bombs. Today the queue of volunteers is so long that almost all a bomber has to do is wash put on clean clothes and ask God to forgive his sins. When he has strapped on his explosives and put the Koran in his left breast pocket, he is ready -- to kill and to die.

What is to be done? Reuter counsels patience. The West cannot destroy this epidemic by force of arms. The disease must run its course. Take Iran. Twenty years ago it was the homeland of the Islamic Revolution and the inspiration for all suicide bombers. But not today. When al-Qa'ida struck New York, there was popular if silent Schadenfreude in many parts of the Middle East -- but none in Iran, where there were spontaneously organised mass funeral processions.

Iranians have turned against the idea of suicide and indiscriminate killing to fight the Great Satan and have become the most secular, modern society in the region. They want a little peace, prosperity and democracy.

But, says Reuter, this transformation came from within. The same will happen everywhere, provided the West does not rely on military shock and awe as the Americans did in Baghdad and the Israelis do in Gaza. This advice is all very well. People will get tired of listening to the mad mullahs. The trouble is that meanwhile Osama bin Laden will have stockpiled his weapons of mass destruction.

Understanding and patience are essential, but they are not enough. We dare not drop our guard in their name. We also need strength. There is no peace without the sword.

Load-Date: June 25, 2004

Shadowy foe of Mideast truce bides his time

The Toronto Star
July 12, 2003 Saturday
Ontario Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1198 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Highlight: War not over, Al Aqsa militant vows 'This is the calm before the storm'

Body

'Israel is spoiled child that will give us nothing'

Today, his name is Abu Walid. Last week it was Abu Hussein. And next week, there's no telling what the militant Palestinian with war in his eyes and a revolving nom de guerre will be calling himself.

But make no mistake; the 33-year-old can turn the future black again. Here in the destitute rabbit's warren of back alleys that is Balata refugee camp, Abu Walid speaks for the mother cell of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. He rejects outright the hudna, or truce, that has brought two weeks of tenuous quiet to the 33-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Abu Walid is promising more war. More "martyrdom operations." Anything less, he says, is an unforgivable capitulation to an Israeli occupation that shows no signs of ending.

In an interview this week, the Brigades veteran chain-smoked his way through 40 twitchy minutes, turning regularly to the door and blind-drawn window, a shiny silver 9-millimetre handgun holstered at his side.

On the street below, he has eyes everywhere, underground activists equally nameless and faceless, all dedicated to keeping watch against the enemy, to "keeping the resistance alive."

Where others see a narrow path for peace, Abu Walid scoffs. "This is the calm before the storm. We know what happened, we know what is going to happen. There is no hudna. Israel is the spoiled child that will give us nothing. And when the war returns, we will do better than ever, despite our very humble abilities."

In the delicate detente that has accompanied the launch of the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, the rigidly disciplined militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad have held firm to a promise of a three-month ceasefire.

And, on paper at least, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, to which Abu Walid's band is attached, is also committed to ending attacks against Israel for a full six months to give peace efforts room to breathe.

Unlike the Islamists, however, the secular Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades are anything but disciplined. Just as the political wing of Fatah is rife with divisions about the wisdom of moderate Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas' approach to peacemaking, so too are the militants. Dissent and distrust abound.

Shadowy foe of Mideast truce bides his time

Complicating the Palestinian Authority's efforts to cajole the rogues and rebels onside is the continuing fragmentation of the militant branches. Two years ago, their leaders strode cockily through the streets of Balata, a square mile of 20,000 refugees on the southeastern reaches of Nablus. Now, with the original founders all either dead or in Israeli prisons, the new generation has buried itself for survival.

"We were so obvious. Everyone knew who we were," says Abu Walid.

"But we learned from our painful mistakes and today you don't know who is who, or who is a leader. And we also know that today, more than ever, our enemies are baiting us to set us a trap. But we are experienced now. We are hiding. And we are ready."

(A condition of this week's interview was that there be no photographs or descriptions of the venue.)

Exactly when - and indeed, whether - this Nablus cell and other rogue elements elsewhere in the West Bank, including the northernmost city of Jenin, actually act on their rejectionist threats is difficult to gauge.

Abu Walid promises attacks will be launched the moment Israel crosses "the red line." But that line, to his way of thinking, means many things - an assassination attempt on a major militant leader, failure to release a substantial number of jailed Palestinians, or the failure to soon ease the continuing closures and roadblocks that hem in the vast majority of West Bank Palestinians.

"We will not be the ones to initiate suffering. But if Israel assassinates any leader, the reaction will be catastrophic," he says.

While other rogue cells in the Nablus area lay claim to the Brigades name, Abu Walid is adamant "this is the only address that matters."

His cell claims a direct link to Al Aqsa's founders, including jailed Balata militant Nasser Awais, who two months ago was sentenced to 14 terms of life plus 50 years by an Israeli military court for orchestrating shooting and bomb attacks that killed 14 Israelis.

Although jailed Palestinian activist Marwan Barghouti was intensely involved in drawing up terms of the current truce from his Israeli prison cell, Awais was never once consulted - a point of contention for the Balata militants who give him their fealty.

In the aftermath of the announced truce, Abu Walid says Palestinian Authority security officials began circulating through the West Bank, searching out his cell and others to win their approval.

"They offered us large sums of money to annex us into the Palestinian Authority infrastructure. They wanted to buy our obedience. It was an insult. We don't want their money," he says.

"We are people who lost all our friends, our leaders, our relatives. Some are dead, others are in jail.

"Yet through all of this, we did tremendous harm to Israel. We created the legend of martyrdom, and as a result, the whole world knows we are under occupation. End the occupation, and Israel will have its security. But not until that day."

A senior Israeli military official acknowledged yesterday that militant renegades pose a threat, particularly those thus far excluded from the process. But Israel's expectation is that the Palestinian Authority must attend to the reining in of rogue elements before the Israeli military eases its hold on the West Bank. "When we said Gaza and Bethlehem first as the places for turning over control and withdrawing, we also mean Nablus and Jenin last," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

"It's no secret that these are the two toughest cities. We know that conditions there are still harsh, but our business is not about pleasing Palestinians, it's about ensuring Israel's security."

Shadowy foe of Mideast truce bides his time

Israeli commanders have been instructed to "change their mental discs" on maintaining security, in the hopes that combat soldiers can segue to duties more aptly described as policing until such time as Palestinian Authority security forces assume control.

But just as U.S. military commanders are finding in Iraq, such a shift places an enormous burden on ground troops.

"We are a very small country and a very small army. Everyone we have has been in the trenches," the Israeli military official said.

"But already, the rules of engagement have changed. In (the southern Gaza community of) Rafah this week, there were grenade attacks. It was a situation where Israeli soldiers would have opened fire. Now they are not allowed without permission from a battalion commander. So there was no responding fire."

Abu Walid and the Brigades of Balata appear as wary of the threat from within as they are of Israeli action against them. Quite simply, he says, "We trust nobody." The forces of moderation within the Palestinian leadership, he says, constitute "an arm of the Israeli security apparatus."

Arafat, the militant leader admits, is different.

"We are not in a position to embarrass Arafat. If he approached us, we would give him the utmost respect. But even Arafat has no control in the field. We do not work on remote control for anybody."

Graphic

MOHAMMED SALEM/reuters Palestinian women hold pictures of their sons yesterday as they call for the release of prisoners from Israeli jails during a Hamas protest at Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Militant groups including Hamas have agreed to a three-month ceasefire after more than 33 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Load-Date: July 12, 2003

At Home With the Killers

New York Sun (Archive)

May 26, 2004 Wednesday

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Section: ARTS & LETTERS; Pg. 16

Length: 853 words

Byline: By BRENDAN CONWAY

Body

Eleven years have passed since the first Palestinian committed a suicide attack in Israel. In April of 1993, Sahar Tamam Nabulsi, a ***Hamas*** terrorist, 22 years of age, loaded a stolen Mitsubishi van with gas canisters and drove it between two parked buses outside a cafeteria. When he ignited the load, the blast gutted the buses, blowing jagged shards of metal into the cafe. An Arab Israeli bystander was killed, and eight others were injured.

Few Israelis and fewer outsiders immediately understood the meaning of the attack or the complex psychology and politics behind it. But some have spent the last decade trying to. Christoph Reuter, a correspondent for the German weekly Stern, interviewed as many families of suicide bombers as he could find, canvassed their countries of origin for insights, and has compiled the results in a short, readable book.

The windows Mr. Reuter makes into suicide terrorists' family lives do not quite confirm Hannah Arendt's dictum on the banality of evil, but they hardly gainsay it. They show how lamentable is the ethos of chauvinism and pride that supports suicide terrorism. But they also show how fragile and contrived that support can sometimes be, and how it is, ultimately, unnatural.

In most cases, bravado pours forth from family members, but thinly veiled sorrow follows. Take the case of Ismail Masawabi, age 23, an actor, aspiring painter, and son of a wealthy window manufacturer. In 2001, on the evening of June 22, he blew himself up near the neighboring Israeli settlement. Masawabi had worn a kippa and driven toward the gates of the settlement, intending to detonate his cargo inside, but his car became stuck in sand. When he called for help in Hebron, Israeli soldiers approached to answer the call; Masawabi then pushed the button, killing himself and the three soldiers.

Mr. Reuter tracked down and interviewed several members of Masawabi's family in their home in Khan Yunis. He shows first the strange belligerence of the Masawabis' defense of the suicide act. "Anyone with an atom of honor in his body should do it," a cousin exclaimed. But things weren't meant to turn out this way, the father admits.

"We planned to open the shop downstairs for his painting," he told Mr. Reuter. "That was what I had hoped." But after speaking of the shop the father lost his composure. "At least we're happy that he died in this way," he continued defensively. "That he didn't die at home, that he wasn't just shot dead at the checkpoint." Mr. Reuter has his doubts, and rightly so.

Mr. Reuter gets a similar answer from the infamous Palestinian who, in 2001, upon learning his son had blown himself and 21 bystanders into the next life, told a journalist from Abu Dhabi TV, "If I had 20 children, I'd send them all off to Israel to blow themselves up and to kill some Israelis." Mr. Reuter had a researcher track him down to get

At Home With the Killers

further comment. The response? "What was I supposed to say?" the man - identified only as Said - asked angrily when pushed to explain his remarks. "I have to be proud of him!" Before long, Said broke down. The tears began to flow, and he left the room.

Mr. Reuter granted some of his interviewees anonymity, and this helped him uncover those cases where relatives clearly traded pride and politics for open displays of sorrow. The most striking happened at a cemetery in Iran, where members of the "suicide battalions" who fought the Iran-Iraq War are buried. There, Mr. Reuter found a mother weeping over her son's grave. Guarded at first, in time she admitted that she no longer thinks her son Reza's loss was a worthwhile sacrifice for the imam and the revolution. "I don't believe it's God's will for someone to just throw his life away," she told Mr. Reuter. Reza was 13 at the time of his death in 1984.

Still, Mr. Reuter found just one case where a relative openly admitted doubts to a foreign journalist. "I had other plans for my son," says Hussein Tawil of Ramallah, whose 19-year-old son, Dia, an engineering student, blew himself up with a nail bomb, injuring dozens at a northern Jerusalem bus stop in 2001. Hussein accepted **Hamas's** congratulations after the attacks. He keeps photos captioned "Dia the Martyr" on his living room walls. "But why," he asks Mr. Reuter with desperation, "Why my son?"

There is no good answer to Mr. Tawil's question. If suicide is unnatural, then it is all the more unnatural for a parent to applaud it. The imams and ayatollahs who encourage suicide attacks do not admit this. Will they ever? It's hard to say, but at least they nod toward just-war theory occasionally.

In 2001, Mr. Reuter recounts, Sheikh Muhammada Said Tantawi, grand mufti at Cairo's Al-Azhar University, pronounced suicide terrorism justified "so long as [the bomber's] intention consists of killing the enemy's soldiers, but not **women** and children." Three years earlier, this same mufti had affirmed an unqualified "right of all Muslims, Palestinians, and Arabs to blow themselves up in the heart of Israel." If a terrorist-abettor can now speak against killing the enemy's children, maybe he'll one day condemn the killing of his own.

Load-Date: May 27, 2004

NATION;
WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News

FEBRUARY 12, 2004 Thursday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 31

Length: 325 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

Civility is first victim

in gay-marriage debate

With scuffles breaking out inside the Statehouse and people chanting slogans for and against gay rights, Massachusetts lawmakers yesterday took up a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

People who came from across the country were confronted with tight security as the lawmakers entered the volatile national debate over gay rights - a debate stoked by a ruling from the state's highest court saying that gay couples have the right to marry.

2nd bombing in 2 days

brings Iraqi toll to 100

The second suicide bombing in as many days killed up to 47 people yesterday, pushing the toll in the back-to-back attacks to 100. Again, the targets were Iraqis - a crowd of volunteers for Iraq's new army.

Also yesterday, the U.S. military posted a \$10 million bounty on a Jordanian militant, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, suspected of organizing violence by foreign fighters to spark a Sunni-Shiite civil war in Iraq.

U.S. infant mortality rises;

Life expectancy highest ever

U.S. infant mortality has climbed for the first time since 1958, partly because older women are putting off motherhood and then having multiple babies via fertility drugs.

NATION; WORLD

At the same time, U.S. life expectancy reached an all-time high of 77.4 years in 2002, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Life expectancy in 2001 was 77.2 years.

The infant mortality rate rose from 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 7.0 in 2002.

15 Palestinians killed;

militants vow retaliation

Israel sent troops and tanks into a densely populated neighborhood and a refugee camp yesterday to search for Palestinian militants, setting off the bloodiest day of fighting in the Gaza Strip in 16 months. Fifteen Palestinians were killed and more than 50 were wounded.

Hamas, the militant Islamic group, responded by urging all its cells throughout Gaza and the West Bank to attack. Similar calls in the past have brought suicide bombings in Israel.

Load-Date: August 22, 2005

End of Document

Sharon May Shuffle Cabinet, Rebuild Labor Coalition; THE SITUATION

The Forward

July 11, 2003

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Section: News; Pg. 6

Length: 1453 words

Byline: Chemi Shalev

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Prime Minister Sharon is facing growing political obstacles in his efforts to steer Israel along President Bush's "road map" to peace, and insiders say he may soon be forced to reshuffle his Cabinet and reestablish a broad-based unity coalition with Labor.

Sharon's moderate policies are meeting opposition not only from his right-wing coalition partners, the National Union and the National Religious Party, but also from within his own Likud party. Informal polls conducted among members of the Likud Knesset caucus show that a majority of Likud lawmakers oppose the road map. This week's narrow Cabinet approval of the potential release of Palestinian security prisoners proved Sharon is in the minority among his party's Cabinet ministers as well.

Sharon fired a warning shot across the bow of his critics and opponents this week by hurriedly inviting the Labor Party leadership for a "briefing" at the Prime Minister's Office. Although the meeting did not explicitly discuss the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle, Sharon's message registered loud and clear across the political community: The prime minister has an alternative in waiting ---- ready, willing and some say even eager to join him at the helm.

Sharon's thinly veiled threat came after he narrowly avoided an embarrassing failure at last Sunday's Cabinet vote, when a 10-to-10 tie among Cabinet ministers threatened to derail his plan for a very modest prisoner release aimed at bolstering the popularity of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen. It was only through the forceful intervention of Justice Minister Yosef Lapid of Shinui that the measure finally won a 13-to-9 majority, after Lapid cajoled renegade Shinui minister Eliezer Zandberg to retract his nay vote. Lapid then introduced a qualifying condition that enabled some Likud ministers, including Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to support the prime minister's proposal.

Still, despite Sharon's political risks, the prisoner release decision fell far short of appeasing the Palestinians and may actually have weakened, rather than strengthened, Abu Mazen's precarious position. Based on the recommendations of the Shin Bet General Security Services, and contingent on the Palestinians fulfilling their own security obligations, the Cabinet approved the release of some 350 prisoners out of a total of over 6,000. The Cabinet measure specifically excluded members of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, as well as other prisoners directly involved in terrorist attacks. The decision elicited howls of protest from the Palestinian side and subjected Abu Mazen to hails of criticism both from **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad as well as from the ranks of his own Fatah movement.

Sharon May Shuffle Cabinet, Rebuild Labor Coalition THE SITUATION

Indeed, the decision to exclude Hamas and Islamic Jihad members from any prisoner release may have already started to unravel the so-called hudna, or cease-fire, between the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic organizations. Elements of Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the first bombing that took place since the cease-fire was announced, an attack inside Israel proper in which an elderly women was killed and her three grandchildren were seriously wounded. Islamic Jihad threatened to continue its terrorist attacks and abandon the hudna if Israel does not reverse its restrictions on prisoner release.

Sharon and the top echelons of the security establishment recognize that the issue of prisoner release is Abu Mazen's ultimate litmus test in the eyes of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians. Nonetheless, they are opposed to any wholesale release of convicted terrorists, and in any case are being held in check by a strong lobby, led by spokesmen for terrorist attack victims, who adamantly oppose any prisoner releases.

In certain key respects, officials acknowledge, the cease-fire has already begun to show results. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, long skeptical of the Palestinian Authority's willingness to confront terrorists, confirmed this week that there has already been a noticeable reduction both in security alerts of impending terrorist attacks and in levels of anti-Israeli incitement in the Palestinian media. The Israeli public was also impressed by televised pictures of municipal workers in Gaza whitewashing city fences in order to erase graffiti slogans of support for suicide bombers.

The Palestinian steps came against the backdrop of a raging debate within the Israeli media over remarks ascribed to the army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Moshe Ya'alon, who told the daily Yediot Aharonot last weekend that Israel had emerged with a clear "victory" over the Palestinians in the three-year-old intifada. Ya'alon was chastised by Mofaz, and his claim of victory was roundly criticized in the press as arrogant and inaccurate, or, at best, premature. Critics on the right pointed to the mere fact that Israel is being asked to "fuel" continued Palestinian collaboration in the road map process by the release of convicted terrorists as proof that Israel had not defeated the Palestinians, and at best achieved a stalemate.

Nonetheless, according to senior sources in the Defense Ministry, in order to maintain the momentum of Abu Mazen and his security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, Sharon and Mofaz will soon have no choice but to bite the bullet and order the release of prisoners, probably even beyond the scope authorized by the Cabinet this week. Such a development could precipitate the kind of Cabinet crisis that would lead to a reshuffling of the coalition, the sources said.

Lapid and Shinui are already pressing Sharon to preempt his critics and bring Labor into the Cabinet even before the expected crisis arrives. Emerging as Sharon's main coalition bulwark in support of the prisoner release, Shinui also launched a groundbreaking effort to improve Abu Mazen's stature in the eyes of Israeli public opinion, inviting the Palestinian leader and his ministers to come to the Knesset next week to plead their case for expanded prisoner release. Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, an opponent of the road map process, has already given his reluctant approval for the planned visit of the Palestinian prime minister, though Rivlin's office said the speaker probably would be unable to attend personally due to "scheduling conflicts."

In private conversations, Lapid has urged Sharon to capitalize on the recent election of Shimon Peres as temporary chairman of the Labor Party and initiate coalition talks on reconstituting the Likud-Labor unity government. Peres is said to be eager to join the coalition but cannot initiate such a move for fear of antagonizing the already formidable internal opposition within Labor to a new broad-based government, led by outgoing party chairman Amram Mitzna. Labor insiders believe that a public overture by Peres could lead to an open split in the party. By contrast, coalition talks initiated by Sharon after he failed to garner a pro-peace majority in the Cabinet would probably keep the Labor rebels in line and the party intact.

Some Labor figures, including party secretary Ophir Pines, believe the government in its current makeup is the best possible vehicle for advancing the peace process because the participation of parties such as the National Union in the decision-making process ultimately stifles public protests against the road map process and allows Sharon to maintain the support of a commanding majority of public opinion. With Labor in tow, Pines and other Labor leaders believe, the right would be galvanized to launch mass demonstrations against Sharon and the government, and

Sharon May Shuffle Cabinet, Rebuild Labor Coalition THE SITUATION

public discourse would once again be poisoned with the kind of vitriol that preceded Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995. But even Pines agrees that Sharon may already be living on borrowed time, and that a realignment of the political forces may be just around the corner.

Sharon is keeping his cards close to his vest and has made no statements indicating any intention to try to reshape his coalition. But Sharon's aides believe he will not hesitate to invite Labor in, even at the cost of an open confrontation with the majority of his own Likud party.

In his meeting this week with Labor leaders, Sharon pledged to continue with the road map process and to "surprise" his critics on the left with his willingness to make "painful concessions" to the Palestinians. Former Labor minister Dalia Itzik, who has held numerous private conversations with Sharon in recent years, said sardonically after the meeting that Sharon has often promised to "surprise" her for the better, but his deeds usually surprise her for the worse. Only if Sharon genuinely maintains his current course, Itzik added, would she truly feel surprised.

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

At least 14 killed in Gaza firefight: Palestinians vow revenge for deadliest Israeli raid in 17 months

Ottawa Citizen

March 8, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A6; News

Length: 867 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Dateline: BUREIJ REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip

Body

BUREIJ REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip - Thousands of Palestinians vowed revenge yesterday for the deaths of 14 people, including three children, after Israeli troops carried out their deadliest raid in Gaza in 17 months.

Palestinians armed with Kalashnikov rifles, Molotov cocktails and crude anti-tank missiles fought an eight-hour battle against Israeli troops firing from helicopters, tanks and rooftop sniper positions in Bureij and Nusseirat camps.

After the incursion, tens of thousands joined the mass funeral march through the streets. **Women** threw sweets on to the crowd as gunmen fired in the air and shouted for revenge "until we uproot the last Zionist invaders from our sacred soil."

The Times, London; with files from Citizen News Services

The latest in a series of Israeli raids into Gaza in recent months came against the backdrop of proposals by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw settlers, and maybe even all troops, from the Gaza Strip. The plan has provoked anger among Mr. Sharon's right-wing coalition partners and suspicion among Palestinians, who have long seen the Israeli former general as a champion of the 7,000 Jewish settlers living among 1.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and 240,000 in the West Bank.

Of the casualties yesterday, hospital officials said the dead included 10 gunmen and three boys, ages eight, 12 and 15.

More than 80 people were wounded.

Palestinian children were seen running after Israeli vehicles, hurling stones as armed terrorists fired at the troops.

Israel said the pre-dawn raid -- which officials described as a "pinpoint operation" -- came after terrorists had attacked Israeli convoys and fired rockets into Jewish settlements nearby. It had been intended to seize weapons, although none were recovered.

"We witnessed intensive fighting from the beginning: anti-tank missiles, rocket-propelled grenades, Kalashnikovs, Molotov cocktails," said a spokesman for the Israeli Defence Forces. "We did not manage to confiscate anything or arrest anyone. We didn't get close enough and decided to go and pull out."

At least 14 killed in Gaza firefight: Palestinians vow revenge for deadliest Israeli raid in 17 months

The Palestinian death toll was the highest in Gaza since October 2002, when 19 were killed in fighting in the Khan Younis refugee camp.

Officials argued that the Israeli military had to act because the Palestinian Authority had failed to curb terrorist groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

"Terrorism is pouring out of this refugee camp, and we have to stop it," Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said. "We believe that by doing so we have prevented acts of terror in Israel and saved many human lives."

He denied any link with the proposed withdrawal. "We are now fighting terrorism. This has nothing to do with any future plan about Gaza," he said.

In the past week, Israeli helicopter gunships have struck twice, killing six militants and a boy in missile attacks in Gaza City.

Palestinians have accused Mr. Sharon of undermining any chance of peace.

"At a time when they're speaking about withdrawing from Gaza, they're destroying Gaza," Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said. "It's a major escalation. It's very dangerous."

The raids came a day after a carefully planned suicide bomb attack by Palestinians on the main Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza, in which terrorists in vehicles disguised as Israeli army jeeps tried to penetrate the heavily guarded junction.

The attack was thwarted. Four Palestinian attackers and two Palestinian policemen were killed. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed joint responsibility.

Palestinian officials said they believed the terrorist organizations were combining and refining their resistance against the Israelis to survive relentless and escalating crackdowns and in response to Mr. Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza. "Nobody is certain what's going to happen as far as Sharon's plan," said Ziad Abu Amr, a Gaza representative on the Palestinian Legislative Council. "All sides are trying to improve their positions here."

The mooted withdrawal is part of Mr. Sharon's proposal for a "unilateral disengagement." Coupled with the erection of the barrier sealing off the West Bank, this would see Israel dismantling some isolated settlements there, while seeking to annex the larger, more easily defended settlement blocs.

Also yesterday, soldiers scuffled with Palestinians protesting the separation barrier Israel is building in the West Bank. Residents of the village of Beit Dukou, northwest of Jerusalem, tried to block bulldozers clearing land for the barrier.

Soldiers threw stun grenades and chased and dragged villagers down an embankment. The residents say that barrier will cut them off from their fields. "The wall strangles the people completely," local council head Said Rayan said. About 1,500 people live in the village.

Israel insists it needs the barrier to keep Palestinian suicide bombers and other attackers out. However, the planned route of the complex of walls, fences, trenches, barbed wire and electronic sensors snakes back and forth into the West Bank to protect Jewish settlements and enclose Palestinian towns and villages, leading to Palestinian charges that the real purpose of the project is to confiscate West Bank land.

Graphic

At least 14 killed in Gaza firefight: Palestinians vow revenge for deadliest Israeli raid in 17 months

Colour Photo: Goran Tomasevic, Reuters; Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinian residents of the village of Beit Dukou, northwest of Jerusalem, yesterday, as the residents tried to block bulldozers from clearing land for Israel's security barrier. 'The wall strangles the people completely,' said villager Said Rayan.

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

End of Document

Where Compassion Is a One-Way Street

The Forward

January 9, 2004

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Section: Forward Forum; Pg. 9

Length: 830 words

Byline: Yoel Marcus

Body

Eitan Ronel, a retired lieutenant colonel, returned his rank insignia to the Israeli army chief of staff this week, along with a letter full of bitterness. "Human life has lost its worth and values we were raised on, such as purity of arms, have become a bad joke," he wrote.

Ronel's protest over the army's conduct in the territories is not the first and won't be the last. The reserve pilots, the Sayeret Matkal commandos and the 12th-graders got there before him. Before them, there were the four Shin Bet security agency chiefs and the former head of the Mossad. On top of that, we've got B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories and Gush Shalom ("Peace Bloc"), plus the Yossi Beilins and the Yossi Sarids and the Avraham Burgs, who are big on peace with the Palestinians and feel their pain. We have committees of inquiry investigating how and why Palestinian women and children were killed in this or that operation. We have a Supreme Court to which every Palestinian can appeal. We have a media that will not allow the least injustice or wrong to slip by. We have columnists whose hearts ache along with the Palestinians.

What I would like to know is why there is no one on the other side crying out against the Palestinian Authority's policy of hatred and bloodshed. Where is their B'Tselem? Where are the Palestinian refuseniks who object to the murder of women and children?

How come, when civilians are accidentally killed in one of our military operations, everyone clamors right away for an investigation, while their suicide bombers have no qualms about boarding a bus packed with children or entering a crowded restaurant and blowing themselves up, fully aware of who they are taking with them? Not only are they not denounced, but their families are treated with respect and showered with perks and pensions.

While we quarrel bitterly over ways to resolve the conflict, the Palestinian government has only one way, and it begins and ends with violence. The Palestinians imbibe hatred of Israel with their mothers' milk. From childhood, they are taught that the Jews must die.

In their textbooks, it doesn't say, of course, that the ones who stole their rights were the Arab countries, who invaded the land earmarked for them in the United Nations partition plan when they attacked in 1948. It doesn't say that they were liberated from Arab occupation only in 1967 - by Israel. Actually, it's been easier for them to push for an independent state under Israeli control than it would ever have been under Jordanian-Egyptian rule.

Whenever a truly historic moment arises - the Oslo accords, the Clinton-Barak initiative - that's when they go on a spree of suicide bombings in the heart of Israeli population centers. The Palestinians have crossed all the red lines. They have turned Israeli peaceniks into radicals, rousing them into angry rebellion against what is happening

Where Compassion Is a One-Way Street

around them. But while we respond, while we torture ourselves, while we keep asking ourselves every second if we haven't gone overboard and maybe it's time to stop, the Palestinians have never shown the slightest regret over any attack, no matter how massive, no matter how cruel.

Instead of the Palestinian Authority keeping Hamas in check, it is Hamas that sets the tone. Even in times of grief and pain, the two peoples are poles apart. When we bury our dead, we weep quietly at the graveside. For them, every funeral becomes a raucous demonstration of hatred and incitement against Israel.

Israeli society is mired in gritty debate. The government is being criticized for not doing enough to end the conflict. Before the intifadas, there were signs that coexistence was possible. Tens of thousands of Israelis flocked to the territories - to have their teeth fixed, to have their cars repaired, to do their food shopping. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel proper.

Today, the only contact is via the barrel of a gun, the army checkpoint, the helicopter gunship, the Qassam rocket and the explosive belt. The Israeli army reprisal attacks in the territories may be brutal, but there are also people who feel sorry for the Palestinians' bitter lot.

Here one finds anger mixed with compassion; there, one finds anger mixed with loathing. Below the surface in Israel, hopes for peace continue to rumble. For them, hatred is total and blinding. Here they are with President Bush's road map staring them in the face, promising them a state of their own, yet they won't do the one thing that will open the gate: dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. Abu Mazen was ousted as Palestinian prime minister and his successor Abu Ala will follow the orders of Arafat, who knows no other way but terror.

It is not a fence that will change things but tearing down the wall of hatred that the Palestinians have built between the two peoples.

Yoel Marcus is a lead columnist for Ha'aretz, www.haaretzdaily.com, where this article originally appeared.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

Israeli moderates want Jews out of Gaza Strip: Why, they ask, is an army battalion of 350 guarding a settlement of 400 people?

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

October 27, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A25

Length: 348 words

Byline: 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 gunmen.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel 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.

AP

In this quiet, leafy enclave just four kilometres 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 Palestinians shrouded in fog cut through a fence early Friday and crept up on the army base inside the settlement. The gunmen entered the barracks and shot soldiers as they slept, killing three - including two women - and wounding two others.

Soldiers killed one of the gunmen, from Hamas. The other, from Islamic Jihad, escaped.

Netzarim is a common target, 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.

"Is it right that a battalion of soldiers should guard only 60 families?" Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, leader of the moderate Shinui Party, asked, according to spokesperson Tzachi Moshe.

Shlomo Avineri, one of Israel's leading academics, said it was time to pull out of Netzarim.

"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.

Israeli moderates want Jews out of Gaza Strip: Why, they ask, is an army battalion of 350 guarding a settlement of 400 people?

Load-Date: October 27, 2003

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THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

The Weekend Australian

August 23, 2003 Saturday All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- INQUIRER; Pg. 17

Length: 2967 words

Byline: Bruce Hoffman

Body

Suicide attacks in Baghdad and Jerusalem claimed

43 lives this week.

Drawing on his experiences in Israel, terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman explains the logic of suicide bombing

NEARLY everywhere in the world it is taken for granted that one can push open the door to a restaurant, cafe or bar, sit down and order a meal or a drink. In Israel the process of entering such a place is more complicated. One often encounters an armed guard who, in addition to asking prospective patrons whether they are armed, may quickly pat them down, feeling for the telltale bulge of a belt or a vest containing explosives.

Establishments that cannot afford a guard simply keep their doors locked, responding to knocks with a quick glance through the glass and an instant judgment as to whether this or that person can safely be admitted. What would have been unimaginable a year ago is now not only routine but also reassuring. It has become the price of a redefined normality.

MATP

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the US and the Bali bombings 13 months later, both of which involved suicide bombers, people in nations such as the US, UK and Australia have had to become accustomed to new security measures -- in airports, hotels, office buildings and sports stadiums. They are accepted because we feel more vulnerable than before.

With every new threat to international security, we become more willing to live with stringent precautions and reflexive, almost unconscious wariness. With every new threat, that is, our everyday life becomes more like that in Israel.

The situation in Israel, where last year's intensified suicide bombing campaign changed the national mood, is not analogous to that in the US and other Western nations today. But the organisation and the operations of the bombers are neither limited to Israel and its conflict with the Palestinians nor unique to its geostrategic position.

The fundamental characteristics of suicide bombing, and its strong attraction for the terrorist organisations behind it, are universal: suicide bombings are inexpensive and effective. They are less complicated and compromising than other kinds of terrorist operations. They guarantee media coverage. The suicide terrorist is the ultimate smart bomb.

THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

Perhaps most important, coldly efficient bombings tear at the fabric of trust that holds societies together. All these reasons doubtless account for the spread of suicide terrorism.

*

TO understand the power that suicide terrorism can have over a populace -- and what a populace can do to counter it -- one naturally goes to the society that has been most deeply affected. I recently visited Israel to review the steps the military, police and intelligence and security services have taken against a threat more pervasive and personal than before.

I was looking at X-rays with Shmuel Shapira at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. "This is not a place to have a wristwatch," he said as he described the injuries of a girl who'd been on her way to school one morning last November when a suicide terrorist detonated a bomb on her bus. Eleven of her fellow passengers were killed and more than 50 others wounded.

The blast was so powerful that the hands and case of the bomber's wristwatch had turned into lethal projectiles, lodging in the girl's neck and ripping a main artery. The presence of such foreign objects in the bodies of his patients no longer surprises Shapira. "We have cases with a nail in the neck or nuts and bolts in the thigh ... a ball bearing in the skull," he said.

Such are the weapons of war in Israel today: nuts and bolts, screws and ball bearings, any metal shards or odd bits of broken machinery that can be packed together with home-made explosive and strapped to the body of a terrorist dispatched to any place where people gather -- bus, train, restaurant, cafe, supermarket, shopping mall, street corner.

These attacks cost no more than \$228 to mount and they need no escape plan -- often the most difficult aspect of a terrorist operation. And they are reliably deadly.

According to data from the Rand Corporation (a US think tank), suicide attacks on average kill four times as many people as other terrorist acts.

The tactic first emerged in Lebanon in 1983. A decade later it came to Israel and it has been a regular security problem since. Two-thirds of all such incidents in Israel have occurred in the past 36 months -- that is, since the start of the second intifada in September 2000. Indeed, suicide bombers are responsible for almost half of the 750-plus deaths in terrorist attacks since then.

Last December, I walked through Jerusalem with two police officers who were showing me the sites of suicide bombings in recent years. They described the first big suicide attack in the city, which occurred in February 1996, early on a Sunday morning -- the beginning of the Israeli work week.

The driver of the No18 bus was hurrying across a busy intersection at Sarei Yisrael Street as a yellow light turned red. The bus was about halfway through when an explosion transformed it into an inferno of twisted metal, pulverised glass and burning flesh. Twenty-five people were killed, including two US citizens, and 80 were wounded.

The early years of suicide terrorism were a simpler time, the officers explained. Bombers were -- at least in theory - easier to spot. They tended to carry their bombs in backpacks or duffle bags rather than in belts or vests concealed beneath their clothing. They were typically male, aged 17 to 23 and unmarried.

Continued -- Page 25

From Page 17

Armed with this data, the authorities could deny work permits to Palestinians who fit the profile, thus restricting their ability to cross into Israel proper from the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

Today, suicide bombers are middle-aged and young, married and unmarried, and some have children. Some are women -- and word has it that even children are being trained for martyrdom.

"There is no clear profile anymore -- not for terrorists and especially not for suicide bombers," an exasperated Israel Defence Forces officer told me.

Sometimes bombers disguise themselves: male shaheed (Arabic for martyrs) have worn green IDF fatigues, dressed as ultra-Orthodox Jews or donned long-haired wigs to look like hip Israelis rather than threatening Arabs. A few women have tried to camouflage bombs by strapping them to their stomachs to fake pregnancy. And, contrary to popular belief, the bombers are not drawn exclusively from the ranks of the poor but have included two sons of millionaires. (Most of the September 11, 2001, terrorists came from comfortable families and were well educated.)

Israeli journalist Ronni Shaked, an expert on Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, has debunked the myth that it is only people with no means of improving their lot in life who turn to suicide terrorism. "All leaders of Hamas are university graduates, some with masters degrees," he said. "This is a movement not of poor, miserable people but of highly educated people who are using poverty to make the movement more powerful."

*

BUSES remain among the bombers' preferred targets. Winter and summer are the better seasons for bombing buses in Jerusalem because the closed windows (for heat or air-conditioning) intensify the force of the blast, maximising the killing potential. As a hail of shrapnel pierces flesh and breaks bones, the shock wave tears lungs and crushes other internal organs.

When the bus's fuel tank explodes, a fireball causes burns and smoke inhalation causes respiratory damage. All this is a significant return on a modest investment. Two or three kilograms of explosive on a bus can kill as many people as 20kg or 30kg left on a street or in a mall or a restaurant. But as security on buses has improved and passengers have become more alert, the bombers have been forced to seek other targets.

The terrorists are lethally flexible and inventive. A person wearing a bomb is far more dangerous and difficult to stop than a timed device left to explode in a marketplace. This human weapons system can effect last-minute changes based on the ease of approach, the paucity or density of people and the security measures in evidence.

On a Thursday afternoon in March last year, a reportedly smiling bomber strolled down King George Street in the heart of Jerusalem, looking for the right target. He found it in a crowd of shoppers gathered in front of the trendy Aroma Cafe. In a fusillade of nails and other bits of metal, two victims were killed and 56 wounded.

A month later, a female suicide bomber tried to enter the Mahane Yehuda open-air market -- the fourth woman to make such an attempt in four months -- but was deterred by a strong police presence. So she simply walked up to a bus stop packed with shoppers hurrying home before the Sabbath and detonated her explosives, killing six and wounding 73.

*

SUICIDE bombing initially seemed the desperate act of lone individuals but it is not undertaken alone. Invariably, a terrorist organisation such as Hamas, the Palestine Islamic Jihad or the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade has recruited the bomber, conducted reconnaissance, prepared the explosive device and identified a target -- explaining that if it turns out to be protected, any crowded place nearby will do.

"We hardly ever find that the bomber came by himself," a police officer explained to me. "There is always a handler." In some cases a handler has used a mobile phone or other device to trigger the blast from a distance.

"There was one event where a suicide bomber had been told all he had to do was to carry the bomb and plant explosives in a certain place," a policeman told me. "But the bomb was remote-control detonated."

THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

The organisations behind the Palestinians' suicide terrorism have numerous components. Quartermasters obtain the explosives and the other materials (nuts, bolts, nails and the like) that are combined to make a bomb. Now that bomb-making methods have been widely disseminated throughout the West Bank and Gaza, a merely competent technician, rather than the skilled engineer once required, can build a bomb. Explosive material is packed into pockets sewn into a canvas or denim belt or vest and hooked up to a detonator -- usually involving a simple hand-operated plunger.

Before the operation is to be launched, minders sequester the bomber in a safe house, isolating them from family and friends -- from all contact with the outside world -- during the final preparations for martyrdom. A film crew makes a martyrdom video, as much to help ensure the bomber can't back out as for propaganda and recruitment purposes.

Reconnaissance teams have scouted the target or received detailed information about it, which they pass on to the bomber's handlers. Their job is to deliver the bomber as close to the target as possible.

"How easy it has become for a person to wake up in the morning and go off and commit suicide," a senior police operations commander in Jerusalem told me. "The purpose is to prove that the police can do whatever they want, but it won't help."

This is the age-old strategy of terrorists everywhere: to undermine public confidence in the ability of the authorities to protect citizens, thereby creating a climate of fear and intimidation amenable to terrorist exploitation. In Jerusalem, and in Israel as a whole, this strategy has not succeeded. But it has fundamentally changed daily behaviour patterns -- the first step towards crushing morale and breaking the will to resist.

The terrorists appear to be deliberately homing in on the few remaining places where Israelis thought they could socialise in peace. An unprecedented string of attacks in the first four months of last year illustrated this careful strategy, beginning at bus stops and malls and moving into more private realms, such as corner supermarkets and local coffee bars.

In March 2002, for example, no one paid much attention to a young man dressed as an ultra-Orthodox Jew who was standing near some parked cars as guests left a bar mitzvah celebration at a social hall in the ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem neighbourhood of Beit Yisrael. Then he blew himself up, killing nine people, eight of them children, and wounding 59.

The tight-knit religious community had felt it was protected by God, pointing to their miraculous, injury-free escape a year earlier, when a booby-trapped car blew up in front of the same hall. Using a strategy al-Qa'ida has made familiar, the terrorists revisited the site.

Less than a month after the Beit Yisrael attack, the suicide bombers and their leaders drove home the point by going to the one large city that had felt immune from the suspicion and antipathy prevalent elsewhere -- Haifa, with its successful mixture of Jews, Christian

and Muslim Arabs and followers of the Bahai faith.

The University of Haifa has long had the highest proportion of Arab students of any Israeli university. The nearby Matza restaurant, owned by Jews but run by an Israeli Arab family from Galilee, seemed to embody the unusually cordial relations that exist among the city's diverse communities. That feeling was shattered at 2.30pm on a quiet Sunday, when a suicide bomber killed 15 people and wounded 50.

*

OVER tea one afternoon in the regal though almost preternaturally quiet surroundings of Jerusalem's King David Hotel, Benny Morris, a history professor at Ben Gurion University, told me: "The Palestinians say they have found a strategic weapon and suicide bombing is it."

THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

"This hotel is empty. The streets are empty. They have effectively terrorised Israeli society. My wife won't use a bus anymore, only a taxi."

It is undeniable that daily life in Jerusalem, and throughout Israel, has changed as a result of last year's wave of suicide bombings. Even the police have been affected. "I'm worried," one officer told me in an aside -- whether in confidence or in embarrassment, I couldn't tell -- as we walked past Zion Square, near where some bombs had exploded. "I tell you this as a police officer. I don't come to Jerusalem with my children anymore. I'd give back the settlements. I'd give over my bank account to live in peace."

*

"THE Israelis ... will fall to their knees," Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad said in 2001. "You can sense the fear in Israel already. They are worried about where and when the next attacks will come. Ultimately, Hamas will win."

The strategy of suicide terrorists is to make people paranoid and xenophobic, fearful of venturing beyond their homes. Terrorists hope to compel the enemy society's acquiescence, if not outright surrender, to their demands. This is what al-Qa'ida hoped to achieve on September 11 in one stunning blow and what the Palestinians seek as well, on a more sustained, if piecemeal, basis.

After decades of struggle the Palestinians are convinced they have discovered Israel's achilles heel. Ismail Haniya, another Hamas leader, was quoted in March 2002 as saying that Jews "love life more than any other people and they prefer not to die".

In contrast, suicide terrorists are often said to go to their deaths smiling. This is what is known in the Shiite Islamic tradition as the *bassamat al-farah* or "smile of joy", prompted by one's impending martyrdom. It is just as prevalent among Sunni terrorists.

This perceived weakness has given rise to what is known in the Middle East as the "spider-web theory" -- Israel is strong on the outside but weak within. Al-Qa'ida has made a similar assessment of the US.

*

ACCORDING to the Rand Corporation's chronology of worldwide terrorism, which begins in 1968, almost two-thirds of all suicide bombings have occurred in the past two years. No society can regard itself as immune from this threat. But we can take precautions based on Israel's experience and be confident that we are substantially reducing the threat of suicide terrorism:

Understand the terrorists' operational environment. Know their *modus operandi* and targeting patterns. Focus not just on suspected bombers but on the infrastructure required to launch and sustain suicide bombing campaigns. This is the essential spade-work. It will be for nought, however, if concerted efforts are not made to circulate this information quickly and systematically among authorities.

Develop strong, confidence-building ties with the communities from which terrorists come and mount communications campaigns to eradicate support from these communities. The most effective and useful intelligence comes from places where terrorists conceal themselves and seek to establish and hide their infrastructure.

Encourage businesses from which terrorists can obtain bomb-making components to alert authorities if they notice large purchases of, for example, ammonium nitrate fertiliser; pipes, batteries and wires; or chemicals commonly used to fabricate explosives. Information about customers who simply inquire about such materials can also be useful to the police.

Force terrorists to pay more attention to their own organisational security than to planning and executing attacks. The greatest benefit is in disrupting pre-attack operations.

THE ULTIMATE SMART BOMBS

Make sure ordinary materials don't become shrapnel -- windows on buses and trains should be shatter-proof, seats and other fittings should not be easily dislodged or splintered. Israel has had to learn to examine every element of its public infrastructure; its buses and bus shelters are austere for a reason.

Teach law enforcement personnel what to do at the moment of an attack or an attempt. Prevention comes first from the cop on the beat, who will be forced to make instant life-and-death decisions affecting those nearby.

Bruce Hoffman is a director of the Rand Corporation and author of *Inside Terrorism*. This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Load-Date: August 22, 2003

End of Document

Terrorism's triumphs

Yorkshire Post

August 20, 2003

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Length: 340 words

Body

EVEN by the bloody standards of the Palestinian intifadah, the bombing of a Jerusalem bus packed with Orthodox Jewish families stands as a terrible atrocity.

This wilful murder of women and children should appal all right-thinking Palestinian leaders and make them realise that, if there is any hope of staying on the present road map to peace, they must crack down on the militants in their midst. They must also realise that such carnage cannot possibly benefit their cause since it is likely to bring about a huge and powerful Israeli reprisal which would all but scupper the ramshackle Palestinian Authority and worsen the penury in which most Palestinians live.

Yorkshire Post

So far, however, Israel has demonstrated admirable restraint. It will not respond with a major military strike, according to the statement issued yesterday, so long as Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas begins a serious crackdown on armed militants. For all his stated good intentions, this is something that Mr Abbas has so far failed to do for fear that it would result in a civil war among Palestinians. Yet he cannot hold back any longer. If the Palestinian government is as serious about peace as it claims to be, it must take action against the terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad who are clearly using the present truce as cover for a campaign of indiscriminate slaughter.

Washington, too, has a role to play here. So far, the Americans have surprised and impressed the Palestinian leadership with their willingness to lean on Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon to ensure that the peace plan remains on track. It was this pressure that had resulted in Israeli proposals to hand over four West Bank cities to Palestinian control, a major advance in the peace process that has now been postponed indefinitely following the Jerusalem bombing. But it is now time for Washington to get tough with the other side. If there is to be any hope of avoiding a return to the endless cycle of tit-for-tat bloodshed, George Bush must start to twist Palestinian arms.

Load-Date: August 21, 2003

Elmasry's interview started firestorm

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

October 30, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A11; EXCERPT

Length: 1357 words

Body

Mohamed Elmasry, national president of the Waterloo-based Canadian Islamic Congress, sparked an outcry from Jewish and Muslim groups for comments made on The Michael Coren Show, on the Crossroads Television System, on October 19.

The topic of the talk show was What Is a Terrorist?

In addition to host Coren and guest Elmasry, participants included Irfan Syed, a Muslim lawyer, Peter Merrifield, who was identified as a terrorism and security consultant, and Adam Aptowitzer, Ontario chairman of B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs.

Critics denounced Elmasry's remarks and called for his resignation. On Wednesday, the congress issued an apology by Elmasry who also offered to resign as president. Board members refused to accept Elmasry's resignation.

Record staff

Many Record readers may not have seen the episode on which the controversial remarks were made.

Here are some excerpts of what Coren, Elmasry and other guest panelists said on the show.

Some of the verbal sparring, where it's difficult to decipher what was said by whom, is identified by the term (CROSSTALK). BREAK is a period of time that may or may not include commercials.

*

ELMASRY: My definition (of terrorism), for what it's worth, is that any act committed by a group or individual or a state against totally innocent civilians. And totally we have to really put underneath that big red line. Using, use of violence against totally innocent civilians. So this means these civilians should not be military. They should not be a spy. They should not be civilians helping a military.

COREN: And the purposeful target, not the accidental hurting of those people, but the direct targeting of those people.

ELMASRY: Yes. Yes.

BREAK

COREN: Let's go to pre-occupation of the West Bank.

Elmasry's interview started firestorm

ELMASRY: No, but let me give an example, one example from European history. If you look, actually, in the resistance of the French against the Germans, they did the same thing. They blow up bridges. They did kidnap people, they assassinate people.

COREN: Who?

ELMASRY: The French. They assassinated soldiers and their collaborators, and French. French civilians. (CROSSTALK)

COREN: But Mohammed, I think that's a rather tenuous argument. I mean I know a little about the war and the French resistance and the lack of it, sadly, but . . . I can't remember of one case where the French resistance, the Maquis or even their allies, communist or Gaulist or nationalist, would go into a school where German children were and kill them all.

ELMASRY: That's why we're saying that totally innocent people.

COREN: OK.

ELMASRY: . . . and totally innocent people, obviously, is the children. But they are not innocent if they are part of a population which is a total population of Israel is part of the army. (CROSSTALK) From 18 on, they are part of the soldiers, even if they have civilian clothes.

COREN: So if Israeli children are killed, that is a valid use of military force by Palestinians?

ELMASRY: No, they are not valid.

COREN: So what are you saying?

ELMASRY: I'm saying that it has to be totally innocent, OK? Totally innocent are the children, obviously, OK? But they are not innocent if the army (inaudible) in civilian clothes, OK?

COREN: What about women?

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 army.

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

ELMASRY: Yes . . .

BREAK

ELMASRY: . . . I would like to wake up one day and there is no terror either by a state.

COREN: You mean you'd like to win.

ELMASRY: No, I would like actually for the conflict to stop, for the aggressor (which Elmasry identified as Israel, earlier in the program) to stop the aggression, OK? So this means that, for example, when you look at any conflict, there is an aggressor and their victims.

COREN: Not as simplistic as that, I think.

ELMASRY: It is actually . . . You don't have to have a Ph.D. in political science to identify that in the Israeli West Bank, occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Israelis, for the 37 years, are the occupying power. So the resistance is

Elmasry's interview started firestorm

the same as the French resistance. Use low-tech. You don't have helicopter phantoms, and they do whatever they want. They make mistakes; they make mistakes, yes, and we have to condemn it.

COREN: I've got to tell you I think you've just dug a very large hole for yourself there. I am not unsympathetic, and I do believe that Israel uses way too much force and I believe that Palestinians are blanketed with the term "terrorist," which is very unfair, but what you've said there, I believe, is very dangerous talk. There's a massive difference.

SYED: I wouldn't be so definitive as saying that everybody over 18 is a legitimate target. I mean obviously that goes too far. I mean even according to our faith belief, you have to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants. That includes women, children, the elderly and all that.

ELMASRY: Everybody above 18 is a combatant.

BREAK

COREN: I, in fact, don't know a Palestinian in this country who would agree with you that every Israeli over the age of 18 is a legitimate target. I've never met someone who has said that.

ELMASRY: Let's explain the situation. For example the Taba (Egypt) suicide bombing the last two weeks now. OK. These people actually targeting people who they don't know. The composition of these people they don't know. And this is a terror, a terrorist act.

(CROSSTALK)

COREN: They do know. They're families on holiday . . . religious holiday.

ELMASRY: No, no. They don't know.

COREN: Yes they do.

ELMASRY: They know the composition in general. But they don't know actually if they are 100 per cent Israeli. They are children there. (CROSSTALK) This is a terrorist act.

APTOWITZER: Because they might be Egyptian and not Israeli?

ELMASRY: No, no, no. Because, because actually the composition of the situation is much different from going to a bus stop where Israeli in uniform and some also in civilian clothes, but they are soldiers on leave. OK? Israel has a popular army. They have a draft.

UNIDENTIFIED: Why?

ELMASRY: I don't know why because they want to keep their (CROSSTALK)

COREN: . . . and Syria and the entire Arab world keeps threatening them for goodness sake . . . We're back in a few moments on the Michael Coren Show. Don't you dare go away. I don't think you will, actually. See you in a few moments.

BREAK

ELMASRY: We've been actually doing an anti-Islam in the Canadian media for the last seven years.

COREN: Yes, I know and often it's incredible nonsense.

ELMASRY: Which we actually try to instruct Canadian Muslims. You give me the owner of a newspaper today in Canada and I tell you how many Muslim terrorist words were used frequently for the (unintelligible) a month. Canwest (Global Communications Corp.), it has its own league, OK, because of the ownership. The rest are different. Now when you have professional journalists, they have a duty, a social duty, to protect the readers from a

Elmasry's interview started firestorm

negative stereotype. So you have between a word "terrorist" and you have also "freedom fighter." In between, there is a spectrum who are, for example, Afghan men. You have rebels, you have militants, you have etc. etc. Now, in my thinking I don't want you to actually put anything which is different from the facts you're presenting to your readers or your viewers. A terrorist act is a terrorist act. Taba has been a terrorist act. OK? Even if you don't know who has actually done it. And you said well in that case **Hamas** took the responsibility or Islamic Jihad took the responsibility because this is their name. **Hamas** or Hezbollah.

COREN: Is a suicide bombing on a bus in Israel an attack of terrorism?

ELMASRY: Yes. Yes. OK. And then after that, **Hamas** is an Islamic group. The only thing that we're actually objecting in the study is that when you put this back to back. Because this is actually a political use of language. The National Post is actually consciously using the word terrorist, because they're putting a political spin.

COREN: I don't necessarily disagree with you . . .

BREAK

Graphic

Photo: MOHAMED ELMASRY, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN ISLAMIC CONGRESS

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

Israeli tactics assure future bombings, Palestinians assert

The International Herald Tribune

December 27, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 861 words

Byline: Richard Bernstein

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

The day after the first suicide bomb attack in Israel in almost three months, senior Israeli officials were offering what might seem a paradoxical assessment: Despite the bombing, the worst of the terrorism is already over because Israel is winning its war against the terrorists. Of course, as with every other aspect of the tormented politics of the Middle East, that is a matter of some dispute.

The basic official Israeli position is that, since the Palestinian Authority has not been able to dismantle what Israel calls the terrorist infrastructure, the Israelis have been doing the job themselves, using two techniques. One is to step up work on the barrier they are constructing along a twisted north-south axis on the West Bank; the other is to undertake almost constant nighttime military operations in the centers of extremist activity, most recently in and around the town of Nablus. "I believe we have passed the peak of the violent confrontation," Moshe Yaalon, Israel's chief of staff, said in an interview published in Yedioth Ahronoth on Friday, giving credit to these policies. A senior commander in Nablus, widely seen by Israelis as the most hostile Palestinian area, put it this way in an interview on Thursday: "We've captured a lot of terrorists in the city, so the situation is not the way it was a year ago. "Our operations are aimed at the people who design the attacks," he said, describing a series of nightly incursions that have been taking place in Nablus for the last 10 days or so.

The New York Times "We've captured a lot of labs and a lot of engineers," he continued, meaning bomb-making workshops and bomb-makers. "Now there are almost no bombs in Nablus." He spoke just before the suicide bombing, which claimed four Israeli lives. The bomber was from a village near Nablus.

"The fact that he came from Nablus shows that security cannot be attained by unilateral measures," Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian's chief negotiator, said Friday. Israeli officials have offered positive assessments of the barrier and their raids before, but mostly in the last three months, during what seemed to be a sort of unofficial cease-fire. In that time, Palestinian radical groups carried out no suicide bombings and Israel undertook no "targeted killings" of what it regards as terrorist leaders. But Yaalon's comments came amid what has become the familiar ritual, part mourning, part retaliation, that follows suicide attacks. On Friday, there were the funerals of the victims of the bus-stop bombing, including those of three soldiers, two young women and a young man. Meanwhile, Israeli troops destroyed the home of the suicide bomber, an 18-year-old man. Rebutting the Israelis, Palestinian spokesmen take an entirely different view of the period of calm.

First, they say, the relative lull that lasted until Thursday was due to restraint among the militant Palestinian groups, not to Israeli military operations. The attack Thursday was not carried out by Hamas, the most potent of the groups,

Israeli tactics assure future bombings, Palestinians assert

an oddly hopeful sign. No other group is likely to be able to mount the sort of intense campaign that struck Israel last summer, when, for a while, there were several suicide attacks every week.

Second, the Palestinians say, the constant Israeli pressure only intensifies the hatred that prompts the attacks in the first place. "I think there were no suicide bombings because these factions are, for a while, trying to give a chance," Ghassan Khatib, the minister of labor in the Palestinian Authority, said in an interview on Friday. He was referring to groups like Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which took responsibility for the bombing Thursday. "My view is that these factions can carry out suicide bombings, unfortunately, whenever they want." That is the fundamental question: will the measures taken by Israel to stop extremist attacks have long-term success, or will they, in the long term, lead to more violence?

The answer to that question is far from clear -- just as unclear as many more immediate events.

A few days ago, in the operation in Nablus, a 5-year-old boy, Muhammad Naim Isryda, was shot and killed during an operation, and Palestinian witnesses said that Israeli troops, who are commonly described as shooting indiscriminately, were responsible. The senior commander in Nablus hotly disputed the Palestinian account. "There are a lot of stories like this," he said Thursday, "and most of the time you can't prove it, because they bury the body before there is an investigation."

A postmortem examination of the bullet, the commander said, could determine who killed the boy. "There were three bullets shot in this incident, and I can assure you that no Israeli soldier fired in the direction of that boy," he said. "We don't want dead Palestinians." But of course there are dead Palestinians, militant and nonmilitant, and with the Israeli military convinced of the efficacy of its raids, there will certainly be more.

"It will add to the anger, and to the desperation," Erekat warned. "And desperation will lead to desperate acts, and desperate acts will lead to more bullets, and that's very unfortunate."

Load-Date: December 28, 2003

End of Document

The bomber's father

Guardian Weekly

October 8, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 767 words

Highlight: 'My son was not radical, he was radicalised'

Body

The day that Saeed Hotari blew himself apart outside the Dolphinarium disco, his father Hassan said he wished that he had 20 more sons to die slaughtering Israelis. Many others in the West Bank city of Qalqilya celebrated this death of one its sons. But today, Mr Hotari is more troubled.

"If it were up to me and he told me he was going to do this, I would have prevented him," he said. "I want him to fight for his rights, but not to kill himself. But the intifada is like a human being; it is like a man trying to scream loud to get his rights. All this man has is his voice. All he can do is scream. Otherwise he is paralysed."

Mr Hotari will not go so far as to say that what Saeed, 21, did was wrong, but there are others in Qalqilya who do, even if it is only because of the price paid by Palestinians. "The suicide operations are a mistake and we have to stop it and resist in another way," said the city's mayor, Maa'rouf Zahran. "The intifada has been a disaster for us. The results have been catastrophic."

Palestinians blame Ariel Sharon for prompting the intifada with his fateful walk on the Temple mount three years ago. Israelis accuse Yasser Arafat of encouraging the ensuing violence as part of his negotiating strategy.

But it was the intifada that delivered Mr Sharon to power, and the suicide bombings that permitted him to absolve Israel of responsibility for the consequences of three decades of military occupation, and cast the conflict as a struggle between western civilisation and Islamic terrorism. The result was a disaster for many Palestinians. More than 2,200 have died at the hands of Israeli forces. About 400 were children or teenagers. Palestinian towns and cities are reoccupied. Some, such as Jenin, had their hearts torn out. Towns in Gaza became shooting galleries.

And now Mr Sharon is caging most of the Palestinian population behind a "security fence" in what, to his critics, looks like a move to impose an emasculated state on a powerless people.

Qalqilya has the added torture of being encircled by a nine-metre wall and fence that have turned it into a de facto prison. Mr Sharon's militarist strategy has delivered him a partial victory, but at a cost that could come to haunt Israel. A recent survey by al-Quds university and the Qalqilya municipality revealed that support in the city for suicide bombings has dropped sharply -- but for the first time, more people now back **Hamas** over Mr Arafat's Fatah.

"At the beginning it was difficult for **Hamas** to find someone to kill himself," said Mr Zahran. "Now even **women** are doing it. Who is responsible for pushing our people to think this way?"

Mr Hotari says the popular Israeli view that the suicide bombers kill themselves because of a promise of 72 virgins in the afterlife is a means to avoid considering the real motivations.

The bomber's father

"Before they ask me how my son could do something like that, they should ask what the conditions were that led him to do it. Why do people kill themselves? Are they fond of death? Since 1948, the Jews have taken more and more of our land. My son wasn't a radical person, he was radicalised by the anger, by the humiliation." There is not much sympathy on either side for the other's victims. "I would be a liar to say, I feel sorry for the people who are oppressing us," Mr Hotari said.

The parents of the Dolphinarium victims wrote to Tony Blair a year ago to protest when he blamed the occupation for the death of Palestinian children. The Jewish Chronicle recently said no comparison could be drawn between the killings of Palestinian children and the murder of "unblemished" Jews.

That is not the view of Fayek Dawod, whose son, Shukri, 11, was shot dead outside his home in Qalqilya. "I get mad if any child is killed, regardless of whether he is Jewish or Palestinian, including those killed by suicide bombers," he said. "Shukri was sitting on the corner. He was shot by a tank down the road. He was just sitting watching, like any kid. He was killed in cold blood."

Most people on both sides now see the other's leader as a murderer who is more interested in conquest than peace.

"The mass of Palestinians say we tried to go with negotiations, with agreements and cease-fires, but our situation just got worse and worse. We had a new prime minister; the Israelis didn't help him. They kept on killing, kept on demolishing houses," said Mr Zahran.

"Our people see there are no advantages to the intifada -- but they say there are no advantages to peace. They lose either way, and they say that, since we are losing, the Israelis, have to lose too."

Graphic

Picture, Hassan Hotari with pictures of son Saeed, 21

Load-Date: October 13, 2003

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Palestinians freeze assets of charities

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 29, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A12; NEWS

Length: 387 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

The Palestinian Authority has temporarily frozen 39 bank accounts of nine Islamic charities operating in the Gaza Strip, apparently as part of a crackdown on militants required by a U.S.-backed peace plan.

The organizations deny Israeli claims they help funnel money to Islamic militants.

Here's a look at the nine charities:

Al Mujamma Al Islami: Founded in the early 1970s by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, it is one of the largest charities operating in Gaza. Israel initially registered the charity in 1978. Yassin left the charity when he became politically active in the early 1980s.

Associated Press

With funding from Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries, it supports cultural, educational, health and sports programs, runs summer camps and literacy programs, and offers vocational training. It assists about 3,000 Palestinians, especially the families of prisoners and those whose homes were destroyed in fighting.

As-Salah Association: Established in 1978, the charity pays for preschool and recreational programs and helps students with learning disabilities in Gaza.

About 70 per cent of its funds come from Palestinian diaspora sources, including four European-based charities whose assets were frozen by the United States earlier this month on suspicion they were funding terrorism, charity chairman Ahmed Al Kourd said.

Al Jamiya Al Islamiya (The Islamic Association): The fund, set up in 1976 in Gaza, runs kindergartens, sports clubs and summer camps and offers welfare support for the poor, families of prisoners in Israeli custody and those killed in the fighting. Its donations come mainly from Persian Gulf countries and Palestinians living abroad.

The Palestinian Student Friends Association: Founded in the late 1990s, it helps Palestinian students pay for housing, tuition and books with donations from Arab countries.

The Islamic Charity for Zakat: Supports needy Muslim families with money raised from tithes collected at mosques.

Al Nour Charity Association: Offers money and food to the families of prisoners in Israeli custody.

The Islamic Young **Women**'s Association (no information was immediately available).

Palestinians freeze assets of charities

The Social Care Committee (no information was immediately available).

Al Aqsa Charity Association (no information was immediately available).

Load-Date: August 29, 2003

End of Document

I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 801 words

Byline: Freya Petersen

Body

The Australian wife of the French terrorist suspect Willie Brigitte fears ASIO's investigations into an alleged Sydney terrorist cell could "stir trouble" and cause divisions in the Muslim community.

Breaking her silence to the Herald yesterday, the woman said she had no knowledge of her husband's alleged terrorist links, even though the Federal Government has accused Brigitte of plotting an attack in Australia.

Asked if she knew of the activities of which he has been accused, she said: "Obviously I have nothing to do with that. Ask ASIO . . . I don't have knowledge of these activities."

She added that the ASIO had been "professional" when dealing with her. "They haven't used heavy-handed tactics."

The woman, who confirmed she once served in the Australian Defence Force, but left and is now a student at a Sydney university, wants to maintain her privacy.

In a series of phone interviews initiated by the Herald yesterday, with additional comments sent by email, the woman who converted to Islam more than a year ago and took a Koranic name spoke calmly about the media speculation surrounding her.

She said she was not hurt by media reports quoting sources as saying Brigitte only married her so he could stay in Australia, because "I know that's not true".

Rather, she said, she entered the marriage "by the example of the Prophet".

The couple married under Islamic law in late August, signing a civil-law marriage certificate later the same day. Brigitte was arrested on October 9 and deported 13 days later to France, where he is being questioned over alleged links to al-Qaeda.

But the woman refused to reveal further personal details about her relationship with Brigitte.

"I don't really want to speak to anyone about this it's my business and nobody else's business."

In an email sent to the Herald, she said she was surprised that it had published a report about her husband going to Tony Mundine's boxing gym at Redfern.

I know nothing of terror, says Brigitte's wife

"With Sydney crime gangs shooting each other, issues of increased ASIO powers, Iraq war and Australian Idol you still managed to find space to tell Sydney that my husband went to the gym, and then he mysteriously stopped going, leaving the readers to speculate that he was off planning terror," she said.

"Perhaps he just wanted to spend more time with his wife!

"Having said this, I must admit that so far your reports on the subject of my husband have been fairly close to the truth except for one thing; linking my husband to the Lakemba prayer hall.

"In fact my husband rarely went there; he preferred to pray elsewhere. It is possible that many of the Lakemba prayer hall members raided by ASIO for having association with my husband had in fact never met him or heard of him."

ASIO has raided seven properties looking for links to Brigitte, six of them in the Bankstown-Lakemba area.

The Herald reported at the weekend that France's most senior counter-terrorism official was "90 per cent sure" that the 35-year-old Caribbean-born Frenchman was planning an attack in Australia.

But Brigitte's wife asked: "Did ASIO use my husband's case as a reason or an excuse to gain access to prayer hall regulars, stir trouble and create divisions within the Muslim community?"

The pattern of raids shows that ASIO, operating in tandem with federal and state police, is focusing on Brigitte's links with the prayer centre in Haldon Street, Lakemba, the base for the fundamentalist Muslim Wahabi sect.

One of its key figures in Sydney is the former Qantas baggage handler Bilal Khazal, whose passport was cancelled by the Federal Government last year amid fears of links with al-Qaeda.

But in concluding her email, Brigitte's wife said: "By the way, Wahabi is not a term used by us. We refer to ourselves only as Muslims. Regards, KB."

Fellow students at the campus she attends, several of them young Muslim women, yesterday described her as in her 20s, "Aussie", pretty, a dedicated Muslim and usually outgoing. But they were guarded and protective of her, revealing scant detail about her life.

Cynthia Banham reports: The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, said yesterday Brigitte's wife served in the army reserve after the ADF but was not in the army while married.

He said agencies had advised that "Australian security and law enforcement issues have not been matters which his wife was aware of in terms of security, and that she was not involved in any activities of security concern herself".

Mr Ruddock also announced that the Government would be introducing legislation to ban two terrorist organisations, Lashkar-e-Taiba, or LET, and the military arm of Hamas.

It had been advised that LET, which Brigitte had been connected with, had links with Australia so posed a threat. There were no direct links between Australia and Hamas but it was a "matter of prudence" it be outlawed anyway.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Palestinian gunmen release three foreigners

Windsor Star (Ontario)

July 31, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. D2; News

Length: 390 words

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Palestinian gunmen abducted three foreign church volunteers in Nablus late Friday, releasing them several hours later under pressure from Palestinian authorities and other militants, Palestinian security officials said.

The reason for the abduction was not known but it came two weeks after militants in Gaza snatched four French charity workers amid a political crisis that shook the authority of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The four French were also quickly released.

Star News Services

Five gunmen seized the foreigners -- an American, a Briton and an Irishman -- around midnight Friday as they were returning to the home where they were staying in Nablus, the officials said. The three were taken to the nearby Balata refugee camp.

Five foreign women accompanying the men were left unharmed. They refused to speak with reporters.

Security officials later said the three were freed but gave few details. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which is affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement, said earlier it was helping track down the kidnappers, who it said were believed to be from a splinter faction of Al Aqsa.

The volunteers, who were not identified, came to Nablus more than three weeks ago, apparently for missionary activities, the officials said. They were abducted in an upscale part of Nablus, where restaurants stay open late into the night and young people often meet.

Britain's Foreign Office said it had no information about the reported abduction in Nablus but was investigating the reports.

Earlier Friday, Israeli helicopters launched a missile attack in Gaza City against a suspected Palestinian weapons workshop in a building owned by the family of a female suicide bomber.

Medics at the scene said at least two people were injured. One missile slammed into the three-storey building, sending a huge fireball high over the city. A second missile failed to explode.

The Israeli military said the building in the Zeitoun district of Gaza was a bomb factory that produced explosives for the Hamas militant organization. Palestinian officials said it was a small factory that produced car batteries.

Palestinian gunmen release three foreigners

Israeli helicopters continued hovering over the site as ambulances raced to the scene. But the building was empty at the time of the strike and two bystanders were treated at the site for minor wounds.

Load-Date: July 31, 2004

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'Sinful human heart' on sad display in trying times

Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota)

August 22, 2003, Friday,

METRO EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Bismarck Tribune, a division of Lee Enterprises, Inc.

Length: 826 words

Byline: GRAEL GANNON

Body

One of the perils of writing on currently evolving events is that the events outrun the writing. One item in my last column on the California recall was obsolete by one day by the time it saw print.

But the attraction of breaking news is always tempting. Art Buchwald has said that inspiration for his humor columns would come from reading the day's news. Similarly, our energies for serious comment are roused by what comes to our attention each day. I have been waiting for a slow news week to discuss the pathology of boredom, but that now seems too tame a thing in the light of Tuesday's massive atrocities in the Middle East.

Yet, the very Wednesday's Tribune that reported the bombings in Iraq and Israel also carried an Associated Press piece in which boredom figured. So, like Balaam's ass, I am torn between equally tempting alternatives.

As to the boredom, I'll defer my thoughts on that for now, except to note that the discovery that teenage drug use correlates strongly with boredom, stress and excess money is hardly surprising. And also to note that there really is a connection between boredom and stress and terrorism. That connection is the diseased ego, the sinful human heart.

Boredom often arises from the human desire to experience gratification without effort. Stress comes from pressure that threatens to rupture psychic security. Terrorism is an avenue chosen by thwarted pride to gain attention by visiting the unspeakable upon the innocent. What all these things have in common is: me, me, me -- as in, what's in it, or isn't in it, for me.

Thinking of Iraq and Israel:

How much time, money, labor and skill it takes to build the place where the United Nations was based in Baghdad, and how little time, effort and material to blow it to pieces. But, far more important: How many years of love and nurture and resource and education and training and experience to fashion the life of Sergio Vieira de Mello and all the other precious lives that were ended or maimed along with him.

And those people on Bus No. 2 in Jerusalem -- men, women and little children riding home from their worship place.

Israel has some things to be ashamed of over the years, and one wonders if it is really necessary to continue to assassinate Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders while peace moves are being attempted.

Yet, the Israeli leadership may be correct that the recent truce is being used by the terrorists to rearm.

'Sinful human heart' on sad display in trying times

Also, it should be remembered that, although Palestinian civilians are sometimes killed or injured in these attacks, the attacks are specifically directed against the terrorists. **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad deliberately target nonmilitary unarmed men, **women** and children. Israeli tactics may sometimes be questionable; Palestinian terrorists are monsters beyond question. Their purported rush to be with Allah will be fulfilled to their eternal dismay.

At least, the Palestinian terrorists come out of the prolonged nightmare of years and years of occupation and humiliation. I have seen teenage Palestinians interviewed on television -- handsome, intelligent boys and girls who say their lives are without meaning and without hope, and that they would willingly become suicide bombers.

Yes, the thwarted, sinful human ego is involved. But there is great provocation, great injustice here.

Only extraordinary saints would turn the other cheek and suffer constructively toward justice, not ordinary mortals.

We also need to remember that a fighter is described as a terrorist by one side and a patriot by the other. The British humorous revue, 'Beyond the Fringe,' did a takeoff on Prince Philip presiding at the independence celebration of Kenya, and saying, 'Yes, we used to think Mr. Kenyatta was a Mau-Mau terrorist, but now we know he was a freedom fighter.'

Perhaps more directly to the point, the late Menachem Begin, honored prime minister of Israel and peacemaker with Egypt's Anwar el-Sadat, was in earlier years an Israeli terrorist. He went on to become the leader of the right-wing Likud Party, now part of the right-wing coalition headed by Ariel Sharon, another extremely hard-nosed character.

In the end, no one has totally clean hands, which should make for a degree of humility and openness to reconciliation.

The men of blood in Iraq have far less excuse. Most of them seem to be ex-Baathists frustrated at no longer being able to bully the rest of the Iraqi population or foreign Muslim fanatics with one great thought: 'Kill, kill, kill.'

American poet Robert Penn Warren, in 'Brothers to Dragons,' spoke of 'the immitigable ferocity of self.' He went on to say:

The recognition of complicity is the beginning of innocence.

The recognition of necessity is the beginning of freedom.

The recognition of the direction of fulfilment is the death of the self,

And the death of the self is the beginning of selfhood.

(Grael Gannon, Bismarck, is a teacher at Shiloh Christian School. His column appears on alternate Fridays.)

Load-Date: August 25, 2003

Mideast road map can't be a path to failure

Ottawa Citizen

July 25, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A17; Opinion

Length: 844 words

Body

Pragmatic: The following editorial was published in the Jerusalem Post on July 21.

What is the difference between Oslo and the Middle East road map? No, this is not the beginning of a new joke, though sometimes we might wish it were. There are indeed some important structural differences between the two, but in the main, the latter tries to pick up where the former left off.

The real difference, we are told by Israeli and U.S. officials, is not so much in the recipe but in the cooks. U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are not Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak (or his Labour predecessors). The difference between Oslo and the road map, presumably, is that this time Bush and Sharon mean it when they say that terrorism must stop and its infrastructure dismantled.

The Jerusalem Post

A major mistake of the Oslo era, even its proponents agree, was to take Palestinian violations of the agreement too lightly. In particular, it is now widely seen to have been a mistake that the Palestinians were not pressed to end incitement and to confiscate illegal weapons, as required by multiple Oslo-era agreements.

It is in this context that we are feeling a disturbing sense of *deja vu*. In the first years after the famous handshake on the White House lawn, we were told that Yasser Arafat cannot be expected to end what was termed "rhetoric" for the masses, that we should not be concerned that the Palestinian Authority (PA) had more than double the "police" permitted, and that he did not use them to shut down terrorist groups.

We were told, in effect, that Arafat was too weak to implement the agreement he had signed.

Now the U.S. is admitting that the Palestinians are not dismantling the terrorist infrastructure. There have been no significant arrests or confiscation of weapons, and both PA leaders and **Hamas** say there will not be. The terrorists are regrouping, not disbanding.

There is not even a significant reduction in incitement from the PA-controlled media, including the glorification of suicide bombers. On July 17, for example, Al-Ayyam took the trouble to note the graduation of 100 girls from a summer camp "named after the Shahida (**female** suicide bomber) Wafa Idris" near Kalkilya.

The Palestinians, as in the past, have started making extraneous demands before implementing what they have just agreed to, in this case for the release of prisoners. The U.S., as in the past, is reflexively parroting these demands regardless of what the current framework, the road map, says, under the rubric of "helping Mahmoud Abbas." Actually, it does not "help Abbas" or anyone else to play into excuses for inaction and violation of commitments.

Mideast road map can't be a path to failure

The Palestinian Authority, not surprisingly from its perspective, will implement as little as possible and demand as much as possible. There is no natural limit to the demands, nor minimum level of implementation -- both are defined by what the U.S. and Israel will tolerate.

U.S. officials say they are simply pressing both sides to fulfill their commitments. How is Israel committed to prisoner releases when the subject does not appear in the road map? Sharon committed to Bush at Aqaba to release prisoners, we are told.

Once again, we see that what is on paper is worthless and what matters is what the Palestinians are demanding at a particular moment. The "street" wants prisoners, so the street must be appeased. We want to help Abbas, don't we? We don't want Hamas, do we? And so it goes.

Attempts to stand on principle, fairness, or logic are brushed aside in favour of the supreme guide: pragmatism. But here's the rub -- tossing principles aside in this manner is not pragmatic, but a sure path to failure.

The United States should not be pressuring Israel to release prisoners, because there is no limit to the Palestinian appetite for more releases.

Thus raising expectations and attempting to fulfill them is an endless process. So is the process of raising other extraneous demands, such as halting construction of the security fence.

Why should Palestinians stop raising such demands if the U.S. dutifully places them on Israel's doorstep?

The responsibility here is not all on the American side. It is unfortunate that the Bush administration is repeating the mistakes of its predecessor, but it is ultimately in Israel's hands to persuade the U.S. to behave otherwise. It is a mistake for the U.S. to simply press the party that seems most flexible, regardless of merit or the precedent it sets. But if this is the U.S. modus operandi, Israel must show some inflexibility as well.

If the United States responds by increasing pressure on Israel, the whole process will unravel, since the pressure on the Palestinians will dissolve and they will deliver even less. But if we continue giving into Palestinian excuses and demands and go quietly along with American mistakes, the process will unravel as well.

If we, the U.S. and Israel, repeat the mistakes of Oslo, we should not be surprised when we achieve the same result.

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Load-Date: July 25, 2003

Repeating the mistakes of Oslo pact: Pragmatism has pitfalls. U.S. and Israel cannot allow Palestinians to alter road map to peace after the fact

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

July 25, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A17

Length: 808 words

Body

(The following editorial appeared in Monday's Jerusalem Post.)

What is the difference between the 1993 Oslo peace accords and the current road map for Middle East peace?

No, this is not the beginning of a new joke, though sometimes we might wish it were. There are, indeed, some important structural differences between the two, but in the main, the latter tries to pick up where the former left off.
Freelance

The real difference, we are told by Israeli and American officials, is not so much in the recipe but in the cooks. U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are not Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak (or his Labour predecessors). The difference between Oslo and the road map, presumably, is this time Bush and Sharon mean it when they say terrorism must stop and its infrastructure must be dismantled.

A major mistake of the Oslo era, even its proponents agree, was to take Palestinian violations of the agreement too lightly. In particular, it is now widely seen to have been a mistake that the Palestinians were not pressed to end incitement and to confiscate illegal weapons, as required by multiple Oslo-era agreements.

It is in this context we are feeling a disturbing sense of déjà vu. In the first years after the famous handshake on the White House lawn, we were told Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat cannot be expected to end what was termed "rhetoric" for the masses, that we should not be concerned the Palestinian Authority had more than double the "police" permitted and that it did not use them to shut down terrorist groups. We were told, in effect, Arafat was too weak to implement the agreement he had signed.

Now the U.S. is admitting the Palestinians are not dismantling the terrorist infrastructure. There have been no significant arrests or confiscation of weapons, and both PA leaders and **Hamas** say there will not be. The terrorists are regrouping, not disbanding.

There is not even a significant reduction in incitement from the PA-controlled media, including the glorification of suicide bombers. On Thursday, for example, Al-Ayyam took the trouble to note the graduation of 100 girls from a summer camp "named after the Shahida (**female** suicide bomber) Wafa Idris" near Kalkilya.

The Palestinians, as in the past, have started making extraneous demands before implementing what they have just agreed to, in this case for the release of prisoners. The U.S., as in the past, is reflexively parroting these demands, regardless of what the current framework, the road map, says, under the rubric of "helping Mahmoud Abbas." Actually, it does not help Palestinian Prime Minister Abbas or anyone else to play into excuses for inaction and violation of commitments.

Repeating the mistakes of Oslo pact: Pragmatism has pitfalls. U.S. and Israel cannot allow Palestinians to alter road map to peace after the fact

The Palestinian Authority, not surprisingly from its perspective, will implement as little as possible and demand as much as possible. There is no natural limit to the demands, nor minimum level of implementation - both are defined by what the U.S. and Israel will tolerate.

U.S. officials say they are simply pressing both sides to fulfill their commitments. How is Israel committed to prisoner releases when the subject does not appear in the road map? Sharon committed to Bush at Aqaba to release prisoners, we are told.

Once again, we see that what is on paper is worthless and what matters is what the Palestinians are demanding at a particular moment. The "street" wants prisoners, so the street must be appeased. We want to help Abbas, don't we? We don't want Hamas, do we? And so it goes.

Attempts to stand on principle, fairness or logic are brushed aside in favour of the supreme guide: pragmatism. But here's the rub - tossing principles aside in this manner is not pragmatic but a sure path to failure. The United States should not be pressuring Israel to release prisoners, because there is no limit to the Palestinian appetite for more releases. Thus, raising expectations and attempting to fulfill them is an endless process.

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If the U.S. and Israel repeat the mistakes of Oslo, we should not be surprised when they achieve the same result.

Load-Date: July 25, 2003

Move over, Osama: The Arab version of American Idol, representing some of the worst aspects of Western culture, is taking the Middle East by a storm

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 27, 2004 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A19

Length: 918 words

Byline: ERIC MINK, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Body

Osama bin Laden and fellow-travelling Islamist radicals believe that Western culture defiles their belief system and that unless it is stopped, it will obliterate what they regard as the one true way of life.

They're right.

Materialistic excess, free expression, individualism, political and spiritual independence and the pursuit of happiness - the underpinnings of Western culture - fly in the face of the hierarchical subservience and sacrifice of personal will at the core of their extreme imagining of Islam.

And if unchecked, the allure and sheer volume of Western culture - most especially the broadly accessible pop-culture expressions of television, movies, music, fashion and the popular press - would undermine and overwhelm any bin-Ladian ideal of society. ("Ideal" defined as something resembling the suffocating rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan.)

But the Islamists are wrong on two fundamental points: First, this would not be a bad thing; no sensible inhabitant of Earth in 2004 regards a 10th-century lifestyle as a step forward. Second, they can no more stop this force than they can keep the sun from rising in the east. Ask the now-free people of the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania, among others, about the impact of Western culture.

A current case in point: Superstar 2.

While Shiite insurgents, Iraqi forces (so to speak) and American troops fight and die over shrines and cemetery slabs in Najaf, the rest of the Arab world is working itself into a delighted frenzy of expectation over the second-season finale of the Lebanese-produced TV show Superstar 2.

This Sunday, Ammar Hassan, a 26-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank town of Salfit, and Ayman al-Atar of Libya will sing their hearts out on Superstar 2 in the finals of a pan-Arab version of American Idol. Millions of viewers throughout the Middle East then will choose a winner by voting via the Internet and cell-phone text messages.

Move over, Osama: The Arab version of American Idol, representing some of the worst aspects of Western culture, is taking the Middle East by a storm

This is the second season of Superstar (hence the "2"). It began Feb. 29 with 83 contestants - including 32 women - selected from about 40,000 applicants. A panel of judges then took a couple of months to winnow the field to 14 for final sorting by viewers.

Finding common cause with cultural conservatives in the United States who bemoan the decadence of North American pop culture, religious fundamentalists and terrorist groups in the Middle East have denounced Superstar and other reality shows being broadcast by Arab networks and satellite distributors. "These kinds of programs are in contradiction with our habits and with the principles of Islam," a Lebanese sheik told Agence France-Presse. "We are seeing youngsters kissing and expressing emotions. This is indecent."

A Palestinian spokesman for Hamas told a reporter for the Jerusalem Post, that we "are not in need of singers, corruption mongers and advocates of immorality."

Hamas apparently is irked that the Palestinian people seem more interested in a TV competition featuring the appealing Hassan than they are in strapping on vests packed with explosives and nails and blowing themselves up at Israeli military checkpoints. Go figure. The coming Superstar 2 climax also is draining attention away from what has turned out to be a poorly timed hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The Palestinian Authority, however, is playing the situation cleverly, declaring a week of solidarity with Hassan, setting up giant outdoor viewing screens in towns in the West Bank and Gaza and persuading the major Palestinian telecommunications company to offer discounts on text-message votes sent to the show.

"People are very bored with the political and security situation," an official for the authority's Ministry of Culture told the Jerusalem newspaper. "For them, the show is an escape from the distress and frustration. We believe that creative art contributes to the people's struggle for freedom."

It is also an expression of that freedom, and its pull is powerful.

In 2003, the first season of Superstar became a focus for national pride in the region, even provoking some accusations - as there have been in the United States from time to time about American Idol - of vote rigging. Thousands of fans protested loudly in the streets of Beirut at the headquarters of Future Television, the show's producer, when Lebanese semi-finalist Melhem Zein was voted out in favour of Syria's Rwaqida Attiyeh and the eventual winner, Diana Curazon of Jordan.

Zein - from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, previously famous as the place where Hezbollah terrorists received training and sanctuary - was enormously popular with his fellow Lebanese, and problems with overloaded phone lines and Web servers only heightened suspicions of a fix. But Future Television is owned by the billionaire family of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; the company had no rational incentive to make Zein lose. Still, public pressure persuaded Future to give Zein a three-hour solo TV special the next week and sign him to a record deal.

In Jordan, a Superstar fan told United Press International that the show was "a good exercise in democracy for the Arab masses." That's a stretch on both democratic and cultural grounds. Superstar, after all, isn't exactly a Hopper canvas, a Shakespeare tragedy, On the Waterfront, The Sopranos or the Gettysburg Address.

But the power of the creative spirit - even at the level of a cheesy TV talent competition - surpasses that of terrorism, war and oppression. Osama and his ilk are right to be very, very afraid.

Graphic

Photo: MUHAMMED MUHEISEN, AP; Ahmed Hassan, 63, father of Ammar Hassan, watches as his son performs on TV during the Arab Idol competition.

Move over, Osama: The Arab version of American Idol, representing some of the worst aspects of Western culture, is taking the Middle East by a storm

Load-Date: August 27, 2004

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OSAMA'S GREATEST ENEMY: HASSAN THE HEARTTHOB

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 25, 2004 Wednesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Eric Mink; Pg. B07

Length: 944 words

Byline: Eric Mink

Body

CULTURE

A pan-Arab version of "American Idol" shows how powerful pop-culture can be in undermining terrorism Osama bin Laden and fellow-traveling Islamist radicals believe that Western culture defiles their belief system and that unless it is stopped, it will obliterate what they regard as the one true way of life.

They're right.

Notwithstanding materialistic excess, free expression, individualism, political and spiritual independence and the pursuit of happiness -- the underpinnings of Western culture -- fly in the face of the hierarchical subservience and sacrifice of personal will at the core of their extreme imagining of Islam. And if unchecked, the allure and sheer volume of Western culture -- most especially the broadly accessible pop-culture expressions of television, movies, music, fashion and the popular press -- would undermine and overwhelm any bin-Ladian ideal of society. ("Ideal" defined as something resembling the suffocating rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan.)

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Notes

COMMENTARY A FORUM FOR OTHER VOICES, IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Graphic

photo; Graphic / ILLUSTRATIONS BY NEWSART - (A television set dropping on Osama Bin Laden.)

OSAMA'S GREATEST ENEMY: HASSAN THE HEARTTHOB

Load-Date: August 25, 2004

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Dignity was lost as Arabs danced in the streets

Financial Times (London, England)

May 11, 2004 Tuesday

London Edition 2

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Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Pg. 18

Length: 341 words

Byline: By THOMAS WALKER

Body

From Mr Thomas Walker.

Sir, Roula Khalaf's analysis of the causes for an apparent loss of dignity in the Arab world is predictable, but incomplete ("A tragic loss of Arab dignity laid bare in pictures", May 8). Clearly, she steers us to the conclusion that this loss of dignity stems from recent images we have all seen and that have become symbols in the Arab world of US and British cruelty or, at least, lack of respect for the Muslim community in the Middle East.

She refers to the shocking photographs of the little boy in Iraq who tragically lost both arms in a bombing raid, to George W. Bush standing side by side with Ariel Sharon in a show of support, to the body of the slain leader of **Hamas**, and now to the photographs of Iraqi prisoners being tortured at the hands of US soldiers. But is that not a rather incomplete explanation for this loss of dignity in the Arab world?

Would it not be worth mentioning that a loss of dignity could result from the knowledge that the world watched as thousands of Arabs danced in the streets on September 11, celebrating the gruesome deaths of so many innocent people? Or maybe some loss of dignity is inevitable in a culture in much of the Arab world that supports and applauds an organisation that will recruit an innocent teenage girl to strap a bomb to herself and set off to kill as many **women** and children as possible. Or, as images go, would it not have been reasonable for Ms Khalaf to refer to images of a heaving crowd of jubilant Iraqis cheering as two US civilians burned to death after suffering a bomb attack? The cheering did not stop as the civilians were dismembered and hung from a nearby bridge.

Perhaps Ms Khalaf would argue that this behaviour is a result of the loss of dignity perpetrated by the Americans. But does that not just seem a bit indirect? Should the Arab world itself not be somewhat accountable for this apparent loss of dignity? Even in this culture of political correctness, it is surprising that we never read that point of view.

Thomas Walker, London W11 2PX, UK

Load-Date: May 10, 2004

FIGHTING IN GAZA KILLS 2 ISRAELIS, 1 PALESTINIAN, TRAPS RESIDENTS IN HOMES

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 15, 2004 Saturday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 29

Length: 379 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

Body

Heavy fighting raged in this refugee camp Friday, killing two Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian man and trapping frightened residents in their homes, the army and witnesses said.

Troops seized several houses, and army bulldozers knocked down at least 35 buildings on the edge of the camp, trying to secure the area for soldiers searching for the remains of five others killed there in a blast earlier in the week.

Military officials said that once this search was over, the army could expand a military patrol road between the camp and the Egyptian border - a move that would see hundreds of houses in Rafah flattened.

Early today, Israeli helicopter gunships rocketed two deserted buildings that once housed Islamic Jihad offices in Gaza City, the militant group said. Two bystanders were wounded, doctors said.

During Friday's clashes, gunmen moved through the narrow alleys of the camp, firing homemade rockets and rifles at the troops. The Israelis responded with missiles launched from helicopter gunships and heavy machine gun fire.

One soldier was shot as he escorted a Palestinian women into a house troops had commandeered, the army said. A crew that tried to evacuate him came under sniper fire that killed another soldier and wounded two others, the army said.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the shooting and said it would release footage of the attack.

On the Palestinian side, one man was killed in a missile strike and a second died when an explosive device blew up prematurely. Eight Palestinians were wounded, two of them seriously.

Also, three Palestinians were buried under the rubble of their destroyed house, witnesses said.

The military said that armed men were in the house and that it had been destroyed in heavy exchanges of fire.

Residents were trapped in their homes by the heavy fighting. Hisham Mohammed, 35, said he was stuck on the third floor of his apartment building with the rest of his family on the ground floor.

FIGHTING IN GAZA KILLS 2 ISRAELIS, 1 PALESTINIAN, TRAPS RESIDENTS IN HOMES

Palestinian security officials said that by the end of the day, 35 buildings were destroyed close to the patrol road that runs between Rafah and the Egyptian border. On that road, an armored personnel carrier transporting a ton of explosives was blown up by a homemade rocket Wednesday, killing five soldiers.

Load-Date: May 15, 2004

End of Document

Yesterday's assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of Hamas, will probably be on the agenda at next week's summit in Tunis. But many in the region are concerned with the survival of existing regimes, write Roula Khalaf and Guy Dinmore

Financial Times (London, England)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

London Edition 1

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Section: COMMENT & ANALYSIS; Pg. 21

Length: 1684 words

Byline: By GUY DINMORE and ROULA KHALAF

Body

It was through the website of a pan-Arab newspaper that most Arab governments last month learned details of Washington's post-Iraq war strategy for the Middle East.

Rumours of an ambitious project had been circulating for weeks as US and European officials met in Washington to discuss the "Greater Middle East initiative" intended to be unveiled at the G8 summit in June.

But when a leaked copy of preliminary proposals to promote social and political reforms appeared in the London-based daily al-Hayat, the Arab reaction was harsh.

Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, and Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, told the US that the region would "not accept" reform being "imposed on Arab and Islamic countries from the outside". Stability, they said, required Washington's attention to crisis - namely the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and Iraq.

The botched handling of the initiative and the Arab reaction underlines the growing polarisation between the US and the Arab world a year after the US invasion of Iraq.

While the language in the US initiative - which the administration is redrafting - was somewhat patronising, the document was modest in its aims. Its proposals included aiding parliamentary exchanges, giving help in drafting legislation, promotion of literacy, micro-finance and the establishment of a regional development bank.

The furore, however, was driven primarily by the sense that the US had failed to consult its Arab allies in its quest to impose change.

Many leaders in the region also saw in the "Greater Middle East initiative" alarming signs of the right-wing Israeli view that democratising the Arab world was a pre-requisite for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

So concerned were Arab rulers that when their foreign ministers met last month to prepare for next week's Arab League summit in Tunis, a flood of initiatives was put forth to reform their own countries, as well as the League itself.

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The summit's resolutions are expected to emphasise that the most important contribution the US could make to regional stability is to rein in Israel, particularly after yesterday's Israeli assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the militant Hamas group. But the summit is also hoping to issue a declaration of principles on gradual reforms, a strategy that might placate the US without threatening the survival of existing regimes.

"Since the Iraq war, governments in the region have been trying to respond to pressure from abroad and from within and to ease some measures but at the same time they want to stay in full control of everything," says Ibrahim Nawar, head of the Arab Press Freedom Watch. "We've seen some positive developments in the last years but not to the extent that it can be sustained."

But the faltering of the US initiative also shows that while the Arab public is eager for the very same reforms proposed by the US, Washington's other policies in region - in Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories - have eroded American credibility.

Indeed, most in the Arab world view the initiative as just another disturbing sign of American neo-imperialism.

"We see a trend of increasing disorientation, confusion on the ideological and cultural scale," says Mohammed al-Sayed Said, deputy director of Cairo's al-Ahram Centre for Strategic Studies, describing trends in Arab public opinion. "We see mounting distrust and hostility towards the US - it's becoming one of the major dogma in the region."

The transformation of the Middle East was the broader objective of the Iraq war. The US justified its attack on Baghdad by focusing on the brutality of Saddam Hussein's regime, his links with terrorists, and the "grave threat" his weapons of mass destruction presented to the world.

Beyond the specific casus belli, however, lay a grand vision of how America should wield its unrivalled military and economic power. That sense of supremacy and the concept of a "unipolar" world emerged after the collapse of the Soviet empire in 1991. But it was the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, that shifted what the George W. Bush administration readily describes as an imperial mindset to reshaping the Middle East.

"Sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe - because in the long run, stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty," President Bush told the National Endowment for Democracy last November. But the US intervention in Iraq, at least in the short term, has undermined Washington's ability to turn its vision into reality.

Arab warnings that the war could exacerbate the threat of terrorist attacks from radical Islamists have proved credible. In Saudi Arabia, for instance, a more open confrontation has now erupted between security forces and cells of al-Qaeda. In Iraq, the war provided an excuse for al-Qaeda to win new recruits.

An October tape from Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda's leader, broadcast on the pan-Arab al-Jazeera network, identified Iraq as the front for a new jihad, or holy war, and called on Muslims to join the battle. The rising number of suicide attacks in Iraq suggest local Islamists and foreign militants may have heeded Mr bin Laden's call.

The US, however, points to Libya's decision in December to abandon its weapons of mass destruction as a sign of reinforced stability in the wake of the Iraq war, even if the autocratic Colonel Muammar Gaddafi remains in control of the country.

Earlier this month, Mr Bush also insisted that "because America and our allies acted (in Iraq), all the world is now seeing democracy rising in the heart of the Middle East". The Iraqi Governing Council's agreement on an interim constitution which guarantees human rights and freedom of religion, he said, was one of the historic changes that were "sending a message across the region from Damascus to Tehran".

US and Arab officials agree that the Iraqi experiment in democracy, if it succeeds, will have a defining impact on the region. But the past year has shown that Iraq's vision of democracy and the projection of American power do not

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necessarily coexist. The most glaring illustration is in Iraq itself, where the US has been resisting early elections out of fear that radicals, whether Shia or Sunni, would make gains.

While the US has succeeded in unsettling two hardline states - Syria and non-Arab Iran, in both countries the reaction of the regimes has been to consolidate power rather than speed internal reforms.

Iran's hardline mullahs became more determined to undermine their reformist rivals, a strategy that culminated in the banning of many reformist candidates and the victory of conservatives in last month's parliamentary election.

In Syria, growing US pressure has encouraged intellectual reformers to act more boldly by speaking out against the government. But it has yet to produce any marked change in the behaviour of the Syrian regime towards its people.

Seen from the Arab world, US policy is also riddled with contradictions.

"The US is serious - it wants to change the Middle East but it doesn't know how," says Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi political analyst and adviser to a senior member of the royal family. "They want democracy but not Islamists to emerge. They want democracy but they want the elected bodies to accept relations with Israel."

Analysts argue that the US is not doing enough to create secular alternatives to existing regimes.

True, some progressive laws have been put in place in a few countries over the past year. The Moroccan government, for example, introduced a family code that brings far-reaching reforms to women's rights. In Jordan, a quota was set for women to be elected to parliament. In Saudi Arabia, senior princes in the al-Saud family are now promoting the need for religious reforms that could moderate the radical rhetoric of the puritanical Wahabi Islam. Still, though, the trend towards more Islamisation and radicalisation is continuing and is likely to have been exacerbated by the Iraq war. "The democratic mood has grown and it has allowed liberals to position themselves more openly. But they have not expanded this influence in society," says Mr al-Sayed Said of the al-Ahram Centre.

Elections in Jordan, Morocco and Kuwait show that Islamists remain the largest opposition to government. Other indicators of Islamisation are the newly launched satellite stations in the region devoted to Islamic causes and the increasing number of religious programmes that can be seen on more general channels.

According to a survey released last week by the Pew Research Centre, overwhelming majorities in Jordan and Morocco believe suicide attacks against Americans and other westerners in Iraq are justified. Most people in these countries also say the US and Britain lied about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Perhaps the greatest dilemma facing the US in its quest for a more democratic Middle East is to reconcile its ambitions with its self-declared war on terror. Human-rights defenders say that new anti-terrorism laws are being used to suppress freedom of expression. More broadly the US has appeared willing to forge more intimate ties with unsavoury regimes - Tunisia and Algeria for example - that have stood squarely on its side in the campaign against terrorism.

The conflicting signals from the US reinforce the suspicion that Washington is seeking to create democracies that are secular and resolutely pro-American. Nader Fergani, the lead writer of the UN-backed Arab Human Development Report, the published in 2002, says outside pressure such as the "Greater Middle East initiative" would reinforce Arab regimes' inclination to adopt shallow reforms.

"I'm afraid what will come out of (America's push for change) will be superficial, cosmetic reforms to respond to outside pressure, and that will delay deep and profound change," he says.

"This has been one of the mechanisms of authoritarian regimes - if you speak of human rights, they go and set up their own human rights organisation. . .we end up with facades that don't represent genuine reform."

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**HUSSAM ABDO'S FAILED SUICIDE ATTACK SHOCKED THE WORLD BUT
MANY SUCH YOUNGSTERS, TRAINED EVEN AS TODDLERS, ONLY AWAIT
THEIR TURN; HOW KIDS BECOME WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

The Express

March 27, 2004

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 25

Length: 1367 words

Byline: By Ben Raymond in Nablus, West Bank

Body

IT WAS the world's most shocking image of the week - a cowering boy with baffled and fearful eyes strapped inside a deadly harness of high explosives. The truth behind the heart-rending picture is even more sickening. Hussam Abdo, seconds from becoming the Middle East's youngest suicide bomber at an Israeli army checkpoint here on the West Bank, is not a 14-year-old boy - it turns out he is 16 and comes from a family of midgets.

However his mental age is considerably younger than it should be because at the age of six he was hit by a car and left with brain damage. The evil fanatics who saw fit to push poor, troubled Hussam into the frontline of their conflict and turn him into a human bomb primed to destroy the objects of their hatred were yesterday making no apology for their callous would-be sacrifice.

A spokesman for the Islamic terror group **Hamas** insisted: "A 16-year-old is a man and a mujahed warrior . This week's operation was not the first time a 16-year-old has been sent on a holy jihad mission."

And that is the awful truth: every day in the Middle East, children far younger than Hussam are brainwashed to seek martyrdom as the highest form of religious duty. Indoctrination begins the moment they join kindergarten - from toys they play with to videos they watch and books they read. All carry the same message: children are put on this earth to kill Israelis. Heavenly rewards are promised for giving their lives to the cause - direct entrance to paradise, where rivers of honey and willing virgins await.

Only a week before Hussam was plied with such promises and assured his mother would be paid 100 shekels (about GBP 12) for his death, the same men in the shadowy alleys of Balata refugee camp in Nablus sent an even younger boy through the same checkpoint with a bag full of explosives. Abdallah Quran, 11, was stopped by an eagle-eyed Israeli policewoman who noticed something odd about his knapsack.

Last month Israeli police arrested three boys aged 12, 13 and 15, who said they were on their way to carry out a shooting attack in the Israeli city of Afula.

Two weeks ago, two 17-year-old schoolboys from Gaza killed nine Israelis in a double suicide bombing at the port in Ashdod, an Israeli city on the Mediterranean coast. In the Gaza Strip Palestinian boys as young as 10 have been caught planting bombs or smuggling weapons.

HUSSAM ABDO'S FAILED SUICIDE ATTACK SHOCKED THE WORLD BUT MANY SUCH YOUNGSTERS, TRAINED EVEN AS TODDLERS, ONLY AWAIT THEIR TURN; HOW KIDS BECOME WEAPONS OF MASS....

CHILLINGLY, the yearning among Palestinian children for "shuhada", or martyrdom, has become almost commonplace. A poll conducted by the Islamic University among teenagers in Gaza several months after the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada revealed that 73 per cent of children said they wanted to be a "shahid".

According to the Israeli army, 29 of more than 150 Palestinian suicide attacks since the intifada began in September 2000 were carried out by teenagers below the age of 18. Youngsters also carried out attacks using assault rifles or explosive devices and a further 40 under-18s have been caught attempting attacks.

But the recruitment of teenagers for these "operations" of mass murder does not take place in a vacuum. Palestinian schools - even those administered by the United Nations - are plastered with posters and graffiti glorifying suicide bombers and other "martyrs".

Inside the schools, teachers urge children to seek martyrdom. In Hamas kindergartens, children as young as three are dressed in combat fatigues with toy guns or sheathed in white robes and wrapped in dummy suicide bomb belts. For end-of-term graduation ceremonies, under the guidance of their teachers, pupils act out attacks on Israeli soldiers or the suicide bombing of an Israeli bus.

Palestinian television broadcasts endless MTV-style video clips exhorting children to put down their toys and take up stones and guns to fight the Israelis. They depict a paradise full of sweets and urge Palestinian children to give their lives willingly by confronting the Israelis.

One programme broadcast on Palestine TV was titled "Children who love the homeland and the martyr's death".

Each summer the Palestinian authority organises summer camps and sports competitions for schoolchildren. They could name them for religious prophets or flowers, but choose to name them after suicide bombers.

The memory of Mohammed Al-Dourra, 12, killed in crossfire during the first weekend of the intifada, is repeatedly invoked to encourage other young Palestinians. In one particularly stomach-churning video clip, Al-Dourra is pictured in paradise, calling on other children to "Follow me".

The image of another young boy, Farres Odeh, is also widely used. Odeh was filmed throwing stones at an advancing Israeli tank.

The menacing photograph is in almost every Palestinian school. Odeh was killed soon after.

The call to arms comes from the very top.

When Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat receives groups of schoolchildren, he instructs them to go out and die. His favourite speech to children winds up with a simple, smiling message: "You must follow in the path of Farres Odeh," he tells the impressionable youngsters. A phrase he incessantly repeats in meetings with teenagers is: "Al-Quds, raiheen, shuhada bis'milaeen." (We are marching to Jerusalem, a million martyrs.) When Israeli tanks besieged his Ramallah compound in April 2002, Arafat told reporters he was not scared to die; he sent a message to young people to resist: "I'm not afraid. I'm no better than Farres Odeh, the 12-year-old boy who courageously defied the Israeli tanks."

But there are signs of a growing revulsion within Palestinian society to the way in which schoolchildren are raised. The recent deaths of two teenagers provoked particular disquiet.

One, Sabi Abu Saud, attempted a suicide bomb attack. Instead he was cornered in a West Bank field and blew himself up. His heartbroken father promised revenge. "He was just a little boy and those who sent him should have left him alone," said Kamal Abu Saud.

In January Iyad al-Masri, 17, a student from Nablus, blew himself up near an Israeli army post. He had been sent in with a suicide bomb harness but panicked when he saw the soldiers.

HUSSAM ABDO'S FAILED SUICIDE ATTACK SHOCKED THE WORLD BUT MANY SUCH YOUNGSTERS, TRAINED EVEN AS TODDLERS, ONLY AWAIT THEIR TURN; HOW KIDS BECOME WEAPONS OF MASS....

Iyad's family published a statement calling for an immediate inquiry into their son's death.

"He was dispatched on a suicide mission with no chance of succeeding and with the consequences known in advance - his life was sacrificed in vain, " said the family.

Like little Hussam on Wednesday, Iyad and Sabi came from Nablus, their suicide harnesses provided by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the terrorist wing of Yasser Arafat's Fatah group.

BUT NOW the leading Palestinian commentator Hasan Al-Batal has denounced what he calls a "culture of death" among children and has launched a scathing attack on Hamas and Islamic Jihad for recruiting teenagers and mothers.

Al-Batal says: "I fear the day will soon come when we will see 10-year-old boys and pregnant women strapped with explosive belts. How will we be able to justify to the world the death of our children by Israeli army gunfire when some of us are starting to send their children and mothers with explosive belts?"

Hafez Barghouti, editor of official Palestinian daily Al-Hayat al-Jadidah, agrees: "The family of the martyr Iyad al-Masri has the right to ask his recruiters why they sent him to his death."

"The circumstances of his death once again raises the question of recruiting youngsters in their teens, " said Barghouti. "It is known that Prophet Muhammad himself refused to recruit adolescents for the campaigns that he waged."

Hussam is now back home after a truly fortunate escape. His uncle, Abu Mohammed, does not mince words when describing what he'd like to do to the men who took such cruel advantage of his vulnerable nephew. "I wish I knew who did it and when I find out, I won't hesitate to put two bullets in his head, " he says.

Yet constant glorification of martyrdom has created a society in which there are no other heroes. Palestinian children collect badges, stickers and cards with pictures of dead suicide bombers. The Palestinian leader himself says he yearns to become one of them.

Is it any wonder that - unlike poor Hussam this week - many Palestinian children cannot wait to become murderers?

Load-Date: March 30, 2004

On the West Bank, a Hint of Resistance Without Blood

The New York Times

February 29, 2004 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 4; Column 1; Week in Review Desk; Pg. 1; Ideas & Trends: Tactical Shift

Length: 1458 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: BUDROS, West Bank

Body

THE barrier Israel is building against West Bank Palestinians has had a striking, if unintended, effect: It has stirred a sustained, bloodless protest movement among Palestinians for the first time in more than three years of conflict.

As the bulldozers have swept south toward Jerusalem and cut deeper into West Bank land, villagers who have mostly stayed on the sidelines of the uprising have joined with Israeli leftists to demonstrate. In places, as in this hamlet, they have blocked the machines with their bodies.

"I am totally against touching civilians," said Naim Morar, 50, a leader of the movement here, as he walked hand in hand on Friday with his 5-year-old son, Mashal, for another demonstration along the 50-yard-wide gash the construction has opened through the village fields.

To that statement of principle, he added a more pragmatic consideration: "If there was shooting at the wall, it would have been finished the next day. But our peaceful resistance forced them to stop." Often, teenagers throw stones at the end of the demonstrations, but the organizers say they discourage that.

This new approach raises a basic, discomfiting question: Why should such tactics seem unusual? Why has the Palestinian national movement become defined instead by increasingly nihilistic violence, like the suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last Sunday that killed eight passengers?

It is to stop such suicide attacks that Israel says it needs to build this barrier. Palestinians say it is actually a land grab.

The answer to the question about tactics shines a light into several corners of the conflict, including the jihadist visions of militant Islam, the strategy of anti-colonial movements of the 20th century, the structure of Palestinian society and the nature of the Israeli occupation.

One also must not ignore the appetites of the news media. It is not as though the Palestinians just discovered the existence of peaceful tactics. Some Palestinians complain that sporadic strikes and marches get little international attention.

As the protest unfolded here -- with hundreds chanting as they faced off with about 20 Israeli soldiers and policemen at the construction site -- demonstrators at the next village, Qibiya, began throwing stones. Then from

On the West Bank, a Hint of Resistance Without Blood

the Israeli side came the inevitable booms, and the telltale gray trails of tear-gas canisters streaked toward the protesters. Most of the handful of news photographers covering this rally hurried toward that scene, a quarter-mile away.

On Thursday, in a similar anti-barrier demonstration in the village of Biddo, Israeli forces responded to stone throwers with deadly fire, killing two Palestinians.

In advocating civil disobedience, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. had a bedrock faith in the essential humanity of their oppressors. As this conflict grinds on, it is tempting to conclude that any chance of glimpsing a shared humanity has been blown away.

Yet demonstrations like the one here suggest that is not necessarily so. On her way to the protest, an elderly Palestinian woman in a white head scarf paused atop a heap of rocks and reached back to help a gray-haired Israeli woman. They cleared the obstacle, then kept holding hands as they walked toward the crowd.

The Palestinians have never had a mainstream leader committed to nonviolent tactics, despite their official acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

"The predominant paradigm was that this is a war of liberation," said Martin Kramer, an expert on Islam and Arab politics. "Their model was Algeria. It was armed struggle against a colonial power, and you had to bleed them."

Under American pressure last year, Yasir Arafat appointed Mahmoud Abbas, an opponent of the armed uprising, as his prime minister.

Last April, as Mr. Abbas was confirmed by the Palestinian parliament, one legislator, Abdel Jawad Saleh, said Mr. Abbas was making a mistake in trying to end the uprising without offering an alternative form of resistance. "You should be a Gandhi," Mr. Saleh told him. No Gandhi, Mr. Abbas lasted less than five months in the job.

The main political competition for Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction is even sharper-edged -- the fundamentalist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which remain officially bent on erasing Israel.

With no one in power exhorting them to try other tactics, Fatah militants, in theory members of a secular faction, have tried to out-Hamas Hamas. They adopted an Islamic name for their violent wing, the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, and took up suicide bombing along with the language of martyrdom.

Mirroring a widespread Israeli opinion of Palestinians, most Palestinians take it as axiomatic that Israelis respond to nothing but force. "They have ample precedent to cite," Dr. Kramer said.

It is not lost on Palestinians that, during the relatively quiet days under the Oslo peace accords between the two Palestinian uprisings, Israeli settlements in the occupied territories doubled in size.

Further, it was to the neighboring village, Qibiya, in 1953 that a young commando named Ariel Sharon led a reprisal raid for the killing of an Israeli woman and her two toddlers. Mr. Sharon later said that he and his men believed that the 45 houses they blew up were empty. But 69 Arabs were killed, half of them women and children. People here are accustomed to the trading of an eye for an eye.

Yet there are reasons to understand why peaceful protest could catch hold in these villages and also why it may not spread far beyond them.

When Mr. Sharon raided Qibiya, it was controlled by Jordan. Now, Israeli forces can move freely here. That is a practical reason for peaceful protest: any militant would be quickly arrested or killed. Palestinian gunmen have largely retreated to the city centers and refugee camps, where they can hide more easily.

Villagers in this area of the West Bank, within sight of the towers of Tel Aviv, are rather accustomed to Israelis. Many have worked in Israel and speak Hebrew. Forming alliances with left-wing Israelis -- even the young people

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who show up to demonstrate with multiple piercings in ears, nose and lips -- does not seem as outlandish as it does to Palestinians who have known only Israeli soldiers or settlers.

Then there is the barrier itself. It is consuming the fields and orchards of many farming families without a history of militancy, driving them to protest. It is cutting Palestinian workers off from Israeli jobs. Further, as Palestinians have taken to calling it the "apartheid wall" and foreign activists have focused their attention on it, it has emerged as a tangible, telegenic object of mass protest.

The path of the barrier, which looks like a dirt runway through the West Bank, halted in the middle of an olive orchard here in early January, after peaceful demonstrations to block the bulldozers.

Days later, Naim Morar and his brother, Ayed, were separately arrested by Israeli forces in what was seen here as an effort to break the demonstrations. In each case, an Israeli judge ordered the man's release, saying there was no evidence of ties to terrorism. "I felt that the mere reason for the arrest pertained to the anti-fence protest and nothing beyond that," wrote the judge in his order releasing Naim Morar.

Ayed Morar, 42, has a shiny, puckered scar on his left bicep from a bullet wound in the first intifada. He was throwing stones, he said.

"In my life, I experienced a lot of ways to struggle," he said. "But we are not against the Israelis, and we are not against the Jews. We are just against occupation. We have the right to struggle, but we have to choose the best way." He added that Palestinians were being seen as terrorists around the world, and that "we need international governments to be with us."

That sounds more like a pragmatic argument than a clarion call for nonviolence. Rather than pointing to a break with the past, these demonstrations increasingly offer a return to it -- to the first intifada, when protesters and stone-throwing youths stood up to heavily armed soldiers. That David-and-Goliath imagery gained the Palestinians sympathy worldwide.

As the demonstrators left the construction site and climbed the hill toward the village Friday, a few teenagers ineffectually flung stones toward the soldiers. The soldiers responded with tear gas, sending everyone off with watering eyes and stinging throats.

"The first intifada was more popular because of the stones," said Sanad Shahadi, 18, holding a sling fashioned from rope and a nylon strap.

Asked if the violence conflicted with the demonstration, he said: "It's a symbol. If you throw a stone at a soldier, you won't kill him. It's a message against occupation, not a message to kill."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: A protester and an olive branch in Budros. (Photo by Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)(pg. 1)

The current uprising began with stone throwing and quickly grew much more violent. (Photo by Associated Press)(pg. 4)

Load-Date: February 29, 2004

On the West Bank, a Hint of Resistance Without Blood

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FBI CHIEF HAILS HELP OF ARAB, MUSLIM NATIONS/ HE REPORTS COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 18, 2004 Wednesday Five Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 360 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Terrorist attacks in Arab and Muslim countries have led those governments to vastly improve their cooperation with U.S. authorities in the war on terrorism, particularly in cutting off financing, FBI Director Robert Mueller said Tuesday.

Bombings tied to al-Qaida or its sympathizers have proven to governments around the world that terrorism is not merely a U.S. problem, Mueller told foreign journalists.

"I think countries around the world recognize that numbers of women and children were killed in those senseless acts and don't want to see that happen anywhere in the world," Mueller said.

Although he declined to name specific countries, Mueller said Arab and Muslim countries had made significant strides in helping the United States identify and shut down sources of financing for al-Qaida, Hamas, Hezbollah and other groups.

"You take the money away from terrorists, they cannot operate," Mueller said during an appearance at the State Department's Foreign Press Center.

FBI officials have cited several examples of this cooperation in recent months, including:

- * Setting up a joint U.S.-Saudi task force to investigate and eliminate sources of terrorism financing in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.
- * Joint investigations of terrorism financing networks with local officials in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia.
- * Action taken by both the United States and Saudi Arabia to block accounts in Bosnia and Somalia of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation and Wa'el Hamza Julaidan, described by the FBI as an associate of Osama bin Laden who provided financial support to al-Qaida.
- * Four occasions in which the FBI got information from unnamed foreign governments about financing of a pending terrorist attack and could provide that government with tracking information leading to the arrests of suspects.

FBI CHIEF HAILS HELP OF ARAB, MUSLIM NATIONS/ HE REPORTS COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM

Mueller said that despite the international gains made against al-Qaida and removal of its base in Afghanistan, the group remains a dangerous network with affiliates or sympathizers in many parts of the world. "They are a fragmented operation around the world about which all of us must be concerned," he added.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo headshot - (Robert) Mueller, Doesn't name specific countries

Load-Date: February 18, 2004

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Muslim leader gives Cook a shaking

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

February 23, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 16

Length: 366 words

Body

I HAVE just read about Sheik al-Hilali's claim that Afghan Muslims discovered Australia before Captain Cook and supposedly converted the Aboriginal people to Islam.

The thought occurred to me that if Aborigines have been here for 40,000 years and Islam has been around for only 1500, maybe the Aborigines converted the Muslims.

Phill Cripps, Cranbourne

THE self-proclaimed grand Mufti of Australia's Muslims, Sheik Taj al-Hilali, embraces Islamic suicide bombers who kill women and children and praises Hezbollah and Hamas, the outlawed terrorist groups who organise these massacres.

Perhaps that's why attacks against Jews and Jewish property, particularly in NSW, the ACT and Victoria, have doubled since the Palestinian intifada started and since the Sheik has been inciting violence at his Lakemba mosque.

Why doesn't he come out and say in English what he says in the mosques and in Lebanon?

Better still, why doesn't he leave his Middle East hatreds out of Australia?

Michael Burd, Toorak

I WOULD like to remind all Australians that Sheik al-Hilali is not the leader of all Muslims in Australia, but was appointed by a minor group of Muslims.

He doesn't represent me or my views as an Australian-born Muslim of Turkish background.

I am totally against terrorism. The Koran, like all other religions, teaches peace, love and tolerance.

I am proud to be Australian, Turkish and a Muslim.

Adem, Broadmeadows

IT'S time our Government had a closer shufti at the Mufti. Just who does Sheik al-Hilali think he is?

He appears to have a hidden agenda and should be deported immediately.

Thelma Robinson, Glen Waverley

Muslim leader gives Cook a shaking

SHEIK al-Hilali, thinks Islam has deep roots with the Aborigines because of their customs. I would have thought a people who practiced circumcision and went walkabout in the desert would have more in common with Jews than Muslims.

John Withers, Lara

ANDREW Bolt asks why Muslims call Hilali their Mufti when he is transparently anti-Israel and the Western world and an open admirer of Islamic terrorists?

The reason is obvious: they share Hilali's views but prefer to remain silent to project a moderate front.

Samantha Lee, Doncaster

Load-Date: February 22, 2004

End of Document

Israeli Army Splits With Poles On How to Govern Territories; THE SITUATION

The Forward

October 31, 2003

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Section: News; Pg. 1

Length: 1546 words

Byline: Chemi Shalev

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

With fears growing that Israeli-Palestinian relations are reaching a dangerous stalemate, a power struggle has erupted within the Israeli security establishment over the conduct of Israel's war against terrorism.

Israel's military brass is pressing for an easing of some recent restrictions on the Palestinian population, arguing that the restrictions on movement and economic hardships are "increasing hatred" toward Israel and strengthening extremist groups like Hamas, according to a senior military source. The army's demand has brought the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Moshe Ya'alon, into an unprecedented confrontation with both Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and the head of the Shin Bet General Security Services, Avi Dichter, who insist any lifting of restrictions would allow increased terrorism.

Lending urgency to the debate is the pending formation of a new Palestinian government under the prime minister-designate, Ahmed Qurei, also known as Abu Ala. While most Israeli decision-makers give Qurei slim odds of success in the post, many are equally fearful of the consequences of his failure, warning of a possible meltdown of the Palestinian Authority and the collapse of the Palestinian territories into chaos. Senior military sources warn against Israel's showing Qurei the same "stinginess" that they say contributed to the failure of his predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas.

Ya'alon and his top officers argue that the tough economic measures and severe restrictions of movement imposed on the Palestinians following the October 4 suicide bombing in Haifa, in which 21 people were killed, are fueling extremism and support for terrorism on the Palestinian street, dooming Qurei's admittedly slim chances of success. Mofaz and Dichter counter that the risk of increased terrorism is too great to lift restrictions.

At the same time, Mofaz is secretly pressing Prime Minister Sharon to launch a new initiative of his own, under which Israel would offer to resume transferring territories to Palestinian control, in exchange for a Palestinian pledge to fight terrorism.

Sharon's office has acknowledged to reporters that the prime minister has convened a series of internal government discussions aimed at "examining the situation" and "offering new ideas" on advancing the peace process.

Critics dismiss Sharon's newfound interest in the peace process as a political gambit aimed at deflecting international and local attention from a recent spate of controversial decisions by his government. In recent weeks the government decided to retroactively legalize "illegal outposts" and build new housing in the territories, enhance

Israeli Army Splits With Poles On How to Govern Territories THE SITUATION

funding for Jewish settlements and push ahead with construction of the so-called separation fence along its most expansive lines, which include the town of Ariel, deep inside the West Bank. Both the fence and the settlement construction brought rebukes from the Bush administration this week.

Adding to the pressure on Sharon to produce an initiative is the spurt of diplomatic activities outside the coalition, particularly the hotly disputed Geneva Understandings masterminded by the dovish former justice minister Yossi Beilin. While the government has been dismissive of Beilin's initiative, it has countered it with a steady barrage of criticism and diplomatic countermeasures, suggesting that concerns are higher than officials acknowledge. Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom ordered an unofficial but strongly worded Israeli *démarche* to be submitted to the Swiss authorities, who partly funded Beilin's talks with the Palestinians. Shalom also charged at a Cabinet meeting that France and Belgium were offering \$7 million to finance a public-relations campaign aimed at winning Israeli public support for the understandings. Beilin's aides retorted, "in our dreams."

Still, Beilin's initiative appears to have started a trend. Within Sharon's coalition, the Shinui party, divided over the Beilin initiative and stung by internal critics who say it is part of a "government of paralysis," is said to be devising its own diplomatic initiative. The details have yet to be made public. Meanwhile, well-placed sources say that Labor Party leader Shimon Peres has held clandestine talks with Qurei, aimed at reviving the so-called "Peres-Abu Ala plan" first formulated at the end of 2001. That plan called for an interim Palestinian state to be established within eight weeks on territory comprising 42% of the West Bank, in the areas designated as "A" and "B" - partly or fully Palestinian-controlled - under the Oslo accords. Both sides were supposed to aim to reach a permanent agreement within one year.

According to knowledgeable sources, Peres is trying to convince Qurei to extend the short timetable mandated in their original plan, in order to make it more palatable to Sharon. If he succeeds, Peres will then try to persuade Sharon to adopt the amended agreement and form a new national unity government. Alternatively, if Sharon refuses, Peres will launch an all-out political campaign against the Likud government, accusing it of "squandering a chance" to achieve peace.

Western diplomatic sources who maintain close contacts with the Palestinian prime minister say that despite his public statements of support for the U.S.-backed road map to peace, Qurei is actively seeking a way around the road map's requirement that the Palestinians first dismantle the so-called infrastructure of terrorist organizations. The sources maintain that Abu Ala is seeking a package deal that would promise the Palestinians immediate and tangible achievements, such as the limited state envisaged in the Peres-Abu Ala plan or even a "Gaza First" scenario.

A senior military source told the Forward this week that Qurei's first step is to try to achieve a new and comprehensive cease-fire with the militant Palestinian groups, including Hamas, and to then demand from Israel a reciprocal halt to all military actions. Israeli intelligence, the source said, believes that Hamas is indeed interested in securing a lull in the fighting and is therefore conducting a dialogue with Qurei and that the main obstacle was and remains Yasser Arafat. The source maintained that Qurei is a wily and sometimes ruthless politician who may be better suited to "neutralize" Arafat than his luckless predecessor, Abbas.

The senior military source said that Qurei's chances of success would be greatly influenced by the outcome of the American campaign against terrorists in Iraq. The source said that a veritable "conglomerate of terrorism," including Al Qaeda, Iran and Hezbollah, has joined Saddam loyalists in an all-out effort to combat U.S. forces in Iraq. The terrorists' aim is to sway American public opinion to press for a complete U.S. withdrawal. That, the source said, would be seen by the Palestinians as a victory for extremism and would probably create even more turbulence in the occupied territories.

Thus, while Sharon is said to be content to await news of Arafat's failing health before making any real move, there is growing concern in the army that time is running out and that Israel must act now to try to preserve Qurei's new government. In private conversations, Ya'alon and other top officers have voiced worries that the Israeli public may be losing some of its vaunted fortitude - as well as its confidence in the army's abilities.

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A top military source told the Forward that the Haifa suicide bombing, though not the bloodiest terrorist attack since the start of the intifada, had a devastating effect on Israeli public opinion, deepening a national mood of gloom and despair.

The military itself has come under unusually sharp criticism lately. On one hand, it faces accusations both at home and abroad of causing needless civilian casualties in airborne strikes against the Palestinians. On the other hand, mainstream critics charge that command errors were at fault in a series of recent successful ambushes of Israeli units, in the West Bank and in the Gaza settlement of Netzarim, in which seven Israeli soldiers were killed.

The harshest criticism, however, is over policy, not execution. The Netzarim incident, which left two unarmed ***female*** soldiers dead, has revived a long-standing debate over the wisdom and necessity of maintaining the isolated Jewish settlement in the middle of Gaza. Despite recurring calls to abandon the settlement unilaterally, however, both Sharon and the army expressed adamant opposition, claiming that such a withdrawal would be construed as a "triumph for terror."

Finally, it should be noted that while the political and bureaucratic tug-of-war about the next move toward the Palestinians is gathering steam, there are those who believe that the momentous events will come from another quarter altogether: the ongoing investigation of Sharon's alleged involvement in campaign finance abuse. Sharon was interrogated by the police this week, and according to well-placed sources, "the evidence against him is mounting."

A police recommendation to prosecute Sharon, or even just one of his sons, would throw the Israeli political system into mayhem, with Sharon having to fight for his own political life. The situation with the Palestinians, no matter how critical, would then take a backseat and await its turn.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

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The Pilots' Rebellion

New York Sun (Archive)

September 30, 2003 Tuesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 901 words

Byline: By HILLEL HALKIN

Body

The "pilots' rebellion," which took the form of a letter sent last week to the commander of the Israeli Air Force by 27 active and former combat pilots who announced their refusal to take part in targeted "assassinations" of Palestinian terrorists, will have more effect on Israel's image abroad than it will have on Israel itself. Most Israelis know what those elsewhere may not - namely, that the signers of the letter are a tiny percentage of the Air Force's fliers; that two-thirds of them are too old to fly combat missions; and that all 27 were motivated by political as well as humanitarian considerations. All, that is, belong to an Israeli Left that objects not only to air-launched "assassinations" in particular but to an unyielding stance toward Palestinian terrorism in general.

On the face of it, it is hard to see what the 27 pilots find so "immoral," as their letter put it, about Israel's policy of targeted killings. On the contrary, what, within the context of a campaign against terror, could be more moral than the attempt to specifically kill the enemy's commanders and perpetrators by singling them out from the population among which they live? If anything, this is a more moral approach to warfare than that of conventional battlefields, where, though everyone may be in uniform, most participants tend to be soldiers forced to take part in a war that they would have preferred, if only for reasons of self-preservation, not to fight in. In what sense, one might ask, was it more justifiable for Israeli pilots to drop thousands of tons of bombs on Arab conscripts in 1967 and 1973 than it is for an Israeli pilot today to fire rockets at vehicle or houses in Gaza in which recruiters and dispatchers of terrorist murderers are present?

Two answers are commonly given to this question. The first is that, unlike a soldier, whose uniform provides unmistakable identification, a suspected terrorist has not been proven guilty in court; to assassinate him on the basis of a suspicion alone, without a proper trial, is in-admissable. The second contention is that, even if he is unequivocally guilty, innocent bystanders may be killed in killing him. This is what happened in July 2002, for instance, when 15 Palestinians, among them women and children, died in an Israeli helicopter attack on the home of Saleh Shahadeh, Hamas's military commander in Gaza.

The first of these arguments is entirely specious. Israeli intelligence on Palestinian terrorists is excellent; out of many dozens of targeted killings carried out by Israel during the current intifada, no more than two or three have been claimed by the Palestinians themselves to have been aimed at innocent individuals. Moreover, the suggestion that suspected terrorists be arrested and given a legal trial is, practically speaking, ludicrous. The Palestinian Authority has made it crystal-clear that that it has no intention of arresting anyone, much less turning him over to Israel; while for Israel to do so would mean sending ground troops not only to apprehend the accused, an action that could itself result in innocent deaths, but also to kidnap all the Palestinian witnesses needed to convict against

The Pilots' Rebellion

him. Is this a procedure that the 27 pilots, or the numerous critics of targeted killings in the international media and community, care to recommend?

As for the innocent deaths caused by targeted Israeli killings: Yes, these are regrettable - but let us keep a sense of perspective. Civilians are almost always killed in wars, sometimes in huge numbers, by pilots massively bombing legitimate military and industrial targets; why is this less to be condemned than the relatively small number of civilian deaths incurred in the Palestinian territories during pinpoint attacks on terrorists? On the whole, Israel's Air Force has shown an admirable commitment to minimizing such collateral damage - too admirable, some would say. To take one example, the reason for the failed assassination on September 6 of **Hamas** leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and several of his close colleagues was the Air Force's decision to use a smaller bomb than its experts had recommended so as not to endanger the inhabitants of nearby houses.

Ironically, the letter of the 27 pilots, as intellectually misguided as it may be, is itself an indication of the high moral standards of the Israeli military. In what other army or air force in the world could such a thing have happened? American and European pilots in the first Gulf War, over Serbia, and in the recent campaign in Iraq were responsible for many more non-combatant casualties than the Israeli Air Force has been in Gaza and the West Bank, yet not one of them refused to fly their missions for fear of killing innocent victims. It is only in the "immoral" armed forces of Israel that the kind of debates go on that make a protest like that of the 27 pilots possible.

Unfortunately, however, this is not how their letter will be treated in much of the world. There it will be cited as one more proof of Israeli barbarity toward the Palestinians - a barbarity so great that some of the most renowned of Israel's own warriors have felt compelled to speak out against it. How many people outside of Israel will realize that the pilots' protest is something for Israelis to feel doubly proud of: Once because they have an army in which such things can occur and once because the pilots are wrong?

Load-Date: September 30, 2003

The moral nihilism of suicide bombing

Ottawa Citizen

July 14, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A10; Editorial

Length: 377 words

Body

A Middle East export has reached Russia, and it's not figs. In recent days, female suicide bombers have killed dozens of people on the streets of Moscow. In the latest incident, a 29-year-old Russian soldier, Maj. Georgy Trofimova, died trying to defuse a bomb taken from a woman who intended to detonate it inside a crowded restaurant. A week earlier, Maj. Trofimova was hailed as a hero for defusing another bomb at a rock concert where 16 people were killed. The Ottawa Citizen

Suicide terrorists, the ultimate "smart bombs" as they're sometimes called, have for years been the weapon of choice for Palestinian terrorist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, outfits that do not hesitate to recruit women and teenagers to blow themselves up. Now, it seems, a variant of this pathology has infected the Chechen rebels who also erroneously believe that terrorism is the route to independence.

Some will undoubtedly argue that the Chechens, like Palestinians, are forced to use desperate measures because they face a much more powerful enemy. This is moral nihilism, and it must be rejected. There are many places in the world where people suffer desperate circumstances, yet they do not strap bombs on women or children and send them into restaurants and theatres to commit mass murder.

Any community that consumes its young in such rage and resentment has lost touch with the fundamental requirement of humanity -- the recognition that every life is valuable. Suicide bombing is a strategy of people who have succumbed to an ideology of hatred and self-loathing. A society that celebrates the immolation of its young, that honours women who kill other women, is spiritually ailing.

How do we confront this sickness? Our first concern must be self-protection. In other words, a military response: Terrorism must be fought wherever it occurs. And although Palestinians, Chechens and others may have legitimate grievances, you cannot negotiate with someone while he's wearing a suicide belt. As Israeli political theorist Yaron Ezrahi has explained, "a big test is taking place of whether suicide terrorism can succeed as a strategy for liberation." Russia has become the latest testing ground for this horror; it must be stopped there lest it metastasize further.

Load-Date: July 14, 2003

Day of bloodshed in northern Gaza Strip

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 1, 2004 Friday

Third Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 15

Length: 383 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem, and agencies

Body

An Israeli tank fired a shell at a group of Palestinians, killing seven people during heavy fighting in the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza yesterday, witnesses and medical officials said.

The incident took place near Jabalya's main market, scene of gun battles between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen. The Palestinian witnesses said they believed the dead were civilians and not armed men.

Five children were among earlier casualties as violence intensified between Israelis and Palestinians around the northern Gaza Strip.

The day before a two-year-old boy and a girl, aged four, were killed and at least 13 people injured when a Palestinian rocket struck the Israeli town of Sderot, close to the northern end of the sealed-off Palestinian enclave.

Earlier on Wednesday, three Palestinian schoolboys were shot dead by Israeli soldiers in two separate incidents inside Gaza, and several more were shot and wounded.

The latest upsurge in killing comes as more than 100 Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles mount the third raid in as many months into northern Gaza in an attempt to deter the firing of homemade missiles at Israeli towns and Jewish settlements inside the strip.

Yesterday, Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli woman jogging along a road connecting the Jewish settlements of Elei Sinai and Dugit, military sources said.

Israel Radio reported a second Israeli was also killed in the attack but provided no additional details. Soldiers who rushed to the scene returned fire and killed at least one gunman, sources said.

It was the second deadly ambush by militants in Gaza yesterday. Earlier, two **Hamas** gunmen struck an army position near the Jabalya refugee camp, killing a soldier before they were shot dead.

Earlier this week a 24-year-old **female** American immigrant became the first Gaza settler to be killed by a Palestinian missile since the present intifada began, prompting the latest incursion.

Palestinians say that an armed man was also killed on Wednesday when Israeli soldiers shot dead two boys, aged 17 and 14, as they threw stones at Israeli tanks entering Jabalya.

Day of bloodshed in northern Gaza Strip

A boy of 13 was shot dead by Israeli soldiers as he threw stones near the Gaza Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

The Israeli Government has signalled the intensification of its campaign inside the Gaza Strip.

Graphic

PHOTO: Under attack ... Israeli casualties in Sderot. Photo: Reuters

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

READERS RESPOND

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 29, 2003 Friday

Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial;; Letters

Length: 891 words

Byline: AARON WATSON, JOHNNY PAYTON, JOHN FROUDE, CHRIS CREECH, STUART HILL, MARK MUSICK, HAROLD KIRTZ, HERBERT SHAFER

Body

Honoring Jackson: Park would show vision

Atlantans should consider the work that Maynard Jackson would want us to continue, the hard work that he personified. He would be best honored by taking on one of today's problems and naming the resulting success after him. Renaming a thing, a place, a building, is too easy.

For example, we could create a magnificent new park reflective of Jackson's vast acumen, understanding and generous nature. A new destination park, the rival of Hyde Park or Central Park or Golden Gate Park, would be a fitting homage.

For the Journal-Constitution

Atlantans can take this opportunity to aggregate 100 acres or more of underutilized land --- from Northside Drive across from the Georgia Dome, to the Atlanta University Center --- to create a greenway named in honor of Maynard Jackson. This great park would symbolize Jackson's grand vision and serve as a magnificent "coming-together place," so apt for our mayor who loved people and was deeply committed to bringing folks together.

Another possibility would be to build more affordable housing. City Hall East, a Jackson creation, could become a mixed-use development, including high-end and desperately needed low- to moderate-priced housing.

Let us be inspired to new heroic efforts. Then, like our fallen leader, let us get to work.

AARON WATSON, Atlanta

Naming proposal could bear fruit

The debate over whether to rename the Atlanta airport to honor former mayors has been elevated to a level that is both unbearable and embarrassing for the city.

READERS RESPOND

Here is my suggestion: Let's place a peach on the sidewalk of Peachtree Street or around the capital. In the center of the peach would be the likeness of the person being honored, similar to the stars on Hollywood Boulevard.

JOHNNY PAYTON, Atlanta

Cost-effective tribute to trio

Let's kill three birds with one stone: Take Andrew Jackson's photograph off the \$20 bill but leave the name Jackson in the center of the bill in a large, attractive font.

Then we will have Andrew and Maynard covered, and we won't have to do anything new for Jesse when the time comes.

JOHN FROUDE, Tucker

'Queer eye' looks beyond pricey, trendy

I was a little taken aback and, as a gay man, actually a bit insulted by Sandra Eckstein's article on where you would go for a makeover in Atlanta ("Queer eye for the Atlanta guy," Living, Aug. 28).

Being gay and having a "queer eye" is definitely not just about shopping at the priciest and most trendy places. Taste and sensibility come much more from being creative, informed and just knowing how to make things work. No self-respecting gay person would squander \$2,400 on a 10-person party when you could easily spend half that much for an absolutely fab affair and have enough left for a quick weekend jaunt to New York or Miami.

CHRIS CREECH, Atlanta

Conservatives change spots

Well, you learn something new every day. The same tough-talking, "bring 'em on" conservatives who didn't serve when their country needed them, the same tough-talking conservatives who said people in Hollywood should keep their mouths shut about politics, are now falling all over themselves to jump on the bandwagon for Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose unwelcomed sexual advances have been the stuff of legend for decades.

And I thought only women could have penis envy.

STUART HILL, Atlanta

Race gap the real story with SAT scores

There is distressing news for Georgia in the SAT scores, but it is not the nonsense that Georgia's scores for 56,000 students trail the scores in states such as North Dakota, where only a few hundred students take the SAT. The huge, unacceptable gap between scores for black and white students in Georgia and other states is a headline we should see and one that should spur us to action.

There are certain facts about the SAT (and the ACT taken by several thousand Georgia seniors) that Georgians should know, but how Georgia "ranks" compared with the 26 states where few students take the SAT may be the least important.

MARK MUSICK

Musick, of Atlanta, is president of the Southern Regional Education Board.

Middle East: Terrorist groups prevent peace

READERS RESPOND

The editorial "The cost to salvage peace in Mideast likely too steep" (@issue, Aug. 26) described the Arab-Israeli conflict as a cycle of violence. This, unfortunately, equates the targeting of members of a terrorist organization with the bombing of innocent civilians, including many children. The two are not equal. How could they be?

The "cycle of violence" is often cited by the media to describe this conflict. However, if **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups stopped their terror attacks, we would see a cycle of peace.

The goal of dismantling the terror infrastructure remains the key element in the success of the road map. Once that occurs, other elements will fall into place, and the cycle of peace will be a reality.

HAROLD KIRTZ

Kirtz, of Atlanta, is chairman of the community relations committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

Acts justified

If someone will please come up with one sound reason why **Hamas**, Hezbollah and al-Qaida should suspend armed resistance, and all that it connotes, against Israel as long as even one Israeli occupies Palestinian soil, I'll buy them a case of Dom Perignon.

Would that airhead President Bush allow any armed enemy to occupy our soil without armed resistance?

HERBERT SHAFER, Atlanta

Graphic

Photo: Maynard Jackson; Photo: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Load-Date: August 30, 2003

Five children killed in Gaza Strip battles

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 1, 2004 Friday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 15

Length: 397 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem, and agencies

Body

Five children are among the dead as violence intensified between Israelis and Palestinians around the northern Gaza Strip.

Ten Palestinians and three Israelis were killed yesterday as Israeli troops thrust deep into Gaza. The day before a two-year-old boy and a girl, aged four, were killed and at least 13 people injured when a Palestinian rocket struck the Israeli town of Sderot, close to the northern end of the sealed-off Palestinian enclave.

Earlier on Wednesday, three Palestinian schoolboys were shot dead by Israeli soldiers in two separate incidents inside Gaza, and several more were shot and wounded.

The latest upsurge in killing comes as more than 100 Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles mount the third raid in as many months into northern Gaza in an attempt to deter the firing of homemade missiles at Israeli towns and Jewish settlements inside the strip.

Yesterday, Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli woman jogging along a road connecting the Jewish settlements of Elei Sinai and Dugit, military sources said.

Israel Radio reported a second Israeli was also killed in the attack but provided no additional details. Soldiers who rushed to the scene returned fire and killed at least one gunman, sources said.

It was the second deadly ambush by militants in Gaza yesterday. Earlier, two **Hamas** gunmen struck an army position near the Jabalya refugee camp, killing a soldier before they were shot dead.

Earlier this week a 24-year-old **female** American immigrant became the first Gaza settler to be killed by a Palestinian missile since the present intifada began, prompting the latest incursion.

Palestinians say that an armed man was also killed on Wednesday when Israeli soldiers shot dead two boys, aged 17 and 14, as they threw stones at Israeli tanks entering Jabalya.

A boy of 13 was shot dead by Israeli soldiers as he threw stones near the Gaza Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

The Israeli Government has signalled the intensification of its campaign inside the Gaza Strip in response to the latest Israeli casualties. The office of the Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, said that the defence forces "would respond with severity and use all measures to respond and stop the firing of [missiles]".

Five children killed in Gaza Strip battles

The Israeli deaths from Palestinian missile fire are an embarrassment for Mr Sharon's Government, coinciding as they do with a series of raids into Gaza designed to deter rocket fire.

Graphic

PHOTO: Under attack ... Israeli casualties in Sderot. Photo: Reuters

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Suicide bombings in Israel kill at least 16

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 19

Length: 382 words

Byline: Associated Press; Canadian Press

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, Israel

Body

BEERSHEBA, Israel (AP-CP) -- Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses almost simultaneously in this southern city Tuesday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in the first major attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The explosions, for which the **Hamas** militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 metres from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter, 50, a college lecturer.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

After the attacks, Sharon met with top security officials to plan a response, and more talks were scheduled later in the evening. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might," Sharon said, adding that he would push forward with the Gaza pullout. "This has no connection to disengagement," he said.

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

Suicide bombings in Israel kill at least 16

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

The attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Israeli police officers and Zaka rescue and recovery volunteers work inside and next to a bus destroyed in a double-bombing in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID?

The Sun
July 10, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Length: 366 words

Byline: Clodagh Hartley and David Wooding

Body

I'm nice, rants cleric

HATE-filled cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi tried to con Britain yesterday -by saying he's a good guy.

He accused his critics of mounting a smear campaign as he preached to 3,000 British Muslims.

Aware that undercover cops in the crowd were hearing every word, he insisted he was a man of peace and reason.

The sheik's translator claimed later: "He has only ever said two things -that you must worship God and that you have to be good to your fellow human beings."

But the sham was exposed last night after we dug up his vile teachings dating back SEVEN years.

The poisonous preacher has urged his followers to kill Jews, beat their wives - and even conquer Europe.

But yesterday Al-Qaradawi tried to paint a different picture before worshippers at the Central London Mosque.

He slammed the "venomous" portrayal of his beliefs and blamed The Sun for the uproar over his visit.

He said: "Have those who who have entered into this attack ever read my works?"

Outside the mosque angry young Muslims shouted abuse at journalists for "distorting the truth".

But we have read every word he has written -and we have distorted nothing.

He has ranted: "Islam will return to Europe as a conqueror". And in a sermon in Doha in March 2003, Al-Qaradawi said: "O God, destroy the Zionist, the American and the British aggressors."

He claimed suicide bombings were justified, whether against US troops in Iraq or women and children in Israel.

Days after the bomb attack in Bali 18 months ago, he said: "Islam does agree to such acts."

Al-Qaradawi claimed in a sermon on Qatar TV that Hamas terrorists "are the mouthpiece of the Islamic nation all over the world".

He has said: "If an innocent child is killed as a result of Jihad, it was not intended, but due to the necessities of war."

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID?

He wrote that a husband is justified in beating his wife to maintain order in his home.

On his Shari'a And Life programme of October 5, 1997, Al-Qaradawi said: "Beating is permitted when the wife rebels against her husband."

But yesterday he toned down his rantings after Home Secretary David Blunkett warned he would hear every word.

Al-Qaradawi left with his head down in a silver Mercedes with tinted windows.

Load-Date: July 11, 2004

End of Document

Fresh violence stirs Mideast tension

The International Herald Tribune

July 4, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 954 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: BEIT HANUN, Gaza Strip:

Body

After several days of progress in Middle East peacemaking, the effort stumbled Thursday as Israeli troops pursued and killed a Palestinian militant in a West Bank town and Palestinian gunmen fired on Israeli targets in the Gaza Strip, prompting the brief closure of a recently reopened road.

The Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, toured Beit Hanun, a northern Gaza town hard-hit during a recent Israeli military occupation, and criticized the extensive damage to homes, factories and farms. But he also had sharp words for the Palestinian gunmen who have been shooting at Israelis.

"These are acts of sabotage and we do not accept them," Abbas said as he stood in the rubble of a tile factory that was trashed by the Israeli forces. "We now have security agreements with Israel."

The New York Times

Calls by Abbas for an end to the armed Palestinian uprising have earned him renewed support from the White House. President George W. Bush telephoned Abbas on Thursday and thanked him "for his strong leadership," according to the president's spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

By themselves, the incidents Thursday did not seriously threaten the peace effort, which has seen several key developments this week, including a truce declaration by three Palestinian factions and Israeli troop pullbacks in Gaza and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

But collectively the confrontations reflected the tense atmosphere and the ever-present threat of a major blowup that could set back the effort.

The disturbances did not prevent the latest release of Palestinian prisoners. Thirty-three Palestinians were freed, along with Suleiman Abu Mutlaq, a senior security commander in Gaza. Israel seized Abu Mutlaq two months ago on suspicion of involvement in violence.

Israel has released close to 300 Palestinian prisoners in recent weeks, but is still holding more than 5,000 others who were seized during the current round of fighting, according to human rights groups.

In the West Bank town of Qalqilya, Israeli troops on an arrest raid shot and killed a leader of the militant Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and arrested one of his colleagues.

Fresh violence stirs Mideast tension

Despite the pullback this week, Israeli soldiers are still operating in most West Bank towns. The forces were attempting to detain the two Al Aqsa leaders in Qalqilya, but the men fled the home where they were staying, the army said.

The soldiers shot and killed Mahmoud Shawar and arrested Ibrahim Yassin, both of whom were armed, the army said. The two men were linked to a June 17 roadside shooting that killed an Israeli girl, the army added.

Israel says it will not withdraw its troops from additional towns in the West Bank until Palestinian security forces are ready to take over and carry out arrests of suspected militants. However, Abbas says he does not want to use force against the Palestinian factions.

The issue looms as a potential stumbling block as the two sides prepare to move forward with the Middle East peace plan, known as the road map.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian militants fired anti-tank rockets at the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom just before midnight Wednesday, lightly wounding four Israelis.

The attack was claimed by the Popular Resistance Committees, a group that was initially made up of various Palestinian factions, but which now appear to operate independently. In a statement, the group said it was against the Palestinian truce.

In response, Israeli bulldozers placed cement barriers on the main north-south road in Gaza, near the site of the shooting. However, the road was reopened several hours later, and the Israeli action was seen by many observers as largely symbolic.

Israeli troops removed the checkpoints Sunday, allowing Palestinians to move easily on the road for the first time since shortly after the fighting broke out in September 2000.

Palestinian gunmen on Thursday fired three times on Israeli soldiers guarding settlements elsewhere in southern Gaza, but no one was hurt, the army said.

Meanwhile, Abbas has made relatively few public appearances since assuming power two months ago, and has yet to mingle with the Palestinian public.

In Beit Hanun on Thursday his tour was limited to the battered tile factory and the government office in town.

"Our feelings are a mixture of pain and hope," Abbas said in brief remarks at the end of his visit. "What we witnessed was great destruction of infrastructure, agriculture and industry."

Palestinian residents who lost their homes and are living in roadside tents, tried to stop the Abbas' 20-car motorcade as it raised a dust cloud on roads chewed up Israeli military vehicles.

Several women stood in the middle of the street and waved their arms for the convoy to halt, but it sped past.

"We are so disappointed he didn't visit. He is new to his job and he needs our support," said Intisar Basuni, 42. "Maybe he's afraid. Maybe he's busy."

Her husband Ramadan Basuni added, "Maybe he doesn't respect us."

Two months ago The Basunis lost their home and olive, grape and almond trees when the Israeli Army charged into Beit Hanun and flattened homes and orchards that the militants were using for cover. Now family members are living in a tent.

Since three Palestinian factions declared a truce Sunday, gunmen have

opened fire on Israeli targets 14 times in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Army said.

Fresh violence stirs Mideast tension

There have been no attacks inside Israel's 1967 borders.

A senior Israeli military official said that at present, the army was most concerned with **Hamas** extremists in the northern West Bank.

The official said that in general **Hamas** was seen as a disciplined organization. But these cells, which are believed to be funded by Iran, are determined to carry out attacks to undermine the truce, the official said.

Load-Date: July 4, 2003

End of Document

Time for the truth about this sinister brotherhood

The Times (London)

August 11, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 16

Length: 957 words

Byline: Anthony Browne

Body

The Left's love affair with the Muslim Association hides a frightening agenda.

WHAT SORT of mind could believe that the Holocaust, the industrialised murder of six million civilians, was an act of God to punish Jews? And what sort of people would promote him?

Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian scholar, wrote in his essay Our struggle with the Jews that Jews have been punished for their "unprecedented abominations", but "then the Jews again returned to evildoing and consequently Allah sent against them others of His servants, until the modern period. Then Allah sent Hitler to rule over them."

Qutb, born in 1906, dedicated his life to making the world a fundamentalist Islamic state, and is seen as the spiritual inspiration of al-Qaeda. He is also promoted by the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), our most active Islamic political group. The MAB has on its website a glowing account of Qutb's life, concluding that he died smiling "showing his conviction of the beautiful life to come in paradise -a life he definitely and rightfully deserved".

The MAB says that it is opposed to anti-Semitism, but this is as convincing as the British National Party's saying it is opposed to racism. The MAB published an article calling Jews "vampires", claiming that it was written by Benjamin Franklin; in fact it was a forgery. The MAB's high-profile spokesman, Azzam Tamimi, a Palestinian academic, wrote: "If they want to be as human as anybody else, Jews must wake up before it is too late."

On its website, MAB has equated Israel with Nazi Germany. The Internet Watch Foundation (a partnership between the Government and service providers) has referred the website -along with that of the BNP -to the Home Office for containing allegedly criminally racist material.

The MAB was founded in 1997 by Kamal el-Helbawy, then the London-based spokesman in Europe for the Muslim Brotherhood, a pro-terrorism group that has been largely responsible for the rise of militant Islam in recent decades, and claims to have taken part in most pro-Islamic conflicts including Afghanistan and Kashmir. The brotherhood's objective is: "Mastering the World with Islam", and its motto concludes: "Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope." Anas al-Tikriti, a past president of the MAB, is the son of Osama al-Tikriti, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Iraq.

It has branches in 70 countries, often under different names. In Palestine it is **Hamas**, which pioneered the use of suicide bombers, and whose aim is to destroy Israel. **Hamas** is banned as a terrorist organisation in both the UK and the US, but Dr Tamimi has said he not only supports it, but has also advised it on its public relations strategy.

Time for the truth about this sinister brotherhood

The MAB was more than just founded by the Muslim Brotherhood's European spokesman, according to the Labour MP Louise Ellman, who told Parliament last year: "The Muslim Association of Britain itself is a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood."

Ahmed Sheikh, MAB's president, says they are "not ashamed" to admit that they share some of the teachings of the Muslim Brotherhood, but insists: "We have no link with any international organisation outside this country."

It was the MAB that invited the controversial cleric Dr Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual leader, to London last month. Dr al-Qaradawi is editor-in-chief of Islamonline.net, which insists that it is the duty of Muslims to "achieve supremacy on earth and put their enemies to rout" and "the means for doing so is taking up arms in addition to preparation, financing and planning strategies".

The MAB says it wants to help Muslims to integrate in the West, but it doesn't believe in liberal democracy. Dr Tamimi wrote this month in a Lebanese newspaper that it is "a futile effort to try and reformulate Islam in order to espouse liberalism; this would simply be the end of Islam as a divine revelation". Dr Tamimi, who shocked a Cambridge University debate by saying that many Arab women ask for domestic violence, insisted that the punishment for thieves must be amputation because the Koran "tells us in the clearest possible terms faqtaw aydiyahuma (cut off their hands)".

THE MAB rose to national prominence in co-organising the Stop the War Coalition, and launched the pro-hijab campaign to oppose the banning of the Islamic veil in schools. Many leftwingers have joined the campaign on the ground of women's right to choose, even though they are joining forces with Dr al-Qaradawi, who insists women must be forced to wear the hijab.

Like the BNP, the MAB presents a moderate face to hide its extremism. Just as the BNP says it represents mainstream Britain, MAB says it represents mainstream British Muslims. But there the similarity ends. Unlike the BNP, which is rightly tackled at every turn, the MAB is uncritically accepted by the liberal Left, including the BBC, The Guardian and The Independent.

When I debated on the BBC with MAB last week, I briefed the producer on MAB, but I was told not to bring it up. When I did the presenter silenced me.

The liberal Left need to ask themselves what they hope to achieve by giving such uncritical support to Islamic extremism. They may believe, in their naivety, that they are helping to combat Islamophobia, which is indeed a real problem. But instead they are encouraging it. The hijacking of legitimate Muslim political activity by extremists will not reduce community tensions in Britain, but exacerbate them.

Islam has contributed a lot to the world, Britain's Muslim community has contributed a lot to Britain and Muslims should definitely get involved politically. But the rise of Islamic extremism in the UK is one of the biggest challenges Britain faces, and it is Britain's moderate Muslims who have most to lose.

Correction

See letter in response, 'The Muslim Association of Britain, from Anas Altikriti, August 17, p17.

Load-Date: August 25, 2004

Fighting rages in Gaza Strip: 3 dead, homes razed as troops seek dead comrades

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 15, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. D2; News

Length: 352 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara

Dateline: RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

Body

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP -- Heavy fighting was reported in this refugee camp Friday, killing two Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian man and trapping frightened residents in their homes, the army and witnesses said.

Troops seized several houses and army bulldozers knocked down at least nine buildings on the edge of the camp, trying to secure the area for soldiers searching for the remains of five others killed there in a blast earlier in the week.

Military officials said that once this search was over, the army could launch a wide-scale move to expand a military patrol road between the camp and the Egyptian border -- a move that would see hundreds of houses in Rafah flattened.

The Associated Press

During Friday clashes, gunmen moved through the narrow alleys of the camp, firing homemade rockets and rifles at the troops.

The Israelis responded with missiles launched from helicopter gunships and heavy machine-gun fire.

One soldier was shot as he escorted a Palestinian women out of a house troops had commandeered, the army said. A force who tried to evacuate him were hit by sniper fire that killed another soldier and wounded two others, the army said.

Helicopters airlifted the wounded soldiers to hospital in Israel.

The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the shooting and said they would release footage of the attack.

On the Palestinian side, one man was killed in a missile strike and a second died when an explosive device blew up prematurely. Eight Palestinians were wounded, two seriously.

Residents were trapped in their homes by the heavy fighting. Hisham Mohammed, 35, said he was stuck on the third floor of his apartment building and the rest of his family on the ground floor. "I am not able to go downstairs because bullets tore a big gap in the wall near the stairs," he said.

Fighting rages in Gaza Strip: 3 dead, homes razed as troops seek dead comrades

Local officials in Rafah said bulldozers tore down nine homes Friday close to the patrol road that runs between Rafah and the Egyptian border.

On that road, an armoured personnel carrier transporting a tonne of explosives was blown up by a homemade rocket Wednesday, killing five soldiers

Graphic

Colour Photo: Nasser Nasser, AP photo; SITTING AMONG THE RUINS: Palestinian Mohammed Abu Daher sits at his family's demolished house in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The Israeli army demolished the family house of Palestinian prisoner Raed Abu Daher in Israel early Friday.

Load-Date: May 15, 2004

End of Document

Murder in the guise of honour

Ottawa Citizen

February 12, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A19; Opinion

Length: 409 words

Body

Disgusting: The following commentary was published in the Feb. 9 edition of The New Republic.

Ideology is notoriously incapable of describing reality truthfully, which is why its career is regularly marked by disappointment; but sometimes the description is so false that it seems not so much a mistake as a wilful misrepresentation based on a dogma or a desire.

The recent history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has provided a textbook lesson in the confounding of progressivism by the particulars of history. How, after all, can the Palestinians, so hallowed on the left, allow their noble anti-Zionist cause, their magnificent road to statehood, to be advanced by such means as suicide bombing -- worse, by suicide bombing animated by the supremely regressive spirit of militant Islam?

The New Republic

This is not exactly what Fanon had in mind. But it gets worse. Consider the recent horror of Reem Salah Al Reyashi, the 22-year-old mother of two small children, who blew herself and four Israelis to bits at a border crossing in Gaza on Jan. 14. Is this how Palestinian women are supposed to discover their historical agency? (Hamas is turning increasingly to terrorist women because terrorist men are more easily spotted by the Israeli police.) Where is the wrath of the feminists?

Then the Israeli paper Yediot Aharonot reported that this twisted woman's action had nothing whatsoever to do with historical agency: She was forced to do the deed as penance for an extramarital affair.

Strictly speaking, those four Israelis died not in a suicide bombing but in an honour killing.

The details are breathtaking. The woman's lover strapped the bomb around her waist, and the woman's husband drove her to the scene. Her family did not set up the customary tent of mourning for her, since her religious and political glory was born of sexual and familial disgrace.

Her husband subsequently denied the story of his wife's adultery, praising her as "an honourable woman who sacrificed her life for the sake of Islam and Palestine." Oh, and as a good mother.

Who are these "activists" for whom adultery is more heinous than murder? Is such a mentality not as repulsive, not as much of an obstacle to peace, as an "outpost" on a hill near Nablus? But the progressives of the day, the peace-processors and the road-mappers, the diabolizers of Israel (or -- this is the more measured view -- of Ariel Sharon), have somehow managed to stifle their disgust.

Load-Date: February 12, 2004

Murder in the guise of honour

End of Document

***U.S.-Israeli link outrages Arabs;
Palestinians, Iraqis decry their 'occupiers'***

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 14, 2004 Wednesday

Home Edition

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**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: News;

Length: 951 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Body

Jerusalem --- For those concerned with America's image in the Middle East, today's scheduled meeting between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon couldn't come at a worse time.

Images of U.S. soldiers fighting Iraqis last week flooded the Middle East and fueled enraged comparisons of the U.S. military occupation of Iraq to Israel's hold on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It's a dismaying portrayal for a White House concerned with reshaping the Middle East. But it's a characterization that could stick if Bush agrees with Sharon's request to annex major swaths of the West Bank. Palestinians likely would see that move as killing their vision of statehood, and Arabs would view it as confirmation of their fear that America and Israel are waging war against Muslims.

Cox International Correspondent

"They are both occupiers, and all that they are interested about is controlling the Muslims' wealth," said Hussein Baker, a 40-year-old fisherman living in the Gaza Strip.

Perception in Arab world

Many in the Bush White House dispute the widely held view that the problems of security and modernization in the Middle East revolve around a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But as it tries to quell violence in Iraq, the administration might not be able to sidestep the perception so easily.

Ordinary Arabs have long viewed the Palestinians as an underdog worthy of their moral and financial support. This perspective is fueled by stories of penniless refugees hounded from their homes by Israeli soldiers in 1948. And it is bolstered by modern tales of the Israeli armed forces, equipped with U.S. weapons, destroying Palestinian homes and killing children.

U.S. - Israeli link outrages Arabs; Palestinians, Iraqis decry their 'occupiers'

So the leap from Palestinian suffering to Iraqi suffering is not far-fetched for Arab observers who don't see a clear political strategy by the United States in Iraq and don't believe America's promises of bringing a better life to the Iraqi people.

At a rally after last Friday's prayers in Gaza, the Islamic Hamas movement --- the group that has claimed responsibility for the majority of suicide bombings against Israelis --- praised the Iraqi fighters for their steadfast resistance against the "occupiers." Until the U.S. campaign in Iraq began, this word was reserved only for "the Zionist State," as militants call Israel. Last week, papers in Turkey, Syria, Egypt and Sudan applied it to America, too.

"The Palestinian people are with you. You are fighting the American terrorism as we fight the Zionist terrorism," Hamas Gaza leader Ahmed Rantisi said at the rally. "You are there in the frontier because you are fighting the enemies of God and Islam, the murderers Bush and Sharon."

Millions of viewers in the Middle East use Arabic-language television stations as their only source of news. Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya both had television cameras rolling inside Fallujah last week, and coverage of the fighting was heavy on the death toll among citizens of the city. Nearly 700 Iraqis were estimated to have died in the week of fighting. That compares to more than 850 Israelis and 2,200 Palestinians dead during the last 3 1/2 years of conflict.

Last Wednesday's bombing of a Fallujah mosque was met with special outrage. Reports conflicted about what actually transpired, but the event was widely condemned as a "massacre" in mainstream papers like the London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

Similar language was used during Israel's assault in 2002 on the West Bank town of Jenin. A news blackout amid heavy fighting between the army and Palestinian militants fueled rumors of hundreds of Palestinians dead.

After days of hyper-inflated headlines in the Arabic and international press, it became clear that 53 Palestinians had died --- far fewer than the roughly 500 that had been widely claimed. However, the term "Jenin massacre" still is used in major speeches by Palestinian leaders.

Distorted reporting to blame?

Despite the public uproar that has hit even America's staunch Arab allies in the region --- Jordan's King Abdullah sent humanitarian aid to Fallujah, saying the people there were victims of "blockade, killing and destruction" --- U.S. spokesmen deny they have acted brutally. Spokesmen in Baghdad have downplayed the Iraqi civilian death toll in Fallujah, saying most of those killed were fighters. They also criticized Arab media for their coverage of events.

"We have reason to believe that several news organizations do not engage in truthful reporting," coalition civilian spokesman Dan Senor said, referring to Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. "In fact, it is no reporting."

Yet video replays showing dead and injured Iraqi women and children put America's Arab allies in a tight corner. Under pressure from their own population to condemn American actions, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who met with Bush on Monday, and King Abdullah, who will go to Washington next week, will have a hard time selling any Israeli military withdrawal plan to Palestinians or the public at large.

Mubarak said that, while Sharon's plan to remove Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza "would be highly appreciated, it will not be accepted by public opinion in the area" unless it is done in connection with renewed negotiations to withdraw soldiers and settlers from the West Bank as well.

Fears of more backlash against Americans in the region and pressure on these Arab leaders could moderate Sharon's hope of a speedy agreement for his territorial expansion plans.

Israeli officials said negotiations were continuing Tuesday over whether the United States would explicitly support Sharon's request to retain a number of settlement clusters in the West Bank and near Jerusalem in any final negotiated agreement on its borders.

Graphic

Photo: Israeli soldiers on Tuesday evacuate a fellow soldier who injured his ankle when trying to disperse demonstrators who gathered to protest the construction of the controversial Israeli security barrier in the West Bank village of Bidu. / GIL YOHANAN / Associated Press (METRO ONLY); Photo: Israeli soldiers and police Tuesday evacuated the illegal settlement of Hazon David in Hebron. / RINA CASTELNUOVO / New York Times

Load-Date: April 14, 2004

End of Document

Political oxymorons

University Wire

February 12, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Easterner via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 401 words

Byline: By Curtis Campbell, The Easterner; **SOURCE:** Eastern Washington U.

Dateline: CHENEY, Wash.

Body

I don't like to assail the words of my fellow writers, but after reading Dave Imus' "Miserable failure" column on Jan. 29 I feel that I must. I was not startled by the criticism of the Bush administration, for that also dominates many newspapers these days; rather I was appalled to see Imus refer to Palestinian terrorists as "suicide martyrs."

I heard this type of opinion before when a former professor referred to the Israelis as "terrorists." Being the first time I had heard that outrageous statement, I brushed it off as an isolated incident. It seems that this warped mindset may be more prevalent than I thought.

I'm confused about Imus' definition of a martyr. To me a martyr is someone who sacrifices his/her life on the basis of a sound principle, not someone who straps a bomb to their body and kills innocent men, women and children. That is a terrorist, not a martyr.

Sacrificing one's life to kill innocent people is not martyrdom: it's murder. What is the difference between a suicide bomber and the 9/11 hijackers? Absolutely nothing. Are they too martyrs? Perhaps "homicide bombers" might be a more appropriate label for these terrorists, certainly not "suicide martyrs."

History shows that the Palestinians were the ones who rejected the land partitions after WWII and brought war upon Israel. Palestinian terrorists consistently target civilians. To this day Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat continues to undermine the peace process. Why? Because it's not about land; it's about hatred. I will concede that the Israelis do harm innocents when they retaliate against these gruesome "homicide" attacks. But they do not actively seek out the killing of civilians, as the terrorists do. If you observe the tactics of both sides, there is no question about which of the two is the transgressor in this conflict.

My point is reiterated in a 170-page report released by Human Rights Watch. The report states suicide-bombing groups, such as Hamas, that target civilians are guilty of war crimes and must be brought to justice. It also admonishes Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for creating an environment where these crimes against humanity are accepted, if not encouraged. I don't know if Imus truly believes that these terrorists are "martyrs" or if it was just a poor choice of words. In any case, these killers should be given titles of condemnation, not of honor.

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Load-Date: February 12, 2004

Political oxymorons

End of Document

World

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

January 15, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: NEWS IN BRIEF; Pg. 20

Length: 428 words

Body

A Palestinian mother exploded a terrorist bomb at the busy Eretz crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing herself and four other people and wounding seven more. Hamas quickly claimed responsibility for the attack - believed to be its first by a female - and vowed there would be more. Israel's first response was to announce the closure until further notice of the crossing, which is used daily by thousands of Palestinians who work at factories on the Israeli side.

US forces in Iraq captured No. 54 on their list of most-wanted fugitives from the regime of former dictator Saddam Hussein, plus four nephews of No. 6 - Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, who is believed to be orchestrating terrorist attacks by resisters of the American presence. The announcements were balanced against more attacks, however. A car bomb explosion in the restive city of Baquoba killed at least two people and hurt 29 others, most of them Iraqi policemen. Near Tikrit, Hussein's hometown, gunmen ambushed a US civilian contractor's convoy, killing two drivers and wounding others.

By unanimous vote, 80 protesting members of parliament in Iran rejected President Mohamad Khatami's appeal to end their four-day sit-in. Khatami sought the move to help him in trying to resolve the crisis arising from the disqualification of thousands of would-be political reformers as candidates in next month's legislative election. He criticized the ban by the hard-line Guardian Council, which issued it last weekend. Councillors were meeting with Khatami on the matter Wednesday, but said they would not be pressured into overturning the bans. Spokesmen for the protesters said Khatami lacked "sufficient legal powers" to apply such pressure anyway.

An appeal by NATO for more troops to swell the ranks of its peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan was answered by Italy, Norway, and Sweden. The alliance maintains a 5,500-man force in the capital, Kabul, and last week began to extend its reach into provincial cities. The UN's top representative in Afghanistan said in an interview Sunday that 10,000 more foreign troops are needed to underpin security as the country prepares for its presidential election in June.

All 37 people aboard a passenger jet were killed as it crashed in heavy fog while trying to land late Tuesday in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan. Among the casualties: the chief of the UN's mission in Tash-kent, the capital. Uzbek authorities opened an investigation into the accident but said no evidence pointed to terrorism.

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Load-Date: January 14, 2004

World

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*Three women, three faiths, one hope;
Speaking tour examines conflict in Holy Land*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: Atlanta & the World;

Length: 853 words

Byline: SHELIA M. POOLE

Body

Charlotte --- As Michal Sagi travels the United States promoting peace, she waits for an explosion of violence back home in the wake of Israel's assassination of the founder of Hamas.

"It will create such a mess in Israel," said Sagi, part of a national speaking tour of three women from the region --- one Jewish, one Muslim and one Christian --- sharing their experiences and dreams for peace. "If Israel wanted to weaken Hamas, it did the opposite."

Sagi still holds out hope, however, for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict despite Monday's killing of Sheik Ahmed Yassin. "It's going to be part of the point I'm trying to make that violence doesn't lead you anywhere," she said. "This is yet another horrible example of how stupid it all is."

AJC

Sagi, 35, is part of the seventh "Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision" tour sponsored by the Washington-based nonprofit Partners for Peace. Participants this year are:

* Sagi, who is Jewish and a member of Checkpoint Watch, a women's human rights group that monitors Israeli police and military at checkpoints in the West Bank and around Jerusalem;

* Nahla Assali, 65, a Palestinian Muslim and co-founder and chairwoman of Project Loving Care, a child sponsorship program;

* Nuha Khoury, 41, a Palestinian Christian and deputy director of the Dar al-Kalima Academy in Bethlehem.

Their tour began March 17 and ends April 2. They have spoken before Jewish and Muslim groups and at university campuses. They will be at Kennesaw State University tonight.

Three women, three faiths, one hope; Speaking tour examines conflict in Holy Land

In an interview Sunday, they hoped that their visit would help Americans understand the toll the conflict has taken on both sides.

Sagi, for instance, worries each time there is a suicide bombing or attack in Jerusalem. She and her family and friends have devised a calling system to let each other know they are safe.

Assali experienced the loss of her family's original home in West Jerusalem after the 1948 Deir Yassin massacre. On April 9 that year, commandos with the radical Jewish groups Irgun Zeva'i Le'umi and the Stern Gang attacked the village of about 750 Palestinian residents. Reports put the number killed at more than 100 men, women and children.

Precious minutes

For Khoury, a U.S. citizen, the Israeli occupation took a particularly tragic turn in January. Her father suffered a heart attack and was being rushed from his home in Bethlehem to a hospital in East Jerusalem. An Israeli officer refused to let the ambulance through at a checkpoint because her father did not have the correct permit. Khoury's brother called the hospital, which sent its own ambulance. The ordeal took four hours. Khoury said the trip should have taken only 10 minutes. Her father later died.

All three women decry suicide bombings by Palestinian terrorists, but also condemned violence by Israeli soldiers -- airstrikes in Palestinian areas in which militants and civilians are killed.

'Fair hand' needed

The only answer is a "fair and just" solution to the conflict, Khoury said. That would include an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories seized during the 1967 Six-Day War and the dismantling of Jewish settlements, she said.

But first, both sides have to be willing to talk. Assali said it was clear that Israelis and Palestinians won't be able to do it alone and hoped for the intervention of a third party with a "fair hand." Is that party the United States? "We have had a very bad and disappointing experience with the United States doing this task," she said.

Sagi said she hoped to convince American Jews that the United States being "a fair broker is not [tantamount to being] anti-Israeli. It's very pro-Israeli. If I manage to convince some Jews in the States that calling for internationalizing the conflict is for the benefit of Israel, then my work will be done," she said.

But there have been moments on the tour that indicated just how hard such work will be, even among the three women, who have been together for several weeks and established a bond.

Uncertain future

When asked whether they would keep in touch when they returned to their own homes, Assali paused.

"Our conflict is not resolved," she said. "I just don't feel comfortable to be received at a Jewish home or to have Jewish guests at my home. I can work in a structured situation [like this] but not in a social situation. This is an honest answer."

Sagi listened quietly. She said she thought she could understand Assali's feelings but wanted to think such an effort wouldn't be impossible. "I wouldn't like to impose anything although I would have been happy to hear a different answer," she said.

Khoury was more pragmatic.

"My answer would be even if we wanted, it would be very difficult," she said. "Michal [Sagi] is a sweetheart. I hope things would be good enough to see each other. . . . I hope that one day we will be able to socialize and talk about her grandmother and my grandmother --- where we will really have a relaxed atmosphere. Where we don't have

Three women, three faiths, one hope; Speaking tour examines conflict in Holy Land

this conflict in the back of your mind. . . . I'm realistic enough to know it might not ever be, but we'll see. I never say never."

Graphic

Photo: Sitting at right, from left, Israeli Jew Michal Sagi, Palestinian Christian Nuha Khoury and Nahla Assali, a Palestinian Muslim, speak to a group at a private home Sunday in Charlotte. They will appear tonight in Atlanta. / RICK HAVNER / Special; Photo: Discussing their personal experiences with the political tensions in the Middle East will be (from left) Michal Sagi, Nahla Assali and Nuha Khoury. / RICK HAVNER / Special; Graphic: IF YOU GO

* What: "Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision"

* Where: Clendenin Building, Room 109, Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw

* When: 8 p.m. today

* Cost: Free. Information: 770-423-6435

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

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Brigitte wed bride in Lakemba prayer hall

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 2

Length: 408 words

Byline: TONY WALL, CHARLES MIRANDA

Body

TERROR suspect Willie Brigitte married his Australian soldier bride in a low-key ceremony at a prayer centre in Lakemba which is under surveillance by ASIO, it emerged last night.

The ceremony, attended by a handful of people, was performed by Sheikh Abdul Salam Mohammed Zoud five weeks before Brigitte was deported to France for interrogation, The Australian reports today.

The revelations come as the Federal Government today moves to outlaw militant Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group amid ASIO fears Brigitte was recruiting Australian sympathisers.

MATP

The group is suspected of being behind a string of bombings in India, but authorities believe that it may be receiving financial and other backing from Australia.

Brigitte's Australian wife was identified yesterday as a former ***female*** army reservist who, the Government and Defence Department claim married him in good faith and was completely unaware of his violent plans.

According to a senior government source the woman had no reason to believe she was involved in anything other than a bona fide marriage.

"She is not under suspicion. She is an innocent party to this," the source said.

Authorities have also ruled out any suggestion that Brigitte targeted the woman because of her former army career. She had resigned from the army and joined the Army Reserves before marrying and was never involved in the intelligence area or in any sensitive military roles.

According to The Australian, Brigitte gave his bride a dowry during the wedding ceremony.

The ceremony was conducted on September 13 by Sheikh Zoud, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Youth Movement, whose members include Bilal Khazal, accused by the CIA of having al-Qaeda connections.

Sheik Zoud is also the imam of the prayer hall next to the IYM headquarters in Haldon St, Lakemba.

The Haldon St premises, as reported by The Daily Telegraph on October 29, are believed to be frequented by the Wahabi sect whose members include Mr Khazal and Mamdouh Habib -- one of two Australians currently being held

Brigitte wed bride in Lakemba prayer hall

by US forces in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The IYM has a website that features articles sympathetic to Osama bin Laden.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has asked Parliament to register the group to ensure any links and groups are disbanded and authorities have the power to arrest and search local members. He also moved to ban the military wing of **Hamas** from establishing a supporters network -- a move supported by Labor.

Load-Date: November 4, 2003

End of Document

Law: Defence or murder?: Does Israel have a legal right to assassinate its enemies - or are such executions war crimes? After two years deliberating, its supreme court is set to decide.

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 30, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 1579 words

Byline: Anthony Dworkin

Body

A half-blind man in a wheelchair is blown apart on a crowded city street. An insecure 16-year-old boy is coaxed into donning an explosive vest. Are the events of last week in Israel a preview of the future of warfare in the age of "asymmetric" conflict? And if so, what rules of law and morality should govern such a conflict, bringing its conduct into some semblance of conformity with recognised humanitarian principles?

When Israel killed the ***Hamas*** founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin with a missile launched from a helicopter, it provoked a storm of criticism. As one Israeli commentator put it, this was the mother of all targeted assassinations. From Kofi Annan to Jack Straw to the European Union's Javier Solana, international statesmen lined up to denounce the strike as unlawful. Among the western liberal democracies, only the United States stood partly aside from the chorus of condemnation - its muddled response a telling reflection of its own contentious anti-terrorist war.

Israel countered by describing Yassin as the "godfather of the suicide bombers" and giving notice that its campaign of targeted killings would be intensified. Anyone involved in the terrorist war against Israel should know there is no immunity, said the country's public security minister the day after the attack.

The morality and legality of assassinating terrorist suspects is being argued out around the world, and is one of the hottest topics in the field of international law. Such discussions often seem merely theoretical, unlikely to have any impact on the actions of the governments involved. But in the case of Israel, there is one body whose assessment of the question could have real and immediate consequences - the country's own supreme court. Within months, the court is likely to deliver its decision in a case brought by two non-profit groups seeking a declaration that the Israeli government's policy of targeted killing is contrary to international law and should be halted.

"I believe this may be the most important case that the supreme court has yet been asked to consider," says one of the lawyers for the petitioners, Michael Sfard. In line with the significance of the moral, legal and security issues at stake, the court has not rushed to a decision. It has had the case before it for two years. Nevertheless Sfard is confident that the case is now in "the final few metres". The groups he represents and the Israeli government have been asked to submit their final briefs.

The first targeted killing in response to the violence of the current Palestinian intifada took place in November 2000, when the Fatah activist Hussein Abayat was killed in a helicopter attack near Bethlehem. Since then, well over 100

Law: Defence or murder?: Does Israel have a legal right to assassinate its enemies - or are such executions war crimes? After two years deliberating, its suprem....

Palestinian militants have been the victims of such attacks (not counting the roughly equal number of bystanders who have also died).

At first the assassinations were directed at people who were said to be "ticking time bombs" - individuals who were actively involved in organising terrorist attacks. But more recently the Israeli military has shifted to a wider range of targets, including figures such as Sheikh Yassin, who are leaders of militant groups rather than actual bomb-makers. The government of Ariel Sharon openly acknowledges these targeted strikes as an essential part of its armed struggle to protect Israel's citizens against terrorism.

According to Sfar, though, the killings are not merely unjustified - they are war crimes, perhaps even crimes against humanity. However much we may castigate terrorists, he argues, we must accept that they are not soldiers but civilians, and must be fought with law enforcement methods. That means they can be killed only when there is no other way to prevent them from carrying out an attack that would endanger human life. Otherwise suspected terrorists should be detained and put on trial before they can lawfully be punished for their actions.

"If a terrorist - or any criminal - is threatening someone's life, then you can do everything necessary to stop him," says Sfar. "But these assassinations target people at home, sleeping in their beds, or when they're simply driving in their cars - they're not endangering anyone at the time when they're killed." To kill under these circumstances is simply execution - but carried out without any trial or proof of guilt.

Not surprisingly, the Israeli government and its supporters present the matter in an entirely different way. They argue that Palestinian militants may not be soldiers, but they are still participants in an armed conflict - determined fighters who aim to kill Israeli civilians and who have engineered a concerted campaign of atrocities.

"These targeted killings are almost always legitimate," argues Yoram Dinstein of Tel Aviv University, one of the country's foremost authorities on the laws of war. Under these, he points out, civilians who join in a conflict by directly participating in hostilities make themselves a lawful target for enemy forces. And that doesn't just mean the people who carry out terrorist missions, but also those who equip and send them. "There is no difference in this respect between the person who blows himself up and the dispatcher," Dinstein argues.

Are the leaders of **Hamas** criminals or combatants? The terms of the question echo a familiar argument over Guantanamo Bay and America's proclaimed war against al-Qaida. In the Israeli-Palestinian case, though, few would deny that there is an armed conflict going on. The crux of the case is therefore likely to come down to a dispute about what it means for someone to take a direct part in hostilities. In the law, this is a notoriously slippery and contested concept - all the more so in the age of low-intensity terrorist warfare.

Like much of the modern law of war, the guiding principle here can be found in the horrific experience of "total war" in the second world war. The aim was to make sure that it was no longer acceptable to target civilians assisting in the general war effort - which in a modern society could be taken to cover almost any adult. But are those who train and equip suicide bombers taking part in hostilities? What about those such as Sheikh Yassin who approve strategic decisions - for instance by giving the go-ahead for **women** to be used in suicide missions?

And if these people lose their immunity from attack, is that true only while they are directly engaged in terrorist activity? Or do they forfeit their civilian status indefinitely - so that they can be attacked not just when they're fitting an explosives belt or poring over a list of targets, but when they're sleeping, driving, or leaving a mosque? And what about the inherent problem of targeting suspects who don't admit that they are fighters? These are the issues that Israel's supreme court will have to grapple with.

There is no clear legal precedent, and the court will have to base its decision on a view about how the underlying principles of the law should be applied in this unforeseen kind of war. But there are a couple of factors that it might fall back on. The court might make a distinction between the military and political wings of organisations such as **Hamas** - so that it might rule that only those involved in the military chain of command could be attacked. And it might specify that targeted killings are never permissible when the suspected terrorists can be apprehended without the risk of serious loss of life.

Law: Defence or murder?: Does Israel have a legal right to assassinate its enemies - or are such executions war crimes? After two years deliberating, its suprem....

In such an emotive case, though, the factors shaping its decision may not be entirely legal. Sbard believes the biggest obstacle he and his colleagues face is a political one. "The justices are in a very problematic position," he argues. "I am sure that they don't want to be the first judges from a liberal democratic country to authorise a policy of execution without trial - but if the policy was put to a popular vote, it would certainly win. It may be difficult for the court to take a step that would be seen by much of the public as harming the government's power to defend the nation's security."

In fact, there may be a middle way the court could choose, as Dinstein points out. "I don't believe the court will rule against the government in total," he says. But he adds that the present supreme court is notoriously activist: it won't want simply to give the government free rein. Therefore the judges may set some guidelines on the practice of targeted killing, and at the same time extend a wide degree of deference to the Israeli army as to how it applies these guidelines in practice. For instance, they might say that military commanders are best placed to judge whether a particular killing is militarily necessary to defend the country against the risk of future attacks.

Whenever it comes, the court's decision is likely to be minutely scrutinised and passionately disputed. Judges on the American supreme court have already said that they may look to the Israeli legal system for precedents when they consider the ground rules for the US war on terror. The new international criminal court (though it is unlikely to have jurisdiction over Israeli or American actions for the foreseeable future) may also have to consider the use of force against terrorists at some point. Israel's justices will be the first to enter this legal minefield, but they will certainly not have the final word on the subject.

Anthony Dworkin is editor of the Crimes of War website (www.crimesofwar.org).

Load-Date: March 31, 2004

24 hours

The Times (London)

September 9, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; Times2; 2

Length: 414 words

Body

MARINA DEATH: Police are investigating how Sweetie Pie, a 20ft cruiser, capsized during a carnival at Stourport-on-Severn marina, Worcestershire. A woman on board drowned.

SHOT IN THE ARM: Xenova Research of Cambridge says it is developing a vaccine which could help people to stop smoking and prevent possible future nicotine and drug dependence.

ENDIS NIGH: The Bloody Sunday inquiry, set up in 1998 under Lord Saville of Newdigate, reopens in London with an end finally in sight. The longest running and most costly inquiry in UK history should finish at Christmas. The bill: Pounds 160 million.

LEST WE FORGET: A group of British Second World War veterans, who ironically dub themselves "The D-Day Dodgers", gather at the Imperial War Museum, London, to mark the 60th anniversary of the 1943 Salerno landings in Italy.

ISRAELI MAYHEM: A Palestinian boy sits on his parents' bed, clutching his school certificate, after his house is one of two destroyed, leaving 11 people injured, in a failed Israeli attempt to kill a Hamas militant in Khan Younis.

BIG BONUS: Africa's Big Brother has been won by a Zambian, Cherise Makubale, 24, triggering street celebrations and earning her the thanks of her Vice President, Nevers Mumba -and \$ 100,000 (Pounds 63,000).

BIRD PERIL: Top of the agenda at a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs conference is how to stop the protected and burgeoning cormorant from raiding inland fish stocks.

EQUAL RIGHTS: Nigel de Gruchy, the president of the TUC, opens the annual congress in Brighton and warns of industrial conflict unless the "chasm" between the pay and conditions of company workers and executives is addressed.

MARCHING ORDER: An American soldier tries to calm women during an early morning raid in Tikrit. Geoff Hoon, the Defence Secretary, announces that he will send 1,000 extra troops to Iraq, boosting the UK force to 11,600.

WHALE BOW: True's beaked whale, hardly ever seen alive since it was first identified 91 years ago, has been spotted and videotaped by experts during a ferry crossing between England and Spain.

VIRTUAL REALITY: David Bowie launches a new album, Reality, with an invitation-only concert in London which will be beamed live to thousands of fans in cinemas in cities around the globe including Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Warsaw and Tokyo.

24 hours

TOP SPECTACLE:The Liberty X singer Jessica Taylor is named **Female** Spectacle Wearer of the Year at a ceremony in London; the male equivalent is comedian Harry Hill.

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Pressing Times for Israel

New York Sun (Archive)

December 9, 2003 Tuesday

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Byline: By HILLEL HALKIN

Body

There are many reasons why Israel has been getting such bad press in most of the world, such as natural sympathy for the Palestinian "underdog," the ignorance of most journalists of the basic historical facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict, anti-Semitism resurfacing as anti-Israelism, and the frequent ineptness of Israel's own spokesmen. But there is also another difficulty, one having to do with the inherent nature of news coverage. Here is an example of it.

On December 3, a suicide bomber of the Islamic Jihad was caught by Israeli forces in a village near Jenin, from which he was about to set out for the Jewish town of Yokne'am, some 12.4 miles away, in order to kill as many teenagers as he could at a local high school. Prominently reported in the Israeli press, the incident received no coverage abroad. And why, after all, should it have? No one was killed and no one was injured. It was a routine day in the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

On the other hand, on December 1, two days earlier, Israeli troops in Ramallah did kill someone: "3 Hamas rebels [sic] and a boy die in Israeli army sweep," said a headline in the New York Times the next day. The accompanying story also mentioned that 30 people were arrested in house-to-house searches, a building was demolished, and 50 people were left homeless. Fair enough, no? Dead and homeless are news.

But here's the point. On December 2, Israeli troops staged another sweep in Jenin, similar to the one the day before in Ramallah. In this one, over 30 Islamic Jihad members were arrested. No one was killed and the foreign media, again, did not report it. But one of those Islamic Jihad members talked under questioning and told his interrogators about the suicide bomber who was on his way to Yokne'am, thus leading to his capture.

This is a big part of Israel's problem in explaining itself to the world. When it comes to its conflict with the Palestinians, the world sees and hears about three kinds of things: Israelis killed and injured by Palestinians, Palestinians killed and injured by Israelis, and the suffering of the Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli army, which repeatedly raids their cities, blows up their houses, forces them to wait in line at humiliating checkpoints, and generally makes their lives miserable. What the world almost never sees or hears about is the fourth thing: The thousands of Israelis a year who have not been killed or injured because some raid or checkpoint has detected in time the bombers, bombs, and their dispatchers that would have murdered and maimed them.

Of course, most Israeli checkpoints and army raids do not yield such results. You may need to throw up a hundred checkpoints in order to have the right one at the right time and place to catch the right person; the other 99 are indeed doing nothing but causing disgruntled Palestinians to wait in long lines. And the same army unit may have to go into the same town 10 different times, disturbing and frightening the local population over and over, before it

Pressing Times for Israel

finds the person it is looking for or the person it wasn't but should have been. But then along comes the hundredth checkpoint or the tenth incursion and justifies all the others.

The problem is that almost no one outside of Israel hears about these successes. And even in Israel, there are many times when, for intelligence reasons, the army has to keep them to itself.

This is not to say that every military intrusion into the life of ordinary Palestinians is necessary. Some aren't and are pure harassment. And the frequent rudeness and occasional brutality that many Palestinians encounter from Israeli soldiers has no justification and could often be eliminated by stricter and more stringently enforced guidelines. But in the final analysis, those soldiers are out there in rough conditions doing a job that has to be done as long as Palestinian violence continues and they are doing it, on the whole, very well.

This is why the periodic proposal made by organizations like the Hamas and Islamic Jihad to accept a ceasefire with Israel in which they would refrain from attacking Israeli "civilians" while continuing to target soldiers and settlers - a proposal put forth again this weekend in talks with Palestinian Authority officials in Cairo - is the height of absurdity. It may sound reasonable to some journalists - "We won't touch their innocent men, women, and children if they don't touch ours" - but this is only because some journalists don't think things through that far.

Suppose that Israel accepted such a proposal, dismantled its checkpoints and pulled its soldiers out of Palestinian towns and villages in return for a Palestinian pledge not to attack or commit acts of terror across the "green line," the 1967 border. And suppose that the Palestinians then attacked a carload of settlers traveling on the West Bank, or ambushed an Israeli military vehicle.

How, without re-imposing everything it has dismantled and returning all the troops it has withdrawn, could Israel track down the attackers or prevent more such attacks? The Israeli army, after all, is not fighting a Palestinian army. It is fighting Palestinians who do not wear uniforms and who hide among other Palestinians, and who cannot be fought without endangering and inconveniencing all Palestinians.

Palestinian violence has declined in recent months because Israel is fighting it well. If the Palestinians want to and are able to stop it entirely, Israel should agree to a ceasefire. But there can be no half-cease-fires. It's all or nothing - and every day, though it doesn't make the headlines, Israeli lives are being saved because its all is what the Israeli army is giving.

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Palestinian laborers get a break: Work

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Dateline: JABALIYA VILLAGE, Gaza Strip

Body

First the rumor caught fire on the Gaza City grapevine. Then Al-Jazeera, the Arabic satellite station, reported the news: Israel would lift its ban on Palestinian workers, imposed in October after terror attacks killed dozens of Israelis.

Sunday, for the first time in a month, 10,000 desperate Gaza Strip laborers were permitted to work inside Israel. The program is restricted to married men over 35, and married women over 25 in the belief that mature breadwinners have too much to lose to pose serious threats to Israeli security.

The commute is hellish, the pay meager, but both sides seem to agree that improving the bottomed-out Palestinian economy could help defuse at least part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At the simple cinder-block house where Jamal al-Ghouf, 44, lives with his wife and 13 children, he stayed up all night to be among the first in line when the border opened.

At 3:45 a.m., after a breakfast of hummus, tea and jam, Ghouf, a bearish man with a thick moustache, paid his 55-cent share in the seven-seat taxi that took him to the heavily guarded Erez Checkpoint separating Israel from the Gaza Strip. In the dark chill, he entered a half-mile-long chute teeming with restless men for a security check that took two hours because of the crowd and included passing through a metal detector. The men were permitted to carry nothing except their identity cards and a small amount of food, but as most are observant Muslims, they will fast from dawn to dusk for the holy month of Ramadan.

Ghouf's Israeli employer, a building contractor, needed Ghouf in Be'er Sheva to plaster walls. After crossing into Israel, Ghouf paid \$2.22 to the private bus driver who took him to the Negev Desert city.

Eight hours later, covered in plaster dust, with fresh scrapes on the back of his hands, Ghouf returned to Gaza before sundown as required.

After expenses, he had earned just \$21.11 but considered himself a lucky man.

Palestinian laborers get a break: Work

"The truth is," he said, "when they open Erez I am happy. When they close it I am angry. I appreciate the chance to work. . . . If the border stays open, we will eat better. We will wear better," he said, sharing his hope to buy new outfits for his children for the Eid al-Fitr feast at the end of Ramadan.

Opening the border has the potential to be more than a humanitarian gesture in a holiday season, supporters of the policy say. Give people jobs and they will respond; hate will subside and employed Palestinians will have more than revenge on their minds, they say.

"The policy stays in place as long as it can. This was as much as we thought possible at this time," Israeli army spokesman Jacob Dallal said. "The idea is to improve the situation for the average Palestinian who is not involved in terrorism."

Oz Neufeld, a spokesman for the Israeli coordinator of activities in the occupied territories, said the program in place in the Gaza Strip could be extended to the West Bank if it continues to work well and there are no major incidents. While individuals from the West Bank are not permitted to work inside Israel, up to 3,000 merchants and vendors are permitted under the program to come to Israel to buy supplies and sell their wares.

"They need us and we need them," Ghouf said of his relationship with the Israelis. "When Erez is closed, everything is paralyzed here. And at the same time that we don't make money, Israelis don't finish their projects."

The project he is working on this week is already three months behind schedule, he said.

In the 1970s and early '80s, before intifadah violence led Israel to close its borders to Palestinian workers after terror attacks, Ghouf worked as a tile installer in Jaffa, and at restaurants in Tel Aviv. But in the last six months he has worked fewer than 45 days. There is no work for him in Gaza City, where the unemployment rate in his Jabaliya neighborhood of concrete-block houses is about 70 percent, he said.

"Believe me, when suicide bombings happen, we put our hands on our hearts," Ghouf said. He said he won't associate with the Palestinian militant groups whose fighters have targeted Israelis, and won't accept food handouts from Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement famous for charitable work, whose military wing has claimed responsibility for most of the 100 suicide attacks inside Israel and the territories since the start of the uprising three years ago. Implicitly or otherwise those Hamas handouts come with strings attached, Ghouf said.

So he barely survives - in debt to the local grocer for \$88, and pirating electricity when authorities cut his power because of unpaid bills.

Apolitical by nature, Ghouf has watched with growing distress as peace efforts such as the U.S.-backed road map have foundered and the Palestinian Authority has been unable to establish a durable government.

"I don't care who does the job," he said, alluding to the short-lived tenure of former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his struggling replacement Ahmed Qureia, who has clashed with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat over control of Palestinian security forces and has yet to form a permanent government.

"We'll take anyone who can put us on the safe side and stabilize our lives," Ghouf said.

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Graphic

PHOTO;

MICHAEL MATZA, Associated Press

Palestinian laborers get a break: Work

Palestinian workers stream back into the Gaza Strip through the enclosed security chute after a day of work inside Israel.

Jamal al-Ghouf, a Palestinian laborer, shows his identity card and special work permit. He said he was grateful to have been permitted into Israel this week for the first time in more than a month. He has a wife and 13 children to support.

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