

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:18:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223359083

Documents (100)

1. [ISRAELI ROCKET ATTACK DAMAGES THE OFFICE OF UN PEACE ENVOY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [15 killed as Bush, Sharon huddle](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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3. [E.U. Finalizes Deal on 13 Exiled Palestinian Arabs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [Jenin 'massacre' a product of propaganda](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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5. [Middle East crisis: On both sides, the talk is only of war: Graham Usher reports from Netanya , devastated by a suicide bomber, and Tulkaram, the West Bank town from which the bomber came, which is bracing itself for an Israeli onslaught](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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6. [MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON 'SURRENDER OR DIE'. . . ISRAELI TROOPS BLAST THEIR WAY INTO REFUGEE CAMP; SCORES DIE AS SHARON DEFIES US PEACE MOVE AND TURNS WEST BANK INTO BLAZING WAR ZONE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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7. [Another suicide bomber strikes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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8. [Arafat decries civilian deaths: Bowing to pressure from the U.S. , Yasser Arafat issues a statement condemning terrorism, reviving hopes Secretary of State Colin Powell can salvage his peace mission.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [Israel prepared to talk peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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10. [*Israel plunged into mourning*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [*Six Britons held over suicide-bomb bar attack*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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12. [*Palestinians arrest 2 officials in arms case*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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13. [*Kurds take Kirkuk : Iraqis take whatever they can*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [*Nobody is safe: The terrorist bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco should alarm the Muslim world, showing that there is no good and bad terrorism*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [*Oscar decision snubs Palestinian culture*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [*In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [*GIFT OF LIFE THAT SHAMES BOMBERS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [*Reporters on the Job*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [*PALESTINIAN PLIGHT 'IS WORSE THAN HOLOCAUST'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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20. [*QUICK NEWS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [*Most hated man in Gaza tells how he was led astray*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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22. [*Israel invades more areas; Raids follow new Jerusalem blast*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

23. [*AMID THE RUBBLE OF JENIN, PALESTINIANS BURY THEIR DEAD*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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24. [*A bitter taste for vengeance*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [*Israel planes pound Arafat HQ*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. [UN backs Jenin probe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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27. [Eight die in bus blast; Powell arrives tonight](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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28. [15 killed in snooker hall blast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

29. [Middle East crisis: Diplomacy: Onslaught continues as Arafat meets US envoy: Al-Aqsa leader killed despite Zinni visit](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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30. [Hotel horror blast; World News](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

31. [THE CYCLE OF TIT-FOR-TAT VIOLENCE CONTINUES; Scooter bomber claims 10 victims](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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32. [SATURDAY REVIEW: Critical eye: Suffering in silence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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33. [Who has become the irrelevant one - Arafat or Sharon?; The campaign promises of Israel 's hard-line prime minister have proven empty.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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34. [Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

35. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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36. [ARABS AND JEWS UNITE IN FIGHT TO SAVE BABY 'PEACE'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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37. [Israel launches attack on Rafah;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

38. [Palestinians angry at Islamic militants](#)

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: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

39. [PALESTINIAN OBSTRUCTIONISTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

40. [Attacks in Kenya signal Al Qaeda's expanding war](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

41. [Israelis hunt for militants in Nablus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

42. [ANCIENT ENMITY, MODERN CONFLICT; ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

43. [PAS sticks to 'champion of Islam' role](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

44. [Israel avenges attack on cafe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

45. [US push for Jenin - Israel fights disaster](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

46. [13 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN BLOODIEST BATTLE OF INTIFADA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

47. [*Rampage latest in death spiral*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

48. [*'THE FACE WAS SO NICE: BIG OPEN EYES, BUT SURELY DEAD'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

49. [*Israeli troops are on the hunt again*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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50. [*First suicide bombing by woman: 1 dead, 100 hurt as huge device explodes in crowded Jerusalem street*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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51. [*Israeli teens killed in West Bank raid*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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52. [Israeli strikes injure 40;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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53. [SUICIDE BOMB: BRITS CHARGED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

54. [Bomber kills 19 Israelis as peace plan stalls](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

55. [ISRAELI RAID ON BOMB LAIR KILLS 14](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [N. Korea calls off U.N. meeting amid tension](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. [Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves? Suzanne Goldenberg investigates](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

58. [From student to suicide bomber: The conflicted story of an Islamic woman](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [Sharon regrets not killing Arafat in 1982: Should have 'liquidated' PLO leader in Beirut siege](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [PALESTINIAN CHIEF DENOUNCES TERROR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

62. [*What Syria 's leader really wants from the West*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

63. [*Flashpoint as Arafat isolated*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [*Israelis will reap terrible harvest*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

65. [*Leaders trade barbs as violence simmers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

66. [*Flashpoint as Arafat isolated*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [*Ghastly Mideast murder mess*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [*The Palestinian Death Knell*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [*Infiltrator kills three Israeli teens*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [*Suicide Bomber Kills 5 on a Bus in Tel Aviv*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [*Collateral damage: There is a deep moral divide between those who deliberately target civilians and those who don't*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [*Deal on Israeli Withdrawal Collapses After Early Hope*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [SUICIDE BOMBERS A GROWING LEGION OF DISPARATE AND DESPARATE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [Television choice](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: MEDIA Crisis Deepens Impact of Arab TV News](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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76. ['Passover massacre': At least 19 killed, 120 injured as suicide bomber hits Israeli hotel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [Attacks bring air strikes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [Israelis hit back after women die in suicide attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

79. [Suicide bomber kills 19 in 'Passover massacre'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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80. [IN THIS HOSPITAL JEW AND ARAB ARE EQUAL, ALL OF THEM NEED HELP](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [What is Israel to do?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [Israelis back plan by U.S. to free Arafat; The proposal would allow the Palestinian leader to travel again - as soon as he surrenders six murder suspects.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

83. [PAGES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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84. [PALESTINIAN WOMAN'S BOMB KILLS HER, ISRAELI MAN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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85. [BLOODSTOCK BRIEFING: GOFFS FRANCE HOPING TO ADD TO HIGH-CLASS ROLE OF ALUMNI](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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86. [MI5 INVESTIGATION CLEARED BRITISH SUICIDE BOMBERS OF POSING A THREAT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. [PALESTINIAN GUNMAN RUNS AMOK WITH RIFLE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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88. [15 KILLED IN ISRAEL BOMBING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [U.S. sets sights on Lebanon 's Hezbollah](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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90. [Female Palestinian bomber kills elderly Israeli man in Jerusalem](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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91. [Woman suicide bomber strikes: Two dead and 100 wounded in new twist to Middle East conflict](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

92. [Pressure Palestinians to show they are sincere about peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

93. [Lax refugee rules still a security risk](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

94. [WORLD REPORT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

95. [Israel storms Arafat's compound: Tanks open fire after Palestinian suicide bomber leaves five dead, dozens injured in bus attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

96. [Mideast lingo tries to skew world's view on violence; Verbal feud: Suicide bombings are 'heroic martyrdom' and killing Palestinians is 'focused prevention'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

97. [MODERATE PALESTINIANS MUST CONTROL VIOLENCE; THE FUTURE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE MAY REST UPON MODERATE PALESTINIANS PROVING THEY CAN CONTROL THE MILITANTS IN THEIR MIDST.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

98. [It's because we're worth it.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

99. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

100. [Siege ends as as Arabs file out](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

ISRAELI ROCKET ATTACK DAMAGES THE OFFICE OF UN PEACE ENVOY

The Independent (London)

February 11, 2002, Monday

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Section: TITLE PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 289 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI WARPLANES attacked bases of Yasser Arafat's Force 17 presidential guard in Gaza last night, severely damaging the offices of the UN peace process co-ordinator, Terje Larsen, and injuring two of his staff.

Palestinian sources reported that at least 10 of their men had been wounded.

The F-16s were sent in retaliation for attacks at the weekend in which four Israelis were killed. Palestinians had also fired Kassam rockets from Gaza to Israel for the first time.

Bruce Jones, a UN official, told The Independent: "I heard a loud and heavy explosion very close to our offices, which are about 50 yards from Force 17. My office windows were blown out, and I was knocked under my desk."

Mr Larsen, a Norwegian diplomat and architect of the 1993 Oslo peace accord, condemned the air strike. "It is outrageous that Israel deployed weapons of heavy tonnage in such close proximity to civilian areas and UN facilities." Israel said the F-16s did not deliberately attack the UN building.

Earlier, **Hamas** gunmen sprayed automatic gunfire at a snack bar near the Israeli army's southern command headquarters in Beersheba, killing two **female** soldiers. Off-duty soldiers shot dead the assailants and sappers later detonated an explosive belt.

Palestinians also fired three Kassam missiles into the fields of a Negev kibbutz. The Kassam has a range of only six miles, but it can deliver up to 10 pounds (4.5kg) of explosives, making it more lethal than the mortar shells used until now.

On Friday, an Israeli student aged 25 was stabbed to death while walking with her boyfriend in the Peace Forest near the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Tor, and an Israeli woman was shot dead driving home to a West Bank settlement.

Sharon's iron fist, page 11

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

15 killed as Bush, Sharon huddle

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 8, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 793 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

At least 15 people were killed last night and 60 injured - 12 of them seriously - in an explosion in an unlicensed snooker and gambling club in Rishon Letzion, near Tel Aviv.

Israeli police said the explosion at the Spiel Snooker Club was caused by a suicide bomber carrying explosives in a large bag - the first suicide attack on the sleepy suburban town, 15 kilometres south of Tel Aviv.

Police said the bomb was filled with pieces of metal and screws designed to cause as much injury and death as possible.

Al Manar TV in Lebanon said it received a claim of responsibility from the Islamic militant group **Hamas**. Southam News; AP and Knight Ridder Newspapers contributed to this report

But **Hamas** spokesman Mahmoud Zahar said from his home in Gaza City that he could not confirm the claim.

"We do not have any clear evidence or information except what we are seeing on TV. But if it is a martyrdom operation, it means that Israel has lost its war against the Palestinians and the Palestinian resistance has proved that it is capable of reaching the enemy everywhere."

The attack came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush at the White House in Washington.

Within minutes of receiving the news, Sharon decided to return immediately to Israel.

"The timing which the murderers chose to carry out this attack was carefully planned," said Israeli cabinet minister Eli Yishai, who was with Sharon at the White House. "It seems the prime minister will decide to cut short his trip and return to Israel."

David Baker, an official at the prime minister's office, called it "another murderous attack against Israelis."

"It is clear that the Palestinian Authority has not given up its terror actions and has not given up its murderous path."

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat released a statement from Yasser Arafat condemning the bombing.

The blast went off at a three-storey building in the heart of the industrial section of Rishon Letzion, which is home to about 100,000 people.

15 killed as Bush, Sharon huddle

Ambulance service spokesman Yerucham Mandola said parts of the targeted building collapsed, trapping people underneath.

"There are bodies and perhaps injured people trapped under the rubble," said Meir Nitzan, the mayor of Rishon Letzion.

"The emergency services are trying to get them out as quickly and carefully as possible."

Witnesses said the explosion occurred on the third floor, causing the ceiling to fall on dozens of people below.

"I turned the corner and I saw the whole building go up before my eyes," witness Hanit Azulia told Israel Radio.

The club, on the top floor of a shopping and commercial centre, was a meeting place mainly for men, with snooker and billiard tables and slot machines.

Motti Monir, who was slightly wounded in the attack, said he was leaving the club just after 11 p.m. when there was a "huge explosion."

"I don't know how I got out of there," he said.

It was the first major terror attack inside Israel since April 12, when a **female** member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade blew herself up in a Jerusalem market, killing six people and injuring more than 30.

That attack occurred as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was in Jerusalem, causing him to delay a scheduled meeting with Arafat by 24 hours.

Israeli forces launched a major military offensive - Operation Protective Shield - into cities of the West Bank at the end of March after more than 100 Israelis were killed that month in a wave of terror attacks.

During the offensive, hundreds of terror suspects were captured, along with thousands of weapons and tons of explosives.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society says more than 280 Palestinians were killed in the offensive.

Israel has since withdrawn from every city except Bethlehem, where a five-week standoff at the Church of the Nativity appeared to be coming to an end yesterday.

The Israeli operation was supposed to have dealt a severe blow to the infrastructure of Palestinian terrorism, but last night's attack showed it has failed to halt the ability of terror groups to send suicide bombers into the heart of Israel.

"We will carry out similar activities in the future, too," said Public Security Minister Uzi Landau last night on his arrival at the scene in Rishon Letzion.

"In most of the cases we will be successful. In some we will pay a price as we did here this evening. The point is that still we have terrorists on the other side. We have to protect ourselves and we will do it."

Israeli security services have been on high alert in recent days and said they had stopped at least one suicide attack each day for the past week.

Earlier yesterday, a suspected Palestinian suicide attacker was intercepted and killed as he tried to enter an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

15 killed as Bush, Sharon huddle

End of Document

E.U. Finalizes Deal on 13 Exiled Palestinian Arabs

New York Sun (Archive)

May 22, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 5

Length: 738 words

Byline: By HAMZA HEND AWI

Dateline: LARNACA, CYPRUS

Body

The European Union finalized a deal yesterday to accept 13 Palestinian militants involved in the siege of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. The men have been eating three meals a day and passing time watching satellite TV at a Cyprus beach hotel for the last two weeks.

Twelve are expected to fly today to six E.U. nations that have agreed to offer them a home for at least a year. Abdullah Daoud, the militant whom Israel considers the most dangerous, said he's looking forward to a new life and reuniting with his family in Europe.

Cyprus, a Mediterranean island state expected to join the E.U. by January 2004, had reluctantly given temporary refuge to the militants, who Israel has accused of being terrorists.

Under an E.U. deal given final approval yesterday, Spain and Italy will each take three militants, Greece and Ireland will each take two, and Portugal and Belgium will each accept one. The 15-nation E.U. said one militant would remain in Cyprus until an E.U. country can be found to take him in.

The E.U. offered to take on the militants to end the 39-day standoff after Palestinian militants escaped Israeli troops by fleeing into the church. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the deal showed the E.U. "can play a worthwhile role" in the Middle East peace process.

An E.U. statement said the 12 would stay in their host nations for up to a year and would not be allowed to travel to other countries.

Speaking to Spanish radio station RAC 1, E.U. Middle East envoy Miguel Moratinos said the 13 will be able to work or study. "They won't be detained, not at all. They will have freedom, although they will be under a certain control," he said without elaborating.

A Spanish military plane headed yesterday to Cyprus to fly out the 12 today. Officials said the three Italian-bound Palestinians may leave aboard another jet.

Since May 10, the Palestinians have been living at the Flamingo Beach Hotel in the beach resort of Larnaca under the round-the-clock watch of Cypriot anti-terrorist police.

Cyprus has insisted that they were not under detention, but the militants have been confined to the three-star hotel.

E.U. Finalizes Deal on 13 Exiled Palestinian Arabs

Escorted by police, the Palestinians have been leaving their rooms on the hotel's top floor three times a day, making their way to a second-floor dining hall reserved for them to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Mr. Josephides declined to reveal costs for the Palestinians' stay, which is being paid for by the Cypriot government, but said a double costs \$70 a night and guests are charged about \$20 for lunch and dinner.

Twelve of the 13 militants are staying two to a room, which include satellite TV channels in Greek, Spanish, German, Russian, and Swedish. The Flamingo fronts a sandy beach where many **female** tourists sunbathe topless.

Three of the 13 are members of **Hamas**, a militant group that advocates a strict version of Islam. Most belong to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group. **Hamas** and Al-Aqsa are responsible for most of the 60 suicide bombings that killed dozens of Israelis since the latest uprising began nearly 20 months ago.

They were among about 200 Palestinians, including several dozen gunmen, who ran into the Church of the Nativity on April 2 ahead of advancing Israeli troops. Twenty-six others were exiled to the Gaza Strip. The rest went free.

Karin Naji Abayat, 35, was among those sent to Gaza, where he is staying at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society hotel. Mr. Abayat, whose brother, Ibrahim Abayat, was deported to Cyprus, said the militants accepted the deal to save themselves and to protect the Bethlehem church.

"I am worried about my brother and all our friends, and I call upon those countries which will receive them to ensure their safety... not to undermine their legal status and to work on their return to their homeland," he said.

Mr. Daoud, the Palestinian Authority's intelligence chief in Bethlehem at the time of Israel's offensive, spoke to The Associated Press from the balcony of his hotel room. Israel accuses the 41-year-old of organizing attacks on Israelis, making explosives, smuggling weapons, and providing shelter to members of terror groups.

Mr. Daoud has denied Israel's allegations. The intelligence chief has said he hoped to continue his education in Italy.

"I shall live like everyone else," he shouted, adding that contacts were under way to reunite him with his wife, son, and daughter.

Load-Date: December 3, 2003

Jenin 'massacre' a product of propaganda

University Wire

April 29, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 The Observer via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 812 words

Byline: By Mike Marchand, The Observer

Dateline: South Bend, Ind.

Body

As Israel continues to arrange the end of its incursion into Palestinian territory, a new echo has arisen about a "massacre" in a refugee camp in the city of Jenin. It would be a serious charge if it wasn't overinflated propaganda. All of it.

First off, there hasn't been an official, impartial investigation of anything that happened at Jenin. That hasn't stopped people from asserting that Israel is guilty of mass civilian murder. Hosni Mubarak, the president of Egypt, said Israel's soldiers committed "despicable crimes." A correspondent for London's Independent said a "monstrous war crime" took place.

U. Notre Dame

The more rational people insist on having an official inquiry but have already drawn their own conclusions. Amnesty International wants an investigation into "the killings of hundreds of Palestinians." And Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat has demanded an "immediate investigation" of the "massacre" at Jenin.

Even without an investigation, wild estimates of the number of deaths are idly tossed around. The settled death toll number that the Palestinians use is 500 civilians. In reality, the number of dead was less than 100, most of whom were armed fighters. Twenty-three Israeli soldiers were also killed.

From the accusations, one might get the idea that Israel simply stormed the town with tanks and leveled it to the ground. But they didn't. The damage done to Jenin was confined to an area of about two city blocks.

Reporters from The New York Times and Washington Post conducted interviews and neither found any evidence of any sort of significant or systematic killing of Palestinian civilians by Israeli troops.

In fact, the Israelis took great care to minimize collateral damage. Jenin was a notorious hideout for terrorists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad -- more than 20 suicide bombers came from there. Those fanatics used civilian housing structures to shield themselves from attack while they constructed bombs and stashed rocket launchers and other weapons. But the Israelis started their raid on Jenin by going house to house, street by street. Had they used their superior firepower and weaponry, they could have simply liquidated the entire refugee camp in a matter of hours. But they chose to go through it with more surgical precision to limit the number of Palestinian deaths.

Unfortunately, this placed their soldiers at great risk. Many of the terrorists' dens were booby-trapped. It's believed that 13 Israeli soldiers were wiped out in one fell swoop in one building. It was only after losing soldiers to rigged

Jenin 'massacre' a product of propaganda

explosions that the Israelis simply knocked those buildings down rather than continue to send their soldiers into houses wired to explode. But even then, they paused before every structure and announced over loudspeaker that they intended to destroy the buildings. Civilians were given ample warning to leave.

Moreover, how hypocritical is it for Palestinians, whose main weapon is random suicide bombings of civilians, to be leveling charges towards the Israelis of targeting and executing innocents? Some international officials are claiming that Israel violated the Fourth Geneva Convention, which protects civilians in armed combat. It's an outrageous allegation. It is Palestinian terrorist groups who are intentionally targeting Israeli civilians for the express purpose of killing as many of them as possible. Even when the Israelis found terrorists in Jenin -- like Thabet Mardawi of Islamic Jihad, who sent nine suicide bombers from Jenin who killed 20 Israelis -- the soldiers arrested him; they didn't execute him.

Undoubtedly some innocent Palestinians were killed in the fighting. And although even one innocent death is too many, it's also important to note Israel's caution, even to the risk of their own soldiers' lives. They, not the Palestinian terrorist groups, sacrifice their military advantage out of respect for civilian life. They, and not Hamas, give warning before blowing something up. But yet they and not the Palestinians, are the object of the rest of the world's scrutiny and scorn.

There were atrocities and war crimes committed at Jenin. But they were committed by the Palestinians, who were too cowardly to adhere to international regulations, while at the same time accusing the Israelis of flagrantly violating those same rules. And there was no massacre.

Mike Marchand, class of '01, is an analyst for RealClearPolitics and a contributor to The Politix Group. He didn't want to write another column on the Middle East. In fact, his original column was about how "shy guys" never seem to attract women. But it came off too whiny, so he scrapped it. There pretty much wasn't anything left to write about. To comment about this column or his original idea, e-mail him at Marchand.3@nd.edu. "Undistinguished Alumnus" will return next year.

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Load-Date: April 29, 2002

Middle East crisis: On both sides, the talk is only of war: Graham Usher reports from Netanya, devastated by a suicide bomber, and Tulkaram, the West Bank town from which the bomber came, which is bracing itself for an Israeli onslaught

The Guardian (London)

March 29, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 690 words

Body

Thousands of people came yesterday to pay a morbid homage at the ground floor of the Park Hotel, site of the bombing. It is a chilling shrine of twisted metal awnings, tiles seared black and molten by the massive explosive charge, and a dance floor soaked in blood.

Maxim Elkrief is the manager of the hotel restaurant where the bomber, Abdel Basset Odeh, 24, blew himself up. Before the blast, Maxim remembers helping pensioners to their chairs ready for the Passover meal. After it, he remembers limbs on upturned tables, his shirt covered in blood and a woman's wig lying next to the bomber's head.

He has no time for the Arab summit in Beirut.

"Arafat talks peace to the Arabs. Hizbullah talks against it. And **Hamas** bombs us in Netanya," he says. "So who do we believe? Look, I've seen war in the Sinai and terror in my restaurant. I prefer war. It has rules and is fought between soldiers. You can't fight terror. So let's fight a war."

Miriam Friberg, the mayor of Netanya, spent a night and a day shuttling between the bomb site and the town's hospital, where 30 of the victims are still critically injured. One died yesterday.

"Netanya has the most beautiful gardens in Israel and the worst carnage," she says. "We have had 11 terror attacks in this city in the last three years. We can't continue like this."

"I think our government should do what the US government did after September 11. It should take all means necessary to protect its citizens and return us to a normal life."

"As long as you don't drain the swamp you end up swatting mosquitoes," says Rami Gobermik, a Netanya town hall officer. "We have tried to drain the swamp politically, through the ceasefire talks. Maybe now we have to drain it ourselves, militarily."

The "swamp" lies a mere six miles east of Netanya, on the other side of Israel's West Bank border, in Tulkaram. This was where Odeh lived and from where he set out to reach Netanya.

The Palestinian town is as deserted as Netanya is crowded. A few stores on its winding, sloping roads do a brisk trade as people stock up on food and emergency supplies.

Middle East crisis: On both sides, the talk is only of war: Graham Usher reports from Netanya , devastated by a suicide bomber, and Tulkaram, the West Bank town....

A lone taxi ferries a couple with two children to an army checkpoint at Tulkaram's entrance. The soldiers turn them back.

"So you can kill us when you invade?" shouts the woman.

"Maybe," answers a soldier. "We've tried talking to you. Maybe we should try something else."

"Let them come," says Mohammed, a leader of Arafat's Fatah movement in Tulkaram. "We will absorb this invasion like we did the last one, when 17 of our people were killed. The army will destroy houses and kill innocents. But it won't reach the fighters. They've escaped already."

By way of evidence, he shows Palestinian Authority police stations empty of officers and a refugee camp empty of young men.

He takes us to the one place in Tulkaram not bereft of people: Odeh's home, where dozens of women and children have come to pay respect to the mother of the "martyr", Nawal.

"I'm proud of my son for what he did and grieving because I lost him," she says. "I also have sympathy for every mother who lost a son in Netanya. But the Israelis have to understand they drove us to this point."

She says Abdel Basset was an "ordinary Palestinian". He spent six months at the age of 10 in an Israeli prison during the first intifada for "throwing stones at soldiers". He tried to get married two years ago but was barred by Israel from meeting his fiancée in Iraq. In recent years he had become "more religious".

He had also become more active in Hamas's military wing, a PA source in Tulkaram said. Eight months ago he went underground after being placed on Israel's "most wanted" list, a euphemism for arrest by the PA or assassination by the army.

"Maybe the Israelis were planning to kill him," says his mother. "It would explain why he chose to be a martyr. After all," she adds, with a look like steel, "he was going to die anyway." Should the army invade Tulkaram, her other four sons may die. At the very least, the soldiers will destroy her house.

"Let them," she says. "We believe we are in God's hands. I am not afraid."

"She is," says Mohammed when we leave. "We all are".

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

**MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON 'SURRENDER OR DIE'. . . ISRAELI TROOPS
BLAST THEIR WAY INTO REFUGEE CAMP; SCORES DIE AS SHARON
DEFIES US PEACE MOVE AND TURNS WEST BANK INTO BLAZING WAR
ZONE**

Sunday Express

April 7, 2002

Copyright 2002 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 751 words

Byline: By Andrea Perry

Body

FIERCE fighting continued to rage in the West Bank last night as Israel pushed ahead with its military offensive, undaunted by the US call for withdrawal from Palestinian areas to end the mounting bloodshed.

There was no let-up in the bitter struggle, despite the expected arrival of US Secretary of State Colin Powell in the region today to attempt to broker a peace deal.

And last night Israel snubbed American peace initiatives when the country's leader Ariel Sharon told President George Bush he had no intention of calling an immediate ceasefire.

Prime Minister Sharon's office said he had spoken to President Bush by phone and told him Israel would expedite its offensive in the West Bank - but he also said that Israel "is conscious of the American desire to see the operation ended quickly".

Bush remained determined, however, and turned up the diplomatic heat, telling a news conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at his side:

"Israel should halt incursions in the Palestinian-controlled areas and begin to withdraw without delay from those cities it has recently occupied."

And a senior Bush aide said the President wanted action - not just words - from Sharon.

The official added: "He told the prime minister that Israel needs to make progress now and that Israel needs to defuse the situation so diplomacy can work."

Yesterday Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the Cairo-based Arab League, called for the UN to force Israel to quit the area. He warned that unless international action was taken to curb Israel's offensive the region could be dragged into an all-out war.

And he claimed that 100 people had been killed yesterday in fighting in the towns of Jenin and Nablus alone.

MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON 'SURRENDER OR DIE'. . . ISRAELI TROOPS BLAST THEIR WAY INTO REFUGEE CAMP; SCORES DIE AS SHARON DEFIES US PEACE MOVE AND TURNS WEST BANK INT....

A senior aide to Yasser Arafat said that Israeli forces had once again shelled the Palestinian leader's besieged headquarters in Ramallah, wounding four people.

Israeli jets and artillery struck back after Lebanese Hizbollah guerillas fired mortars and rockets at a border village in the Israeli-held Golan Heights, military sources reported.

Meanwhile leading members of the radical group Hamas, promised a "tough response" to the reported West Bank killing of six Hamas gunmen on Friday when a house was attacked by Israeli tanks and helicopters. Spokesman Marmoud Zaha vowed: "We will continue to terrorize them."

The fiercest fighting on the ninth day of hostilities was at the Jenin refugee camp in Nablus where Israeli stormtroopers and Palestinian gunmen battled alley by alley following intense bombardment throughout the night.

Palestinians speaking by phone reported dead and wounded in the streets of the camp. Militant Abu Irmalla said: "I myself counted 30 dead bodies. There are a tremendous number of injured people."

Israel says it has confiscated thousands of weapons, bombs and explosives in the operation. The Israeli commander in the area admitted there had been many Palestinian casualties.

"They have their backs against the walls. We trapped them in there, attacked them with the intention they should surrender. Those that don't surrender, we will kill, " said BrigadierGeneral Tat Aluf Eyal Shlein. "It is determined fighting."

In Bethlehem, where a stand-off between Israeli forces and scores of Palestinian gunmen who are holed up in the Church of the Nativity was in its fifth day, squads of soldiers searched private homes.

Witnesses said at least 10 men were blindfolded, handcuffed and taken away in armoured personnel carriers. The Israeli army claimed it had helped three Greek clergymen and two Palestinian women slip out of Church of the Nativity - built on the site reputed to be Christ's birthplace.

Meanwhile, four children caught up in a tug-of-love battle are trapped in a flat at the heart of the fighting.

Their mother, Eileen Sutton, from Barry, South Glamorgan, heard the sound of gunfire in the background as she spoke to them on the phone.

Fatima, 16, Ahmad, 14, Maryam, 11, and Amjad, 10, are with their Palestinian father who snatched them two years ago.

Vale of Glamorgan MP John Smith is pleading her case with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and demanding that they be escorted to safety.

All the children have been made wards of court in Britain and their father now has an obligation to return them to allow the courts to rule on custody.

Mr Smith said: "They are in the middle of the war zone where there are snipers and gun battles and civilians being killed. The Israelis must remove the children and hand them over to the safety of the British Consulate."

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

Another suicide bomber strikes

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 4, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLDTABLE; Pg. 21

Length: 774 words

Byline: DAN WILLIAMS

Body

A SUICIDE bomber blew himself up in a Jewish neighbourhood of Jerusalem yesterday, killing himself and at least six other people including a baby girl.

The US immediately condemned the bombing, calling on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to stop those responsible for such attacks.

Fierce flames from a car destroyed in the explosion rose into the night sky over the Beit Israel district, where the bomber triggered the blast near a synagogue after the end of the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest.

Responsibility was claimed by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a radical offshoot of Mr Arafat's Fatah.
MATP

An anonymous caller named the bomber as Mohammed Darajneh al-Chouhani, 19, from the Deheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy said the bomber walked up to a group of people on the street with a shrapnel bomb strapped to his body and detonated it.

"Thirty-five people were wounded and taken to hospital and up to now there are six dead. In addition, the seventh dead person is apparently the bomber," Mr Levy said.

A doctor at the city's Bikur Holim hospital said one of the dead was a baby girl. At least six of the wounded were in critical condition.

Police sealed off the immediate area and said they were searching for other bombs as a precaution.

Stunned residents of the neighbourhood, the target of at least one previous bombing, pressed up against security tape near the scene of the blast, many of the men in the silk coats ultra-Orthodox Jews wear on the Sabbath.

"This is another incident of Palestinian terror," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Yaffa Ben Ari said.

"Palestinians have not realised that through violence they will not get anything, that no solution to the conflict will come through terror. We will continue our struggle against terrorism."

Another suicide bomber strikes

Shortly after the blast, a police spokesman said an Israeli was found shot dead on a road near the Jewish settlement of Qedar in the West Bank, east of Jerusalem.

The second attack was also claimed by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

The victim is believed to be an Israeli policeman, and the shooting was in retaliation for the killing by Israel of one of the group's leaders in November.

The attacks came as Israel was winding down a controversial three-day double incursion inside two West Bank refugee camps, in which 20 Palestinians and two Israeli

soldiers died.

Palestinian militant groups have vowed to avenge Israeli army incursions into two refugee camps in the West Bank to hunt down suspected gunmen and bombers.

At least 21 Palestinians, including civilians as well as police and gunmen, and two Israeli soldiers have been killed since the raids on the Balata and Jenin camps were launched on Thursday.

* A PALESTINIAN baby boy died yesterday just after he was born inside an ambulance that was held up by Israeli troops at a roadblock near the West Bank town of Ramallah, Palestinian medics said.

They line up to kill and die for their cause

THE weekend's devastating suicide attack is the latest in a long line of bombings by Palestinians since the start of the current intifada, or uprising, against Israel declared in September 2000.

* February 19: Palestinian gunmen kill six Israeli soldiers when they ambush an army checkpoint in the West Bank.

* February 17: A Palestinian suicide bomber from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine kills two young Israelis and injures 30 people when he blows himself apart in a pizza cafe in a shopping centre in a West Bank Jewish settlement.

* February 10: Two Palestinian gunmen from Hamas kill two Israeli women soldiers near the southern army headquarters in Beersheba before being shot down themselves.

* February 7: A Hamas gunman goes on a shooting spree at the Jewish Hamra plantation in the Jordan valley, West bank, gunning down a woman settler and her baby, as well as a soldier, before being killed himself.

* January 27: Wafa Idris, the first Palestinian woman suicide bomber, sets off an explosion on Jaffa Rd, west Jerusalem's main street, killing an elderly Israeli and wounding dozens.

* January 25: A suicide bomber incinerates himself and injures 18 others, three seriously, in a bustling pedestrian area in Tel Aviv.

* January 22: A Palestinian gunman from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades opens fire on Jaffa road, killing two Israelis and injuring 39, before being shot dead.

* January 17: A Palestinian gunman from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades mows down six Israelis and injures at least 24 others at a party, before being shot dead in the first major attack on civilians in Israel since Arafat declared a ceasefire on December 16.

-KEYS- timeline, chronology

Another suicide bomber strikes

Load-Date: March 3, 2002

End of Document

Arafat decries civilian deaths: Bowing to pressure from the U.S., Yasser Arafat issues a statement condemning terrorism, reviving hopes Secretary of State Colin Powell can salvage his peace mission.

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 14, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 741 words

Byline: HILARY MACKENZIE

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Yasser Arafat and senior Palestinian leaders yesterday strongly condemned the killings of Israeli civilians, setting a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell back on track.

The U.S. State Department confirmed Powell will meet today with Arafat in his destroyed Palestinian Authority headquarters in Ramallah. The meeting, originally to have taken place yesterday, was delayed after a suicide bomber killed six Israelis in a Jerusalem market on Friday.

"We strongly condemn violent operations that target Israeli civilians, especially the last operation in Jerusalem," Arafat and the senior Palestinian leadership wrote in a statement.

Southam News; AP contributed to this report.

The statement, one of the preconditions the U.S. quietly set for a meeting with Powell, was written and delivered in Arabic after Arafat met with the Palestinian negotiating team at his headquarters in Ramallah, where he has been under siege by Israeli forces for two weeks.

The statement had harsh words for Israel as well.

"We also strongly condemn the massacre and the killing Israel occupation forces have, and are still committing against Palestinian civilians and refugees in the city of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp and the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem and other Palestinian territories over the past two weeks."

Israel denied the allegations. The country continued to buck U.S. and world opinion, as tanks rolled into the towns of Arabe, Hashmiah and al-Yamoun and the village of Burqeen and imposed strict curfews on their civilians. All four places are close to the northern city of Jenin, the scene of fierce fighting until Israeli forces quelled the last major pocket of Palestinian resistance on Thursday.

Troops also entered three villages near Nablus and Ramallah yesterday. The army said it had arrested 40 Palestinians for what it called "terrorist activities."

South of Nablus, in the village of Jamain, a wanted leader of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers yesterday, residents said.

Arafat decries civilian deaths: Bowing to pressure from the U.S. , Yasser Arafat issues a statement condemning terrorism, reviving hopes Secretary of State Coli....

Ahmed Ali, 39, was killed in an olive grove outside the village, the residents said. The Israeli army did not immediately comment.

Ismail Abu Shanab, spokesman for Hamas, said attacks will go on.

"We have the full right to react without any limitation against the state terrorism of Israel."

The new Israeli raids came the day after Powell met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and urged him to withdraw from the Palestinian cities and towns the army has occupied in a bid to crush the "infrastructure of terror" during its 15-day-old West Bank campaign.

Sharon has dismissed a flurry of calls from Washington, Israel's chief ally, and made no commitment to Powell beyond speeding up military operations.

Friday's suicide bombing in a crowded Jerusalem market, as Jews shopped for the Sabbath holiday, further hardened public opinion against a settlement.

"A majority of Israelis think there is a military solution," said pollster Manach Smith.

"They think that if there is enough energy and pressure, they will get a relatively peaceful period."

The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a group linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, said it had carried out the attack. A senior Palestinian security official said it appeared to be revenge for Israel's assault on Palestinian areas.

In Jenin, where the first shipment of food, water, mattresses, blankets and medicines to the besieged camp arrived yesterday from Oxfam Quebec and other non-governmental organizations, the mood was angry.

"I saw many women and children buried as their houses collapsed around them," said Lotfiye Mahmoud. "They collapsed as the bulldozers came."

Mahmoud said there was no water, no electricity, no food, no sanitation. The Israelis, she said, had cut their lifeline to civilization and dignity.

"We don't want these things - food, clothes - we want a solution," said the headmistress, who had no word of her husband, her son or her father. "We want to live safely. We want our children to live safely."

But, she vowed, the crisis would breed more suicide bombers.

"Everyone wants to fight, even small children," she said.

"Could you strap a bomb around you? Could you?" she asked. "Many people here are suicide bombers."

So strong is the sentiment in support of suicide bombers that women are naming their first born after slain "martyrs," who in the name of Islam give their lives to honour what they say is their cause.

Graphic

Photo: PETER DEJONG, AP; In an effort to demoralize an estimated 200 Palestinians holed up inside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israeli forces blasted high-pitched noises yesterday from a large speaker system hoisted by a crane outside the church.

Arafat decries civilian deaths: Bowing to pressure from the U.S. , Yasser Arafat issues a statement condemning terrorism, reviving hopes Secretary of State Coli....

Load-Date: April 14, 2002

End of Document

Israel prepared to talk peace

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

March 11, 2002 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 713 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday he is prepared to end Yasser Arafat's confinement in the West Bank and negotiate a truce with the Palestinians -- but with violence at its worst levels in 17 months of fighting, he stressed he will not call off the army offensive against militants.

Sharon said Palestinian security forces had arrested the fifth and final suspect in the October slaying of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi, fulfilling the condition for lifting a blockade that has kept Arafat under virtual house arrest in his compound in Ramallah in the West Bank since December.

"People have been arrested. I demanded their arrest and their imprisonment," Sharon told a group of disabled war veterans. "I have said that after they are arrested we shall let him out of there." He did not say when the Palestinian president would be allowed to move about freely.

Sharon spoke hours after Israeli helicopters pounded Arafat's Gaza Strip office, reducing the two-storey building to rubble.

The raid was in retaliation for a Palestinian suicide attack that killed 12 people, including the bomber, near Sharon's Jerusalem residence.

The office had been evacuated before the attack, and no one was hurt.

After the attack, workers went through the debris to salvage documents in the complex, one of the leading symbols of the Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

An officer in Arafat's personal security unit wept upon seeing the wreckage. "This went from being a small social club to being the house of the nation, and look at it now," said Lt. Mohammed Youssef.

Arafat had received world leaders, including former U.S. president Bill Clinton and the late King Hussein of Jordan, at the building.

"We are in a war," Sharon told his cabinet at its weekly meeting, before he said he was ready to lift the travel ban on Arafat. "All of us must stay united and make every effort to stand up to this wave of terror."

Israel prepared to talk peace

Late Sunday, a Palestinian opened fire at a Jewish celebration in the coastal city of Ashdod, seriously wounding a 16-year-old boy, police said. They said a suspect from the West Bank was captured. In scattered clashes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, three Palestinians and one Israeli were killed.

Meanwhile, just south of the Dheisheh refugee camp on Sunday, the Israeli army exploded a two-storey building containing a suspected bomb lab.

Before the blast, reporters were shown the alleged lab, a small, dank room strewn with clothes and debris, apparently from the army raid on Friday. Soldiers pointed out a large gas burner, a bowl of powder they described as material for making explosives, and large containers of what they said was nitric acid.

Sharon's concession on Arafat came ahead of renewed American diplomatic efforts. The United States is pressing for a ceasefire, and U.S. envoy Gen. Anthony Zinni is to visit the region this week for his third attempt in recent months to work out a truce.

"He's going to stay in the region and fight his way through this," Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday on CBS's Face the Nation. "We're not going to allow acts of violence to stop Gen. Zinni from doing his work."

Sharon has dropped his demand for a week of complete calm before talking about a ceasefire, but made clear the current Israeli military offensive will go ahead.

"We want to make every effort to achieve a ceasefire," Sharon said. "At the same time, we are continuing with our operations ... and if the terror continues our operations will continue."

Palestinians said the Jerusalem bombing and a shooting attack at a seafront hotel in Netanya, both on Saturday night, were a consequence of Israel's stepped-up military campaign. Recent Israeli raids in several refugee camps have resulted in many civilian casualties.

"This is the normal response from the Palestinian resistance for all the Israelis have done in the refugee camps, to Palestinian civilians, women and children," said Ahmed Abdel Rahman, a top adviser to Arafat. "The Israelis have to expect such operations whenever they escalate their military attacks against our civilians."

In the worst spate of violence since the fighting erupted in September 2000, more than 120 Palestinians and more than 50 Israelis have been killed in the first 10 days of March.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Masked Palestinian activists of the militant group Hamas, some dressed as suicide bombers with fake explosives strapped to their waists, vow to continue their attacks against Israel during a demonstration in Jebalya refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip on Sunday. Hamas claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in a Jerusalem cafe which killed 11 people. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

Israel plunged into mourning

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

November 22, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A22; Crime; Chronology

Length: 1786 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel was plunged into mourning again yesterday as funerals began for the victims of a Palestinian suicide attack on a Jerusalem bus that left 11 dead and more than 40 wounded.

Many of the victims were children. The dead included two 13-year-olds, an 8-year-old boy who died along with his grandmother, and a 16-year-old boy whose mother also was killed.

The blast occurred shortly after 7 a.m. on Mexico St. in a southern district. The packed No. 20 bus was making its way toward the centre of town.

Southam News; AP; The Gazette

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered Israeli forces to return to Bethlehem to hunt down those responsible for the bombing.

Sharon, who is embroiled in a battle for the leadership of his right-wing Likud Party, chose to exclude from a meeting of his top military commanders his rival in that contest, Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli tanks penetrated the village of Karara, Gaza Strip, near the Kissufim checkpoint, this morning, Gaza residents said.

Soldiers blew up the home of a **Hamas** militant killed in December following an attack on a Jewish settlement, the villagers said.

Wearing a suicide-bomb harness, a man boarded the bus and made his way to the crowded middle section. No one noticed anything suspicious about him. Some witnesses said his hair was dyed blond, to mingle with fashionable Jerusalem youth.

Two stops later, he detonated a large bomb, sending pieces of jagged metal through the bus, cutting people down where they stood.

"I got on the bus and went to sit in the last row," said teenager Kobi Ohana, who was on his way to school. "At first I thought it was a traffic accident. But then I saw a person shouting for everyone to sit down, to get down. When everyone got down, I jumped out of the window and ran back. I called my mum and told her that I was OK. Then someone took us to the hospital in a taxi."

Israel plunged into mourning

The bus was wrecked, its roof half blown off, its windows shattered. School books, shoes and children's backpacks were strewn around the bus and in a 30-metre radius on the road, covered with blood and mingled with severed limbs.

One man hung halfway through a window. Others were slumped lifeless in their seats. Rescue workers covered them with blankets and plastic sheeting so that the parents rushing to the scene would not see the shattered bodies of their children and loved ones.

"One person was over the window, I guess he was dead, and then I heard a lot of people shouting, 'Mummy, Mummy,' " a witness said.

It was the first serious attack in Jerusalem in nearly four months and shattered hopes that talks last week in Cairo between Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and the **Hamas** terror group might stop the targeting of

Israeli civilians.

Security chiefs said the only answer is a physical barrier to separate Israel from the West Bank as exists around the Gaza Strip.

The bomber was identified as Nael abu Hilayel, a bearded, stout 23-year-old from the West Bank village of El-Khader, southwest of Bethlehem. He came from a stridently religious family, frequently prayed at the mosque and memorized entire passages of the Koran, relatives said.

Hamas - the Islamic Resistance Movement - said it carried out the attack. But Islamic Jihad, another terror group, also claimed responsibility.

Despite the claims, the Israeli government blamed Arafat and accused him of fomenting terrorism. Arafat's aides condemned the bombing but blamed Sharon and his "bellicose policies."

"Sharon and his policies are responsible for the continuation of violence," said Palestinian cabinet minister Ghassan Khatib.

"As long as occupation persists, there will be no security or stability for Zionists," Abdulaziz Rantisi, a senior **Hamas** official, said from Gaza City.

Excluded from the security talks, Netanyahu instead paid a high-profile visit to a hospital to speak to recovering victims. He took several foreign diplomats along and used the occasion to receive telephone calls from U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

"The only way to defeat savagery, to defeat terror, is to defeat it," Netanyahu told the ambassadors, "or it will spread to every one of your countries, every one of your cities. ... We expect not only your condemnations, but your united support in our fight against terror."

The bombing could not have been more precisely timed or targeted to undermine Israel's left-of-centre alternative to Sharon. Just two days ago, the Labour Party elected as its new leader Amram Mitzna, who will compete as Labour's candidate for prime minister against the winner of the Likud race in general elections on Jan. 28.

Mitzna, a former general, advocates immediate negotiations with the Palestinians, without conditions, and a unilateral

Israeli withdrawal of soldiers and settlers from the Gaza Strip. Among other conditions before negotiations resume, Sharon insists that Arafat be replaced as Palestinian leader and that Palestinians halt all violence.

Israeli forces raided one of the Hilayel family's homes and arrested a brother and cousin of Hilayel. His parents were receiving visitors at home in El-Khader and said they were proud of their son's act.

"Thank God he sacrificed his life for the sake of Palestine," his tearful mother, Fatima, said.

Israel plunged into mourning

Hilayel, who worked with his father selling fruits and vegetables, dropped out of sight Wednesday after telling a sister he wanted to become a martyr.

los angeles times, new york times, san francisco chronicle and ap contributed to this report

316 israelis killed in 81 suicide bombings since intifada

- 1) Oct. 26, 2000: Israeli outpost in Gaza; no Israelis killed.
- 2) Dec. 22: Restaurant in Jordan River Valley; no Israelis killed.
- 3) Jan. 1, 2001: Netanya; no Israelis killed, 60 injured.
- 4) March 1: One Israeli killed in taxi near Mei Ami.
- 5) March 4: Three Israelis killed in Netanya.
- 6) March 27: Jerusalem's French Hill neighbourhood; no Israelis killed.
- 7) March 28: Gas station near Sdeh Hemed; two Israelis killed.
- 8) April 22: Kfar Saba; one Israeli killed.
- 9) April 29: Car near Israeli bus outside Nablus; no Israelis killed.
- 10) May 18: Netanya shopping mall; five Israelis killed.
- 11) May 25: Truck at Carni Junction in Gaza Strip; no Israelis killed.
- 12) June 1: Dolphinarium nightclub in Tel Aviv; 21 Israelis killed.
- 13) June 22: Jeep at Dugit in Gaza Strip; two Israelis killed.
- 14) July 9: Car near Kissufim Junction; no Israelis killed.
- 15) July 16: Binyamina train station; two Israelis killed.
- 16) Aug. 8: Military checkpoint in Jordan Valley; no Israelis killed.
- 17) Aug. 9: Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem; 15 Israelis killed.
- 18) Aug. 12: Kiryat Motzkin; no Israelis killed, 21 injured.
- 19) Sept. 4: Haneviim St. in Jerusalem; no Israelis killed.
- 20) Sept. 9: Nahariya train station; three Israelis killed.
- 21) Sept. 9: Car at Beit Lid Junction; no Israelis killed.
- 22) Oct. 7: Near Kibbutz Shluhot; one Israeli killed.
- 23) Oct. 17: Nahal Oz; no Israelis killed.
- 24) Nov. 8: Baka al-Sharkiyeh, West Bank; no Israelis killed.
- 25) Nov. 26: Erez crossing, Gaza Strip; no Israelis killed.
- 26) Nov. 29: Gan Shmuel bus; three Israelis killed.

Israel plunged into mourning

- 27) Dec. 1: Double suicide bombing on Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem; 11 Israelis killed.
- 28) Dec. 2: Bus in Haifa; 15 Israelis killed.
- 29) Dec. 5: King David St. in Jerusalem; no Israelis killed.
- 30) Dec. 9: Haifa; no Israelis killed.
- 31) Dec. 12: Gaza Strip; no Israelis killed.
- 32) Jan. 25, 2002: Tel Aviv; no Israelis killed.
- 33) Jan. 27: **Female** bomber in Jaffa St. in Jerusalem; one Israeli killed.
- 34) Jan. 30: Taibe; no Israelis killed.
- 35) Feb. 8: Mei Ami; no Israelis killed.
- 36) Feb. 16: Karnei Shomron, West Bank; two Israelis killed.
- 37) Feb. 18: Maale Adumim; one Israeli killed.
- 38) Feb. 19: Mehola; no Israelis killed.
- 39) Feb. 22: Efrat supermarket in West Bank; no Israelis killed.
- 40) Feb. 27: **Female** bomber near Maccabim checkpoint; no Israelis killed.
- 41) March 2: Mea Shearim, Jerusalem; 10 Israelis killed.
- 42) March 5: Bus in Afula; one Israeli killed.
- 43) March 7: Ariel; no Israelis killed.
- 44) March 8: Beit Hanina; no Israelis killed.
- 45) March 9: Moment Cafe in Jerusalem; 11 Israelis killed.
- 46) March 14: Car on a road east of Jerusalem; no Israelis killed.
- 47) March 17: Bus in French Hill in Jerusalem; no Israelis killed.
- 48) March 20: Bus in Kfar Musmus; seven Israelis killed.
- 49) March 21: King George St. in Jerusalem; three Israelis killed.
- 50) March 22: Roadblock near Jenin; no Israelis killed.
- 51) March 26: Near Malha Mall in Jerusalem; no Israelis killed.
- 52) March 27: Hotel in Netanya; 29 Israelis killed.
- 53) March 29: Kiryat Yovel supermarket in Jerusalem; two
Israelis killed.
- 54) March 30: Coffee shop in Tel Aviv; one Israeli woman killed.
- 55) March 31: Restaurant in Haifa; 15 Israelis killed.

Israel plunged into mourning

- 56) March 31: Ambulance station in Efrat, West Bank; no Israelis killed.
- 57) April 1: Car in Jerusalem; one Israeli killed.
- 58) April 10: Bus in Haifa; eight Israelis killed.
- 59) April 12: **Female** bomber at the market in Jerusalem; six Israelis killed.
- 60) April 19: Kissufim in Gaza Strip; no Israelis killed.
- 61) April 20: Checkpoint near Qalqilya in West Bank; no Israelis killed.
- 62) May 7: Pool hall in Rishon Letzion; 15 Israelis killed.
- 63) May 19: Market in Netanya; three Israelis killed.
- 64) May 20: Taanakhim Junction; no Israelis killed.
- 65) May 22: Park in Rishon Letzion; two Israelis killed.
- 66) May 27: Ice-cream parlour in Petach Tikvah; two Israelis killed.
- 67) June 5: Bus near Megiddo Junction; 17 Israelis killed.
- 68) June 11: Restaurant in Herzliya; one Israeli killed.
- 69) June 17: Marja; no Israelis killed.
- 70) June 18: Patt Junction in Jerusalem; 19 Israelis killed.
- 71) June 18: Street intersection in Jerusalem; at least seven Israelis killed.
- 72) July 17: Two suicide bombers kill three in a Tel Aviv neighbourhood where many illegal foreign workers live; 40 injured.
- 73) July 31: Jerusalem; 7 injured.
- 74) August 4: Rush-hour bus bombing in Tsfat, Israel; 18 dead including two Filipinos, one Israeli Arab, scores injured.
- 75) Sept. 18: Busy intersection in northern Israeli Arab city of Umm El-Fahm, killing one Israeli; 2 injured.
- 76) Sept. 19: Tel Aviv bus bombing; five Israelis killed; 50 injured.
- 77) Oct. 10: Tel Aviv bus bombing; one Israeli killed; 50 injured.
- 78) Oct. 21: Jerusalem car bombing; 16 Israelis killed; more than 50 hurt.
- 79) Oct. 27: West Bank settlement of Ariel; three Israeli soldiers killed; 17 people injured.
- 80) Nov. 4: Shopping mall in Kfar Saba; two Israelis killed; 32 people injured.
- 81) Yesterday: Jerusalem city bus; 11 Israelis killed, at least 48 wounded.

Graphic

Israel plunged into mourning

Color Photo: HAVAKUK LEVISON, REUTERS; A girl demonstrates in front of pictures of victims of Palestinian attacks outside the Tel Aviv District Court during the murder trial of Marwan Barghout, a prominent Palestinian uprising leader, in Tel Aviv, yesterday.; Color Photo: NIR ELIAS, REUTERS; The mother of 13-year-old Israeli girl Hodaya Asraf, who was killed in a suicide bombing yesterday morning, weeps during her funeral in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon.

Load-Date: November 22, 2002

End of Document

Six Britons held over suicide-bomb bar attack

The Sunday Herald

May 4, 2003

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Section: Pg. 2

Length: 317 words

Byline: By Bridget Morris

Body

SIX people are being questioned by British anti-terrorist police over a suicide bomb attack on a beachfront bar in Israel.

Three men and three women are being held in London under the Terrorism Act - which allows for them to be held for seven days - following a joint British and Israeli operation, launched after Asif Mohammed Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif, both from England, allegedly carried out the fatal bar bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday.

Five of the suspects, two men and two women in Derbyshire and one woman in Nottinghamshire, were arrested on Friday evening.

A third man was arrested in London early yesterday morning. The six are understood to be Sharif's wife Tahira, his two sisters, one of his brothers, a friend of the family and his wife's brother. It is also thought that officers are investigating an extremist Islamic group operating in Derby.

Israeli police say Hanif, 21, of Hounslow, west London, detonated a device in the doorway of Mike's Place, a bar in Tel Aviv, early on Wednesday, killing himself, three others and injuring dozens. Sharif, from Derby, was named as his accomplice and is believed to have fled after his bomb failed to explode.

Israeli security forces are still hunting for 27-year-old Sharif. Copies of his passport photo have been handed out, although police believe he may have altered his appearance.

Chancellor Gordon Brown has had all UK accounts belonging to the men frozen. The pair are believed to have entered Israel separately before travelling to the Gaza Strip through the heavily guarded Erez border crossing.

Hanif - a student of Arabic at Damascus University - is thought to be the first Briton to carry out a suicide bomb attack.

The attack was claimed as a joint operation by the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and the armed wing of Hamas, the hard-line Islamic group.

I News In Focus: pages 12&13

Load-Date: May 5, 2003

Six Britons held over suicide-bomb bar attack

End of Document

Palestinians arrest 2 officials in arms case

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 12, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 868 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- Palestinian police have detained two senior Palestinian officials suspected of trying to smuggle a boatload of arms into Gaza, Palestinian security sources said.

Israel dismissed the move as insufficient. Hours later, Israeli missile boats opened fire on Palestinian naval targets in Gaza, setting a fuel depot and a barracks on fire, Palestinian security sources said. A small patrol boat was also hit.

The barracks had been abandoned and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

The seizure of the ship smuggling 50 tons of arms last week came after four weeks of relative calm and again put Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the defensive with the United States demanding an explanation about the arms ship.

The ship's captain said in jailhouse interviews that he loaded the arms in Iran and that the weapons were destined for Gaza.

Israel has blamed the Palestinian Authority and Arafat, saying they were behind the shipment of arms, which included rockets, explosives and anti-tank missiles forbidden under Israeli-Palestinian accords.

But the Palestinian Authority continues to insist it had no connection to the weapons.

"The Palestinian leadership emphasizes that it does not have any information about the ship issue," the Palestinian Authority said in a statement. The suspects were detained based on information received from international sources, the statement said.

The two men detained were identified as Fuad Shobaki and Adel Mughraby. Israel says Shobaki is a senior official who authorized payments for the ship and the arms. A third official, Fathi Razim, deputy commander of the Palestinian Authority's navy, was being sought by Palestinian security forces.

Israel dismissed the move -- as it has done with recent Palestinian efforts to enforce a cease-fire -- as insufficient.

Palestinians arrest 2 officials in arms case

"The arrest of certain senior members of the PA ... is an attempt by Yasser Arafat to exonerate himself," said Raanan Gissin, spokesman of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "The real issue is ... dismantling the terrorist infrastructure and stopping altogether the smuggling of illegal weapons."

A senior Bush administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the administration hopes the detentions mark the beginning of a serious effort.

Israeli intelligence officials briefed the Bush administration about the smuggling attempt earlier this week.

"The information we are receiving and developing on our own makes it clear that there are linkages to the Palestinian Authority," Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell did not link Arafat to the operation, but also did not accept Arafat's disavowal, insisting on an explanation and arrests. On Thursday, Ron Schlicher, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem, met with Arafat.

"He understood the seriousness that we attach to it, and did say that he was looking into it, and would get us more information," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Hassan Abdel Rahman, the Palestinian Liberation Organization's chief U.S. representative, on Friday dismissed as "absurd" Israel's accusation that Arafat was directly involved in the foiled plot to smuggle in the arms.

Israel intercepted the weapons in the Red Sea on Jan. 3, after several weeks in which Israeli-Palestinian violence was markedly down.

But tensions are rising again.

At about the same time that the missile boats were striking targets, Israeli tanks fired at least four shells, striking homes in the Rafah refugee camp and injuring at least eight people, including two women, Palestinian security sources said. The Israeli army said it was checking the report.

EarlierWZFriday, Israeli bulldozers tore up the runway of the Palestinians' international airport, a day after dozens of homes were razed in an Israeli raid of the Palestinian refugee camp in Rafah.

The operations were reprisals for a deadly assault on Israeli troops, and the military warned of further action if Palestinians did not stop attacks on Israelis.

U.N. officials said Friday that 54 homes were destroyed and 511 people left homeless in the incursion into the Rafah camp, which had been home to Islamic militants who killed four Israeli soldiers on Wednesday.

Israeli military officials said 10 buildings were demolished and that they served as cover for Palestinian gunmen and smugglers. Asked about the U.N. contentions, the army spokesman's office had no additional comment Friday.

The week's violence began when two Islamic militants, members of the Hamas group, killed four Israeli soldiers Wednesday in an assault on an army post near Gaza.

Arafat condemned the attack by Hamas. But Israel held Arafat responsible, saying he is not serious about cracking down against militants.

Also Friday, a Palestinian and an Israeli were seriously wounded in separate incidents in the West Bank town of Hebron and in Jerusalem. Israeli forces also detained 11 Palestinians, meanwhile -- eight suspected of weapons smuggling and three suspected militants, the army said.

Despite the escalation, President Bush said Thursday that he would send American mediator Anthony Zinni to the region for a third time.

Palestinian officials have said Zinni was to return Jan. 18.

Palestinians arrest 2 officials in arms case

Load-Date: January 12, 2002

End of Document

Kurds take Kirkuk: Iraqis take whatever they can

Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

April 11, 2003 Friday

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Length: 340 words

Body

US-backed Kurdish forces have captured the northern Iraqi oil capital of Kirkuk, British and Turkish television reported last night.

"Kurdish fighters are firing into the air to celebrate their victory. Residents of Kirkuk have spilled into the streets in jubilation," reported Turkish television channel NTV, adding that widespread looting had begun.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said of the move: "We are following everything very carefully.

"We are doing what is necessary and we will do what is necessary. Turkey's position is open and clear."

Looting was also rampant in Baghdad last night with the homes of Uday Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister Tariz Haziz, Saddam's daughter Halah and army generals ransacked.

At Uday's mansion one looter said: "We found a photo album and an address book of names of young women he brought to his home to satisfy his filthy tastes."

In another development, the fall of Baghdad has prompted a call by the Palestine militant group Hamas to intensify attacks on Israel, saying they were Arabs' last hope against American and Israeli military might in the Middle East.

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office reported that Mr Blair and President George W. Bush would use a new airborne television station to tell the Iraqi people, 'you will be free'.

Blair also recorded a message for broadcast on the new station called Towards Freedom, meant to service Kurds, Shi'ite, Turkomens, Sunnis and others.

The station will broadcast from a US C-130 Hercules aircraft over Iraq, beaming five hours of programming to the former Iraqi state TV channel.

Meanwhile, in London, T-shirts emblazoned with the face of (former) Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, whose farcical denials have catapulted him to world comedic fame, are selling like hot cakes with the legend 'We are in control'.

The man with the black beret and rimless spectacles, and notably without the ubiquitous 'Saddam moustache' has, along with other regime henchmen, quietly disappeared.

* Letter to 'a media tart', Page 23

Kurds take Kirkuk : Iraqis take whatever they can

Load-Date: April 11, 2003

End of Document

Nobody is safe: The terrorist bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco should alarm the Muslim world, showing that there is no good and bad terrorism

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 21, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A31

Length: 828 words

Byline: GIL TROY

Body

The tragic triple suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia, followed by the weekend attacks in Morocco, should alarm the Muslim world. Just as the terrorists did not distinguish between Saudis and Americans, between Moroccans and Europeans, the world cannot distinguish between "good" and "bad" terror. Terrorism as a tactic must be denounced broadly, not selectively. It should not be relativized; it must be delegitimized.

Although it risks bad manners to mock people in mourning, anyone with a good memory had to be struck by Crown Prince Abdullah's denunciation of the "criminal butchers" who attacked the three compounds. "These tragic events should serve as a warning to the unwary and should restore sanity to the deluded," Abdullah said. "The perpetrators are but a small group of deviants whose objective is to do harm to our society by doing damage to its security." Freelance

Unfortunately, for years now, the crown prince's kingdom and too many Islamic leaders have been perpetuating the mass "delusion" that terrorism is not only legitimate but holy. Billions of Saudi petro-dollars have funded recruitment campaigns to ensure that such "butchers" are anything "but a small group of deviants." Saudis - and too many other Muslims - have financed, implemented, rationalized and consecrated terror. They have raised money for terror under the guise of widow-and-orphan funds from Riyadh to Rabat, from Marseilles to Montreal. They have encouraged many of their youth to attend training camps to learn how to build suicide bombs, how to fill these death packs with nails to maximize the maiming, how to lace the shrapnel with rat poison to intensify bleeding.

Perpetuating the lie that suicide bombers - when aimed at the "right" target - are "martyrs not murderers," these leaders' diplomats have praised suicide bombings on the front pages of London newspapers, their professors have honoured students who killed rather than learned, their populace has worshiped mass-murderers with the same adulation the decadent Westerners expend on rock stars. And their religious leaders have developed a cult of martyrdom, hijacking a religion in the service of an odious ideology of death, distorting key ideas to feed hate and foment violence.

Of course, terrorism was supposed to be aimed at "legitimate" targets - Israeli kids munching pizza, American secretaries booting word processors, Australian teenagers bogeying in a nightclub. By exporting terror, the Saudi kingdom was supposed to be buying a certain immunity from it. In the more moderate Kingdom of Morocco, until this weekend, terrorism was something that happened elsewhere. But is anyone surprised that such a tactic, once perfected and applauded, could not be controlled? A society that can so demonize the "other" as to celebrate enemy deaths, risks distorting its political culture. A political culture that celebrates wading into crowds or apartment compounds and blowing up civilians wherever they might be, whoever they are, risks teaching its members that when arguments fail, it is OK to resort to violence, even against your neighbours.

Nobody is safe: The terrorist bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco should alarm the Muslim world, showing that there is no good and bad terrorism

Terrorism is so morally problematic because it is deliberate yet indiscriminate. Whereas one mourns the deaths of soldiers and of civilians in war, terrorism seeks out civilians when they are doing what civilians do - working, playing, shopping, eating, sleeping - and often targets the weakest members of society, women in markets, children at play, old men on a bus.

Although it is easy to moralize about Saudi Arabian and Moroccan hypocrisies, we need to acknowledge our own inconsistencies. The Canadian government's softness for Hezbollah and Hamas, reflected most recently in immigration authorities' branding as a war criminal a refugee who helped fight against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, implicates us all. The people purporting to be peace protesters who march with signs legitimizing suicide bombers by saying "martyrs not murderers," thus celebrating murder, shame us all. No civilized person can delight in the dozens killed in Riyadh or Casablanca. But as one awaits condemnation from the Arab world of the latest wave of Hamas suicide bombings aimed at aborting U.S. President George W. Bush's peace initiative, one can hope that some good will result. Perhaps now, the leaders of Islam are ready to lead the fight against terror. Perhaps they are ready to purge their ranks of those who encourage terrorism and those who soft-pedal it.

There is no longer a need for an appeal based on idealism. The sociopaths who slit a Casablanca doorman's throat, the cars that detonated throughout Riyadh and Casablanca, the bomb that exploded in a Yemeni court days after a judge sentenced an Al-Qa'ida terrorist to death, demonstrate that this is a matter of life and death. Supporting terrorism comes with no immunity clause - those who support terror today risk being terrorist targets tomorrow.

Gil Troy teaches history at McGill University.

Graphic

Photo: LAURENT REBOURS, AP; A Moroccan woman passes flowers placed in front of the Casa de Espana restaurant, where two suicide bombers killed more than 20 people in Casablanca on Friday.

Load-Date: May 21, 2003

Oscar decision snubs Palestinian culture

USA TODAY

January 29, 2003, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 363 words

Body

It is grossly unfair of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to exclude the Palestinian film *Divine Intervention* from this year's Oscars race, arguing that it is ineligible because "Palestine" is not a country recognized by its rules ("Academy snubs fine Palestinian movie," The Forum, Friday).

To deny the existence of the film erodes even further the Palestinian culture and chips away the recognition of Palestinian humanity.

Shame on the academy.

Peggy Conard

Gainesville, Fla.

Don't ignore Palestinian violence

Bravo to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for not considering the film *Divine Intervention*.

Commentary writer Sherri Muzher complains that somehow politics is the motivation for not considering the film, but she fails to realize the true reason behind the snub.

The picture is nothing more than a propaganda piece that focuses only on one side of a complex conflict and completely ignores the suffering imposed by the Palestinians on the Israeli population.

Muzher argues that films by artists in Taiwan and Hong Kong are considered by the academy. However, as far as I know, people from those areas are not strapping high explosives laced with nuts and bolts to themselves and blowing themselves up in crowds of innocent men, women and children.

Lastly, Muzher complains about the "brutality of Israel's occupation" and says that if the academy recognized the film, Palestinians would be encouraged to use cinematography as a peaceful avenue to express their sentiments. Maybe she should encourage the leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade to give up their bombs and guns and pick up video cameras instead. Should this occur, I can guarantee there would be no need for any "occupation."

Michael Brenner

Needham, Mass.

Oscar decision snubs Palestinian culture

Reverse the situation

Everyone at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences must ask whether the Palestinian film *Divine Intervention* would be barred from competing in the Oscars if it were an Israeli film and the Israeli-Palestinian situation were reversed.

If Palestine was a state and the Israelis were living under occupation, would an Israeli film be allowed to compete?

Karen Russo

Saddle River, N.J.

Load-Date: January 29, 2003

End of Document

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

The New York Times

December 29, 2002 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 2723 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank, Dec. 27

Body

With four left jabs Munir Abu Kishek dimpled the pale green boxing bag, and then, exploding from his crouch, released his coiled right. The bag buckled, then sprang away on clanking chains.

Circling, bobbing, attacking, he kept his eyes fixed on the swinging target with an intensity so pure it seemed, for a time, to clear a space in Nablus where politics did not intrude.

But of course it could not actually do so. For this boxer is the brightest Olympic hope of Palestine, a state that does not exist. With the daytime curfew temporarily lifted, the tanks temporarily gone from his part of Nablus, he was training alone, as usual, in the worn gym of the "Palestine Is In Memory" athletic center. Staring from posters on the wall was Bruce Lee, the action hero, but also dead Palestinian children, watching silently as Mr. Abu Kishek's gloved hands -- blue-and-white blurs -- thudded into the bag.

"I don't want to be involved in politics," he said, still sweating after rolling the tape off his hands. Then he smiled at the absurdity of his own wish.

Mr. Abu Kishek knows better than anyone that every punch he throws is a nationalist sentiment, that his dream of Olympic achievement and his struggle to attain it have been as animated and stunted by politics -- by the Palestinian uprising and the Israeli occupation -- as every other aspect of life here.

This is the biggest, most cosmopolitan Palestinian city. Cupped by mountains, layered by successive civilizations over thousands of years, it is a beautiful place, the home of aristocrats and poets, of the Palestinian stock exchange and of centuries-old factories that make olive-oil soap. Once, a local official had the task of increasing tourist visits by Israeli Jews.

But then came the conflict. The suicide bombers began setting out from Nablus -- more than from any other city -- and the Israeli paratroopers arrived. The city is surrounded and occupied by soldiers now. It is under curfew from darkness until dawn and sometimes in daylight as well.

For all its traditional richness, life here and elsewhere in the West Bank is now defined by one element -- politics -- and to an extent perhaps matched only under totalitarian communism.

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

So much of daily existence is determined primarily by conflict and occupation: whether you can go to school or to work, what you eat, whether your garbage gets picked up, whether you can leave or enter the city, whether you buy stocks, whether your daughter hopes to be a doctor or to blow herself up, whether -- like more and more Palestinians here -- you turn for comfort and guidance to conservative Islam, and perhaps even to the militant group **Hamas**. Also: whether you can box.

After the handshake on the White House lawn in 1993 between Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and Yitzhak Rabin, then the Israeli prime minister, Palestinians were accepted as Olympic competitors. They first fielded a team, of three athletes, in Atlanta in 1996.

Two years into the uprising, Palestinians have lost even the limited autonomy they gained under the Oslo accords, which had seemed sealed by that handshake. While the Palestinians still plan to field a small Olympic team in Athens in 2004, Mr. Abu Kishek's training routine has all but collapsed; it is no longer safe for him to jog through Nablus's hilly streets.

Mr. Abu Kishek has watched his society struggle and adapt. He has lost a training partner to the conflict and worries that his neighbors have come to regard his Olympic dream as selfish. Throughout, Mr. Abu Kishek, a cool, self-contained man, has clung to a vision of an athletic patriotism that promotes understanding.

"When I box against the representative of another country, this is a clear message that we exist as a nation," he said. "They don't remember my name. They remember that I'm a Palestinian. When I box, my flag is raised."

Mr. Abu Kishek considers boxing an "honorable art" that teaches manners and ethics along with self-confidence and courage. "You are competing with your opponent -- you beat him, he beats you -- but at the end of the match you hug each other," he said in his deep, deliberate voice. "You forget that he's your opponent."

For Mr. Abu Kishek, 27, boxing has been intertwined with life here since he was 16, when his older brother introduced him to the sport. Before 2000, when fighting in the ring yielded to the fighting in the streets, he reigned for six years as West Bank champion.

But in early February, Mr. Abu Kishek plans to leave his wife and 4-month-old son in Nablus and go to Australia, for 20 months of pre-Olympic training sponsored by the Australian Institute of Sport. With sadness, he has concluded that the only way he can fight for his homeland is to leave it.

The Road to the Camps

Mr. Abu Kishek is a light heavyweight who astonished himself, among others, by winning a bronze medal in the Asian Games this summer. He is 178 pounds and 5 feet 11 inches tall.

In centimeters -- the measurement he uses -- Mr. Abu Kishek stands at 181. That number, he notes, is the same as that of the United Nations resolution that partitioned Palestine between Jews and Arabs in 1947. It was after Arab states rejected that split and went to war with the new Jewish state that his grandparents became refugees, losing their lands in what is now Israel's coastal plain. There, his family once lived like kings, he said.

Eventually, his branch of the family ended up here, in the Askar refugee camp. Once ad hoc assemblies of tents, these camps have hardened into poverty-stricken warrens of cinder-block homes. The camps have been around so long that there are now two Askars -- Old Askar and New Askar. Nablus also has two other refugee camps, Balata and Al Ein.

The camps' disorienting, cramped alleyways are a poor man's version of the antique stone maze that is Nablus's central casbah, or market. The relationship between the established families of the old commercial city and the relatively recent arrivals from the farming villages in what became Israel has remained strained. There is little intermarriage. In the city of Nablus, people still say they can spot refugees by their accents, clothes and aggressive manner.

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

Some residents from Askar love to recall how Mr. Abu Kishek once dropped a fighter from Jenin with a single blow in the Palestine Is In Memory center. But few people in the city of Nablus seem aware of the boxer's existence.

The refugee camps were the cradle, or caldron, of the first intifada in the late 1980's, and also of this one. Through the intifada, the refugees asserted themselves in Palestinian society, shouldering aside established elites.

"It was a social and class struggle," said Sa'id Kan'an, the director of the Center for Palestine Research and Studies in Nablus. "The refugees felt like second-class citizens. During the intifada, they got the opportunity to prove themselves."

Most militants came from the camps, he said. "They harassed the citizens here; there's a lot of friction."

Mr. Abu Kishek said that though residents of the camp were still suffering more, the gap between the camps and city had narrowed during the conflict. "In the end, we are all under occupation," he said. "We are all Palestinians."

Posters of children and adults killed in the conflict, and even shrines to suicide bombers, can be found in the casbah as well as in the camps. In both places, young people wear medallions bearing pictures of those slain, on cords around their necks.

In April, during Israel's first big offensive of the year, militants holed up in the casbah and fought a ferocious battle with Israeli forces. Dozens of Palestinians were killed in Nablus, a city of 160,000, in what proved to be the most violent fighting of the conflict.

Today, gunmen are still found in the casbah. They say it is still the safest place for them.

In the city and the camps, Palestinians share a belief that Israel deliberately provokes Palestinian violence with its presence in Nablus to justify its occupation. Mahmoud Aloul, the governor of Nablus, argues that Israel is trying to crush the foundation of Palestinian society in the northern West Bank, "to create a vacuum in the society itself, to spread chaos." People here fear Israel will try to expel them under cover of an American war on Iraq.

Israel says it has no such plans. Israeli military and civilian leaders say they would love to leave Nablus, but they would endanger their own citizens by doing so. In the most recent, intensive operation here -- over the last 50 days -- the Israeli Army said that it arrested 120 people it identified as terrorists and intercepted 12 would-be suicide bombers, one of them early today. It said it found two explosives labs. "We don't want to conquer this place," an army spokesman said. "We just want to take the terrorists out."

Even in the camps, some Palestinian leaders are alarmed by the direction of the uprising. Mr. Arafat's more secular faction, Fatah, has been losing ground to the fundamentalist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In the Balata refugee camp here this fall, one Fatah leader and intifada supporter, Hussam Khader, found himself spending his evenings trying to persuade his 11-year-old daughter, Amani, that she could better serve her people as a doctor than by blowing herself up. "She is real Hamas," Mr. Khader said.

Nablus has a reputation among Palestinians as a permissive city, yet among the clearest social changes during the conflict is that many if not most women are now covering their heads, having embraced traditional Islam. Clothing merchants report a rise in sales of head scarves.

Observant men complain that they sometimes must pray outside the mosques, because so many young people are crowding inside them.

Mr. Abu Kishek has an advantage over other residents of Nablus. For him, boxing is a refuge and a release. "All this pressure that's inside me goes into boxing," he said.

Dima Nimir, a lively, funny, thoroughly modern woman from the city of Nablus, said Islam played the same role for her. Mrs. Nimir, 39, studied sociology in college and married a successful importer of European goods. Her husband works through Israeli intermediaries she considers "nice people."

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

As the conflict wore on, she said, she became terrified that her three daughters might be hurt. About a year ago, she covered her hair and began obeying other Islamic rules. Immediately she felt "much more relaxed," she said.

"I lost the fear even of losing my kids," she said.

Mrs. Nimir has not joined the group of women that has taken to going door to door here, pressuring others to embrace Islam. But she and her husband have stopped seeing friends who serve alcohol. She has begun reading more religious books.

Mrs. Nimir said she had stopped crying over reports of suicide bombings against Israelis. She still opposes such attacks, she said. But she found sanction for them in Islam, which she said permitted violence to avenge the killing of civilians. She saw more and more Palestinians, including children, getting killed.

"My heart turned to stone," she said.

Increasingly, Mrs. Nimir considers herself a supporter of Hamas. "I want peace, and they don't want peace," she said. "But I trust them more."

Hamas was less corrupt than Fatah, she said. Through its networks of schools and health clinics, it was doing more for the poor. In addition, she said, Hamas was more credible: When it swore to avenge the deaths of Palestinians, it carried through.

Mrs. Nimir said the Palestinians would suffer until they all followed Islam. "You will suffer until you understand," she said.

Her words were almost precisely the same as those of Col. Noam Tibon, until recently the military commander here, as he explained to a reporter in October why Israel was pressuring the civilian population of Nablus. He said the army was trying to persuade Palestinian society to turn against its terrorists.

"They will suffer until they understand," he said.

No Hero's Welcome

Mr. Abu Kishek returned from Pusan, South Korea, on Oct. 17. In his bag was his medal, stamped with the words "Ever Onward." After he crossed the border with Jordan, it took him eight hours to pass Israeli checkpoints inside the West Bank and reach the outskirts of Nablus. Under normal circumstances, that trip should take an hour.

Soldiers blocked Mr. Abu Kishek from entering Nablus at one checkpoint, so he said he walked around the city until he managed to evade the patrols and enter. By then, it was night, and instead of a hero's welcome he found deserted streets as he made his way home to the infant son he had not yet met.

Most days, Palestinians wait for hours to leave or enter Nablus to work, study or go to the hospital. Many are halted and their identification checked inside the city limits. The army has split Nablus in half, erecting a head-high dirt barrier on one east-west main road and partially blocking the other road.

Often, a tank is parked by the partial barrier, and soldiers search each vehicle. The army says even ambulances may be transporting weapons or wanted men.

Nablus's best restaurants are closed. Bullet holes and shattered windows are everywhere, and streets are torn into muddy tracks. The few remaining Palestinian security officers no longer wear uniforms or carry guns, for fear of becoming Israeli targets. Their headquarters, a British-era compound that also contained the courthouse, is mostly rubble. With a machine gun, an Israeli soldier has etched four-foot Hebrew letters high up on a remaining wall. He appears to have been trying to spell "Arafat."

Nearby, the \$1,500 carpet that used to be rolled out for Mr. Arafat's visits lies pinned beneath tons of concrete.

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

A kick-boxer with whom Mr. Abu Kishek used to train was killed by soldiers early in the conflict while throwing stones. Other partners simply gave up, and the four boxing clubs in Nablus closed. Mr. Abu Kishek worries about what his neighbors think of his boxing. "They might say, 'We are suffering, and you are living in a different world,' " he said.

In recent months, Mr. Abu Kishek, who worked as an electrician before the conflict, has received some financial support from the Palestinian Authority. He has felt helpless as he watches his friends lose work they once had in Israel. If someone in his camp is killed, he is careful to stop his workouts for two or three days.

Yet, although even his coach in Nablus seldom joins him now, the boxer insists on training. "I have a dream," he said.

In other, less glamorous ways, life in Nablus still insists upon itself.

In a ruined landscape, beside roads scored by tank treads and strewn with garbage, Niam Bakhiet, a city worker on half wages, was painstakingly trimming a hedge the other day. "If you abandon it, it means destruction," he explained. "If you take care of it, it means life."

Some days, one can even find fresh squid and sardines in the casbah. Merchants are coping with the Israeli closure partly by relying on the Samaritans, Nablus's tiny community of Jews who trace their continuous presence here back thousands of years. As Israelis, the Samaritans cross checkpoints, and as familiar, Arabic-speaking locals, they continue to do business in Nablus, though some merchants grumble about their fees.

Local radio stations have become more important. At one station, called "Road of Love," workers field calls from people wondering if the curfew has been lifted, if a particular pharmacy is open or if a university exam is still on.

None of this stubbornness or ingenuity surprises Mr. Abu Kishek. Like most Palestinians here, he does not expect conditions to improve for years. "In the past, we'd say, 'There are clashes today, but maybe in one month it will be better -- after this meeting, that summit,' " he said. "Now we have to live with it."

He keeps training, he said, because he still believes there will be a Palestinian state one day. He still believes that sports "brings people closer and brings nations closer." He would still box an Israeli fighter, if circumstances and politicians would permit it. And he still longs for the feeling that overwhelmed him in Pusan, when he beat a Pakistani boxer and advanced to the semifinal.

"It was a beautiful feeling, stronger even than pride," he said. "It was a clear message that despite your suffering, despite all the circumstances you're living in, you made it."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Dina Nimir, right, with her friend Raja el-Taher, says she has turned increasingly to Islam for comfort amid the harsh everyday life in Nablus.; A soldier ushered a man and a child to a Nablus checkpoint last week as other Palestinians waited their turn. Most days, Palestinians wait for hours to leave or enter the city to work, study or go to the hospital. At right, schoolgirls ran past a ruined compound that was the headquarters in Nablus of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader. In April, the city was the scene of some of the most ferocious fighting of the current conflict. (Photographs by Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)(pg. 6); Munir Abu Kishek hopes to represent the Palestinians in the ring at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. (Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)(pg. 1) Map of the West Bank highlighting Nablus: Nablus is one of the most cosmopolitan of Palestinian cities. (pg. 6)

In Nablus, Strife Dims Dreams and Daily Life

Load-Date: December 30, 2002

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GIFT OF LIFE THAT SHAMES BOMBERS

The Sun

September 23, 2002

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Section: WAR ON TERROR

Length: 331 words

Byline: Craig Jackson

Body

Palestinian girl saved by Jewish blast victim

THE parents of a Jewish teenager killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber have allowed his kidney to be used to save the life of a PALESTINIAN child.

Yoni Jesner, 19, from Glasgow, died when a **Hamas** terrorist blew up a bus in Tel Aviv.

But his grieving family didn't hesitate when they were asked to donate the kidney so seven-year-old Yasmin Abu-Ramila could have a transplant.

It was a gesture of simple humanity, shaming those who pursue their political ambitions by killing innocent men, **women**...and children.

Last night Yasmin was "doing well". Yoni's family said they donated his organs because "it's what he wanted."

His brother Ari, 26, added: "The family is very proud that out of these tragic situations we were able to give life to others. Race, religion, culture and creed is not what is important here. The most important thing is that Yoni was able to save another person's life."

Yoni, also known as Jonathan, was in Israel to attend a religious school. He was among six people killed in Thursday's blast. His cousin Gideon Black, 18, also from Glasgow, was among 49 hurt.

Yasmin, who has a genetic condition, had been on the transplant list for two years.

Hospital spokesman Tamar Ashkenazi said: "Families have the right to restrict where organs go, particularly after a terrorist attack, but this family just thought about saving life."

Yasmin's mum Rina, from East Jerusalem, said: "I grieve for their loss and thank them for saving my daughter."

Israeli troops laid siege to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Ramallah HQ following the bus bomb.

Yesterday Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said: "We understand Israel's need for security and to protect itself, but it is hard to see how this action will solve the problem of Palestinian violence."

Four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank yesterday. A boy, 13, also died. A total of 1,876 Palestinians and 618 Israelis have died since fighting began.

GIFT OF LIFE THAT SHAMES BOMBERS

Load-Date: September 24, 2002

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Reporters on the Job

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 28, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 06

Length: 340 words

Body

* AN EMERGING POLITICIAN: Reporter Ben Lynfield first took notice of the rising Israeli politician Amram Mitzna (this page) when he read a newspaper article during the first intifada profiling him as Israel's West Bank commander. "I remember it well because he said that he was having trouble sleeping at night when he thought about some of the things the army was doing. That was something that seemed remarkably introspective," says Ben.

"So I was looking forward to meeting him and gaining his perspective on an action that recently reverberated in Israel: the killing of Gaza civilians by an F-16 during the assassination of Hamas leader Salah Shehade. But at a weekly memorial meeting - open to the press this time - he refused to talk to reporters about the event. I tried to persuade him, saying that ignoring invited journalists 'is not respectable.' He did not budge, replying with a one-liner appropriate for an aspiring politician: 'We don't have to be respectable all the time.' "

* REVISING HISTORY: Since 1997, Jonathan Watts has been reporting in Tokyo on the case of the Japanese germ warfare Unit 731 (page 7). "I've since a parade of elderly Chinese villagers offering horrendous and macabre details of what went on during World War II," he says.

While in Japan, Jonathan has also covered the claims of Korean "comfort women," and British and American prisoners of war, all roughly the same age.

As he watched the tears streaming down the faces of the Chinese plaintiffs yesterday, he was struck by how these villagers had clung to hopes of winning this case for five years.

"At this late stage of their life, they wanted some recognition of and compensation for what happened to them half a century ago. Their lawyers and leaders said that just getting the information out was a victory. But that's not what I saw on their faces."

David Clark Scott

World editor

Cultural snapshot

* Let us hear from you. Mail to: One Norway Street, Boston, MA 02115 via e-mail: world@csmonitor.com

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Reporters on the Job

Load-Date: August 27, 2002

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PALESTINIAN PLIGHT 'IS WORSE THAN HOLOCAUST'

The Express

July 10, 2002

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 361 words

Byline: By Gabriel Milland Foreign Editor

Body

THE Saudi ambassador to Britain provoked outrage last night after he said Israel's treatment of the Palestinians was worse than the Nazi Holocaust.

Ghazi Algosaibi also defended Palestinian suicide bombers who have killed more than 100 Israeli civilians.

The Nazis systematically exterminated six million Jews and millions of Poles, Russians and others during the Second World War.

Algosaibi said: "This is a war of occupation, far more severe than anything the Germans did when they occupied Europe in World War Two."

His comments drew fury from Holocaust memorial and Jewish groups.

Lord Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Education Trust, said: "This man should be dismissed. He is the most undiplomatic diplomat we have had in Britain since the war."

The ambassador, who represents a country where floggings and executions are common, was speaking at London's Westminster University.

He said Palestinian suicide bombers were not religious fanatics seeking a reward in heaven - but were driven by their desperate circumstances under Israeli occupation.

"The man who kills himself does it because he has decided it is better to die than to live as a slave, " he said. The ambassador said the poorly equipped Palestinians were using everything they had to oppose the might of the Israeli army, considered the strongest in the Middle East.

A spokesman for the Israeli embassy in London said last night: "This is not the first time that we have heard outrageous and irresponsible comments from this man.

"This statement is hardly surprising from a person who praises suicide bombers. Hopefully peace in the Middle East has better friends than this."

Algosaibi drew fire in April for writing a poem in praise of an 18-year-old **female** suicide bomber.

At least 1,437 Palestinians and 548 Israelis have been killed in a 21-monthold Palestinian uprising.

PALESTINIAN PLIGHT 'IS WORSE THAN HOLOCAUST'

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers in the September 11 attacks were Saudis. The Saudi government has refused to join the world anti-terror crackdown, fearful that the country's population will turn against the corrupt ruling family.

It is also a big backer of **Hamas**, the Moslem terror group responsible for most suicide attacks.

Load-Date: July 10, 2002

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QUICK NEWS

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

July 2, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 333 words

Body

Bus accident

kills 19

A BUS ferrying Polish pilgrims to a religious shrine struck a rock and flipped over into a ditch in south-western Hungary, killing 19 people and injuring 32. The accident occurred near Lake Balaton about 160km south-west of Budapest. Two children -- a five-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy -- were killed along with nine men and eight women, said police spokesman Ferenc Vass. A spokesman for the national ambulance service said 17 of the injured were in serious condition and one was critical.

Bomber target

terminated

ISRAELI special forces killed a top bomb-maker from the militant Islamic group Hamas yesterday in a strike which also left at least one of his deputies dead. Security sources said he was killed in a raid on a house in the West Bank city of Nablus. The operation was likely to fuel new violence in the 21-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Heat over

Hong Kong

AS protesters lashed out at the "murderous regime" in Beijing, Chinese President Jiang Zemin marked Hong Kong's first five years back in China by saying yesterday its capitalist ways were intact but that citizens should support the mainland more vigorously. Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa was sworn in to a second term. Meanwhile demonstrators clamoured for improved human rights on the mainland and an "end to the one-party dictatorship".

Mystery end

to pregnancy

A PREGNANT woman shot her grandfather, then apparently shot herself in the head in North Carolina. Her twins, born by caesarean section, were in a critical condition; police were trying to determine if Patricia Blackwell, 27, also in a critical condition with a temple wound, shot herself intentionally. The grandfather was treated for a neck wound.

QUICK NEWS

Death plunge

on US mount

A CLIMBER descending North America's highest mountain, Mt McKinley in Alaska, fell to his death at the weekend. The man, who was solo on the 6096m peak, was leaving from the 5400m level when he fell about 300m.

Load-Date: July 1, 2002

End of Document

Most hated man in Gaza tells how he was led astray

The Times (London)

September 13, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 22

Length: 823 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

Stephen Farrell meets a doomed young Palestinian who says he was blackmailed into spying for Israel

IT BEGAN with the recruitment of a young Palestinian reading King Lear in the British Council library.

It ended two years later with the spymaster vanished, and the young Palestinian claiming he had been blackmailed into treachery by doctored photographs of assassinations with prostitutes and promises of a life abroad.

Most importantly, it ended with 16 of his own people killed by an Israeli bomb that he had just helped to guide from an F16 on to the secret hideout of Salah Shehada, the **Hamas** military leader, in Gaza City.

At least, that is the story of Akram el-Zatma. But then Akram, a self confessed collaborator, is a dead man talking.

Unsurprisingly, Israel refuses to confirm if this articulate but unsophisticated young man was among the collaborators recruited by Shin Bet to carry out the Shehada operation.

The Palestinian Preventive Security Service, which granted The Times access to probably the most hated Palestinian in Gaza, also refuses to say anything beyond indicating that they believe Akram's account because - with execution a near certainty - he has little reason to lie.

Akram's story began with a visit to the library to borrow some of Shakespeare's plays to try to improve his English. He recalled: "At the table opposite me was a foreigner, flipping through pages of magazines. He looked bored. He told me his name was Terry and that he was a lecturer in sociology from Ottawa University.

"He said he had a nice villa and he promised to take me to Canada and help me settle there. He told me it was easy to get rich."

Excited, Akram agreed to act as an interpreter, paid \$ 100 (Pounds 60) a week, for "Terry" and a new friend, David, a "Canadian businessman". The next month was a blur of trips to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Bethlehem, with occasional visits to anonymous hotels and official-looking buildings where he picked up forms on official-looking paper.

Phone calls were always directly to him, numbers were never left and documents and passports were glimpsed but never retained.

Most hated man in Gaza tells how he was led astray

Then, just before the intifada, he was in a hotel room in Tel Aviv when a third man knocked at his door and presented four photographs of him apparently cavorting with naked girls. "They had used the photograph I gave them in each picture. I knew it was a fake but it was so good you couldn't tell," he said. "They were totally explicit. As a Muslim this would have been catastrophic for me."

Hooked, Akram began giving information about where demonstrations were going to take place, earning 900 shekels (Pounds 85) a month, regular sessions with prostitutes and Pounds 60 a month paid into his account.

On the night of the assassination of Shehada, he recalls, he was ordered to stand outside one of the three buildings he had been told the Hamas leader used regularly, and confirmed to his handler that he saw a figure matching Shehada's build leave a car and go into the building.

He claims to have warned the Israelis that civilians were near by, but while his motives for saying so are clearly suspect - to implicate Israel in deliberately causing innocent casualties - he makes little effort to absolve himself.

"Yes, I am very ashamed. Of course, it is the Israelis to blame but I am also to blame because if I had confessed earlier it would not have happened."

He is, at least, lucky enough to be facing trial - unlike dozens of other suspected male and female collaborators who have been shot or hanged from scaffolding in town squares as a warning to other Palestinians.

As for corroboration of his story, there is none.

While confirming that an operation such as the Shehada assassination would almost certainly need collaborators, Daniel Seaman, an Israeli government spokesman, said that Shin Bet never confirmed whether an individual had been recruited.

He said that the use of honey traps and deception was "not out of the question", but added that most collaborators were motivated by money or the desire to avenge family and tribal feuds with other Palestinians.

"You don't need to pull these kinds of stunts to recruit somebody. It's not a tactic used very often because they can easily get out of it. He could have simply said, 'these are not true photographs', and gained favour by exposing what terrible things the Israelis do."

In Gaza, the colonel of the Palestinian police signals that the interview with Akram is over.

The contempt for Akram has been palpable. Twice an assistant has scuttled into the room with five cups of coffee and five cups of tea. There are six people in the room, but Akram does not exist.

Suddenly the doomed youth disappears behind a white steel door. Through the narrowing crack can be glimpsed a blindfolded man, eyeless in Gaza, sitting on a bare wooden chair, his head bowed and hands tied before him.

For Akram the questions are over. For others, they are yet to begin.

Load-Date: September 13, 2002

*Israel invades more areas;
Raids follow new Jerusalem blast*

Morning Star

June 21, 2002

Copyright 2002 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 364 words

Byline: by BRIAN DENNY

Body

ISRAELI forces invaded three more Palestinianruled areas of the West Bank yesterday, seizing locals and imposing curfews after a suicide bomber killed six people at a Jerusalem bus stop.

US President George W Bush used the bombing to put off a speech charting a course towards Palestinian statehood.

The White House said that Mr Bush backed Israel's decision to invade Palestinian areas.

"The president believes that Israel is in the middle of recovering from a very serious attack and that Israel has a right to defend itself, " spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the suicide attack and President Yasser Arafat called for a halt to bombings against civilians.

"Out of my concern for our people, their land and their future, I declare my complete condemnation of these attacks that target Israeli civilians.

"I have to speak to you frankly about the necessity to completely stop these attacks, which have been repeatedly condemned by the Palestinian leadership and against which we have taken firm decisions to preserve the high national interest, " he said.

However, Palestinian militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad rebuffed the appeal and said that such attacks would continue as long as Israel kept killing Palestinian civilians.

"We are in a process of legitimate self-defence. Israel is the one that kills innocent children and **women**. This war has been imposed on us by Israel, " senior Islamic Jihad leader Nafez Azzam said.

Troops entered the West Bank city of Bethlehem, the adjacent Deheisheh refugee camp and Betounia, just outside the city of Ramallah where Mr Arafat has his headquarters.

Israeli helicopters also fired missiles at metal foundries in the Gaza Strip, wounding four people.

The army said troops were carrying out searches and making arrests with curfews in force. It set no timeframe for withdrawal.

Israel invades more areas; Raids follow new Jerusalem blast

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking to the World Zionist Congress meeting in Jerusalem, again ruled out any return to peace talks.

The ruling coalition has ordered the building of a security fence around the West Bank and clamped down on any form of internal political support for the Palestinian liberation struggle.

Load-Date: June 24, 2002

End of Document

AMID THE RUBBLE OF JENIN, PALESTINIANS BURY THEIR DEAD

The Independent (London)

April 20, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: TITLE PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 315 words

Byline: Justin Huggler And Phil Reeves A young Palestinian man prays over the body of a loved one at the; Jenin refugee camp hospital Mike Nelson/EPA

Body

THE PALESTINIANS came back to Jenin to bury their dead yesterday - those who could find their bodies. They came in their hundreds back to the dust and rubble that used to be their homes. They buried the dead in white shrouds, some with tributes of purple flowers, some with their names in red. Men stood in the freshly dug graves to lay the bodies to rest, while all around the women wailed. And the machine-guns echoed. Some said it was Palestinian fighters firing in tribute; others said it was Israeli soldiers firing at those trying to drive here on the roads.

The Palestinians were able to return because the Israeli army withdrew from Jenin, but it only withdrew so far. And in defiance, the Palestinians festooned the ruins of their homes with flags and banners. A huge Palestinian flag was draped across the rubble and the green flag of Hamas flew over the refugee camp for the first time since the Israeli onslaught.

But beneath the banners a bulldozer ploughed its way through the rubble, scouring the ground for the bodies of the lost. Only 35 bodies were buried yesterday, dug up out of temporary graves where they had been put during the fighting.

While Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin seven Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces occupying Ramallah yesterday, including two who the army said were trying to infiltrate a Jewish settlement. Among the dead were two boys, aged nine and 14.

The bloodshed came as a suicide bomber from Islamic Jihad blew himself up at an Israeli military checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, injuring two soldiers. The return of violence to Gaza raised fears that Israel might try to repeat its massive military operation in the West Bank inside the strip.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, cancelled her fact -finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday after Israel refused to provide the necessary help.

Load-Date: April 20, 2002

A bitter taste for vengeance

Sunday Times (London)

April 7, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features

Length: 2904 words

Byline: Marie Colvin in Ramallah

Body

Behind its campaign to crush militant Palestinian factions, Israel has embarked upon a brutal conflict that has escalated into all-out war. As the death toll mounts, Marie Colvin reports from Ramallah on the human impact of the political posturing.

Soraida Abu Gharbieh probably died because she believed that Israeli soldiers would not shoot civilians. She was born in America and had idealistic views. But as her husband drove her around the corner to her father's house, she was shot in the head and killed. When he pried their 10-month-old son from her arms, the baby was chuckling. He thought it was a game.

Last week Soraida was buried in a mass grave in the car park of Ramallah hospital. The city was under curfew, her family could not retrieve her body and the mortuary was overflowing with the dead. Soraida's husband remembers the last word that she spoke - his name, Murad - as she keeled forward, her body around the chubby boy in her lap.

The family's crime was to be frightened. When Israeli tanks began shelling buildings on the first night of the incursion nine days ago, Soraida thought they should go to her father's house because it was larger and lower down the hill.

"We were sleeping when we heard the explosions," Murad said. "The drive to my father-in-law's is only 200 metres. The soldiers began shooting at the car and I stopped. They were five metres away. Then came a rain of bullets."

Murad was hit in the shoulder and neck; he remembers the soldiers walked up to the car, looked in and laughed.

He struggled out, carrying tiny Muhsin, then fell and began screaming for help. Neighbours who tried to reach him were raked with gunfire. Farhan Saleh, his father-in-law, finally dragged him into the house. They found Soraida the next day, slumped in the front seat.

The silver Renault Clio is still there, its windows shattered by bullets, dried blood staining the steering wheel and her seat. "She was the smartest of my children," said Saleh, who brought his family back to Ramallah after 24 years in America because he was afraid of the crime and drugs in Washington DC. "And she thought her baby was the smartest, best baby in the whole world."

The Abu Gharbieh family was not alone in mourning last week. By Friday night 27 people had been killed in the city. Buried in the car park next to Soraida was Wadeed Safran, a grandmother in her fifties.

A bitter taste for vengeance

She had been shot dead by an Israeli sniper as she walked from Ramallah hospital on her cane. She had broken the curfew because the cast on her leg had become too painful to bear. "She was nothing, nothing, no danger to the Israelis," said Dr Ahmed Haleem.

Across the West Bank there were similar stories of heartbreak and despair as Israeli forces rolled into all the cities they had withdrawn from in the mid 1990s - Ramallah, Qalqilya, Jenin, Bethlehem, Nablus and finally Hebron.

In Bethlehem, the siege of the Church of the Nativity entered its fifth day yesterday as an estimated 200 Palestinian fighters continued to seek refuge in the ancient building. The stand-off began on Tuesday as Israeli soldiers chased local militia men into Manger Square. By Tuesday afternoon, panicked and exhausted, the Palestinians shot the lock off a door of the church and in so doing dragged the Arab-Israeli fighting into one of the most sacred shrines of Christianity, the birthplace of Christ.

The cloister was quickly surrounded by Israeli tanks and snipers, ensnaring not only the resistance fighters but also the monks and nuns of the three religious orders who live and work inside the compound.

The religious community suffered its first victim at dawn on Thursday when Samir Salman, a Palestinian Christian, walked into the open from his nearby house to ring the church bells, as he had done for 30 years. He was shot dead and his body was left where he fell, in the middle of Manger Square.

More violence followed when the Israeli artillery reportedly struck a metal gate to the rear of the basilica. Convinced that an Israeli offensive was imminent, a few Palestinian militiamen tried to break out of the basilica but a heavy gun battle ensued, sending a clear message to those remaining inside that there would be no escape, only surrender.

The Pope sent a fax appealing for those trapped inside to trust in prayer. Israel pledged not to storm the church, but those inside were still not safe. Yesterday morning Father Ibrahim Faltas, the church's Franciscan superior, was shot at as he tried to open a window. Food ran low. "We haven't got much left," said Sister Lisetta Vingi, 69, a Roman Catholic nun. "We try to give a piece of bread to everyone. But we won't be able to hold out much longer."

Elsewhere across the region the casualties mounted as Israel continued its occupation of every West Bank city except Jericho. In Jenin, tanks and armoured personnel carriers tried to enter the narrow alleys of the refugee camp on Friday night, protected by Apache helicopters. A local journalist filming the incursion was shot dead; residents said ambulances were prevented from entering the area so nobody knew how many were killed or wounded. Other reports said that the town's Al-Razi hospital was hit by gunfire and vital supplies of water and oxygen had been damaged.

If the Israeli offensive was designed to wear down the will and capability of local fighters, then it has had little success so far. In the face of mounting opposition, Palestinians have learnt new tactics of resistance. When Israeli soldiers tried to enter the house of a wanted man in Jenin, Islamic militants lying in wait exploded a bomb in the house. Wounded Israeli soldiers were ferried out by helicopter. Residents of the nearby refugee camps are also said to have been equipped with explosive belts and hand grenades, with one Palestinian woman blowing herself up yesterday when Israeli troops approached her door.

In Nablus, an Israeli tank appeared to have been targeted by a home-made bomb, while fierce street fighting led to the death of at least a dozen militants as support for the fighters mounted.

In the words of one resident: "I am 32, but I'm more radical than Arafat. My nephew is 15 and more radical than me. We are all with the resistance now. What choice do we have?"

Another Palestinian fighter said that many had been inspired by Arafat's telephone interviews from his besieged compound in Ramallah. "We have seen that Abu Amar (the familiar name that Palestinians use for Arafat) is standing steadfast. We are standing steadfast for this reason. We don't need orders."

He added that the divided militia factions had now combined - gunmen from Fatah, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad (see panel) were fighting side by side.

A bitter taste for vengeance

WHETHER he intended it or not, the military operation launched by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, has progressed from an incursion into all-out war.

Demonstrators poured into the streets of Arab capitals. Thousands protested in Jordan and Egypt, the two countries that have ties with Israel.

"Sharon's actions are threatening the whole region," said Marwan Muasher, the Jordanian foreign minister, who headed for Washington with a letter of appeal for President George W Bush from King Abdullah. Even Israelis, largely supportive of Sharon's operation, began to wonder if he had an exit strategy.

By Thursday the Americans had begun to rethink their hands-off approach. A week after the tanks had rolled into Ramallah, Bush announced that he was sending Colin Powell, his secretary of state, to the Middle East.

Bush criticised Arafat, saying the desperate situation that the Palestinian leader found himself in "was of his own creation", but for the first time he demanded that the Israelis make political concessions, anathema to Sharon, who has insisted that there must be a ceasefire before any peace negotiations can resume.

The Israeli leader has refused to listen to western diplomats, who believe no ceasefire can be brokered unless Arafat can offer his people political gains.

Arafat, despite the criticism, was heartened by the Bush speech. "He told me that he understood Bush is under heavy pressure," said a senior adviser trapped in the compound. "Contrary to news reports, Arafat thought the Bush speech was very positive."

He said Arafat had focused on the concrete issues in the speech: Bush's request for the Israelis to withdraw from the West Bank cities, stop the expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and seek a solution that would see the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Bush repeated his demands yesterday, calling on Israel to "withdraw without delay" from Palestinian territory. Sharon responded by saying Israel was aware of the Americans' wish for a quick end to the military offensive. In a statement, his office said: "Israel will make every effort to accelerate Operation Defensive Wall."

Israel has shown little inclination to bow to American pressure. On Friday Israeli soldiers fired on journalists who were trying to report on the arrival of General Anthony Zinni, the American envoy, in Ramallah. Sharon also refused to allow Zinni to meet a delegation of senior Palestinians, appointed to follow up his meeting with Arafat. Palestinians feared that Powell's predicted arrival towards the end of this week would be too late, with the Israelis stepping up their action before the diplomatic mission arrives. A repeated call by Powell yesterday that Israel should begin an immediate withdrawal appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.

"The partial pullback will not take place this week," said one Israeli military source. "We are not driving a speedboat that can be easily diverted. We are like a big ship which takes some time to turn around."

Others suspect more sinister motives. Along with destroying the "infrastructure of terror", Sharon's army has been busy systematically dismantling the Palestinian Authority civilian infrastructure built up since the mid-1990s. Such a wholesale operation will take time. Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli chief of staff, said last week that his army needed "four full weeks to complete the operation, and four more weeks to establish security".

Late on Tuesday, tanks and helicopters began shelling the headquarters of the Preventive Security Force, the Palestinian MI5, on the edge of the industrial zone. If the aim of the Israelis was to catch terrorists, it was a bizarre choice of targets. The PSF, armed and trained by the US Central Intelligence Agency, was the only force carrying out the Israeli demands and arresting known militants, often to the anger of the local population.

Other Israeli attacks in Ramallah struck directly at government buildings. During a brief curfew on Friday, Naim Abu Hummus, the Palestinian education minister, visited the shattered remains of his former headquarters.

A bitter taste for vengeance

Israeli soldiers had gone from room to room destroying as they went. "At each room, they threw me in first," said the caretaker. "I was their human shield, even though I told them there is nobody here."

Smashed computers and ceiling tiles littered the floors alongside trampled pages of high school results. The ministry safe hung open, scorched by blast marks. The ministry accountant said 40,000 shekels (Pounds 5,800) was missing.

"I am sick," Abu Hummus said. "Our education ministry is sacred to us. If they want to search, I understand. But this is not the way to search. What can I tell our future generation about peace when they see this?"

Across a square, the building of the Palestinian Legislative Council was a similar scene of destruction. Both departments had been set up with millions of dollars from Europe, Japan and the World Bank. By the time the troops withdraw there may well be no government left to run the West Bank.

Sharon's plan may be to weaken or remove Arafat and return to the situation a decade ago when an Israeli military administration ran the occupied territories. No Palestinian, however critical of Arafat, thought this could succeed, but now many are wondering whether Sharon may have gone too far down the line to stop.

EVEN as the heavy fighting subsided, Palestinian families were struggling to come to terms with what had befallen them.

Near the Greek Orthodox church in central Ramallah, the Ziadi family was yesterday still holding a vigil for Majd, their 19-year-old son, taken by Israeli soldiers on Tuesday night with his father and the other men of the building, rounded up as house-to-house searches continued.

"The soldiers came and started shouting, 'You are Hamas, you are Hamas'," recalled a neighbour. "We told them, 'No, we are Christian', but they would not listen."

Mohamed Ziadi, Majd's father, was also taken but later released. Forty-eight years old and bespectacled, he was still in shock yesterday. The Israelis forced everyone from their building, then separated the men from the women and children. All the men were made to walk to the Israeli headquarters, their hands on their heads, in front of a tank that herded them through the streets.

When they were blindfolded and taken by bus to a nearby settlement for questioning, the soldiers' behaviour turned sadistic. "One soldier called a friend in Tel Aviv on his mobile phone and said: 'Listen to this.'"

"He held out the phone and began to beat one of us. The man screamed in pain. Then the soldier came back to his mobile phone and asked his friend, 'Did you hear that?' He was laughing."

Ziadi was kicked in the stomach and beaten. After questioning, he was released and walked three miles back to his house in the rain. Majd is still missing.

The family insists he is no militant; his room, now littered with the clothes and debris of smashed wardrobes from the Israeli search, seems to bear this out. There are no pictures of the martyrs that normally adorn the walls of militants.

AS Powell prepares for his tour of surrounding Arab countries, rallying support to drive a peace plan forward, such tales of Israeli brutality will do little to aid America's cause. Well-meaning missions and verbal posturing do not count for much in a region where the common language is violence.

As one normally moderate Israeli put it last week: "We gave these guys all the chances in the world to live in peace with us. They rejected every possible proposal, one after another, and started a war against us. They asked for a war and they got a war, so they should not complain now." It is one of the many tragedies of the past fortnight that such views are no longer the exception.

A bitter taste for vengeance

Additional reporting: Uzi Mahnaimi, Tel Aviv; Tony Allen-Mills, Washington; Peter Conradi and Tom Walker, London

THE PALESTINIAN MILITANTS

HAMAS

Founded in 1987 during the early days of the first Palestinian uprising, this Islamic resistance movement was centred on the mosques of Gaza, where funding from Saudi Arabia enabled it to provide welfare services for the local population. It later gave rise to a more militant faction whose long term goal is the destruction of Israel and the creation of an Islamic state. It was a **Hamas** attack on a hotel in Netanya two weeks ago that prompted the recent incursions, but the group now enjoys even greater popularity among the Palestinian population than Arafat's own party.

PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD

Although sharing much of the ideology of **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad is even more militant in its aims, pressing for the immediate overthrow of Israel. Following the assassination of the group's former leader, Dr Fathi Shikaki, by Mossad agents in 1995, it experienced a brief decline but the second intifada has given it fresh impetus and attacks have been stepped up with funding from Iran. Although its hardline approach is only supported by a minority of Palestinians centred on Gaza, its small size and independence make it a difficult group for Arafat to control.

HEZBOLLAH

A fundamentalist Shiite organisation that was established in 1982 in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Although primarily concentrating on military targets across the Israeli border, it carried out the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992, causing hundreds of casualties and it is also said to have helped arm Palestinians by smuggling weapons through Jordan. Although attacks were scaled down following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon two years ago, cross-border fighting increased in the past week, fuelling concerns that Hezbollah is preparing for a wider war in the Middle East with backing from Iran.

AL-AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADES

A new group directly linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement through its Tanzim military wing, the brigades are behind the majority of recent shootings and suicide attacks against Israelis. Well-equipped and ruthless in its tactics, its aims are purely secular, hoping to pressure Israel into greater concessions over the creation of a Palestinian state. Tanzim's leader, Marwan Baghouti, tops Sharon's most wanted list.

PFLP

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was once the prime organisation linked to hijackings and terror attacks against Jewish targets around the world, but its secular Marxist ideals led to dwindling support during recent uprisings. However, it was responsible for the assassination of the Israeli tourist minister last October, after its own leader was killed by an Israeli missile attack on Ramallah. Its followers have recently carried out a number of suicide bombings.

Graphic

Focus

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

A bitter taste for vengeance

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Israel planes pound Arafat HQ

The Australian

February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 367 words

Body

* Correspondents in Gaza City

THE Israeli air force pounded central Gaza City for the second day running, injuring 37 people in strikes on a security compound, as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday faced growing calls from hardliners to get rid of Yasser Arafat.

The strikes were retaliation for a Palestinian shooting attack in Beersheba in southern Israel on Sunday that killed two women soldiers, and for the first use by Palestinian militants of home-made rockets against Israeli territory.

Most of the injured in Gaza were security force members, although many civilians also suffered shrapnel wounds, including one 67-year-old man.

AFP

Apache combat helicopters attacked a building of Mr Arafat's Force 17 guards and an office of the military intelligence. F-16 fighter-bombers then dropped three heavy bombs on the Palestinians' general intelligence offices. All the buildings are inside the Sariyeh prison and security compound in the centre of the city.

The compound is close to one of the main market areas in the sprawling Mediterranean city, and many of those hurt were civilians walking along the main street, Omar al-Mukhtar.

The air raids came after F-16s and Apaches hit targets in Gaza and the northern Strip late on Sunday in swift retaliation for the Palestinian gun attack in Beersheba, which also left the two assailants dead.

Also Sunday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip for the first time fired Katyusha-type rockets against Israeli territory, hitting a farming community in southern Israel.

The Qassem 2 rockets developed by the radical Hamas movement landed in fields and caused no injuries.

Israel followed up the strikes with a brief incursion into the city of Nablus in the West Bank, which triggered firefights with Palestinian gunmen.

Mr Sharon was under mounting pressure from the right to tackle the crisis with tougher military measures, including expelling Mr Arafat.

"Reprisals are not enough, we need to attack the source of the terrorism and remove Arafat," Finance Minister Sylvan Shalom said.

Israel planes pound Arafat HQ

"We don't need to physically get rid of him, but remove him."

Mr Arafat is under virtual house arrest by Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

End of Document

UN backs Jenin probe

Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

April 21, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: SUNDAY WORLD; Pg. 33

Length: 369 words

Body

NEW YORK: The United Nations decided yesterday to send a fact-finding team to the Jenin camp in the West Bank, and Israel agreed to co-operate if the inquiry was impartial.

As Israeli tanks rolled out of the rubble of the refugee camp to take up positions nearby, a US-sponsored resolution to send the team was adopted unanimously by the 15-member UN Security Council.

But the team will not act under a Security Council mandate because Israel regards it as politically biased.

The Security Council also expressed concern at the "dire humanitarian situation" of the Palestinians and emphasised "the urgency of access of medical and humanitarian organisations" to them.

The resolution did not include a single reference to Israel, which has rejected Palestinian claims that its armed forces killed at least 500 people -- more than half of them women and children -- in Jenin.

"We believe a serious war crime, a serious massacre was committed, and that some people will have to be held responsible and may be brought to justice," said Palestinian observer to the UN Nasser

Al-Kidwa.

But Israel's deputy ambassador to the UN, Aaron Jacob, said: "There was no massacre in Jenin; there was a fierce battle between Israeli troops and Palestinian terrorists."

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said President George Bush "wants the facts to be found".

In Madrid, the European Union expressed its "profound distress over the situation" and demanded an impartial international probe.

Meanwhile, 10 Palestinians were killed in various violent incidents across the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday.

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up his car near the Israeli settlement of Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip, killing himself and slightly injuring two Israeli soldiers.

Israel said it had detained two leaders of the Islamic group Hamas in the West Bank city of Bethlehem overnight, accusing them of involvement in suicide attacks on the Jewish state.

China's official media compared the killing of Palestinians to the Holocaust.

UN backs Jenin probe

"Palestinians in this region are experiencing the same suffering the Jewish people experienced during World War II," the Xinhua news agency said.

Load-Date: April 20, 2002

End of Document

Eight die in bus blast; Powell arrives tonight

The Philadelphia Inquirer

April 11, 2002 Thursday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; news

Length: 841 words

Byline: Martin Merzer and Elise Ackerman Knight Ridder News Service

Body

JERUSALEM - A suicide bomber killed eight Israelis and rockets pounded the country's northern border yesterday, on the eve of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell's arrival on a difficult peace mission.

Further complicating Powell's mission, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon reiterated his insistence that the military offensive on the West Bank would continue, despite mounting U.S. and other international pressure for a swift withdrawal.

"We have to accomplish our mission," he told cheering soldiers at an Israeli base near the West Bank city of Jenin.

Even before his arrival, Powell urged both sides to stand down. He is expected to offer to send U.S. observers to the West Bank after Israel withdraws, as part of a cease-fire plan.

"Violence of whatever form, whether one could call it an act of terrorism or an act of resistance, at this point is counterproductive," he said in Spain.

Powell is to arrive in Israel tonight and meet with Israeli officials tomorrow. Palestinian officials said they expected him to visit Yasir Arafat in his besieged Ramallah headquarters Saturday, and Powell seemed determined to do so.

"I believe it is important for me to meet with Mr. Arafat," he said. "He is the leader of the Palestinian people."

Along the increasingly volatile border between Israel and Lebanon, guerrillas from the radical group Hezbollah fired two dozen rockets at Israeli positions on the Golan Heights and elsewhere. At least one Israeli soldier was wounded, Israel said.

The border attack - the most vigorous since Israel withdrew from Lebanon nearly two years ago - ignited concerns that an Israeli response could reach into Syria, which Israel holds responsible for the barrages.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, meeting with Powell in Spain, said the leaders of Syria and Lebanon had told him they would try to stop the attacks.

Eight die in bus blast; Powell arrives tonight

In the West Bank, Israeli troops declared partial victory in their costly battle for Jenin after the surrender of 300 Palestinians - some women, some children and some fighters flushed from hiding in a refugee camp by bulldozers. But small-arms fire still sounded and the battle was not over.

Day 13 of Israel's incursion also saw renewed fighting near Nablus, where tanks and helicopters shelled a refugee camp, and the continued standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, where a monk was badly wounded, for which each side blamed the other.

Late yesterday, the Israeli military announced it would withdraw from the villages of Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

It also said its soldiers killed alleged Hamas leader Akram al Atrash during a gun battle in Dura, near Hebron. They said he was responsible for the shooting deaths of two Israelis.

Early today, Israeli forces and tanks rolled into the central West Bank town of Ber Zeit, north of Ramallah, and troops quickly occupied the police station and began doing house-to-house searches, witnesses said. The soldiers met no resistance, they said.

Yesterday, the nation was jolted by the reappearance of the Palestinians' most awful and deadly weapon - the suicide bomber.

Eight Israelis and the bomber died and 20 people were injured near the town of Nesher when a man wearing an explosive belt detonated it on a bus traveling from Haifa to Jerusalem.

The blast propelled the bus into the air, witnesses said, and scattered the dead and injured across the asphalt.

Israeli officials said the dead included two female border officers, both 18, and Noa Shlomo, the teenage niece of Yehuda Lancry, Israel's U.N. ambassador.

Hamas claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Ayman Abu al Haija, 22, of Jenin, which has been surrounded by Israeli troops for days.

Israeli officials said they believed the attack was planned in Tulkarm, which was occupied by Israeli forces until Tuesday. Officials have warned that, as their troops pull out, the danger of attacks will increase.

Samir Rantisi, a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, expressed conditional regret over the latest suicide bombing.

"We have repeatedly condemned any attack on civilians," he said. "From what we understand, there were a lot of military personnel on the bus, but that doesn't condone any attack on civilians."

In Israel, Powell was expected to meet first with Sharon and ask him to withdraw troops faster and to announce a freeze on construction of settlements. Later, he is likely to ask Arafat to declare, in Arabic, that it is time for a cease-fire.

The Israeli media were filled with reports of Sharon calling Powell's willingness to meet Arafat "a tragic mistake" that would "only encourage him."

On the West Bank, Israeli soldiers finally gained a measure of control over the refugee camp in Jenin, but at the cost of 23 soldiers, 13 on Tuesday.

After that debacle, armored bulldozers rolled in to demolish buildings allegedly used as refuges by fighters. Israeli officials said they initially considered aerial bombardments, but rejected them because they would endanger too many civilians.

At least 100 - and possibly many more - Palestinians are believed to have died in Jenin.

Eight die in bus blast; Powell arrives tonight

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

End of Document

15 killed in snooker hall blast

The Times (London)

May 8, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 854 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell and Ian Cobain in Bethlehem

Body

Suicide bomber strikes as Bush and Sharon talk

DEATH and destruction returned to the streets of Israel last night just as Ariel Sharon was sitting down with President Bush in Washington.

Police said that at least 15 people were killed and at least 55 wounded by a suicide bomber in the Spiel Club snooker hall in Rishon le Zion near Tel Aviv. Other victims were reported to be trapped under the rubble of the partly collapsed building.

Firemen used ladders to pull bodies from the hole blown in the outer shell of the building, amid the wreckage of gaming and snooker tables. Three hours after the 11pm blast some of the wounded were yet to be removed.

"The bomber came suddenly into the club and blew himself up," the police commander Haim Cohen, said, describing the bomb as very powerful. Ambulance workers said the blast on the third floor caused a ceiling and part of the structure to collapse, trapping people in a reception hall on an adjoining floor. It also shattered windows and wrecked cars across hundreds of yards.

The armed wing of the radical Islamic movement **Hamas** claimed responsibility in a call to a news agency, saying that it was in reprisal for Israel's nine-day offensive in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin.

It is the second time a suicide bomber has struck while Mr Sharon was visiting the US and he immediately cut short his trip last night, cancelling meetings with Congressmen and a visit to New York. The Israeli Prime Minister had learnt of the attack while in the Oval Office, which made it possible for President Bush to "register his disgust at this wanton taking of innocent life," the US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said.

Yassir Arafat will now inevitably come under intense international pressure to track down those responsible. The Palestinian Authority immediately condemned the bombing in a statement saying: "Palestinian leadership will take firm and strict measures against those who are involved in this operation and will not be light-handed in punishing those who have caused great harm to our cause."

This was the first bomb in Israel since April 12, when a woman suicide bomber blew herself up in Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit, killing six Israelis and wounding 80.

15 killed in snooker hall blast

But many had feared that anger among Palestinians over the military operation in the Jenin refugee camp and the West Bank would result in more bombings, despite the Israeli Government's claims to have struck hard at what it called the "terrorist infrastructure" within the bomb-making factories in towns such as Jenin and Nablus.

In Gaza, extremist Islamic militias have openly vowed to continue their attacks and one senior Western diplomat recently gave warning that Hamas was likely to erupt into violence soon. "They self-censored themselves while Yassir Arafat was besieged inside his compound in Ramallah," he said. Attacks were "more likely" as soon as Mr Arafat was released.

Renewed discontent surfaced yesterday over a proposed deal to end the stand off at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity by sending 13 wanted Palestinians into exile in Italy. Women relatives of the proposed deportees shouted down the Mayor of Bethlehem when he defended the agreement, one shouting: "The day will come when we step on them -we will do to them what they have done to us, and worse."

Mr Sharon has proposed plans for fences and a buffer zone between the West Bank and Israel. This, it is hoped, will halt or significantly reduce the flow of suicide bombings from across the former Green Line. However, critics have said that no security measures could halt completely the movement of Palestinians, and have accused the Prime Minister of trying to find a military solution to a political problem.

Although Israel has pulled out of all Palestinian town centres in the West Bank - with the exception of Bethlehem - its forces remain in security cordons around the big population centres and they remain ready to move back at short notice. Israel says this is necessary because the Palestinian security forces have failed to stop terrorists.

The Palestinians say its ability to function has been destroyed by Israeli attacks on its buildings and installations. But, even within Mr Arafat's Fatah movement, many have acknowledged the need to reform the Palestinian Authority's network of security forces.

Mr Bush is now to send the CIA Director George Tenet to the Middle East to help to rebuild a Palestinian security force capable of fighting terrorism.

US Administration officials fear the latest attack will make Mr Sharon far less inclined to negotiate with the Palestinians, and it was clear last night that the US differs with Mr Sharon over his desire to sideline Mr Arafat.

Hopes for the peace plan proposed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah also took a knock when Mr Sharon arrived in Washington intent on persuading Mr Bush of Saudi support for terrorism. Hours before the blast, an adviser to Crown Prince Abdullah admitted: "We provide assistance to the Palestinian families who have lost their breadwinners."

Peace blueprint, page 13

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

Middle East crisis: Diplomacy: Onslaught continues as Arafat meets US envoy: Al-Aqsa leader killed despite Zinni visit

The Guardian (London)

April 6, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 889 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Ramallah and Graham Usher in Jerusalem

Body

Yasser Arafat's isolation amid the ruin of his headquarters ended yesterday a week after it began with a visit from America's envoy. But the minor diplomatic coup was offset by Israel's relentless assault on the Palestinian towns of the West Bank.

A day after President George Bush called on the forces to withdraw, at least 24 Palestinians were killed as the Israeli army increased its hold on the city of Nablus and moved into the nearby town of Tubas.

Yesterday also delivered the greatest success to date of the army's eight-day offensive: the killing of the West Bank commander of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a military offshoot of Mr Arafat's Fatah movement which in recent months has taken the lead in attacks on Israel.

The bodies of another seven Palestinians - suspected collaborators killed by their own - were discovered in Bethlehem.

Mr Arafat could find small consolation in the visit of the US envoy, General Anthony Zinni, to his compound, now reduced to barbed wire-ringed mounds of rubble.

However, the visit amounted to a defeat for Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, who barred a European Union delegation from meeting Mr Arafat on Thursday, and has been vocal at his displeasure with America's diplomatic re-engagement in the Middle East.

Israel did not receive Gen Zinni's visit in good humour. Troops threw stun grenades, fired rubber bullets and rammed the vehicles of journalists trying to cover the envoy's arrival, and Ranaan Gissin, Mr Sharon's spokesman said Israel wanted little attention drawn to the event.

"Zinni is not going there for a photo opportunity for hugging and kissing like the European Union, and that is precisely the point," Mr Gissin added. "He is going to lay down a message about a ceasefire, and that is, take it or leave it." Gen Zinni emerged smiling from the 90-minute meeting. Officials said it would be followed by talks between US and Palestinian officials on America's ceasefire proposals.

But Mr Sharon threw up an obstacle here too, barring Palestinian officials from meeting Mr Arafat ahead of the talks. In a meeting with Gen Zinni on Thursday, the prime minister was outspoken about his unhappiness with Washington's diplomatic efforts, saying the Israeli army must continue its occupation of Palestinian towns.

Middle East crisis: Diplomacy: Onslaught continues as Arafat meets US envoy: Al-Aqsa leader killed despite Zinni visit

Though international public opinion is against the sweeping military onslaught, Mr Sharon is on firm ground domestically. Yesterday, opinion polls showed 72% of Israelis supported a "wide-scale war" in the West Bank. About a quarter wanted Mr Arafat killed.

Until last night Israel was claiming it would have a free hand to pursue the offensive until the arrival of the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, but Mr Powell yesterday demanded a withdrawal "without delay", saying Israel should not use the days before his visit to continue incursions.

Until then, the international community remains concerned about the dangers of a widening conflagration. Yesterday, Israeli soldiers exchanged fire with Hizbullah guerrillas in Lebanon for the fourth successive day.

Meanwhile, Israel advanced into the northern town of Tubas, killing six suspected members of the Islamist organisation, Hamas, and a 13- year-old girl. The Israeli army identified one of the Hamas men as a leading bombmaker, Qais Adwan. They said he was the mastermind of the Passover bombing in the coastal city of Netanya, which killed 26 Israelis - the deadliest attack in the 18-month uprising.

However, the army's greatest success and fiercest battles came in Nablus. Last night, Palestinians gathered in mourning at the home of Nasser Awais, a founder of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which has launched waves of suicide and shooting attacks against Israel since the start of the year.

Despite the killing of Awais, the Israeli forces encountered fierce resistance in the city, slowing down the army's advance into three refugee camps. The army also failed to breach the old city, or casbah, whose narrow lanes are difficult terrain for Israeli tanks.

Palestinian police said 15 people were killed as Israeli armour and Apache helicopters shelled and rocketed the refugee camps and the casbah, where most of the Palestinian fighters are concentrated. Three women and a teenage boy were among the dead, and 24 were injured but unable to reach hospitals because of a strict Israeli army curfew barring the movement of ambulances. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in the gun battles.

Inside the town, Israeli soldiers began rounding up Palestinian men, taking 80 away to a camp on the edge of town, and razing the homes of four wanted militants. According to Samar Halloush, whose husband was detained, the men were stripped naked and cursed at, but some were released after five hours.

In northern Jenin, Israeli troops faced a second day of hand to hand combat, with a Palestinian policeman shot dead, and a soldier seriously wounded.

*Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Arab countries yesterday, defying rubber bullets and tear gas, to vent their anger against Israel's military offensive. Protests turned violent in Bahrain where demonstrators attacked the US embassy, in Jordan where riot police used water cannon and in Tunisia where police beat demonstrators with truncheons and clubs. Rallies in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon passed off more peacefully.

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

Hotel horror blast;
World News

Western Daily Press

March 28, 2002

WP LATE CITY

Copyright 2002 Bristol United Press

Section: News, Pg.10

Length: 366 words

Body

A PALESTINIAN suicide bomber blew himself up in an Israeli hotel dining room yesterday killing at least 15 people and wounding a more than 100 others.

Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir described as a "Passover massacre".

The bombing threatened to derail the latest truce mission, just hours after US President George W Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress.

Israel, which had reluctantly accepted the latest ceasefire proposals, said it would have to reassess its policy and held Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responsible for the bombing.

Police Minister Uzi Landau called for massive retaliation, saying Arafat's Palestinian Authority must be destroyed. There was no Palestinian reaction to the attack.

The explosion went off at about 7.20pm (5.20pm GMT) yesterday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel, along Netanya's boardwalk, settled down for the Passover Seder in the dining hall.

Guests were dressed in their holiday finest; the women in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark trousers.

The suicide bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, had made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance, who apparently did not consider him suspicious.

From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the hotel, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. Bits of rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth and the elaborate Seder place settings still in place.

Some of the wounded staggered out of the lobby, which was plunged into darkness by the explosion.

Others were taken to ambulances in stretchers, including a young boy who had an oxygen mask pressed to the face.

Hotel horror blast; World News

Police said 15 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, including several who were in serious condition. It was one of the deadliest suicide bombings since Israeli-Palestinian fighting broke out in September 2000.

"They attacked innocent Israelis on one of the most sacred nights to Jewish people, Passover, " said Meir, the Israeli government spokesman.

Load-Date: April 23, 2002

End of Document

THE CYCLE OF TIT-FOR-TAT VIOLENCE CONTINUES;
Scooter bomber claims 10 victims

The Advertiser

January 26, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 45

Length: 312 words

Byline: By MATT SPETALNICK in Jerusalem

Body

A BOMB exploded in downtown Tel Aviv last night (SA time), injuring up to 10 people.

Radio reports said the bomb went off at the old central bus station in the middle of the city, a rundown area usually crowded with shoppers.

Eyewitness Haim Zacharia, who runs a shop on the street where the blast occurred, said "there was some kind of an explosion, and the police are moving us away from the scene".

A rescue service spokesman said there were many casualties, but he did not know how many.

Israeli media reports said it was apparently a suicide bombing attack by a terrorist on a motor scooter. Israel Radio said up to 10 people were hurt, including the bomber.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The blast came in the wake of expectations that Israel faced fresh Palestinian revenge attacks after its forces hit a **Hamas** militant in a deadly missile strike and killed two men the army accused of trying to attack a Jewish settlement. The latest violence in the Gaza Strip played out a now-familiar drama of death and retribution that has eclipsed US-led hopes to end a 16-month-old conflict that has claimed 1000 lives.

In a further sign of Washington's acquiescence to recent Israeli operations, the US said it "understood" Israel's decision to confine Yasser Arafat to his West Bank headquarters, a move Palestinians said was aimed at toppling him.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced he had accepted an invitation by US President George W. Bush to meet in Washington on February 7.

It will be the right-wing Prime Minister's second meeting with Mr Bush in just over two months.

Mr Arafat has yet to meet Mr Bush since the Republican president took office last year.

Continuing tit-for-tat attacks, Israel earlier launched its harshest reprisal since a Palestinian gunman killed two **women** in Jerusalem's shopping district on Tuesday.

THE CYCLE OF TIT-FOR-TAT VIOLENCE CONTINUES; Scooter bomber claims 10 victims

Load-Date: January 25, 2002

End of Document

SATURDAY REVIEW: Critical eye: Suffering in silence

The Guardian (London)

May 10, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Saturday Pages, Pg. 3

Length: 405 words

Body

In the Daily Telegraph Amanda Mitchison welcomed The Essential Difference: Men, Women and the Extreme Male Brain , Simon Baron-Cohen's exhaustive confirmation of what Mitchison called "old-fashioned, politically incorrect common knowledge" - to wit, "men's and women's brains are wired differently". Women are better at empathising, at emotions, at language; men are more detached, more comfortable with systems, have better spatial awareness. Baron-Cohen also concludes that autism is an extreme form of maleness. "While this is unquestionably an important book," said Mitchison, "Baron-Cohen's theory of autism does not seem very revolutionary. To anyone who . . . has spent days listening to (autists) talk uninterruptedly about drains or alarm systems or train timetables, the extreme maleness of this kind of behaviour is simply taken for granted."

No one escaped unaffected by Hilary Mantel's memoir of a writing life tempered by debilitating illness, Giving Up the Ghost . "(Her) doctors, all male, patronise her while dismissing her suffering as psychological," said Selina Hastings in the Spectator. "The increasingly heavy tranquillisers she is prescribed send her half mad but do nothing to quell the agony." Finally, endometriosis is diagnosed, "necessitating major surgery and bringing to an end any hope of bearing a child". The surgery seems successful, but the disease returns, this time turning the delicate Mantel into "an enormously obese woman" who must endure all the attendant indignities - "the horrible clothes . . . the tact, or lack of it, of interviewers". Hastings quotes Mantel: "'Apple-cheeked' is the sweetest. 'Maternal' made me smile: well, almost." "The instinctive response to Giving Up the Ghost ," said Victoria Glendinning in the Daily Telegraph, "is to take a long solitary walk and maintain a respectful silence."

David Grossman, "like Amos Oz . . . stands as the moral conscience of Israel," said Julia Pascal, reviewing Grossman's latest collection of essays translated into English, Death as a Way of Life , and his new novel, Someone to Run With , in the Independent. "Attacking both sides, he blames his fellow Israelis for their coma-like collective paralysis and the Palestinian intellectuals for not daring to criticise the wave of suicide bombers sent from Hamas and tolerated by Arafat . . . As Grossman says, 'the writing is on the wall in three languages. Hebrew, Arabic and Death'."

Load-Date: May 10, 2003

**Who has become the irrelevant one - Arafat or Sharon?;
The campaign promises of Israel's hard-line prime minister have proven
empty.**

Portland Press Herald (Maine)

February 27, 2002 Wednesday, FINAL Edition

Copyright 2002 Blethen Maine Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 9A

Length: 837 words

Byline: Jack Beaudoin

Body

Two of the latest victims of violence between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are pregnant **women**. According to press reports, both - one an Israeli, the other a Palestinian - gave birth to baby girls after being shot and wounded in yet another day of bloodshed. In a telling gesture, the Palestinian mother named her daughter "Sacrifice."

It was not supposed to be like this.

A little more than 12 months ago, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stormed to power on promises that a hard line against Yasser Arafat, the longtime Palestinian leader, would do more for Israel's security than the rejected olive branches offered by his predecessor, Ehud Barak. No land for peace, he declared. No more negotiations (never mind concessions) while terrorists set off bombs.

Sharon won 61 percent of the vote last year, surprising no one. At the time, Barak and Arafat had failed to finalize the peace process begun in Oslo and a new, violent Palestinian uprising had claimed 400 lives - about 90 percent of them Arabs.

But Sharon made a critical mistake. He read the election results as an endorsement of his hawkish position, instead of as a simple but effective punishment for Barak's failure to get Arafat to sign a comprehensive treaty - and thus end the carnage. Had Sharon taken note of the fact that his landslide came courtesy of the lowest turnout in Israel's history, and that polling showed that two-thirds of Israel's citizens continued to support the peace process, he might have avoided the bloodletting that has followed.

For in the 12 months since he took office, another 700 people have died, bringing the death toll to 1,100 in 17 months. In the most recent spasm of violence, 50 Israelis and Palestinians died in a single weekend. It's hardly the return to order Sharon promised.

Sharon has not only refused to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority, but has decided that Arafat himself is not worth talking to. Sharon has held Arafat responsible for the attacks on Israelis, not because he ordered them, but because he failed to prevent them and because he refused (and apparently still refuses) to punish those who plan the attacks - leaders of Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**. Since December, Arafat has been confined to his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Who has become the irrelevant one - Arafat or Sharon?; The campaign promises of Israel's hard-line prime minister have proven empty.

But that strategy hasn't worked either. If anything, the attacks have become more violent - as in fact they were destined to become. Like him or not, Arafat is the closest thing to a national leader the Palestinians have, and by making him "irrelevant," Sharon has only succeeded in giving the butchers in Hamas and Islamic Jihad a freer hand.

Instead of trying to weaken the state-like Palestinian Authority, Israel ought to be supporting its efforts to act as a modern government. As the world has learned, it is much easier to deal with enemy states than with stateless enemies.

The critical point is this: No one should question the right of Israel to defend itself and its citizens against attack from any quarter. One should, however, question the strategy Sharon has pursued over the past 12 months. It's not clear that it has been any more effective at ending the attacks than Barak's approach. In fact, it probably made things worse.

Ultimately, Sharon has only succeeded in making himself irrelevant - but at the tragic cost of another year's violence. Saudi Arabian ruler Crown Prince Abdullah's surprise peace plan has won the tentative endorsement of most of the Arab world. Fundamentally, the proposal calls on Arab states to recognize Israel's right of existence and normalize relations with the Jewish state. In return, Israel would give up the land it won in the 1967 war - the West Bank, Gaza and other territories.

The plan is being cautiously welcomed in the Middle East, where Saudi Arabia holds an influential role because of its wealth and presence in Muslim affairs. European countries can hardly contain their enthusiasm for the plan, while the United States is supportive in the background and little more than noncommittal along official channels.

As for Israel, both Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (of Barak's center-left Labor Party) and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer welcomed the proposal and said its outline for a lasting peace should not be ruled out.

This is why Sharon has made himself irrelevant. The Saudi plan, if adopted, would actually require Israel to give back about the same amount of territory that Barak dangled before Arafat (and equally vague about Jerusalem's status). Thus, Sharon's relentless campaign against Barak almost requires him to oppose the deal. In fact, analysts say that accepting the Saudi plan would all but destroy the coalition government Sharon leads, made up as it is of right-wingers who still oppose any agreement that gives up the territorial gains of the 1967 war.

This is irrelevance: Sharon's power was born of violence he didn't start. Its end may spring from a peace he didn't seek.

- Jack Beaudoin, an editorial writer, can be reached at 791-6481

or jbeaudoin@pressherald.com.

Load-Date: February 27, 2002

Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

February 7, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; NEWS

Length: 333 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two armed Palestinians infiltrated an Israeli settlement on the West Bank of the Jordan River yesterday, killing three people and wounding four others before soldiers shot and killed one of the attackers, officials and residents said.

Later, an Israeli plane fired a missile at a Palestinian police building in the city of Nablus, witnesses said. Palestinian security officials said the missile strike appeared to be in retaliation for the settlement attack. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman and her daughter were killed and another woman died later in a Jerusalem hospital, witnesses and hospital officials said. Soldiers were searching for the second attacker.

Witnesses said an Israeli F16 fired a single missile that exploded behind a Palestinian prison. No casualties were reported. Palestinians evacuated the prison and buildings around it, expecting further air strikes.

A Lebanese TV station run by the militant Hezbollah movement said the attackers came from the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**.

Trying to deflect intense pressure from Israel and the United States, the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, has handed the United States a detailed written response to allegations that it has not acted against terrorism.

The document said the Palestinians have arrested 195 militants, blocked 56 suspect bank accounts, closed 15 illegal munitions factories and 79 unregistered charities and clamped down on militant mosque preachers.

Arafat's government "remains committed to peacefully negotiating an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories," said the document, apparently part of a concerted Palestinian effort to persuade the United States it is sincere in trying to end 16 months of violence and restart peace talks.

The United States has been pressing Arafat to take more decisive action to end the violence -- especially since Israel intercepted an illegal weapons shipment apparently bound from Iran to the Gaza Strip in December.

Graphic

Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike

Colour Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) shakes hands with supporters during a meeting in his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday.

Load-Date: February 7, 2002

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
February 17, 2003 Monday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1511 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A2-8

NATO Backs Turkey Plan In Event of War With Iraq

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally gave a go-ahead to begin military planning for the defense of Turkey in the event of a war with Iraq. The Bush administration hailed the settlement as a sign that there might eventually be a resolution over the use of force against Iraq at the United Nations. A1

Sanctions Plan for North Korea

The Bush administration is developing plans for sanctions against North Korea that would include halting its weapons shipments and cutting off money sent there by Koreans living in Japan, in the event that North Korea takes aggressive new steps toward developing nuclear weapons. A1

Qaeda Terrorist Informer

Shadi Abdullah is one of the most credible and useful Al Qaeda informers in Europe. He has laid out a road map of the network's capabilities and intentions. Names and descriptions of dozens of Qaeda members helped authorities to disrupt terrorist plots in Germany, Italy, Britain and the United States. A1

Iran has arrested several suspected members of Al Qaeda in recent weeks as part of a crackdown that American and Iranian officials say has shut down a major smuggling operation on the Iranian border with Pakistan. A12

Blast Kills Hamas Members

At least six members of the Palestinian group Hamas died in a mysterious explosion in Gaza City, hours after Israel's defense minister vowed retaliation for a Hamas bombing in Gaza on Saturday that destroyed an Israeli tank and killed the four soldiers inside. A6

London's Taxing Traffic Plan

London's plan to reduce the number of cars clogging its increasingly gridlocked streets will finally take effect. Motorists wanting to drive into the central part of the city during weekday business hours will have to pay \$5, or nearly \$8. A3

NEWS SUMMARY

Cyprus Challenger Wins

The Greek Cypriot opposition leader, Tassos Papadopoulos, swept to an upset presidential victory on the back of voter fears that a peace plan to reunify the island gave away too much to Turkish Cypriots. A8

World Trade Talks Stumbling

Ministers from nearly two dozen countries, after three days of meetings, seemed farther apart than ever on how to lower agricultural tariffs, provide developing nations access to cheaper drugs and other issues crucial to the World Trade Organization Doha talks. A2

Colombia Rebel Strategy Shift

The three Americans believed kidnapped by Colombian rebels could be held as war booty by a guerrilla group that is thought to be making a major change in tactics to bring about an aggressive confrontation with Colombia and its main backer, the United States, said political analysts and former rebels. A4

NATIONAL A14-19

Winter Storm Strikes Mid-Atlantic States

A big storm swamped a winter-weary East Coast, dumping snow over a large swath of the mid-Atlantic, slowing commerce and travel during a three-day weekend. The brunt of the storm hit around Washington, leaving the capital with its biggest snowfall in seven years. A19

Guesswork After Liftoff

NASA engineers made a series of decisions and assumptions after debris struck the Columbia that were carried out in the borderland between optimism and fatalism -- optimism because no debris strike had ever imperiled a shuttle mission, and fatalism that there was nothing to be done if the damage was grave. A1

The data from the final moments of the shuttle Columbia's flight showed that two thrusters fired briefly in an effort to regain control. A19

Tracking Foreign Students

A vast new electronic tracking system -- mandated after terrorists first bombed the World Trade Center and financed after they destroyed it -- became the central element in the government's effort to keep tabs on nearly a million foreign students and scholars in this country. A11

San Francisco Antiwar Protest

At least 150,000 people marched through the San Francisco's financial district, chanted antiwar slogans and listened to John Lennon's "Imagine" sung in Arabic. The afternoon of dissent was among the largest antiwar demonstrations in the Bay Area since the protests against possible force in Iraq began. A11

Alert Level Could Be Lowered

The country's domestic security chief said that the heightened alert level warning of possible terrorist attacks might be lowered depending on daily assessments of threats received by the government. A13

California Demographics

A majority of California's newborns are Hispanic for the first time since the late 1850's. The milestone carries significance in real terms, as Hispanics increasingly define what it means to be Californian. A14

Medicare Woes Offer Lesson

The Bush administration's \$400 billion proposal for overhauling Medicare includes changes aimed at making the program more like a marketplace of competing private plans, prompting the question of how much the government can encourage the elderly to enroll in such programs. A14

NEWS SUMMARY

Review of Sex Assault Policy

The military has ordered a review of how the Air Force Academy handles sexual assault accusations after some female cadets said they had been reprimanded for reporting that they were raped by classmates. A16

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Brain Scans Reflect Reasoning

A new brain imaging study offers the first glimpse of how differences in the ability to reason and solve problems might translate into differences in the firing of neurons. A14

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

Prison Company's Perks Prompt Investigations

Correctional Services Corporation, a private prison company, courted the powerful, according to interviews and records from a federal investigation. A state commission is determining whether favors for lawmakers were properly disclosed. A1

Residents Prepare for Snow

Residents of the New York region jammed supermarkets and hardware stores, stocking up on everything from milk to rock salt as forecasters warned that up to two feet of snow could blanket the area. Gov. James E. McGreevey of New Jersey declared a state of emergency. B1

SPORTSMONDAY D1-9

Waltrip Wins Short Daytona

Michael Waltrip, 39, grabbed the lead from Jimmie Johnson three laps before the race was called to win his second Daytona 500 in two years. The race was called after 109 of 200 scheduled laps because of rain. D1

Woods Returns and Wins

Tiger Woods won the Buick Invitational, his first PGA Tournament since he underwent knee surgery in December, by four strokes over Carl Pettersson. D1

Irratic Tyson May Forgo Fight

Mike Tyson, who got a tattoo that covers most of the left side of his face last week and left his trainer waiting for him at the gym for three days, told his manager that he wasn't going to be on a flight to Memphis, an indication that his comeback fight next Saturday with Clifford Etienne may be doomed. D5

ARTS E1-14

Rapper's Strong Debut

"Get Rich or Die Trying" by 50 Cent sold 872,000 copies in the first four days after its release, becoming the highest-selling first album on a big label since Nielsen SoundScan began tabulating record sales in 1991. C8

OBITUARIES B7

EDUCATION

Private Colleges Pinched

Gov. George E. Pataki's proposal to slice New York State's spending on higher education would affect programs for students at private colleges. Attention has focused on how the budget would affect the state's public universities. B1

NEWS SUMMARY

BUSINESS DAY C1-10

Women Closing Wage Gap

Women's earnings have continued to grow, closing the gap between men's and **women**'s wages to the narrowest on record. Men's wages have failed to keep up with even the low rate of inflation. A1

Plan for Liberal Radio

A group of Democratic donors is planning to start a liberal radio network to counterbalance the conservative tenor of radio programs like "The Rush Limbaugh Show." The group hopes to enlist entertainers for a 14-hour daily slate of programs that would rely on heavily comedy. C1

Phone Company Trial Begins

Two of the world's largest phone equipment companies, Motorola and Nokia, are trying to recover as much as possible of the \$2.8 billion they lent Telsim, a Turkish cellular start-up, to buy equipment and enter the fast-growing Turkish market. The case is scheduled to go to trial in a federal court in New York. C1

Google Acquires Weblog Firm

Google, the operator of the Web's leading search engine, has bought Pyra Labs, the creator of software for publishing Weblogs, a form of hyperlinked online journal that has become a popular way to distribute and collect information on the Web. C3

Pacific Rim Free Trade Pact

Chile and South Korea signed a free-trade agreement that would remove tariffs on two-thirds of Korean products, notably cars, electronic items and farm products. The agreement, protested by Korean farmers who see themselves as victims of globalization, could set a precedent for similar deals for Korea with other Pacific Rim countries. C3

Business Digest C1

EDITORIAL A20-21

Editorials: The attack on **women**'s sports; Lincoln returns to the Old South; helping poor countries; Rosemarie O'Keefe for City Council.

Columns: William Safire and Bob Herbert.

Bridge E12

TV Listings E13

Crossword E12

Weather D10

Metro Diary B2

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

NEWS SUMMARY

Photo

Load-Date: February 17, 2003

End of Document

ARABS AND JEWS UNITE IN FIGHT TO SAVE BABY 'PEACE'

The Independent (London)

February 9, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 825 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Bethlehem An Israeli nurse comforts Salaam, the eight-month-old Palestinian girl recovering from heart surgery in a Jerusalem hospital

Body

BY ALL the unforgiving rules of war, religious prejudice and Middle East politics, the survival of Salaam Salaam, a baby girl whose name means "Peace", is a near-miracle.

She could so easily have died shortly after her birth when, ill and underweight, she was dumped on a rubbish tip in the West Bank last summer. Her ability to withstand open- heart surgery a fortnight ago was far from certain .

And yet she soldiered on, a miniature, scarred figure on a large bed in an Israeli hospital intensive care unit and living testimony that human decency survives in a region awash with hatred. For Salaam Salaam, who is Palestinian, owes her life to Muslims, Christians and Jews. At the height of a conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives, many of them children, both sides have come together to help her.

She was born about eight months ago. Why she was abandoned on a heap of rubbish beside the road that runs north from Ramallah to Nablus is unclear. But her mother was almost certainly unmarried, and feared for her own life.

Illegitimacy is taboo in much of the Arab world. Women who give birth out of wedlock risk being murdered by male relatives, enraged by what they see as an offence to family honour. The threat is so great that Palestinian police sometimes arrest women for their own safety. Several years ago a pregnant middle-aged widow from the West Bank was hunted down while in hiding by her brother, who fatally poisoned her and her unborn child.

Salaam Salaam was lucky. After being abandoned, she was rescued and taken to a hospital in Tulkarm, run by the Palestinian Authority. Several months later, she was transferred south to Bethlehem to the Creche of the Holy Family. This is an orphanage run by Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, under the auspices of the Knights of Malta, an order dedicated to helping the poor that dates back to the Crusades.

When the nuns took her in, she weighed about 2kg (4.4lb). "She was very thin, just a little cabbage," said Sister Sophie, the orphanage's director. The nuns named her "Salaam".

She was clearly ill. They took her for X-rays, which revealed heart defects. As the Palestinians lack the facilities and expertise for complex heart surgery on infants, their children are sometimes sent to Israel for treatment. Arrangements were made for her to have an operation at Hadassah hospital in west Jerusalem.

ARABS AND JEWS UNITE IN FIGHT TO SAVE BABY 'PEACE'

Her bill - pounds 390 for every day in intensive care - is being paid by foreign donors. Her Israeli surgeon, Dr Eli Milgalter, waived his operation fees. Foreign expatriates supplied her with blood, although offers from several Europeans were refused for fear of BSE contamination.

Salaam Salaam's story is full of the absurd contradictions of war. In October, as the nuns were feeding her up to make her strong enough to be operated on by Israeli doctors, the Israeli army invaded Bethlehem, killing more than a dozen Palestinians. Three tank shells landed within yards of the orphanage, which houses 90 small children. On one occasion, an Israeli tank opened up with its machine-gun on the maternity hospital next door.

When Sister Sophie, who is Lebanese, went to visit Salaam Salaam this week she was forced to wait more than an hour to pass through the Israeli military checkpoints between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

The children of the 16-month conflict have been treated with appalling brutality. Young lives are carelessly snuffed out with such frequency that their deaths nowadays often pass unreported. Palestinian children have been shot dead by Israeli troops, blown apart by booby-trap bombs and killed by shrapnel from tank shells and helicopter missiles.

Newborns have died at military checkpoints because the Israeli army refused to allow their mothers to get to hospital. When you include those maimed, the number of victims runs into many thousands.

Though the number of their dead is smaller than the Palestinians' by two-thirds, Israeli children have been attacked several times by Palestinian armed groups. In November 2000, guerrillas bombed a school bus in Gaza. Most of the 21 youngsters killed by a Hamas suicide bomber outside a Tel Aviv disco last June were still in their teens. So were most of the 10 people killed by two Hamas suicide bombers in Jerusalem in December.

For those treating Salaam Salaam, her case offers a flicker of light. "I hope this can do some good," said Noa Tuval, an Israeli nurse, "But that's not why I am doing this. I am doing it because she is a child, just like any other."

Yet it is no more than a flicker. While Salaam Salaam lay in her hospital bed on Thursday, with a nun from the orphanage at her side round-the-clock, an 11-year-old Israeli girl was being buried, having been shot by a gunman in the Jordan valley. And yet another Palestinian stone-thrower, a boy aged 14, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet fired from close range by an Israeli soldier. And that was just one day.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

Israel launches attack on Rafah;

Morning Star

April 21, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 354 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

THE Israeli army killed five and wounded around 70 Palestinian civilians in a massive raid on the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

An Israeli military photographer was killed and three soldiers wounded during intensive fighting in the crowded warrens of the camp on the border with Egypt.

Soldiers also shot dead a Palestinian near the West Bank city of Qalqilya.

Rafah residents called the assault by a 40-vehicle armoured force supported by attack helicopters the most powerful Israeli push into the camp since the uprising for statehood began 30 months ago.

The army mounted the operation amid Palestinian infighting over security powers that prime minister-designate Mahmoud Abbas has been trying to wrest from President Yasser Arafat.

Mr Abbas walked out of cabinetformation talks in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Saturday and threatened to quit in the struggle with Arafat over who would run the Palestinian security services.

The United States has sought to sideline President Arafat and called for a new leadership, which would be more amenable to concessions to Israel.

In the Rafah raid, Israeli forces found two 100-ft tunnels used for smuggling weapons and explosives from Egypt and blew them up, the army claimed in a statement.

Eight houses - including the home of Mahmoud Abu Shmallah, the leader of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** in Rafah - were demolished.

Palestinian medics said two of the five Palestinians killed in the camp were civilian males aged 14 and 32, while the others were a "militant, a policeman and an unidentified man."

They said that about 70 Palestinians, including **women** and children, had been wounded.

After the troops pulled out, Palestinian militants fired a makeshift Qassam rocket into the southern Israeli town of Sderot, touching off a small fire in an apartment building, where a woman was treated for smoke inhalation, police said.

Israel launches attack on Rafah;

Brigadier-General Gadi Shamni, commander of Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, alleged that most of the Palestinians shot by his forces in Rafah were gunmen and some of the civilian casualties might have been caused by crossfire.

Graphic

GIFT OF LIFE: Palestinians donating blood at Al-Najar hospital in Rafah yesterday after Israeli tanks, covered by attack helicopters, surrounded the centre of the crowded Rafah refugee camp and at least five Palestinians were killed.

Load-Date: April 23, 2003

End of Document

Palestinians angry at Islamic militants

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

May 20, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 966 words

Byline: By Ibrahim Barzak Associated Press writer

Body

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip -- Hundreds of Palestinians burned tires and blocked a main road today in a rare burst of anger at Islamic militants whom they blamed for prompting Israeli military attacks by using their town to fire rockets into Israel.

The protest erupted two hours after Israeli troops withdrew from this Gaza town, following a five-day takeover during which they flattened orchards, demolished 15 homes, knocked over garden walls, tore up streets and damaged the sewage, water and electricity systems.

The Israeli military said much of the destruction, especially of homes and orchards, was aimed at depriving militants firing rockets of cover.

In an unusual protest, about 600 Beit Hanoun residents blocked a main thoroughfare with trash cans, rocks and burning tires to show their anger at the militants and Palestinian Authority officials.

"They (the militants) claim they are heroes," said Mohammed Zaaneen, 30, a farmer, as he carried rocks into the street. "They brought us only destruction and made us homeless. They used our farms, our houses and our children . . . to hide."

The Israeli pullback came despite five suicide bombings that killed 12 Israelis in 48 hours and endangered a U.S.-backed Mideast peace initiative. The move suggested that Israel is holding off on large-scale retaliation for now, amid international concern that new strikes would further weaken the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas.

President Bush called Abbas today to underscore the need for both Palestinians and Israelis to fight terror and resume peace negotiations, the White House said. It was their first conversation since Abbas took office on April 30.

Abbas is seen as instrumental in implementing the "road map" to peace plan, a three-stage prescription for ending violence and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005. However, Abbas has said he will not launch a crackdown on militias -- a crucial step in the first phase -- until Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accepts the plan.

Sharon has refused to do so, saying he wants to discuss his objections with Bush. A Bush-Sharon meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, but Sharon postponed his Washington trip indefinitely because of the bombings.

During the Israeli takeover, eight Palestinians were killed in clashes -- four gunmen and four teens, ages 13, 15 and 17. Three of the teens had been throwing stones at Israeli tanks when they were shot by troops.

Palestinians angry at Islamic militants

Israeli troops have raided Beit Hanoun seven times in the past 32 months of fighting, in an effort to stop the firing of homemade Qassam rockets from Beit Hanoun at Israeli border towns.

The Israeli-Palestinian deadlock has left the field to the militants who are trying to torpedo the peace efforts and weaken Abbas. In the past, the Islamic militant groups, including **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, have stepped up attacks whenever there was increased hope of progress toward peace.

An Islamic Jihad leader in the West Bank said militants needed no special incentive to carry out attacks. "It's all-out war," said the leader, Sheik Bassam Sadi. "We will only stop if we feel our people are getting tired."

In the latest bombing, a Palestinian woman, 19-year-old Hiba Daraghmeh, blew herself up at a back entrance of a shopping mall in the northern Israeli town of Afula on Monday. Daraghmeh detonated the explosives as she approached security guards checking shoppers.

"There was a big explosion and my friend and I were blown over backward," said Etti Pitilon, 19, a border policewoman. "I saw bodies, but I don't want to think about it," she added, crying.

The blast killed three Israelis, including a guard, and wounded 47.

Daraghmeh was a 19-year-old English literature student from the West Bank village of Tubas and was a devout Muslim, covering her face with a veil in addition to the headscarf customary among observant Palestinian **women**.

Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to the ruling Fatah party, claimed joint responsibility. Daraghmeh apparently was recruited by Al Aqsa, while Islamic Jihad, which gets money from Iran, provided the funding, militia members said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israeli troops detained Daraghmeh's parents, relatives said, and Israel Radio said the two were taken to Israel's forensics institute to identify their daughter's body. The family emptied its home of belongings, expecting that it would be demolished -- in line with the military's practice for the past year.

Al Aqsa's involvement proved particularly embarrassing for Abbas, who is a senior Fatah official. The militia, founded by Fatah supporters at the outbreak of fighting, consists of bands of gunmen operating without central directive. Some militiamen have said they would resist Abbas' call to lay down arms.

Abbas has said he wants to disarm militias through dialogue, not force -- an approach Sharon has brushed aside, saying he wants to see arrests and weapons sweeps.

Abbas, who took office April 30, issued a strong condemnation of the Afula bombing, saying it "contradicts our moral values and tradition and only feeds into the hatred of the two peoples." However, Israeli's military operations "contribute to the surge of violence," Abbas added.

The latest string of attacks began Saturday evening, just before a Sharon-Abbas meeting, the first Israeli-Palestinian summit since the outbreak of fighting.

Hamas bombers struck in the West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday, twice in Jerusalem on Sunday, and in the Gaza Strip on Monday morning, killing a total of nine Israelis and wounding 23.

Israel continued to blame Arafat for the violence.

In response, Arafat told The Associated Press he opposes violence. "You know that we are from the beginning against these activities, and we are condemning it from the beginning," he said Monday.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003

Palestinians angry at Islamic militants

End of Document

PALESTINIAN OBSTRUCTIONISTS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 9, 2002 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,; LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Length: 378 words

Body

Your Nov. 23 editorial "Suicides and Settlements" is striking for its inaccuracies and it fails to consider recent history. Obstacles to peace lie with the Palestinian Authority (with Yasser Arafat at its head) and other neighboring Arab states, as supported by the following strong lines of evidence.

First, the West Bank and Gaza were seized by Israel as a result of a defensive war in 1967, when the neighboring Arab states mounted an attack to drive the Jews into the sea. King Hussein of Jordan failed to heed the warning of the Israeli government not to enter battle. Israel has maintained control of these lands not to oppress the Palestinian people, but rather to maintain secure borders.

Take a good look at Israel's neighbors. Israel is in the toughest neighborhood in the world. Israel, the only democracy in the region with full rights and liberties of its citizens, is surrounded by autocracies, fierce dictatorships and terrorist camps that relish the next opportunity to attack Israel to complete the push to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

With assurance of peace from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israel readily withdrew from Sinai, the peninsula captured during that same defensive war in 1967, and therefore Israel can hardly be accused of "colonization." Israel's track record of returning lands for peace is clear evidence that Israelis truly desire a peaceful coexistence with their neighbors.

Finally, and most important, the headline of your editorial is disturbing. It and the editorial itself equate suicide bombings with settlement activity. Is the killing of a 5-year-old child asleep in his bed or the slaughter of a busload of men, women and children on their way to work or school on the same criminal level as living on a hilltop in disputed territories? No, the shedding of innocent blood by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations closely aligned to Arafat is not a response to settlement activity, but part of the Palestinian's war on the Jewish people.

Equating suicide murders with settlement activity only serves to validate the use of terrorism as a legitimate response to the world's disputes. Following your line of reasoning, justification for Sept. 11 is not that far a step away.

HARVEY WISE

Squirrel Hill

PALESTINIAN OBSTRUCTIONISTS

Load-Date: December 10, 2002

End of Document

Attacks in Kenya signal Al Qaeda's expanding war

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

December 2, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: USA; Pg. 04

Length: 896 words

Byline: By Faye Bowers Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Highlight: Bin Laden may be exploiting US-Israel ties to trigger broader Muslim backlash.

Body

Osama bin Laden has long promised that he'll punish Americans in "blood and treasure" for US support of Israel, sanctions on Iraq, and deployment of military forces in Saudi Arabia. But though Mr. bin Laden has targeted Israel as enemy No. 1, he has never before targeted Israelis.

Now, intelligence officials and terror experts say it looks increasingly likely that Al Qaeda was responsible for Thursday's attacks on Israelis in Mombasa, Kenya, in which 16 people died. They also say that bin Laden probably at least influenced Palestinians in their attacks inside Israel that day, and that he may be getting assistance from the Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hizbullah group in Lebanon.

If true, this could signal an expanded war against the West, an attempt to ignite a clash of civilizations by inciting and including more terror groups under the Al Qaeda umbrella in bin Laden's own version of an evil axis. The combination of Al Qaeda's operational abilities, matched with the fervor of radical Islamists from Pakistan to Chechnya to Somalia, already pose a formidable adversary. And it could get worse.

"Since the 1998 bombings of the US embassies [in Kenya and Tanzania], he's been striving to broaden the struggle to the largest constituency possible," says Bruce Hoffman, a terror expert at the RAND Corp. "He's always positioned himself as the defender of Muslims everywhere." Bin Laden's newer strategy of hitting soft targets - because they're more difficult for governments to protect and because of the unparalleled economic damage 9/11 achieved - probably led him back to Kenya and the Israeli target, experts say.

Making Israel the hot issue

Moreover, the recent spike in violence between Israelis and Palestinians, and their plight returning to the fore on the international stage, may have presented the right moment. Bin Laden "doesn't want to lose ground," Mr. Hoffman says. "So Israel and Palestine becomes the hot issue for him to demonstrate his relevance to world affairs."

In fact, according to Hoffman and others, bin Laden hopes to exploit the US relationship with Israel, and trigger a broader Muslim backlash in what is already deemed the most sympathetic of issues to Muslims around the world - US support for Israelis against Palestinians. By spilling Israeli blood, the logic goes, bin Laden may push Israel and the US closer in the "war on terror" - and in the process, gain broader Muslim support, and more recruits for his war on the West.

Attacks in Kenya signal Al Qaeda's expanding war

On the most recent audiotape released by Al Jazeera television last month, bin Laden accuses Bush of "killing our sons in Iraq" and conspiring with Israel to bomb "houses that shelter old people, women, and children with US-made aircraft in Palestine." He goes on to say, "You will be killed just as you killed."

A senior intelligence official says it is crucial for bin Laden to follow through in order to increase his following.

In Kenya, bin Laden may be trying to tap into the same Muslim sympathy. He's long had support there and in neighboring Horn of Africa nations, and it is from that network that US intelligence officials believe the recent attacks in Kenya were launched. They say they believe the attacks were perpetrated either directly by Al Qaeda members or by an affiliated local Somali Islamist group, Al Ittihad Al Islamiya.

"Osama bin Laden has always maintained that his main goal is inciting others," says the senior intelligence official. "You can see that manifesting itself now."

Evidence of spreading ties

One of the most worrisome aspects of this, intelligence officials and terror experts say, is that bin Laden may be pulling in the radical Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the anti-Israeli group, Hizbullah. He "will cooperate with Hizbullah, Iraq, the Russian mafia," and basically any group that can help him achieve his aims, the senior intelligence official says.

He and others point out that intelligence sources, as well as court testimony from the 1998 embassy bombers, indicate Hizbullah-Al Qaeda ties. They suspect stronger links may be growing, and recent events seem to bolster that claim. Intelligence officials say they've received reports that Hizbullah is training Hamas members in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where Al Qaeda members have also trained.

It was Hizbullah that taught Al Qaeda the two-tiered, simultaneous-attack approach. Hizbullah pioneered the strategy in 1983, attacking the US Embassy in Beirut, killing 241 US Marines, and, seconds later, French paratrooper headquarters.

Last month, two Palestinians in a small fishing boat loaded with explosives tried to blow it up beside an Israeli patrol boat. Last May, Israelis intercepted a Lebanese fishing boat that they say was laden with Iranian arms, including SA-7 Strella anti-aircraft missiles, the same as those used in Thursday's attack in Kenya.

Of course, dozens of countries possess these weapons as leftovers from Soviet days. And the fishing boat attack may have just been a copy-cat move. But together, these events have intelligence officials and terror experts thinking these groups may work together in a "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" campaign.

"We have seen a steady increase in 'blood and treasure,' " the senior intelligence official says. Bin Laden's focus is America, not only [in] America, but attacks with increasing cost."

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Load-Date: December 3, 2002

Israelis hunt for militants in Nablus

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

November 13, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 954 words

Byline: By Mohammed Daraghmeh Associated Press writer

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- In the biggest sweep in months, Israeli troops hunting for militants stormed dozens of homes in this Palestinian city Wednesday, ordering residents to line up in the dawn chill as tanks blocked roads and helicopters hovered above.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, responded angrily to Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pledge that, if elected prime minister, he would expel him. "Netanyahu has to remember that I am Yasser Arafat and that this is my land and the land of my great-great-grandfathers," he said.

Arafat also denounced Wednesday's raid, which came two days after five Israelis were killed in a shooting rampage in a farming community, as a "new war crime."

The escalation came as Palestinian negotiators met with U.S. envoy David Satterfield, who is seeking comments on a new peace plan calling for Palestinian reforms, an Israeli troop pullback and a provisional Palestinian state by 2003.

Palestinian officials denied Israeli reports that the United States agreed to put the plan on hold until after Israeli elections on Jan. 28. Israeli officials have said the plan does not meet Israeli security concerns and is unacceptable in its present form.

"Contrary to what the Israelis are saying, Mr. Satterfield informed us that the American administration will complete work on the road map and declare it by the middle of next month," said Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

The Nablus raid was triggered by a weekend shooting attack on Kibbutz Metzger, an Israeli communal farm, by a gunman from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Arafat's Fatah group.

The gunman fled the scene after killing five people, including a mother and her two boys.

Israeli officials on Wednesday identified the gunman as Sirhan Sirhan, a 19-year-old Al Aqsa militiaman from the Tulkarem refugee camp. The officials initially said they believed he was a distant relative of the assassin by the same name who killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 -- but later withdrew that claim.

Relatives of the suspected gunman said they had no blood ties to the Kennedy assassin, who came from the predominantly Christian village of Taibeh in the West Bank. The Sirhans in the Tulkarem camp are Muslims. Earlier this week, Israeli troops searched the homes of Sirhan clan members and detained two uncles of the suspected gunman.

Israelis hunt for militants in Nablus

Israeli security officials have said the order for the attack came from militiamen in Nablus.

In the Nablus raid, hundreds of soldiers backed by about 100 armored vehicles and helicopter gunships poured into the city before dawn Wednesday. It was the biggest sweep in the city since Israel's "Defensive Shield" offensive in April, and military commentators said they expected the operation to go on for many days.

Troops have been in Nablus for most of the past seven months, enforcing curfews and manning checkpoints.

The focus of Wednesday's raid were several militant strongholds -- the Old City, two neighborhoods near An Najah University as well as the Balata and Askar refugee camps on the outskirts of Nablus.

There were sporadic gunfights but no injuries.

Several explosions were heard in Nablus' Old City, or Casbah, apparently set off by soldiers breaking open doors. Tanks sealed all exits from the Casbah, a maze of alleys and underground passages and the scene of fierce fighting in April. Troops took over a nearby girls' elementary school as a makeshift base.

In the Raffidiyeh neighborhood near the university, four men and 10 women dressed in traditional Muslim robes were pulled out of their homes. The men were told to face the wall and the women were told to sit on the ground as soldiers checked their identification and questioned them.

Israel declared Nablus a closed military zone, and soldiers barred journalists from taking pictures or talking to those rounded up. The army said 30 suspected militants were arrested in the raid.

Arafat said that the Nablus operation "is a new war crime that the Israeli forces are committing against our people, our cities and our villages."

Troops also swept into Bir Zeit, a university town north of Ramallah, arresting suspected militants and confining residents to their homes.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli helicopters fired four missiles on a suspected weapons workshop in Gaza City, the second such strike on the site in two days. The attack demolished a car repair shop that had been severely damaged in a similar pre-dawn attack on Monday. The shop was empty at the time.

Arafat's Fatah faction, meanwhile, was trying to persuade the militant Hamas group to stop suicide attacks in Israel. However, Hamas hinted Tuesday, after talks with Fatah in Cairo, that it would not agree to the demand.

Fatah has distanced itself from the shooting attack on the communal farm, saying it was a rogue operation and that it would help Arafat investigate.

In Israeli politics, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was greeted by booming applause Tuesday night at a convention of his Likud Party. Sharon distanced himself from Netanyahu's pledge Tuesday to kick out Arafat at the first opportunity.

Sharon has repeatedly laid siege to Arafat's headquarters and troops have largely destroyed the block-sized compound, but Sharon has stopped short of ousting the Palestinian leader, apparently because of U.S. opposition.

At the Likud convention, Sharon promised to wage an unrelenting battle against Palestinian militants and predicted the effort could lead to a more moderate Palestinian leadership.

Both Sharon and Netanyahu are vying for the leadership of the rightist Likud, which polls show is poised to win the most seats in the Jan. 28 general elections, giving its leader a good chance of becoming prime minister.

Israelis hunt for militants in Nablus

End of Document

**ANCIENT ENMITY, MODERN CONFLICT;
ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 7, 2002 Sunday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 333 words

Byline: CNN The Associated Press

Body

* Long before the partition of Palestine led to the creation of a Jewish state, Jews and Arabs struggled with deep-seated enmity - one that has its roots in the biblical story of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac.

PAST

1850 B.C. Age of the biblical patriarch Abraham, considered to be the father of monotheistic religion. Judaism and Islam have conflicting stories of Abraham (Ibrahim to Muslims) and his sons Ishmael (Ismail), whose mother was Hagar (Hajar), and Isaac, whose mother was Sarah.

Ishmael's mother was called a servant by the Jewish holy books and Abraham's wife by Islamic writings. Ishmael and his mother were exiled - according to the Jewish Torah, at Sarah's insistence. But according to the Islamic Quran, Abraham visited regularly, eventually building the Kaa'bah, the cube-shaped shrine in Mecca, with his son. Tradition holds that Ibrahim also was the builder of Al Aqsa in what is now Jerusalem. Ibrahim and Ismail's descendants were the Arabs, eventually establishing Islam. Aspects of the Hajj pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, represent a ritualistic re-enactment of certain aspects of the lives of Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail.

The descendants of Abraham - who came from Mesopotamia into Canaan - Sarah and Isaac eventually settled in Egypt, and their descendants established Judaism. During the Hebrews' long exile in Egypt, however, care of the Al Aqsa fell to the region's natives, also followers of Abraham/Ibrahim.

- CNN

PRESENT

SEPT. 28, 2000 Efforts to bring peace to Israel and the Palestinians were threatened on Sept. 28, 2000, after Likud party leader Ariel Sharon's visit to a Jerusalem shrine holy to Muslims and Jews. The visit, considered a demonstration of Israel's domination of the area, sparked rioting in Jerusalem and on the West Bank and in Gaza. The death toll climbed above 80 in 10 days. Anger over the situation has spread throughout much of the Arab world, with protesters taking to the streets in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Graphic

ANCIENT ENMITY, MODERN CONFLICT; ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

PHOTO, GRAPHIC, MAP; THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN ISRAEL by POST-DISPATCH; (1) Map - 1947 - United Nations Partition Plan; (Map shows 1947 boundaries of Israel); The United Nations voted to set up both a Jewish and an Arab state, and fixed their borders, with Jerusalem to be a U.N.- administered international city. The Jews accepted the plan; the Arabs did not.; (2) Map - 1947-'67 - After Israeli War of Independence; (Map shows 1949-'67 boundaries of Israel); Following Arab attacks on Israel in May 1948, the Israelis pushed back the Arab armies and extended the area under Israeli control beyond then U.N.-set borders for the Jewish state.; (3) Map - 1967 - The "Six-Day War"; (Map shows post 1967 boundaries of Israel); As a result of the 1967 war, Israel took the Sinai from Egypt, the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Following Arab attacks on Israel in May 1948, the Israelis pushed back the Arab armies and extended the area under Israeli control beyond then U.N.-set borders for the Jewish state.; (4) Map - ISRAEL TODAY; Map shows current boundaries of Israel); On Oct. 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria reached an alliance with the aim of invading Israel simultaneously from the north and south on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur. Israel eventually fought its enemies to a standstill. By 1977 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat decided to try a different course. On Sept. 18, 1978, Sadat clasped hands with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin after signing the Camp David peace accords. By 1982, the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt.; ; (5) Graphic / Chart w/ photo - PALESTINIAN GROUPS WITH TIES TO YASSER ARAFAT.; (6) Photo headshot - (Yasser Arafat); FATAH Palestine Liberation Movement; STARTED: 1957; MEMBERS: 6,000 - 8,000; Founded by Arafat, led by him since 1965; military wing has attacked Israeli forces; ; PLO Palestine Liberation Organization; STARTED: 1964; Coalition of Palestinian nationalist groups; Fatah is largest faction; Arafat named chairman, 1968; national council is highest decision-making body of PLO; ; FORCE 17; STARTED: 1970s MEMBERS: 3,500; Security force for Arafat, other PLO leaders, Palestinian Authority; Israel says it has attacked Jewish settlers; ; ARAFAT'S RIVALS.; ISLAMIC JIHAD; STARTED: 1970s; Began in Gaza Strip; loose group of factions that support Islamic Palestinian state, destruction of Israel; oppose Western secular influence; has carried out suicide bombings against Israel; ; PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY; STARTED: 1994; Self government for Gaza Strip, West Bank set up by Palestinian-Israeli peace accord; Arafat is president; 12-member Cabinet; 88-member legislative council; ; TANZIM Arabic for "organization"; STARTED: 1995; Armed grassroots militia born in refugee camps, connected to Fatah; Israel says it has major role in latest uprising; ; AL-AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADES; STARTED: After September 2000; Arafat's control over group is disputed; Israel links them to Tanzim and says its terrorist attacks have killed more than 100, injured 400; affiliated with Fatah; ; **HAMAS** Islamic Resistance Movement; STARTED: 1987 (during first uprising); Radical Islamic fundamentalists; wants Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel; militant wing has conducted terrorist attacks against Israel, Palestinian rivals; ; Source: Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the U.N., Federation of American Scientists, BBC, KRT; ; ===; (7) Graphic / Chart w/ Map - STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN; (8) ISRAEL COMPARED TO MISSOURI (Map shows Israel superimposed over Missouri); Maps drawn to same scale; ; ISRAEL; GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 8,000 sq.mi.; POPULATION: 5,842,454; CHIEF RELIGIONS:; Judaism 80% Muslim 15%; INDUSTRIES: Diamond cutting, textiles, electronics, food processing; CHIEF CROPS: Citrus, fruits, vegetables; GAZA STRIP; GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 140 sq.mi.; POPULATION: 1,132,063; WEST BANK; GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 2,270 sq.mi.; POPULATION: 2,020,298; Source: 2001 World Almanac; ; ===; (9) Graphic / Chart - SUICIDE BOMBERS, ISRAEL RESPONDS; KEY; (bomb) - SUICIDE BOMBING; (missile launcher) ISRAELI OFFENSIVE; ; 1 (bomb)) 1 March 27; WHERE: A Netanya hotel; DETAILS: Seder Passover night bombing kills 26, injured 140; RESPONSIBLE: **Hamas**; 2 (bomb)) March 29; WHERE: Jerusalem supermarket; DETAILS: **Female** suicide bomber kills 2; RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; 1 (missile launcher)) March 30; WHERE: Ramallah; DETAILS: Israel launches "Operation Protective Wall."; 3 (bomb)) March 30; WHERE: Tel Aviv cafe; DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills 1; RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; 4 (bomb)) March 31; WHERE: Haifa restaurant; DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills 15, injures more than 40; RESPONSIBLE: **Hamas**; 5 (bomb)) March 31; WHERE: Efrat emergency medical center; DETAILS: 4 injured in bombing; RESPONSIBLE: Unknown; 2 (missile launcher)) March 31; WHERE: Qalqiliya; 3 (missile launcher)) April 1; WHERE: Tulkarem; 6 (bomb)) April 1; WHERE: Jerusalem checkpoint; DETAILS: Bomber kills one police officer; RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; 4 (missile launcher)) April 2; WHERE: Bethlehem; 7 (bomb)) April 2; WHERE: Baka al-Sharkiyeh; DETAILS: Suicide bomber dies at Palestinian village checkpoint; RESPONSIBLE: Unknown; 5 (missile launcher)) April 3; WHERE: Jenin; 6 (missile launcher)) April 3; WHERE: Nablus; 8 (bomb)) April 4; WHERE:

ANCIENT ENMITY, MODERN CONFLICT; ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Nablus; DETAILS: Suicide bomber kills himself and injures or kills four soldiers; RESPONSIBLE: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; 7 (missile launcher)) April 4; WHERE: Tubas; MARCH 27 - APRIL 6; ; ===; (10) Graphic / Chart - DEATH AND DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST; (Chart depicts a timeline with number of casualties each day shown); Violence has continued despite attempts by various parties to find a solution. Totals are based on confirmed deaths and could be higher.; ; SAUDI PEACE PROPOSAL; Put forward in February, it calls for normalization of relations with Israel if the Israelis leave territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.; ; MARCH 11 - The Israeli Army invades the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza. Tanks also move into Ramallah.; ; MARCH 12 - U.N. RESOLUTION - The United Nations Security Council approves a resolution, backed by the United States, endorsing a Palestinian state for the first time, and calling for an immediate cease-fire.; ; MARCH 14 - The Israeli Army continues a raid on Ramallah and other West Bank towns, including a helicopter attack that kills three Palestinians.; ; MARCH 20 - A Palestinian suicide bomber blows up a bus, killing seven Israelis.; ; MARCH 27 - A suicide bomber blows himself up in a crowded hotel dining room, killing 26.; ; MARCH 27 - 28 -- ARAB SUMMIT MEETING - At the Arab summit meeting in Beirut, the Saudi peace plan is ratified, calling for "normal relations" between Israel and Arab states if Israel withdraws from all territory occupied since 1967, a Palestinian state is created, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and Palestinian refugees are allowed to return to their homes.; ; MARCH 30 - U.N. Security Council calls for a cease-fire and an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities.; ; APRIL 5 - At least 36 Palestinians - including the suspected mastermind of the Passover attack that triggered the offensive - die in the bloodiest day of fighting since the beginning of the Israeli military offensive.; ; Sources: Palestinian Red Crescent Society; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The New York Times. The Associated Press; ; (11) Map - (Israel); (12) Graphic / Illustration - (Globe showing location of Israel)

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

End of Document

PAS sticks to 'champion of Islam' role

The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 8, 2002 Saturday

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Section: ANALYSIS

Length: 898 words

Byline: Brendan Pereira

Body

KUALA LUMPUR - Discard the verbiage from Parti Islam SeMalaysia's (PAS) annual meeting last weekend and this is what you are left with: a party that still believes it is more important to be a champion of Islam than a party for all Malaysians.

Sure, there was the occasional voice from the floor that reminded leaders of the conservative Islamic opposition party that real political power in this land of Malays, Chinese and Indians can be won only if a portion of the non-Muslim vote is snared.

But the words and actions of decision makers in PAS suggest that its main focus is to burnish its Islamic credentials with the Malay community.

That was why party president Fadzil Noor agreed to a resolution that the party's court of spiritual leaders, or ulama, plays a more active role in party matters. Intrinsic in this move is the belief that if PAS has a more religious orientation and image, it will become even more acceptable to the Muslim electorate. Party insiders say that there is a perception that the professionals in PAS have gained ascendancy since the 1999 General Election at the expense of the more respected theocrats, and that this has made the rank and file uneasy.

Mr Zulkifli Sulong, the editor of Harakah, the party's newspaper, says: 'We feel that it is necessary for the ulama to come forward. They have a good reputation among Muslims and this is our big advantage over Umno.'

Among this group of seldom seen or heard men are people like Mr Harun Taib. He is widely recognised as the architect of the Islamic penal code or hudud laws that the east-coast state of Terengganu has drawn up.

Among the more contentious sets of laws is the one governing rape. It states that a rape victim must produce four witnesses to the crime.

As Malaysian Chinese Association president Ling Liong Sik noted: 'Where in the world can you get raped in front of four good Muslim men? If they were of such character, they would stop the rape or not be there in the first place.'

Rape victims without proof or circumstantial evidence can end up getting 80 lashes of the whip.

Also troubling to non-Muslim Malaysians is the readiness with which PAS is willing to embrace the concept of suicide bombers as freedom fighters.

PAS sticks to 'champion of Islam' role

To a man, every politician who took to the stage last weekend and at an earlier conference on the Palestinian issue argued that Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was an American stooge for lumping suicide bombers in the same heap as terrorists.

Mr Mahfuz Omar, head of the party's youth wing, said that Dr Mahathir's definition had flown in the face of edicts by world Islamic scholars such as Syeikh Al-Azhar, the mufti of Egypt, and Dr Yusuf Qardawi, that pronounced suicide bombers as martyrs.

Dr Syed Azman Syed Ahmad, a mild-mannered senior party leader, says there is little downside to his party supporting Palestinian suicide bombers or associating with Hamas or Hizbollah.

'Most Muslims in Malaysia and around the world do not view Hamas or Hizbollah as militant groups,' he argues. 'They are viewed as freedom fighters.'

He believes that despite the importance of the non-Muslim vote to PAS if it is to gain supremacy in Malaysian politics, it cannot afford to alienate followers of the Islamic faith.

In the short term, this strategy may hurt its chances of snaring more electoral seats, but the soundness of this policy will be proven in about 10 to 15 years. That is when the demographics of Malaysia will be altered drastically.

Malays now account for 65 per cent of the population - up 4.5 per cent from a decade ago.

'There is little doubt that Malays and Muslims today are more religious-minded. In time, this group will get even bigger, and there will be more Malay-majority constituencies all over the country,' says Dr Syed Azman.

For the time being, though, the party has to put its dreams to sleep.

Party insiders believe that the Islamic conservative party will be hard-pressed to repeat its sterling performance at the 1999 election.

Three years ago, the party's candidates won 27 parliamentary and 82 state-assembly seats, its best showing ever. Today, PAS has to contend with a ban on political rallies, a paucity of inflammatory issues such as the sacking and beating of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, and a rejuvenated Dr Mahathir.

More bad news is on the way. Sources tell The Straits Times that a new piece of legislation - the Election Offences Act - may be enacted soon.

Among other things, it would make it an offence to hurl allegations and deliver combustible speeches - the kind of campaigning that opposition politicians use to great effect in the run-up to polling day.

Also being considered is a one-day cooling-off period before polling day when no campaigning would be allowed.

But PAS believes it also has a few aces to play. Its leadership has already decided to field women candidates in Selangor, the Federal Territory, Kelantan and Kedah at the next polls.

This move will help chip away at the perception that the party regards women as unequal partners, and help it gain a bigger share of the female vote.

There are also discussions going on about whether to allow non-Muslims to be associate or full members. Party insiders say that talks have reached a stalemate.

Do not expect pragmatism to take centre stage in these discussions, though. Some PAS members believe that pragmatism is a Machiavellian concept that has no place in Islam.

PAS sticks to 'champion of Islam' role

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Israel avenges attack on cafe

The Australian

February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 374 words

Byline: * Correspondents in Nablus and Ramallah, West Bank

Body

ISRAELI tanks and troops briefly raided an area of the Palestinian-ruled West Bank city of Nablus yesterday and clashed with gunmen in an incursion launched in response to Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

The raid followed Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip after two Palestinians shot at a cafe near an army base in Beersheba, in southern Israel, killing two female Israeli soldiers before being shot dead themselves.

In a further escalation of violence, the Israeli army said the Palestinians fired a new type of rocket, an upgraded version of the Qassam, made by the militant group Hamas, into Israel yesterday.

Reuters

It landed harmlessly near a farming community, but Israel had said such a cross-border attack would lead to increased military action to try to quash the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened a meeting of senior ministers and defence chiefs at his farm in southern Israel after he returned from the US yesterday to discuss the rocket and recent Palestinian attacks.

"There will be a series of operations intended to deter and also, in their sheer scale, to show the Palestinian Authority that Israel will not overlook this escalation," an Israeli security source said after the meeting.

There was more Israeli aggression in Palestinian-ruled Gaza City yesterday. Palestinian hospital sources said three civilians and seven security forces were injured, none seriously, when Israeli jets fired missiles at a security compound. Helicopters also struck foundries in the northern Gaza Strip used to make munitions.

The Israeli army said it hit the Ansar-2 security compound in response to the "murderous attack" on the cafe in Beersheba, where up to 18 people were wounded.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat wrote to the US Government yesterday insisting the Palestinians had no military ties with Iran and pledging not to smuggle in weapons, a senior Palestinian official said.

The letter, addressed to Secretary of State Colin Powell, follows a row over a ship loaded with weapons seized in the Red Sea last month by Israel, which said the arms were from Iran and destined for areas run by the Palestinian Authority. Mr Arafat has denied knowledge of the shipment.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

Israel avenges attack on cafe

End of Document

US push for Jenin - Israel fights disaster

The Sunday Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 21, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 41

Length: 375 words

Body

JENIN: United States President George W. Bush has backed calls for an inquiry into the devastation and deaths caused by the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The announcement came as Palestinians dug with their bare hands in the rubble of Jenin refugee camp looking for survivors and bodies.

However, Israel, fighting a public relations disaster as reports and pictures flooded out of the camp, said there was "no need" for an inquiry by a third party.

MATP

"There is no need for ... an inquiry," a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said. "All the evidence about Jenin is already out in the open, for everyone to see. Those who think that an independent inquiry is needed are basing their opinion on a recirculation of lies."

The comment came as it was announced that a man had been recovered alive after 10 days beneath rubble.

Meanwhile, 10 Palestinians have been killed in continuing incidents, despite Israel's withdrawal from Jenin in an apparent winding down of the three-week-old offensive.

However, the Israeli army has kept up positions nearby.

Palestinian leaders said at least 500 people in Jenin had been killed, half of them women and children killed in a "massacre".

Israel, which lost 23 soldiers in the fighting, denied the charge, but admitted "dozens" were buried under the rubble of about 100 houses destroyed in the battle.

Norwegian Red Cross workers are shortly due to arrive at the devastated Jenin site to back up members of a Swiss humanitarian aid corps.

France, Turkey, the United States and Britain are sending in specialised personnel. The World Health Organisation is sending emergency supplies and surgical equipment.

The World Food Program will take in 10 tonnes of food to feed about 700 Palestinians in hospitals, orphanages and retirement homes.

Rescue conditions include risks from unexploded mines and explosives and crumbling structures.

US push for Jenin - Israel fights disaster

A spokesperson for the Israeli army claimed it knew of 48 Palestinians killed in the fighting -- and that 45 were in uniform and two were wearing explosive belts.

He said it was "simply lamentable" to hear all the speculation about the number of dead in Jenin.

In Bethlehem, a senior official of the Islamic military movement **Hamas** has been arrested.

Load-Date: April 20, 2002

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13 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN BLOODIEST BATTLE OF INTIFADA

The Scotsman

April 10, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 909 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield At Salem Checkpoint, West Bank

Body

THE Israeli army yesterday suffered its biggest setback in a year and a half of fighting, as 13 soldiers were killed by besieged Palestinian fighters in the Jenin refugee camp, just east of here.

General Yitzhak Eitan, the West Bank commander, said the troops "encountered a number of explosive devices and a suicide bomber apparently blew himself up. At the same time shooting was opened up on our forces".

Other army officials made no mention of a suicide bomber, saying the troops were caught in an ambush of bombs and gunfire.

Either way, the incident turned Israel's incursions into West Bank cities, launched after a spate of suicide bombings, into a costly enterprise for the tightly knit country, where casualties are acutely felt and funerals of soldiers regularly lead newscasts.

Given that the soldiers were reservists with families, the anguish was all the more pronounced. Seven soldiers were said to have been wounded, one seriously. Ron Ben-Ishai, a leading military analyst, said: "It looks as if the army miscalculated the strength of the enemy."

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, told a shocked Israeli public: "This battle is a battle for the existence of the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

Palestinians estimate that more than 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, whose helicopter gunships have repeatedly blasted the camp with missiles. They say many of the dead are civilians. However, there was no way to verify the number.

The Israelis say at least 20 soldiers have died in the fighting.

Reports from Jenin last night said the battle was still raging and that the Palestinian fighters were determined to fight to the finish in the several hundred square yard enclave to which they have been forced.

"They said they prefer death to surrender. They asked me to look after their families," said Jamal Abdul Salam, a member of ***Hamas*** who lives in the camp.

The camp has been closed off to journalists and the outside world for nine days, amid protests by the UN and human rights groups that Israel has brought conditions there to the verge of a "humanitarian disaster", with many of

13 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN BLOODIEST BATTLE OF INTIFADA

the wounded untreated and corpses accumulating because the army is preventing ambulances from carrying out their work.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel yesterday wrote a letter to Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the defence minister, saying troops had demolished houses with residents still inside and that those who left houses to try to get supplies were shot at by the army.

Rashid Mansour, a resident of the camp who was left by Israeli security forces with 88 other Palestinians in a mosque in nearby Ramana village, said: "They don't have water or food. People lie dead and wounded in the alleys." He said he did not know what had become of his family.

The army blames the Palestinian fighters for using the civilian population as "human shields." Many of the buildings there have been booby-trapped, officers say.

Gen Eitan, the West Bank commander, said Israel had ruled out using fighter planes to bomb the pockets of resistance because doing so would mean "a very heavy price for noncombatants. The area includes civilians, the elderly and women".

Israeli media quoted officers yesterday as saying that army bulldozers had caused widespread devastation and that "when the world sees the pictures of what we have done there, it will cause the country grave damage".

Under pressure from President George Bush and in advance of the arrival tomorrow of Colin Powell, the US secretary of state, Israeli forces undertook a cosmetic withdrawal overnight on Monday from the cities of Qalqilya and Tulkarem, as troops pulled out of the city centres and re-deployed only a few hundred yards away, according to Tulkarem residents.

Troops then mounted a fresh incursion, into Dura village, near Hebron, where three Palestinians were reported killed.

Jenin camp, however, has emerged as a major thorn in the side of Israel's army, and for the ever media-conscious foreign ministry, threatens to undermine its favoured image of a heroic battle against brutal Palestinian terrorism.

Israel views Jenin camp as a springboard for suicide bombings against its cities, a stronghold for Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The camp has played that role in part because of its proximity to the border between the West Bank and Israel proper.

However, the camp is also the home to the poorest of the poor, landless people with historic grievances against Israel who have become even more destitute due to the closure of the Israeli labour market after the start of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000.

The fighters in Jenin are becoming heroes to all Palestinians and throughout the Arab world.

"We cannot talk about a victory in Jenin camp, but they have a will to resist this aggression against our people," said Hassan Khreisheh, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. "We have no tanks and we have to defend ourselves."

Israeli army officials had spoken confidently on Monday night of being on the verge of snuffing out remaining Palestinian resistance in the camp, home to 15,000 refugees who trace their roots to Jaffa and other areas that became part of Israel during the 1948 war. But after yesterday's setback, Gen Eitan, the West Bank commander, declined to estimate when the fighting would end.

"The battle continues, there are still dozens of terrorists left," he said. "We are advancing slowly and with caution."

13 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN BLOODIEST BATTLE OF INTIFADA

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Rampage latest in death spiral

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

January 24, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 31

Length: 383 words

Byline: GREG MYRE

Body

THE chaotic spiral of violence in Israel continued yesterday as a Palestinian gunman fired on Israelis waiting at a Jerusalem bus stop, killing two and injuring 14 others.

Israeli commandos hours earlier stormed an explosives lab and killed four Islamic militants in the West Bank.

The violence provoked outrage and warnings of retaliation on both sides.

Hamas, the militant Islamic organisation, called for a "fierce war" because of the death of four of its members.

Israeli officials, in turn, said the Jerusalem shooting would be avenged. Israeli military officials vowed to press on with their increasingly aggressive sweeps into Palestinian territory.

Middle East tensions are again rising after several weeks of relative calm, with the Israelis effectively keeping Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat under house arrest at his West Bank compound, and militant Palestinians abandoning an informal truce.

The Israelis said they launched yesterday's commando raid in the West Bank city of Nablus and other pre-emptive operations because Mr Arafat repeatedly refused to act against militants.

They also held him responsible for the shooting attack on one of west Jerusalem's busiest streets. "You can certainly expect an Israeli reaction," said Israeli Government spokesman Avi Pazner.

"Israel has done very little until now. Apparently this was not strong enough medicine and maybe a strong reaction is needed."

But Ahmed Abdel Rahman, the Palestinian Cabinet secretary, said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "has to blame himself for pushing the Palestinians to react against this continuous aggression".

In the Jerusalem shooting, a Palestinian gunman opened fire with an assault rifle on Israelis waiting in the rain for a bus and walking along one of the city's main arteries, Jaffa St.

Sixteen people were shot. Two **women** later died of their wounds, while four others remained in a serious condition. In addition, more than 20 people were treated for shock, police and rescue workers said.

Rampage latest in death spiral

The gunman, Saeed Ramadan, was a member of the Al Aqsa Brigades, which is linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, said the man's uncle, Adnan Ramadan.

The shooting was retaliation for last week's killing of an Al Aqsa Brigades' leader, sources in the group said. AP

Load-Date: January 23, 2002

End of Document

'THE FACE WAS SO NICE: BIG OPEN EYES, BUT SURELY DEAD'

The Scotsman

March 28, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 340 words

Byline: Jason Keyser In Netanya

Body

ONE minute the Donenhirsch family were sitting down to their holiday hotel's Passover banquet. The next, they were lying against a wall, dazed and bleeding, thrown there by an enormous explosion.

Nechama Donenhirsch, 52, a history teacher, last night told how the blast turned her world upside down. As she lay, disoriented, hers ears ringing, not knowing for sure that she was still alive, her 16-year-old daughter crawled over to her. "She held me and said to me: 'You are alive, I'm alive, don't worry, we are alive'."

The family had been part of about 200 diners taking their seats in the banquet hall of Netanya's Park Hotel at about 7: 15pm local time (5: 15 GMT). Round tables were covered with white linen and elaborate Passover place settings.

Guests were dressed in their holiday finest, women in festive dresses and men in white shirts and dark suits.

At about that time, the bomber, a 25-year-old member of Hamas, the Islamic militant group, was making his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance.

The man, Abdel Baset Odeh, from the West Bank town of Tulkarem, was carrying a large bag, packed with explosives, but somehow did not arouse the suspicions of the guard. Perhaps it was because he knew how hotel security worked; he used to work in hotels in Netanya and other Israeli cities, Palestinian police said. Nevertheless, a receptionist tried to alert security when the attacker passed her desk, en route to the banqueting room. By then, it was too late. A huge blast tore through the hall.

Mrs Donenhirsch's son, Itai, said the family had been sitting yards from where the bomber had set off his explosives. "I felt shock waves and was pushed under the table and everything blacked out."

Mrs Donenhirsch said that, as she and her relatives had run from the carnage, they had seen a little girl, maybe ten or 12 years old, lying on the ground. "The face of the little girl was so nice, it was as if she was surprised; big, big open eyes, but surely dead," Mrs Donenhirsch said. "We ran ... over dead people, all in pieces."

Load-Date: March 28, 2002

Israeli troops are on the hunt again

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 29, 2002 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 920 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A gunman sneaked onto the grounds of an Orthodox Jewish high school in the West Bank late Tuesday and killed three teenagers, even as Israeli troops continued their daily raids into Palestinian towns.

The man shot and killed three Israeli students outside a high school in the settlement of Itamar, near the Palestinian city of Nablus, settlers and rescue service officials said. The attacker was shot and killed by the settlement's security chief.

Hezi Katoa, a rescue service worker, told Israel Radio that they found one student hit by a number of bullets in the chest, and then two more "lying behind the building with bullet wounds all over their bodies." All three were dead at the scene, he said.

A few hours earlier, an Israeli motorist was killed and another wounded in a shooting attack, apparently by a Palestinian gunman, near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, said rescue services spokesman Yeruham Mandola.

The violence accompanied repeated Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

Late Tuesday, Israeli soldiers entered Beitunia, a suburb of the West Bank town of Ramallah, Palestinians said, and surrounded the house of a prominent **Hamas** leader. However, the leader, Hassan Yussuf, was not there. The Israeli military had no comment.

In another development, Israel launched the spy satellite Ofek-5, displaying advanced missile capabilities and restoring a military eye in the sky after its last spy satellite burned up in the atmosphere about a year ago.

Defence Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay confirmed it was sent into space from a seaside Israeli air force base. It was launched by a Shavit missile, related to the long-range Jericho ground-to-ground missile. Foreign experts have said the Jericho can carry a nuclear warhead; Israeli officials have not commented on that.

Israel's latest sweep in the West Bank came after a Palestinian blew himself up outside an ice cream parlour and cafe crowded with **women** and children in a Tel Aviv suburb Monday, killing Ruth Peled, 56, and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Sinai Kenaan.

Israeli troops are on the hunt again

The Al Aqsa Brigades, linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Jihad Titi, 18, a cousin of a leading Al Aqsa militant Mahmoud Titi, who was killed in an Israeli tank attack last week.

On Tuesday, troops in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps drove into Jenin and a nearby refugee camp at about 3 a.m. and left by midday. They arrested eight, including the local leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, Rami Awad. Soldiers also searched an Islamic school, seizing computer disks, residents said.

There were heavy exchanges of fire with Palestinian gunmen.

In one incident, a 55-year-old Palestinian civilian, who had come out of his home to watch the fighting, was shot in the leg before dawn Tuesday, witnesses said. Israeli troops opened fire on an ambulance trying to retrieve the wounded man, witnesses said; the army said it was checking that report.

"We couldn't bring him to the hospital until 8 a.m. and by then he was already dead," said Ibrahim Dabaneh, director of emergency services in the city.

In one deserted neighbourhood, the sound of a Palestinian gunman's Kalashnikov assault rifle echoed through the streets as Israeli armoured vehicles fired heavy-calibre mounted machine guns toward the source of fire, and soldiers dashed across open ground toward the cover of an empty building.

In its stairwell, about a dozen soldiers lay down and went to sleep. They had been up all night, waiting for order to enter Jenin, whose refugee camp was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles in Israel's six-week West Bank offensive, Operation Defensive Shield, that ended earlier this month.

In Bethlehem to the south, Israeli forces combed the town for the third straight day Tuesday, blocking off the Church of the Nativity to prevent gunmen from taking refuge there. During Israel's earlier offensive, several dozen gunmen ran into the church ahead of Israeli forces, setting off a 39-day standoff that ended with the deportation of 13 the militants.

On Tuesday, Israeli forces arrested four Palestinians and discovered a bomb and some weapons in the Dheisheh refugee camp next to Bethlehem, Palestinian security officials said.

The Israeli incursions have become an almost nightly occurrence. With the exception of the extended operation in Bethlehem, they usually last a few hours, resulting in the arrests of suspected militants.

Deputy Israeli Defence Minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof admitted Tuesday that despite the arrest of thousands of suspected militants and the killing of dozens of wanted men, Operation Defensive Shield did not succeed in ending the militants' ability to stage attacks.

"We know now that there is nothing easier than to take a person bent on suicide and attach a bomb to him," she told Israel TV.

She denied that the Israeli military's frequent incursions into Palestinian territory are a precursor of another full-scale operation.

She said the defence establishment has a plan for a security fence between Israel and the West Bank and that "there should be a fence in the most sensitive parts (of the border) in a matter of weeks."

The border between Israel and the West Bank is largely open to infiltration, and to date Israel has avoided erecting physical obstacles for fear this might weaken its claim to at least some of the territory before a negotiated settlement. A fence would also leave many Jewish settlers on the other side from Israel.

Israeli troops are on the hunt again

End of Document

First suicide bombing by woman: 1 dead, 100 hurt as huge device explodes in crowded Jerusalem street

The Ottawa Citizen

January 28, 2002 Monday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 385 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Terror returned to the streets of central Jerusalem yesterday when a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated a huge device without warning in a crowded shopping street.

An 81-year-old Israeli man died in the blast and more than 100 people were injured.

And in a grisly new departure for terrorism, the attack was the first suicide bombing believed to be carried out by a woman.

The Ottawa Citizen

Palestinian sources said she was Shahnaz Amouri, a student from Al-Najar University in Nablus, a **Hamas** hotbed which has produced five suicide bombers in recent months.

The bomber blew herself up in the Jaffa Road, the main street of Jerusalem, which was filled with pedestrians and traffic shortly after midday on a sunny Sunday morning -- an ordinary working day in Israel.

The bomb was studded with nails and metal objects designed to maim and kill. It was so powerful it destroyed shopfronts and property over a wide radius. Some of them had only just been repaired after a shooting attack last week.

Dozens of ambulances and private cars ferried the wounded to hospitals as doctors issued a radio appeal for volunteers to help deal with the sudden influx of traumatized victims and their relatives.

The blast -- the second suicide attack in less than three days -- occurred less than 10 metres from the spot where a Palestinian gunman shot dead two elderly **women** last Tuesday and wounded 20 others.

Last Friday, a suicide bomber killed himself and injured more than a dozen bystanders in a similar attack in Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian Authority officially condemned the attack, but it seemed likely to increase Yasser Arafat's growing international isolation. The Palestinian leader has been trapped in Ramallah for more than a month after failing to arrest the assassins of Israeli Tourism Minister Rechavam Zeevi.

First suicide bombing by woman: 1 dead, 100 hurt as huge device explodes in crowded Jerusalem street

Apparently oblivious to his deteriorating reputation, Mr. Arafat continued to receive organized groups of supporters at his Ramallah headquarters.

"We are marching to Jerusalem -- a million martyrs," he chanted to one enthusiastic crowd, using the Palestinian code-word for suicide bombers. "Oh God, please allow me to be a martyr among the martyrs of Jerusalem."

"Jihad! Jihad! Jihad! Jihad!" thundered Mr. Arafat, exhorting his supporters to support holy war against Israel.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

Israeli teens killed in West Bank raid

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 29, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A

Length: 920 words

Byline: Mark Lavie The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - A gunman sneaked onto the grounds of an Orthodox Jewish high school in the West Bank late Tuesday and killed three teen-agers, even as Israeli troops continued their daily raids into Palestinian towns.

The man shot and killed three Israeli students outside a high school in the settlement of Itamar, near the Palestinian city of Nablus, settlers and rescue service officials said. The attacker was shot and killed by the settlement's security chief.

Hezi Katoa, a rescue service worker, told Israel Radio that they found one student hit by a number of bullets in the chest, and then two more "lying behind the building with bullet wounds all over their bodies." All three were dead at the scene, he said.

A few hours earlier, an Israeli motorist was killed and another wounded in a shooting attack, apparently by a Palestinian gunman, near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, said rescue services spokesman Yeruham Mandola.

The violence accompanied repeated Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

Late Tuesday, Israeli soldiers entered Beitunia, a suburb of the West Bank town of Ramallah, Palestinians said, and surrounded the house of a prominent **Hamas** leader. However, the leader, Hassan Yussuf, was not there. The Israeli military had no comment.

In another development, Israel launched the spy satellite Ofek-5, displaying advanced missile capabilities and restoring a military eye in the sky after its last spy satellite burned up in the atmosphere about a year ago.

Defense Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay confirmed it was sent into space from a seaside Israeli air force base. It was launched by a Shavit missile, related to the long-range Jericho ground-to-ground missile. Foreign experts have said the Jericho can carry a nuclear warhead; Israeli officials have not commented on that.

Israel's latest sweep in the West Bank came after a Palestinian blew himself up outside an ice cream parlor and cafe crowded with **women** and children in a Tel Aviv suburb Monday, killing Ruth Peled, 56, and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Sinai Kenaan.

The Al Aqsa Brigades, linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Jihad Titi, 18, a cousin of a leading Al Aqsa militant Mahmoud Titi, who was killed in an Israeli tank attack last week.

Israeli teens killed in West Bank raid

On Tuesday, troops in armored personnel carriers and jeeps drove into Jenin and a nearby refugee camp at about 3 a.m. and left by midday. They arrested eight, including the local leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, Rami Awad. Soldiers also searched an Islamic school, seizing computer disks, residents said.

There were heavy exchanges of fire with Palestinian gunmen.

In one incident, a 55-year-old Palestinian civilian, who had come out of his home to watch the fighting, was shot in the leg before dawn Tuesday, witnesses said. Israeli troops opened fire on an ambulance trying to retrieve the wounded man, witnesses said; the army said it was checking that report.

"We couldn't bring him to the hospital until 8 a.m., and by then he was already dead," said Ibrahim Dabaneh, director of emergency services in the city.

In one deserted neighborhood, the sound of a Palestinian gunman's Kalashnikov assault rifle echoed through the streets as Israeli armored vehicles fired heavy-caliber mounted machine guns toward the source of fire, and soldiers dashed across open ground toward the cover of an empty building.

In its stairwell, about a dozen soldiers lay down and went to sleep. They had been up all night, waiting for order to enter Jenin, whose refugee camp was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles in Israel's six-week West Bank offensive, Operation Defensive Shield, that ended earlier this month.

In Bethlehem to the south, Israeli forces combed the town for the third straight day Tuesday, blocking off the Church of the Nativity to prevent gunmen from taking refuge there. During Israel's earlier offensive, several dozen gunmen ran into the church ahead of Israeli forces, setting off a 39-day standoff that ended with the deportation of 13 of the militants.

On Tuesday, Israeli forces arrested four Palestinians and discovered a bomb and some weapons in the Dheisheh refugee camp next to Bethlehem, Palestinian security officials said.

The Israeli incursions have become an almost nightly occurrence. With the exception of the extended operation in Bethlehem, they usually last a few hours, resulting in the arrests of suspected militants.

Deputy Israeli Defense Minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof admitted Tuesday that despite the arrest of thousands of suspected militants and the killing of dozens of wanted men, Operation Defensive Shield did not succeed in ending the militants' ability to stage attacks.

"We know now that there is nothing easier than to take a person bent on suicide and attach a bomb to him," she told Israel TV.

She denied that the Israeli military's frequent incursions into Palestinian territory are a precursor of another full-scale operation.

She said the defense establishment has a plan for a security fence between Israel and the West Bank and that "there should be a fence in the most sensitive parts [of the border] in a matter of weeks."

The border between Israel and the West Bank is largely open to infiltration, and to date Israel has avoided erecting physical obstacles for fear this might weaken its claim to at least some of the territory before a negotiated settlement. A fence would also leave many Jewish settlers on the other side from Israel.

Load-Date: May 30, 2002

Israeli strikes injure 40;

Morning Star

February 12, 2002

Copyright 2002 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 385 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

ISRAEL continued intense air strikes in the Gaza Strip yesterday, wounding at least 40 people and destroying another Palestinian security compound.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters struck again after bombing Palestinian targets the day before in revenge for Palestinian gunmen killing two women soldiers inside Israel and the launch of a new type of Palestinian-made Qassam-2 rocket by the Islamist militant group Hamas.

The two rockets landed harmlessly near Israeli farming communities outside the Gaza Strip.

During the latest Israeli attack, people in the streets ran in panic in all directions with the thundering explosion of each missile strike.

Palestinian minister Imad alFallouji condemned the raids.

"The Palestinian Authority has been doing its best to restore calm, but, as long as occupation exists, resistance will continue," he said.

Palestinian police also clashed with protesters demanding the release of jailed militants from the Saraya security compound, which Israeli warplanes bombarded and set on fire.

"Set them free. We don't want them to burn in another attack," shouted the crowd.

Missiles from the F-16 and helicopter attacks smashed into the upper floor and set ablaze part of the complex which houses the jail, guard units and military intelligence headquarters.

Police tried to calm the crowd, saying that all prisoners had been taken to safety outside.

Two UN guards were also injured when UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen's office in Gaza was damaged during the air raid on the nearby Palestinian Authority compound.

Mr Roed-Larsen deplored Israel's continuing bombardment of Palestinian targets.

"It is totally unacceptable to use the kind of weaponry that puts civilians and UN staff in peril.

Israeli strikes injure 40;

"The parties must immediately go back to the table and address the political issues because bombs produce bombs. Bombs like this galvanise extremism, " he said.

However, right-wing cabinet members stepped up pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to remove Yasser Arafat as Palestinian leader.

Finance Minister Silvan Shalom, a member of Mr Sharon's right-wing Likud Party, called for Mr Arafat's removal.

"Since there is one cause of this terror, and his name is Yasser Arafat, we have to deal with Yasser Arafat himself. There is cause to replace him, " he said.

Graphic

ABLAZE: The Palestinian Saraya security compound yesterday after being hit by Israeli missiles.

Load-Date: February 12, 2002

End of Document

SUICIDE BOMB: BRITS CHARGED

The Express

May 9, 2003

Copyright 2003 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 404 words

Byline: By Sally Guyoncourt

Body

THREE Britons have been charged with terrorist activities in connection with the suicide bomb attack on an Israeli bar last week.

The man, Zahid Hussain Sharif, 46, and two women, Paveen Akthor Sharif, 35, and Tahari Shad Tabassum, 27, are all from Derbyshire.

They will appear before Bow Street magistrates in London today to face charges of failing to disclose information about acts of terrorism.

Paveen Sharif will also face a second charge of aiding and abetting acts of terrorism overseas.

All three were arrested in police raids last Friday. Zahid and Paveen Sharif were picked up in Derbyshire and Tahari Tabassum was arrested in Nottinghamshire.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said that for "operational reasons" no further details would be made public until the court hearing.

Three others, two men and a woman, arrested in raids in Derbyshire and London have since been released without charge.

The arrests were the result of a joint operation by UK and Israeli security services after British suicide bomber Asif Mohammed Hanif, 21, attacked the bar, Mike's Place, in Tel Aviv in the early hours of Wednesday last week, killing three people and wounding a further 55.

Hanif, from Hounslow in west London, walked to the doorway of the packed bar and detonated the explosive device.

His alleged accomplice, 27-yearold Omar Khan Sharif, from Derby, is said to have fled the scene after his device failed to explode.

Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack saying it had worked with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an offshoot of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

It is believed all six of those arrested in the raids last Friday night were family and friends of Sharif.

SUICIDE BOMB: BRITS CHARGED

The hunt for Sharif himself was continuing yesterday.

In Israel, copies of his passport picture were handed out in streets and shopping centres. Meanwhile, police were following up a number of calls from witnesses who claimed to have seen him flee the scene.

Security sources in Britain admitted Sharif had been known to police in Derby but they denied they had been given any reason to suspect he may try to carry out a suicide bomb attack.

One source said: "He was a known Islamic activist and there were reports that he was involved in handing out fundamentalist leaflets."

MI5 officers are said to have known for several years that he had attended meetings of the extremist group al-Muhajiroun in Derby.

Load-Date: May 9, 2003

End of Document

Bomber kills 19 Israelis as peace plan stalls

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 28, 2002, Thursday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2002 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 898 words

Dateline: NETANYA, Israel

Body

Members of the Donenhirsch family excitedly took their seats around a table in a hotel banquet room Wednesday, dressed in their holiday finery and ready to usher in the Passover holiday.

Moments later, they were thrown against a wall by an enormous explosion.

"Suddenly, it was hell," history teacher Nechama Donenhirsch, 52, said from her hospital bed. "My daughter, 16 years old, held me and said to me to calm me, 'You are alive. I'm alive. Don't worry, we are alive.' "

Compiled from Times WiresISRAEL-EXPLO

The suicide bombing at the Park Hotel in the Mediterranean resort of Netanya killed 19 Israelis and the bomber and wounded more than 120 guests.

The bomber, a 25-year-old member of the Islamic militant group Hamas, knew his target well. He used to work in hotels in Netanya and other Israeli cities, Palestinian police said.

Israeli officials and commentators said the bombing, one of the two deadliest in 18 months of violence, could trigger a harsh military response and torpedo U.S.-brokered cease-fire negotiations. The talks, under way for nearly two weeks, have failed to produce a breakthrough or a sharp decline in bloodshed.

President Bush called on the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to do everything in his power to stop the suicide attacks. "This callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop," he said. "I condemn it in the strongest of terms."

About 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, more than 200 guests began taking their seats in the Park Hotel banquet hall, ready for the Passover seder, a ritual meal commemorating the exodus of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Round tables were covered with white linen and elaborate Seder place settings.

Guests were dressed in their holiday finest - women in festive dresses and men in white shirts and dark pants.

About that time, the bomber passed an armed guard at the hotel entrance. The assailant, later identified as Abdel Baset Odeh from the West Bank town of Tulkarm, was carrying a large bag with explosives but did not arouse the guard's suspicions.

Witnesses said they had noticed a suspicious man with long hair and a ski cap walk through the lobby to the dining room, ignoring a clerk's inquiries about where he was headed.

Bomber kills 19 Israelis as peace plan stalls

"(My father) told my mother, "Look at him, who is that? What is he doing here?" " Yoel Lagerlauf, who was having dinner with his parents from Sweden, told Israel radio. "He was really strange. Then, the dining room suddenly exploded."

The blast tore through the hall, blowing out windows and walls, overturning tables and chairs.

"There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears," said Donenhirsch, her eyes red from crying.

She said pieces of ceiling fell on her sister's head and her son, Itai, yelled for everyone to take cover under tables. The explosion knocked out the electricity, plunging the hall into darkness as people screamed for help.

Itai Donenhirsch said the family sat just three or four yards from where the bomber blew himself up.

"I felt shock waves and was pushed under the table and everything blacked out," he said.

Nechama Donenhirsch said that as she and her relatives ran from the inferno, they saw a little girl, maybe 10 to 12 years old, lying on the ground.

"The face of the little girl was so nice, it was as if she was surprised - big, big open eyes - but surely dead," Nechama Donenhirsch said. "We ran over dead people, all in pieces."

At least 25 of the injured were reported to be in serious condition, including children aged 5 and 8, and local medical facilities were so overwhelmed that some of the wounded had to be treated in a hospital cafeteria and a synagogue. Many of the victims, who were seated, had head and chest wounds. Six hospitals in three cities treated the victims.

"This is not just terror," said Public Security Minister Uzi Landau. "This is a massacre."

Israeli officials blamed Arafat and his Palestinian Authority for the attack, insisting he has done nothing to arrest militants or rein in Hamas or other militant groups. "That is why they are responsible for this horrible crime," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "Israel will be able to bring the perpetrators and planners, who have lost any trace of humanity, to justice."

After the bombing, Arafat telephoned the U.S. special envoy to the Mideast, Anthony Zinni, and denied he was behind the attack, Israeli television reported.

A statement from Arafat's Palestinian Authority condemned the attack, which it said was aimed at the Arab League summit conference under way in Beirut, Zinni's mission and a peace initiative put forward at the summit by Saudi Arabia. "In light of the dangerous aims of this operation, the Palestinian Authority will not take lightly the parties that have taken responsibility for it," said the statement. "And it will take harsh measures to bring those responsible to justice."

Palestinians have carried out dozens of suicide bombings since the violence erupted but Wednesday night's was one of the most devastating. Only an attack on Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium disco, which killed 21 last June, has taken more lives.

All Israeli security forces were on their highest states of alert as the Passover holiday approached. Netanya, popular with vacationing Israelis and mostly Jewish tourists, was one of the most heavily policed cities.

- Information from the Associated Press, Washington Post and Cox News Service was used in this report.

Graphic

Bomber kills 19 Israelis as peace plan stalls

PHOTO, Associated Press; MAP; Rescue workers carry a victim of the suicide bombing into a hospital in the Israeli coastal town of Netanya.; map locates the site of the hotel bombing in Netanya

Load-Date: March 28, 2002

End of Document

ISRAELI RAID ON BOMB LAIR KILLS 14

Daily News (New York)

May 2, 2003, Friday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 400 words

Byline: By MAHMOUD HABBOUSH in Gaza City and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

Israeli forces stormed a top **Hamas** bomb maker's hideout yesterday and sparked one of the fiercest gun battles of the Palestinian uprising. The raid in Gaza - which killed 14 Palestinians, including a 2-year-old boy - came a day after the U.S. and other negotiators handed both sides the long-awaited "road map" to peace.

The UN condemned the attack, and the Palestinians accused the Israelis of sabotaging the peace process.

A spokesman for the Israeli Consulate in New York, Ido Aharoni, defended the raid. "The operation in Gaza is part of the Israeli Defense Forces' continuing mission to eradicate terrorism," he said. "The Palestinians should realize that the road map stipulates that we must work together to fight terrorism. They should be taking the lead."

Israeli officials denied that the raid - whose target was Yousef Abu Heen, who was killed - was payback for Wednesday's deadly suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv. Four were killed in that attack, including the British-born bomber. The bomber's accomplice got away.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House, which jointly released the peace plan after Palestinian reformer Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, was appointed prime minister.

Hundreds join battle

The fighting in Gaza City erupted before dawn when Israeli troops surrounded a house in the Shejaiya neighborhood and demanded that Heen and a relative give up. **Women**, children and some of the men were allowed to leave but the militants would not surrender.

"They refused and exchanged fire with the Israeli soldiers," said Saker Abu Heen, a relative of the militants.

Hundreds of masked militants raced to the scene. In the ensuing battle, Yousef Abu Heen died along with two of his brothers. Several bystanders were killed in the crossfire. Eight soldiers were wounded.

"Is this the new peace President Bush promised?" asked Ahmed Ayad, whose 2-year-old son, Amer, died. "They wrote the answer using the blood of my son."

Abbas' security honcho, Mohammed Dahlan, said the raids "create more provocation to push for more Palestinian reaction to the Israeli aggression." But Abbas has vowed to disarm the Palestinian militias.

ISRAELI RAID ON BOMB LAIR KILLS 14

An adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Abbas should do it fast. "We can't wait until Abu Mazen gets his act together," Zalman Shoval said. "The faster he moves to halt terror, the quicker Israel will be able to halt these operations."

Load-Date: May 2, 2003

End of Document

N. Korea calls off U.N. meeting amid tension

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 26, 2003 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2003 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 17A; DIGEST

Length: 411 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: SEOUL, South Korea; JERUSALEM

Body

North Korea cut off the only regular military contact with the U.S.-led United Nations Command on Wednesday, after accusing the United States of planning an attack.

The announcement came as lawmakers from across North Korea convened the country's rubber-stamp parliament amid heightened tension over the communist state's suspected nuclear weapons program.

In a telephone message to the U.N. Command, the North's Korea People's Army said it will no longer send its delegates to the liaison-officers' meeting at the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

Compiled from Times Wires

"It is meaningless to sit together with the U.S. forces side to side to discuss any issue as long as it remains arrogant," the North's official news agency KCNA quoted the North Korean message as saying.

The U.N. Command had no immediate comment.

Israeli troops kill five Palestinians

JERUSALEM - Israeli forces killed two children and three gunmen in the West Bank on Tuesday, doctors and Israeli Radio said. Three Palestinians were sentenced to life in prison by an Israeli military court.

Israeli forces looking for suspected **Hamas** militants in Bethlehem shot three Palestinian gunmen dead after they opened fire on the soldiers from a car, Israel Radio said.

The report said soldiers then opened fire on another car they thought was trying to run them over, killing a 10-year-old girl. Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that two gunmen and a **female** civilian were killed in the incident.

A spokeswoman at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem said three wounded were brought there from Bethlehem - a father, mother and 15-year-old girl.

In the West Bank town of Jenin, a 14-year-old boy was killed and a 12-year-old boy was seriously wounded by fire from an Israeli tank, doctors said. The Israeli military said they were shot while climbing on an armored vehicle and trying to steal a machine gun.

N. Korea calls off U.N. meeting amid tension

WAR CRIMES PLEA: A Serbian ultranationalist and former ally of Slobodan Milosevic pleaded innocent to war crimes charges that paramilitary troops under his control murdered and tortured non-Serbs during the Balkan wars. Vojislav Seselj, 48, entered his plea at the Yugoslav tribunal a month after surrendering to the U.N. court, vowing to make a circus of proceedings he says are biased against Serbs. At his first appearance in February, Seselj claimed not to understand charges against him, saying they contained terms in dialects he didn't understand - namely, non-Serb terms.

Load-Date: March 26, 2003

End of Document

Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves?
Suzanne Goldenberg investigates

The Guardian (London)

June 11, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 2499 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg

Body

In the annals of the Palestinian uprising, it is all but forgotten that Nabil Arir was the first. On the morning of October 26 2000, the attendant at a school for disabled children, described by his friends as a gentle, deeply religious young man, rode his cycle up to an Israeli army post in the centre of the Gaza Strip, and blew himself up.

Arir, 24, killed no one but himself. Outside the Shujayah neighbourhood of Gaza City, where one wall in the family home is painted with a mural showing Nabil in olive fatigues pressing a detonator as Israeli army watchtowers explode in smoke and fire around him, no one knows his name. But Arir's self-inflicted death was an augury. His was the first in the chain of suicide bombings which were to drive and shape the next 20 months of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. From October 26 2000 until last Wednesday, when a bomber rammed a van packed with explosives into an inter-city bus, turning it into a massive fireball, Palestinian militants carried out 56 suicide bombings in Gaza and the West Bank, and inside the Jewish state.

As a military tool, the suicide missions were the most powerful means of spreading terror and death at the Palestinians' disposal, killing 225 people - not counting the bombers - and injuring more than 1,880. The victims include Russian immigrants and Orthodox Jews, teenagers at a disco on a balmy summer night, babies at an ice cream parlour, Israeli soldiers, and the elderly celebrants of a Passover feast. They accounted for 43% of the 523 Israelis killed during the intifada up to Wednesday, according to Israeli security sources. Put another way, of the 225 Israelis killed in suicide attacks, 192 were civilians: babies, women, teenagers, and pensioners.

The gruesome final act of these unknown Palestinians has dictated the pace and intensity of the intifada, producing a far bloodier conflict than the first uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

In an investigation into this critical phenomenon, the Guardian interviewed the friends and families of 21 of the suicide bombers, searching for the motivations for those who did the bombing, and the cold calculations of those who sent them. Why have so many Palestinians - women and middle-aged men as well as a majority of young men - lined up to turn themselves into human bombs? And what do their handlers hope to achieve by aiming their violent ends at Israeli civilians?

This is a conflict that has been fought without rules. On one side stands an army of volunteers, ready to kill and be killed, intent on inflicting the maximum in Israeli civilian casualties. They can strike anywhere, at any time, turning the most mundane activity - a cup of coffee in a cafe, a bus trip - into a death journey.

Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves? Suzanne Goldenberg....

DEADLY DYNAMIC

On the other side stands a regional superpower which unleashed F-16s and Apache helicopters, gunboats and tanks against Palestinian refugee camps and towns, and assassinated leading activists. This deadly dynamic between the suicide bombers and the Israeli army assaults is the essence of the conflict.

Undeterred by the army, the ranks of suicide bombers have grown. A tactic once restricted to a hardcore of Islamist militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad has been adopted wholesale by secular Palestinian organisations such as Yasser Arafat's Fatah and the Marxist-leaning Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Nabil Arir set the trend. His father and friends describe him as an introvert, whose life revolved around his faith. He fasted every Monday and Thursday, sang in an Islamic choir, and spent most evenings at the mosque, where he prayed five times a day. But he was also ambitious in worldly matters, and took classes in English, Hebrew and computers.

Arir was arrested for throwing stones during the first intifada against Israel's occupation in the late 1980s, but his was not a particularly militant family. Nabil's father, Faraj, had worked in Israel since 1967, and jokes: "I know more Jews than I know Palestinians."

But at some point in the first weeks of the intifada, Arir took a fateful decision, and enrolled as a suicide bomber with Islamic Jihad. A week before he blew himself up, he went to a demonstration dressed in a white funeral shroud. A few days later, he took friends out to a meal at a restaurant, an extravagance they later remembered as a parting gift, and when the family went through his belongings, they found a four-page handwritten will.

It said Israel was "weaker than a spider's web", and asked his mother to ululate in joy at his funeral, assuring her: "Thank god I am headed where I always wanted to go." Paradise, so the bombers believe, is the ultimate reward for one who dies for god and country.

Most of the early bombers were like Nabil Arir: young men in their early to mid-20s, although the bomber who killed two Israelis at a Rishon Letzion pedestrian mall on May 22 was just 16 years old. Most were too young for an extensive record of militancy, although one had spent four years in an Israeli jail, and at least two Islamist radicals had been detained by the Palestinian Authority. Two of the bombers from Gaza had children, and as the uprising wore on the age limit became more elastic, producing two bombers in their late 40s, with families of their own. There have only been three verified instances of women bombers.

Although Arir's family originates from Gaza, about half of the bombers were the sons and grandsons of refugees who lost their homes when the Jewish state was created in 1948. Twelve had at least a high school education, and were from middle-class or lower middle-class family homes, where their parents were mapping out a conventional future: university education and a professional job. Six were about to be married.

Most were religious, some far more so than their parents or elder brothers, who were supporters of the secular Fatah movement. Some were academic high achievers - four were engineering students - and loners, but none was suicidal in the conventional sense.

Eyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist who heads the Gaza community mental health project, has studied the bombers - and the would-be bombers who crossed his path. He concluded they were not mentally ill, though "many people I have found are introverted, have problems with communicating, and are secretive".

Dr Sarraj argues the motive is rooted in trauma - injury to a father or brother in the first intifada, or the death of a friend or even a distant relation in the present upheavals.

"In every case of suicide bombing, there is a personal tragedy or a trauma," he said. "The people doing the suicide bombing today are the children of the first intifada and they have witnessed or suffered personal trauma in one form or another that is humiliating.

Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves? Suzanne Goldenberg....

"Second, they want to take revenge. Arab honour has to take revenge for family honour and dignity. The vehicle is usually Islam, and the trigger is anger."

SHAMING EXPERIENCE

His contention is only partly borne out. Thirteen of the 21 bombers investigated by the Guardian had had friends or relations killed, injured or jailed by Israel although the families of all spoke about the shaming experience of living under Israeli occupation.

The large and tumultuous funerals of the suicide bombers have punctuated the uprising. Lorries and loudspeakers, paid for by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a military offshoot of Fatah, accompany the corpse through the streets amid volleys of gunfire.

The sponsors of the suicide attacks also set up a traditional mourning canopy, where pilgrims offer their respects - not condolences - to the families of the bombers, and sip sweet coffee, not the bitter grounds normally served at funerals.

Israel has repeatedly accused Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority of encouraging a cult of martyrdom - from the posters of the dead in camouflage gear to gory images on Palestinian television - to whip up emotions and fan the flames of the uprising.

Palestinians reply there is no need to resort to such tactics: the last 20 months of Israeli siege and bombings are far more powerful than any propaganda campaign.

All of the families the Guardian interviewed described how the suicide bombers would rage at the images of the Palestinian uprising, breaking down in tears or shouting before their television sets. Israel says the official Palestinian broadcaster acts deliberately to increase their emotional upset by broadcasting images of funerals and the bodies of children killed by Israeli soldiers.

But Palestinian society is closely knit and highly politicised, and the bloody maelstrom of the uprising has produced a series of iconic deaths that far exceeds the power of television. Most Palestinians also far prefer satellite channels - al-Jazeera and Dubai television - to their own homegrown broadcaster.

The families of the suicide bombers often named a specific event which they believed had served as an emotional trigger, naming a Palestinian infant or children killed by Israeli soldiers. Several spoke of Iman Hijo, aged four months, the Palestinian infant in Gaza killed by an Israeli tank shell last year.

DYING TOGETHER

Group behaviour can be seen behind several sets of bombings. In one case involving a pair of friends, death was almost simultaneous. On a fine day, the village of Abu Dis enjoys a staggering view of the shimmering gold Dome of the Rock. The shrine is the backdrop for the martyrs' poster of Osama Bahar and Nabil Halabiya, who grew up here within sight of the dome. They prayed at the mosque together, played football, and learned karate together.

On December 1 2001, they died together, blowing themselves up in a pedestrian mall in Jerusalem, spewing nails and metal bolts into a crowd of teenagers, killing 11. Bahar spent the last week of his life meticulously paying off the hire purchase debts of 40,000 shekels (then Dollars 10,000) on the furniture for his new home.

"This is what drives us crazy. All the foundations of a decent life were in his hands," said Osama's older brother, Raed Bahar. "Before my brother did his operation, I always wondered how a person had the guts to blow himself up. What kind of heart did he have? He saw his friend fly to pieces before his eyes, and then he did the same thing. What kind of heart did he possess?"

The settlement of debts is a prerequisite for martyrdom, otherwise the gates of paradise are closed to a bomber. Other rituals - handwritten and typed wills, video testimonials - appear to be a crucial element in strengthening the

Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves? Suzanne Goldenberg....

resolve for a suicide attack. Once the video is recorded in front of a militant banner, gun in one hand and Koran in the other, with the bomber seated at a table of grenades, there is no turning back without dishonour.

But the desire for posterity also features strongly among the suicide bombers. The bomber videos are formulaic. They boast about the blow the bomber is about to inflict against the "occupation forces" - not the Israeli women and children who will be blown up in the attacks. The handwritten messages left to the bombers' families are also detached, exhorting younger brothers to pray and to follow in their path of martyrdom - "the only way to remove the thorn of occupation".

Ahmed Ayam, 22, from a refugee camp in the West Bank town of Tulkarem, carried out the first in a string of bombings at the coastal city of Netanya in March 2001, killing three people, including two women, at a shopping mall.

A muezzin at the local mosque, he left behind instructions asking that his monthly salary of 930 shekels be used to construct a minaret, and he made a point of repaying his father the five shekels he owed.

A few days before his death, he made repeated visits to a local photographic studio, taking a sheaf of portraits: in traditional Arab dress, in jeans, and posed in front of a backdrop of poppies, a vision of the paradise that is said to be the destination of the suicide bomber, or others who die in the name of Islam.

Even so, the families of all the bombers say they failed to notice the preparations for a suicide attack. In hindsight, they trawl through the memories for clues, both spoken and unsaid.

So prevalent has the talk of suicide bombings and martyrdom become, with even children saying they want to die, that Palestinians rarely listen closely any more.

Hussein Abu Nasser, a fourth-year student of Islamic law from Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp, had been talking of little else for half his life. A long time activist in the Islamic Jihad, he became obsessed with the idea of martyrdom after two of his friends blew themselves up in suicide attacks in the mid-90s.

"Since he was in grade seven he talked about becoming a shahid, but I didn't realise he was serious," said his mother, Zahra.

On May 23 last year, he blew himself up at a sewing factory near the Erez border crossing, wounding two Israeli border guards.

Dr Sarraj is one of the few prominent Palestinians to speak out consistently against suicide attacks as "morally repugnant".

Support for suicide bombings otherwise remains high. An opinion poll in May 2002 showed that Palestinian popular backing for the attacks had dropped to 52%, but the doubts were mainly about the effectiveness of such attacks in ending the Israeli occupation, not about morality.

Dareen Abu Eishi illustrates the groundswell for suicide bombing among the Palestinians. Not only was she the first confirmed woman suicide bomber - breaking a powerful taboo - she also persistently courted death, even when militant groups turned her away. She was a star English student, with a penchant for quoting Shakespeare, but the most important thing about her was her determination to die.

ENTREATIES

The process took eight months from her first entreaties to Hamas officials at a public meeting in Nablus last summer to February 27, when she blew herself up at a checkpoint in the West Bank, injuring three Israeli police officers. She was shattered when the local leader of Hamas turned her away. "He told her: 'Your duty is not to be a suicide bomber, your duty is to take care of children,'" her mother, Wafiqah Abu Eishi, remembers.

Special report: A mission to murder: inside the minds of the suicide bombers: What drives ordinary people to kill civilians - and themselves? Suzanne Goldenberg....

Islamic Jihad, the smaller rival of **Hamas**, also turned her down, but Abu Eishi got her wish in the end. A Ramallah branch of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade kitted her up with a vest packed with explosives, and Abu Eishi was on her way.

Her determination is telling of the proliferation of this industry of death, and how Palestinian social sanction for the suicide attacks has opened up to the most unlikely recruits a field once restricted to hardcore Islamist militants.

It also exposes the difficulties of stopping the waves of bombers. The sponsors of suicide attacks have been turning away would-be militants because there is a glut of recruits.

"Dareen always said that every house of a Palestinian should pay a tax to get rid of the occupation, and that our house should also pay a tax," her mother said. "And now she has paid it."

Load-Date: June 11, 2002

End of Document

*From student to suicide bomber;
The conflicted story of an Islamic woman*

The International Herald Tribune

May 30, 2003 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 958 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: TUBAS, West Bank:

Body

To her peers and family, Hiba Daraghmeh was a self-confident ground-breaker.

In 10th grade, she began veiling herself, except for her eyes, asserting a religious devotion that is rare here. She turned down two proposals of marriage, her father said, because she wanted to continue her studies and earn a doctorate in English.

On May 19, she blew herself apart outside a mall in the Israeli town of Afula, killing a security guard in his first day on the job, an Israeli Arab on his way to an electrical engineering class, and an Israeli Jewish man, the police said. She wounded many more.

The New York Times

At 19, disguised as an Israeli woman in jeans and a T-shirt, she became the first Palestinian woman to blow herself up on behalf of an Islamist group, Islamic Jihad. With that, another barrier tumbled before a phenomenon that is penetrating ever more deeply into Palestinian society in the 32d month of conflict with Israel. Previously, Islamic religious leaders had almost uniformly insisted that women could not reach paradise through such killing.

The fact that such a devout woman carried out a suicide bombing did not seem to cause consternation here. "She made us feel proud," said a fellow student at the local branch of Al Quds Open University, who gave her name only as Jumama, 19.

"More important and even older people couldn't make that decision," she continued, holding a spiral notebook with a picture of flowers on its cover. "It's courageous."

After a suicide bombing, the mythmaking begins almost as soon as the ambulances start their wailing rush to the scene. The how and the why of an attack blur as wondering friends and relatives of the bomber retrieve and burnish memories, at times conflicting, that might explain how their loved one became a willing "martyr."

To explain this bombing, several versions of a similar story are being told here, about how Israeli soldiers once forced Daraghmeh to lift her veil. Her father, Azem Said Daraghmeh, provided the most detailed account, saying that a year ago, Israel imposed a curfew on Tubas, making an exception for students who had exams.

From student to suicide bomber; The conflicted story of an Islamic woman

Daraghmeh, veiled, was making her way to school with other students when soldiers stopped them and demanded to see her face, he said. "The girls begged her," he said. "She removed the veil, they saw her, she collapsed and started crying."

But he said that, despite that incident, he remained baffled. "All her needs were provided for, she did well in school, she was living with her family," he said.

After Daraghmeh struck in Afula, Sheikh Yusef Qaradawi, an influential cleric based in Qatar, issued a religious ruling that women "in Palestine" could reach paradise through suicide bombings. Releasing them from strictures insisted upon by other clerics, he said they did not need a chaperone on their way to attack, and that they could take off their veils if necessary. "She is going to die in the cause of Allah, and not to show off her beauty," he explained.

Yigal Carmon of the Middle East Media Research Institute, who has studied such religious rulings, called this one significant. "Everybody was not too comfortable with the whole thing, so it's important to have such a personality support it," he said.

But also after the Afula attack, Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian prime minister, issued an unusually strong condemnation, saying that the bombing "contradicts our moral values and tradition and only feeds into the hatred of the two peoples." He says he will stop Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other groups from carrying out these attacks.

Sitting on the concrete patio by his crumpled home, demolished by Israel after the bombing, Azem Said Daraghmeh, 50, did not have a ready answer when asked whether his daughter's action was right or wrong. "I don't know," he said. "I can't tell. I'm sure she believed in what she did."

But Daraghmeh's mother, Fatmeh, 47, muttered as she hauled on a rope to drag a bucket of water from the cistern below the patio, "If I had known, Hiba, that you were going to do this, I would have tied you up with a rope."

Out of several photographs on a poster about student life in the university's main hall, one captured Daraghmeh, her friends said. It was impossible to tell; her face was a wash of white, entirely hidden by her veil as she bent over a paper. Several students said they could never pick her out among the four or five veiled women at the school.

For Palestinian women, wearing the veil is a sign of self-confident choice, not submission, said Martin Kramer, an expert on Islam and the Middle East. "It's political self-assertion," he said. "Women do it to make a statement."

Daraghmeh was known as a member of the "Islamic bloc" of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, students said, and she helped the bloc stage exhibits of political posters and cartoons, at which it sold cassettes of songs calling for jihad.

She spoke often of a beloved older brother, Bakr, whom the Israelis had jailed as a member of the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to the more secular Fatah movement that claimed responsibility for the four previous suicide bombings by women.

Tawfik Kilani, 26, the head of the student council, said he disapproved of the suicide attack because the Daraghmeh family was already suffering. "If she was someone else, we wouldn't care," he said.

But the head of the local youth movement, Raed Mallak, 28, seemed proud. Indicating paintings in the student council office of Palestinian fighters from the school who died in the conflict, he said, "Now we have four, not three."

One student said that, on the day before the attack, Daraghmeh seemed very happy. "I asked her, 'How come you're happy?'" said this woman, who asked that her name not be published. "She said, 'Later, you'll know.'"

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Sharon regrets not killing Arafat in 1982; Should have 'liquidated' PLO leader in Beirut siege

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

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Byline: Mark Lavie

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Ariel Sharon says he's sorry he didn't have Yasser Arafat "liquidated" while he had a chance -- 20 years ago during an Israeli siege of Beirut.

Sharon's musings about the missed opportunity, published yesterday, raised eyebrows abroad but surprised few in the Middle East, where the bitter, decades-long personal feud is seen as a key element of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sharon spoke as his tanks surrounded Arafat's compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah, trapping the Palestinian leader inside. His remark in an interview with the Maariv daily coincides with speculation that this time Sharon hopes to finish off his old enemy.

The Associated Press; The Hamilton Spectator

"Sharon's words are very dangerous," said Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat. By expressing regret about not killing Arafat in 1982, Sharon "means he want to fix his mistake," Erekat said.

As defence minister in 1982, Sharon directed an Israeli invasion of strife-torn Lebanon, where Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization ruled a virtual state within a state. At first presented as a 48-hour operation to move the Palestinian forces out of southern Lebanon, the war expanded and Israeli forces eventually occupied Beirut.

Arafat, along with his top lieutenants and many fighters, was forced to board ships under the eye of the Israeli army and leave for Tunis. An Israeli sniper said later he had Arafat in his gunsights, but instead of pulling the trigger, he took a picture of the defeated Palestinian leader.

Observers agree that for Sharon and Arafat, the conflict is at least partly personal.

"In Lebanon, there was an agreement not to liquidate Yasser Arafat," Sharon told the Maariv newspaper. "In principle, I'm sorry that we didn't liquidate him."

The paper plans to print the full interview today.

Sharon's comments drew stiff criticism from Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique, whose country holds the European Union presidency.

Sharon regrets not killing Arafat in 1982; Should have 'liquidated' PLO leader in Beirut siege

"I deplore them, and they should not be accepted," Pique said.

Sharon's part in the Lebanon invasion drew him a stiff rebuke from an official Israeli commission of inquiry, which found him indirectly responsible for the massacres of Palestinian refugees in Beirut by Christian militiamen in September 1982, while Sharon's troops controlled the area.

The commission forced Sharon to step down as defence minister, but he slowly scraped his way back to the top of the Israeli political pyramid.

Arafat returned to centre stage in 1994, when he made a triumphant return to Palestinian land to take over the autonomy government created under interim peace accords.

Despite those agreements, made by his moderate political rivals in Israel, Sharon always saw Arafat as an enemy.

Sharon military career dates back to the 1950s, when he led bloody reprisal raids into Egyptian and Jordanian territory after Palestinian guerrilla incursions, including a raid on the West Bank town of Qibia in 1953, then under Jordanian control. Sharon's Unit 101 commandos blew up a row of houses, killing 69 men, women and children. Sharon contended he was unaware the houses were occupied.

Those raids and his invasion of Lebanon gave Sharon a reputation among Palestinians as a ruthless killer.

Arafat has said that over the years, Sharon organized no fewer than a dozen attempts to assassinate him.

Sharon and Arafat have a long familiarity with one another's tactics, but have rarely seen each other face to face.

When they last met, at U.S.-brokered peace talks in October 1998, Sharon, then foreign minister, caused a stir when he refused to shake Arafat's hand. He caused another when he told the New Yorker magazine, in an article published in 2000, that Arafat was a murderer and a liar.

Since Sharon was elected on Feb. 6, 2001, he has not met Arafat, although he did on several occasions use his son Omri, 36, as an emissary. In the Maariv interview, Sharon said Arafat could still be a partner in peace negotiations "if Arafat takes all the steps we are demanding" to stop terror attacks.

Sharon ordered Israeli tanks into Ramallah following a series of Palestinian attacks in early December. Israeli forces destroyed Arafat's helicopters and marooned him in his Ramallah headquarters. Sharon banned Arafat from visiting Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, insisting that he must fulfil demands, including the arrest of Palestinian militants who killed an Israeli cabinet minister, before he can travel again.

Inching ever closer, the tanks are now about 70 metres from Arafat's compound. Israeli officials say they have no intention of deposing Arafat, though some cabinet ministers call openly for his expulsion.

Meanwhile, two militants detonated a roadside bomb and then opened fire on a truck carrying Thai farmhands to Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip yesterday. No one in the truck was hurt, and Israeli soldiers shot the attackers dead. The militant Hamas took responsibility for the attack in Gaza.

Later, Israeli police and soldiers entered two Palestinian security buildings in a suburb of Jerusalem and closed them down, a move to limit Palestinian operations in the disputed city.

Also yesterday, Hamas spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin left his Gaza home, though he is under house arrest imposed by Arafat. Palestinian officials said the house arrest order is still in effect, but Yassin was allowed to leave to take part in a pro-Arafat rally.

Graphic

Sharon regrets not killing Arafat in 1982; Should have 'liquidated' PLO leader in Beirut siege

Photo: Reuters File Photo; Ariel Sharon's musings about a missed opportunity to 'liquidate' Arafat drew alarm from Palestinians and the EU's condemnation.

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PALESTINIAN CHIEF DENOUNCES TERROR

The New York Times

April 30, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Length: 1527 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: TEL AVIV, Wednesday, April 30

Body

The Palestinian parliament voted Tuesday night in Ramallah to confirm a new government, clearing the way for an American-backed peace plan after the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, denounced terrorism "by any party and in all its shapes" and appealed for a "lasting peace" with Israel.

Hours later, underlining the fragility of every step toward peace, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up outside a seaside pub here early this morning and killed at least two other people.

After Mr. Abbas's speech, the Palestinian parliament overwhelmingly approved his new government on Tuesday night, in a jubilant session that met President Bush's condition for proceeding with a new peace plan, known as the road map. After the suicide bombing, the White House confirmed that it would proceed with the peace plan, which calls for creation of a Palestinian state and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace in three years.

It was shortly after 1 a.m., not long after the White House welcomed the legislative action and spoke of a new drive for peace in the Middle East, that a security guard outside Mike's Place here, which is steps from the American Embassy, confronted a fat man he apparently thought looked suspicious, witnesses said.

It was the weekly "Jam Night," when musicians bring their guitars and saxophones for impromptu sessions, and the small bar was packed.

Barry Gilbert, 50, was playing keyboards when he saw a bright flash. "I thought one of the spotlights had blown," he said. "Then I felt a hot blast, and there was a lot of screaming." He rushed outside and saw the wounded and dead. "A beautiful girl, one of the waitresses, I think she lost an arm," he said.

Near Mr. Gilbert, the owner of the bar stood wrapped in a brown blanket, sobbing.

The blast tore open the front of the bar and splattered blood on the trunk lid of a white sedan 100 feet away. Body parts lay among the broken glass on the sidewalk, across the road from the beach and the Mediterranean Sea, as rescue workers tended to the wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The bar drew patrons from the embassy next door, as well as many American and British music and soccer fans. More than 30 people were wounded, officials said.

PALESTINIAN CHIEF DENOUNCES TERROR

At the scene of the bombing, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, David Saranga, said, "The Palestinian Authority cannot talk peace by day, and not combat terrorism by night. The new Palestinian government will be judged by the international community by its actions, not by statements."

In his speech Tuesday, Mr. Abbas, an opponent of the armed uprising, stopped short of explicitly demanding its end, though few legislators doubted that was what he hoped to achieve.

Mr. Abbas called for the collection of illegal weapons and other security measures sought by Israel, and he made public a message he had previously delivered privately to Hamas and other violent groups. He has urged these groups to join the political process, insisting that each faction cannot decide for itself what the policy should be toward Israel.

"There will be no other decision-making authority except for the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Abbas said. "On this land and for this people, there is only one authority, one law, and one democratic and national decision that applies to us all."

Hamas leaders say they reject this approach and refuse to disarm. Mr. Abbas's own faction, Fatah, is conducting internal discussions with its armed wing, Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah leaders said.

It was not clear if, in condemning terrorism, Mr. Abbas included attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians overwhelmingly consider such violence legitimate resistance to occupation, but Israel calls it terrorism.

Israeli security officials said terrorists had never stopped trying to conduct suicide bombings, and today's attack might not have been timed to undermine the new government. But it graphically expressed the challenge facing Mr. Abbas.

Israel insists that before its forces stand down, Mr. Abbas and his security chief, Muhammad Dahlan, must act to end violence.

But some Palestinian legislators on Tuesday attacked Mr. Abbas for opposing violence against the Israelis. Mr. Abbas's allies call halting violence politically impossible as long as Israel presses its military offensives and maintains its restrictions on Palestinian life. In separate strikes in the Gaza Strip and West Bank on Tuesday before the Parliament met, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians, three of them described as wanted men.

In his speech, delivered to Palestinian officials and diplomats gathered in Yasir Arafat's ruined compound, Mr. Abbas called for a negotiated end to the conflict, offering a measure of empathy that has become rare here.

"We do not ignore the sufferings of the Jews throughout history," he said. "And in exchange, we hope the Israelis will not turn their backs on the sufferings of the Palestinians."

Mr. Abbas also urged improvements in internal Palestinian governance, including an independent judiciary and prosecution of officials accused of corruption.

The characteristically boisterous parliamentary session, across town from Mr. Arafat's compound, was the best-attended since the start of the conflict with Israel in September 2000, because Israel permitted all legislators to cross checkpoints.

In the packed hall, speaker after speaker rose to express criticisms or concerns about the new government. But after the government was approved at about 7:45 p.m. with 51 votes out of 69 cast, and 3 abstentions, members rushed up to kiss Mr. Abbas on both cheeks and clasp his hands.

The vote was the first time that a government was formed by a Palestinian prime minister rather than by Mr. Arafat, who is the president of the Palestinian Authority. It came after international pressure forced Mr. Arafat to accept the cabinet, and it left hazy how the two leaders would share power.

PALESTINIAN CHIEF DENOUNCES TERROR

Mr. Arafat spoke before Mr. Abbas, calling on legislators to approve the government. He then sat silently at Mr. Abbas's right hand as the prime minister read his speech.

Mr. Abbas, 68, was careful to be deferential to Mr. Arafat. "The government, Mr. President, is your government," he said.

As the Bush administration prepares to embark on a new peace mission, the adversaries remain far apart on the fundamental issues that divide them. Mr. Abbas, who is known as Abu Mazen, is widely called a moderate, because he regards the violence of this uprising as a disaster for Palestinians' national aspirations.

When it comes to negotiating, however, he made clear that he demands no less than Mr. Arafat: the removal of all settlements and the end of Israel's 36-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He called for a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem and, in separate remarks to Parliament tonight, sought compensation for the refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war or a right to return to their homes.

"The root of our suffering and the source of our pain is the occupation and its detestable oppressive policies," Mr. Abbas said.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel has spoken of "painful concessions," but he wants to hold onto settlements and to permit a Palestinian state in less than half the West Bank. As one of several changes he seeks in the peace plan, he is asking that the Palestinians relinquish any right of return for refugees before Israel will permit a provisional state with uncertain boundaries. The plan calls for creating a provisional state in one year, without that Palestinian concession. Mr. Sharon rejects any Palestinian claim on Jerusalem.

A spokesman for the Israeli government said that if Mr. Abbas succeeds in stopping terrorism, he would find a "willing partner" for peace in Israel. But he said that Mr. Abbas must do more than make statements. Rather than the action Israel wants, Mr. Abbas appears to be planning negotiations toward a Palestinian cease-fire.

Qadoura Fares, a reform-minded legislator, said that a committee had been formed within Fatah to conduct a dialogue with Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, **Hamas** and other groups, as well as with their leadership outside the occupied territories.

He said an important step in winning the cooperation of these groups would be for Mr. Abbas to guarantee the protection of men wanted by Israel, provided they stop any violence.

In Parliament tonight, some speakers criticized Mr. Abbas as planning to curtail the uprising, while others criticized him for having too few **women** in his government or not paying enough attention to the needs of Jerusalem or Hebron.

One legislator, Ahmad al-Batsh, complained that Mr. Dahlan's armored Suburban drove against traffic on the way to the assembly, then cut him off. He said that ministers could not act above the law. "This is the kind of behavior that led to this situation," he said. "If such behavior continues, I'm telling you, the life of your government will be short."

Another legislator, Abdel Jawad Saleh, said Mr. Abbas erred in not calling for nonviolent resistance to Israel. "You should be a Gandhi," he said, as the suicide bomber was making his way toward Mike's Place.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

PALESTINIAN CHIEF DENOUNCES TERROR

Photo: Members of the Palestinian parliament voting last night to approve the new government of Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. Earlier, Mr. Abbas denounced terrorism and appealed for a "lasting peace" with Israel. (Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)(pg. A6)

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Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Byline: Jason Keyser ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza City

Body

A missile fired from an Israeli helicopter killed at least 11 Palestinians today while they watched firefighters put out a fire in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, witnesses and hospital officials said. More than 100 people were wounded.

The Israeli military operation in Gaza came hours after a Palestinian suicide bombing on a bus in the northern city of Haifa killed 15 Israelis and wounded dozens.

The army did not comment on reports of the missile attack.

A gun battle had erupted in Jabalya during an overnight Israeli operation in the refugee camp, witnesses said, and continued as troops pulled out of the area and withdrew into an alley.

The troops fired tank shells and heavy machine guns. A helicopter hovering overhead fired missiles, hitting a group of people who were watching the firefighters at work.

"Until now, we have 11 killed and more than 100 wounded, among them 30 are in very critical condition, in a new massacre committed against the citizens of Jabalya," said Moawia Hassanen, chief of emergency services at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Earlier, two more Palestinians were killed during the army's operation in Gaza. The army blew up two buildings, including one belonging to a **Hamas** activist.

A Reuters TV cameraman and photographer were among the wounded.

The military sweep came as Israelis mourned the 15 passengers killed by the suicide bomber in yesterday's bus bombing, which ended a two-month lull in suicide bombings. The blast injured 55 people.

About 10 of the victims were high school students - among them 14-year-old Avigail Leitner, a U.S. citizen, authorities said. Two soldiers were also killed.

Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel

Police said the bomber, Mahmoud Hamdan Kawasme, 20, of the West Bank city of Hebron, was carrying a letter praising the Sept. 11 attacks. No group claimed responsibility for the bus blast.

In a first response to the attack, Israel's Security Cabinet ordered the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until further notice, banning all Palestinians from entering Israel, the Israeli military said early today. Later, about 50 Israeli tanks accompanied by helicopter gunships moved deep into the Jabaliya camp.

Israel's new hard-line government had pledged to step up strikes against militant strongholds in the Gaza area. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in more than two weeks of raids.

Bus No. 37 was packed with students from Haifa University when it stopped in the hilltop neighborhood of Carmelia at 2:17 p.m. to let off passengers.

"I suddenly heard an explosion," said bus driver Marwan Damouni, an Israeli Arab, who was being treated at a hospital. "I didn't feel anything. I didn't hear anything. I opened my eyes after a minute and saw blood all over my arms."

The explosion blew off the bus roof, shattered all its windows, and toppled nearby palm trees. Floodlights cast an eerie glow on the scene, illuminating the charred skeleton of the vehicle.

The bomb was laden with metal shrapnel for greater deadliness, Police Commissioner Shlomo Aharonishki said. Initial reports said the blast was caused by 130 pounds of explosives.

Ovadia Saar, who was driving a bus just behind the one that was attacked, said he saw "the back of the bus fly into the air, and the windows blew out and a great cloud of dust covered the bus."

"I got out and ran toward the bus. It was a horrible sight. There were a few bodies in the street," he said. "Those we saw breathing, we evacuated."

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a spokesman for the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, praised the bombing but did not claim responsibility. "We will not stop our resistance," he said. "We are not going to give up in the face of the daily killing" of Palestinians.

After the bus bombing, some Palestinians in Gaza called each other on cell phones. Some were jubilant.

"It's about time. They've kept on hitting us and killing us, and now we've struck back," said an ice cream vendor in Gaza who refused to give his name.

Students from Haifa University rushed to television sets to watch the coverage. Initially, a cafeteria manager refused to switch the channel from MTV, fearing arguments would erupt among students. Of the university's 15,000 students, about 20 percent are Arab.

"Haifa is the city where Arabs and Jews live together," said Eyal Berkovic, 25, a first year biology student who is Jewish. "It should be an example" of getting along, he said.

Police did not have details on the American victim, Avigail Leitner, and her links to the United States.

The Haifa blast was the first attack in Israel since Jan. 5, when a pair of suicide bombers killed 23 people in Tel Aviv. It was the first bus bombing since Nov. 21, when 11 passengers were killed in a suicide attack in Jerusalem.

There have been 87 suicide attacks in Israel in 29 months of violence that has killed 2,160 Palestinians and 743 Israelis.

Graphic

Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel

PHOTO;

RONEN LIDOR, Flash 90

Women comfort each other at the bus bombing. About 10 of those killed were students, including a 14-year-old U.S. citizen. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Before yesterday's bombing, the last attack in Israel, on Jan. 5, killed 23 people in Tel Aviv.

EITAN HESS-ASHKENAZI, Associated Press

Police and religious volunteers work at the scene of a bus bombing in which a suicide bomber and 15 victims died in Haifa. The attack ended a two-month lull in suicide bombings in Israel. Police said the bomber was a West Bank resident and said he was carrying a letter praising the Sept. 11 attacks.

BAZ RATNER, Associated Press

A Palestinian bomber and 15 victims died in an attack on a bus full of high school students in Haifa, in northern Israel. One of the dead was a 14-year-old U.S. citizen. Israeli troops quickly struck back, firing a missile that killed 11 Palestinians. (A01)

Load-Date: July 14, 2005

What Syria's leader really wants from the West

The Times (London)

December 17, 2002, Tuesday

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Section: Features; 16

Length: 965 words

Byline: Michael Gove

Body

Bashar al-Assad is playing the same game as other terror masters

Everyone seems to be a moderniser these days. Look around the globe and what do you see? Young leaders anxious to bring a breath of fresh air to their nations, eager to explore new economic opportunities, energetic in their pursuit of the benefits new technology can bring. Take Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria, who is visiting his fellow moderniser Tony Blair this week.

The Prime Minister tells us, in the Financial Times, that young Bashar is "determined to bring about real change in Syria and there are encouraging signs. There is new legislation to enable foreign banks to operate and moves to reform public administration." Why, we're told he even picked up a taste for Western music while working in London. Bashar, he's my baby, no sir, don't mean maybe.

The energetic young Syrian President has, indeed, been making changes to his country since assuming power on his father's death in June 2000. In fact, he has done what many might have considered impossible. Bashar has turned Syria into an even viler terrorist state.

Since September 2000 Syria has stepped up its financial, military and political support for groups such as Islamic Jihad, **Hamas** and Hezbollah. Although the Syrian state's ruling ideology is secular Arab nationalism, Bashar has been happy to fund Islamic fundamentalist groups, provide them with weaponry and train their activists. The bombs which killed 21 civilians in the attack on a Tel Aviv disco in June 2001 were manufactured by a Syrian-trained killer working for **Hamas**, Tarek Akesh. The Islamic Jihad murderer, Ali Saffuri, responsible for co-ordinating a series of at least ten suicide bomb attacks, took his orders from Damascus.

Syria has also, under Bashar's go-ahead leadership, formed an ever-closer alliance with the Lebanese fundamentalist terror group Hezbollah. Bashar's father annexed Lebanon, once the Middle East's freest Arab nation, and reduced it to a militarised colony. His son has gone even further, in alliance with the Shia mass murderers of Hezbollah. On April 4 last year, to help to support Bashar's illegal occupation of Lebanon, the Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, declared the presence of Syrian forces in the state "a regional and internal necessity for Lebanon" and a "national obligation for Syria".

Bashar, he fund crazies, yes sir, they kill babies. Bashar, who's your honey now?

Britain, apparently. For Mr Blair's response to the Syrian President's illegal occupation of sovereign nations, sponsorship of terror and continued repression of his own people, has been fawning. As well as laying on tea with

What Syria 's leader really wants from the West

the Queen, the Prime Minister has been laying it on with a trowel, offering advice on "economic reform" and providing a consultant to "author Syria's information technology strategy". The rationale for this tickling of terror's tummy is the old principle of "engagement". Britain, in Mr Blair's words, "is doing what it can to help" Syria to "play a fuller role in the international community". Putting to one side the obvious point that Bashar's idea, so far, of playing a fuller role in the international community is getting Islamic murderers to blow bits of it up, the Prime Minister should pause to consider just where Western "engagement" with terrorist states has led in the past.

Two years ago another "modernising" young leader was on the receiving end of a Western charm offensive. He too was anxious to open his country up, bring it out from under his father's shadow, solicit Western economic aid and explore the opportunities new technology might bring. He enjoyed a visit from the US Secretary of State, who promised to open "new avenues of communication, commerce and contacts".

And the result of this proactive engagement with a modernising young leader eager for Western knowhow? The leader in question, Kim Jong Il of North Korea, used foreign aid to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to threaten his neighbours. He ignored international agreements, pioneering a ballistic missile programme which menaced the nations who had poured funds into his country. And he flouted rules on arms proliferation to supply other terror states with the fruits of his labours. As we were all reminded just last week when a secret consignment of his Scuds was intercepted en route to Yemen.

Kim Jong Il has reacted to "engagement" as any good tyrant would, using it as an opportunity to screw appeasers in the West for resources and expertise with which to strengthen his oppressive rule. The West should have known what it was getting into. Kim Jong Il has been responsible for the abduction of scores of foreign nationals, a bomb in Burma which killed several members of a South Korean delegation and the downing of a South Korean airliner in which 115 people died. Yet still Western leaders thought he could be "engaged". To the extent of building nuclear reactors for him. Only to find he was building nuclear bombs for use against them. But hey, how were they to know, he claimed he wanted to learn from the West? He said he even liked jazz.

Kim Jong, he's amazing, yes sir, proliferating. Kim Jong, who's your baby now?

Bashar al-Assad, as it happens. The Syrian President has come to appreciate the Korean leader's example, to the extent of acquiring Scud missiles from him, as well as developing his own little tranche of chemical and biological weapons to help to fill that awkward space in the rocket between the propulsion mechanism and the shell casing.

Having benefited so much from North Korean expertise already, we can confidently expect that Bashar knows just how to make engagement with the West work. As women soon to become widows across the Middle East will shortly find out.

michael.gove@thetimes.co.uk

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

Flashpoint as Arafat isolated

The Advertiser

September 23, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 22

Length: 401 words

Byline: By JAMIE TARABAY in Ramallah

Body

THOUSANDS of Palestinians, many defying military curfews, poured into the streets early yesterday to protest against Israel's assault on Yasser Arafat's headquarters, and four demonstrators were killed by army fire.

In the largely demolished compound, Israeli troops threatened several times over loudspeakers to blow up the building where Mr Arafat is holed up - the only one left intact - unless 20 wanted men inside surrendered.

Israel has said it does not intend to harm Mr Arafat, and the army later said it had no plans to blow up the building.

Mr Arafat, who is confined to four rooms on the second floor of his office, appealed to militants yesterday to halt attacks on Israel, but refused to hand over members of his entourage. He spent the day making telephone calls and faxes from a conference room in the battered building.

The army later cut off phone, electricity and water supplies to Mr Arafat's offices.

Israel, preparing for a long standoff, planted an Israeli flag atop Mr Arafat's office building. Israel said it would not withdraw from the compound before the wanted men surrendered - and left open the possibility that even then troops might not leave. Early yesterday, Mr Arafat's Fatah movement led protest marches in several West Bank towns, defying Israeli military curfews.

In Ramallah, just a few kilometres from Mr Arafat's compound, troops fired tear gas and live bullets to disperse hundreds of men, women and children chanting "long live Arafat, long live Palestine".

Two protesters were killed by army fire, hospital officials said. Two more people were killed in the towns of Tulkarem and Nablus.

Three days into Israel's assault on Mr Arafat's once sprawling headquarters - launched in reprisal for last week's Tel Aviv bus bombing - the main office building was surrounded by barbed wire, piles of debris and heaps of smashed cars.

Mr Arafat and dozens of aides and security guards were confined to four rooms on the second floor of one wing after a tank shell destroyed the stairs to the third floor.

Several more shells hit the building, and one dusted Mr Arafat with debris.

The US and the European Union have urged Israel to show restraint and have been trying to defuse the crisis.

Flashpoint as Arafat isolated

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Mr Arafat was "finished".

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** responded by calling for an intensification of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Load-Date: September 22, 2002

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Israelis will reap terrible harvest

The Advertiser

July 25, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 17

Length: 402 words

Body

I REFER to "We'll avenge air raid, says Hamas" (The Advertiser, yesterday).

"When the honest man adopts the tactics and actions of the criminal, who shall choose between them?" The proud proclamation by the Israeli Government of its willingness to slaughter innocent women and children in order to kill one enemy has been at the cost its entire moral authority in the Middle East. How can the US continue to support such a base and unworthy government?

The Israeli people will surely reap a terrible harvest from this unconscionable act.

PETER WINWOOD,

Rostrevor.

DEPLORE Israel killing innocent civilians, certainly, but don't forget the scores of equally innocent Israelis blown away by Palestinian suicide bombers.

PAUL FLETCHER,

North Adelaide.

PICTURE this scenario with two individuals, two opposing religions, two countries or "heaven" forbid, two different gods - playing an ignorant and destructive game.

They say to one another: "Riddle me, riddle me ree, there's something I can see that you can't see and if you don't agree, then I am sorry, but I'll just have to kill you.

"Are you saying if I kill you, then your family will kill me, just because we can't agree - how stupid is that?

"Well, if they kill me, then my family will have to kill someone from your family, that's only just.

"Oh yeah, if your family kills more than one person, then my family will kill even more - so there.

"Come on, can't you see that I am right? How could you be right? I'm definitely right and you have to be wrong, so too bad, but I'm going to have to kill you. Anyway, God said that I am right."

Are we stupid or what? Life can be so wonderful, we need to nourish love and teach tolerance, not cultivate hate in one another.

Israelis will reap terrible harvest

We must learn from the ignorance and suffering of our past mistakes and promote love in our children and ourselves.

R.W. PEARSON,

Glenunga.

YOUR report ends with the tally of dead on both sides of the Middle East conflict but without any clarification of the statistics. Eighty per cent of Israeli casualties, compared with less than 50 per cent of Palestinian casualties, were civilians. The vast majority of Palestinian civilian casualties were male teens and young men engaging in violent confrontations or threatening behaviours.

JUDITH RONA,

Bondi, NSW.

CAN anyone tell me the difference between the September 11 attack on innocent lives and what Israel has done in Gaza City?

S. ATTARD,

Greenwith.

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

Leaders trade barbs as violence simmers

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)
August 12, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10; NEWS

Length: 385 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders traded recriminations Sunday, each accusing the other of stoking the Mideast conflict. A Palestinian gunman was killed and three Israelis were wounded in scattered violence.

The two leaders exchanged angry charges despite recent contacts between the two sides and talk of a possible and limited Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and then the West Bank.
Associated Press

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he did not believe Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's government would take action to prevent Palestinian attacks against Israel.

"Arafat is the head of terrorism and no one is counting on him," Sharon told a cabinet meeting, according to cabinet secretary Gideon Saar.

Arafat said he did not think Sharon's government was serious about peace negotiations.

"This government is looking only for more escalation for its military plans. They are not looking to achieve peace," Arafat said at his mostly destroyed compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops tracked down and shot and killed a Palestinian rebel after he opened fire on Israelis working on a fence at a Jewish settlement of Dugit in the northern Gaza Strip, wounding one of them, the army said.

The Palestinian gunman hit the Israeli worker with at least five bullets in his arms and legs, according to the Barzilai Hospital in the Israeli city of Ashkelon.

Israeli troops chased the gunman to a house in the nearby Palestinian area of Beit Lahiya and killed him in a gun battle, the army said. Troops then blew up the house.

The rebel group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli workers and identified the gunman as Basil Naji, 22.

In the northern West Bank town of Jenin, Palestinian gunfire wounded two Israeli soldiers, the army said.

Meanwhile, Pope John Paul delivered one of his most forceful denunciations of Middle East violence, lamenting that Palestinians were subjected to "collective punishment" and Israelis were gripped by fear.

Leaders trade barbs as violence simmers

"When will one learn that coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian people cannot result from arms? Neither attacks, nor walls of separation, nor retaliation will ever lead to a just solution of the conflict under way," the Pope said Sunday at his summer palace in Castel Gandolfo, a hill town near Rome.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian women wave the Palestinian flag during the funeral of Mohammed El-Masri, 25, in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, Sunday. Israeli troops killed El-Masri as he was trying to infiltrate into Israel near the Niram kibbutz.

Load-Date: August 12, 2002

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Flashpoint as Arafat isolated

The Advertiser

September 23, 2002, Monday

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Load-Date: September 22, 2002

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Ghastly Mideast murder mess

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

July 26, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: Editorial; Pg. P4A

Length: 413 words

Byline: Gzedit

Body

OVERWHELMINGLY, American Jews think Israel holds the moral high ground in the Mideast madness, and that Palestinians are evildoers. Overwhelmingly, Arabic Americans think exactly the reverse. Both Jews and Arabs are reacting naturally to their ethnic conditioning.

As neutral outsiders, we see no "good guys" in the Mideast. Both sides are locked in a sickening cycle of murder, each feeling justified in slaughtering the other. One side is armed with advanced war instruments, the other with little but suicide fanatics - yet both types of weaponry are quite effective at killing defenseless women and children.

The nightmare reached another peak Monday night when one of Israel's American-made F-16 fighter planes fired a rocket into a crowded Gaza neighborhood to kill a Hamas leader who had organized many suicide bombings of Jews. It killed him - along with numerous surrounding children and others.

"This operation was, in my view, one of our biggest successes," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet ministers.

The outside world, however, was horrified by this "success." Even President Bush, who previously lauded Sharon as "a man of peace," complained that the air strike was "heavy-handed."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Israel failed its "legal and moral responsibility" to try to avoid killing innocents.

Frankly, we're ashamed that a US fighter plane was used to massacre helpless civilians in the night. Palestinians naturally blamed America along with Israel - as they always do. Meanwhile, screaming Palestinian zealots vowed to blow up Israeli women and children in retaliation.

Presumably, more Muslim suicide bombers now will sneak into Israel and become "martyrs" by killing Jews - and Israel will retaliate by killing three Palestinians for every Jewish death.

Since Sharon triggered the current uprising in 2000 by making an armed visit to the Muslim side of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, the death toll has been 578 Israelis and 1,789 Palestinians.

Sadly, The Washington Post says militant Muslim groups had been on the brink of approving a far-reaching agreement to halt suicide bombings in Israel - but the missile strike ruined any chance for this truce. Now, revenge is the only goal.

Ghastly Mideast murder mess

Each side in the Mideast has plenty of reason to seek revenge. And each act of "getting even" gives the targeted side cause to inflict revenge on the attacker.

As the bitter saying goes, an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind. It is a tragedy of horrifying proportions.

Load-Date: July 27, 2002

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The Palestinian Death Knell

The New York Times
June 20, 2002 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 24

Length: 419 words

Body

While President Bush reworks drafts of a new Mideast plan, his agenda is being yanked from under him by delusional young Palestinians. For the second day in a row, Jerusalem yesterday witnessed the numbing routine of suicide bombing. And for the second day in a row, Mr. Bush's spokesmen said he was forced to delay his speech.

It makes sense for him to wait now, since the impact of the address would be lost amid the funerals, rage and retaliation. But the fact that the president delayed until this month to prepare to act has facilitated the ongoing descent into killing and the mutual infliction of pain.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will not solve this crisis on his own, with his policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip -- the building of settlements, the failure to offer Palestinians anything beyond threats and humiliation, the retaking of land. Right now, however, the biggest threat to the Palestinians' national movement comes not from Israel but from within their own society. For months, Palestinians have grown intoxicated with the idea of power through death. They are exalting the most vicious acts of their own young. A poll last month showed that two-thirds believe they have accomplished more through two years of violence than through all the previous years of negotiation.

This is a severe failure of Palestinian leadership. It is very nice that 55 Palestinian intellectuals took out a full-page advertisement yesterday complaining that suicide bombings inside Israel "do not achieve progress toward achieving our . . . freedom and independence." But this is way too little, way too late. Suicide bombing, once limited to the militant groups of *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad, has become the tool of a group linked directly to Yasir Arafat's Fatah party, the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, which has given a sad new meaning to equal opportunity through *female* suicide bombers.

Each side in this struggle is now locked into a position in which it sees any concession as rewarding the misbehavior of the other. Only the United States can affect this stalemate. Despite the rage on both sides, a majority of both populations continue to believe in two states living side by side in peace. The solution remains clear. Only the leaders seem not to understand it. Mr. Bush needs to announce a timeline of moves required of each side -- the abandonment of select settlements by Israel, say, and the imprisonment of terrorist leaders by Palestinians -- in order to break this dynamic. And he must do so soon.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: June 20, 2002

The Palestinian Death Knell

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Infiltrator kills three Israeli teens

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

May 29, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: World; Pg. A10; News

Length: 418 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A gunman sneaked onto the grounds of an Orthodox Jewish high school in the West Bank late Tuesday and killed three teenagers, even as Israeli troops continued their daily raids into Palestinian towns.

The man shot and killed three Israeli students outside a high school in the settlement of Itamar, near the Palestinian city of Nablus, settlers and rescue service officials said. The attacker was shot and killed by the settlement's security chief.

Associated Press

Hezi Katoa, a rescue service worker, told Israel Radio that they found one student hit by a number of bullets in the chest, and then two more "lying behind the building with bullet wounds all over their bodies." All three were dead at the scene, he said.

A few hours earlier, an Israeli motorist was killed and another wounded in a shooting attack, apparently by a Palestinian gunman, near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, said rescue services spokesman Yeruham Mandola.

The violence accompanied repeated Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

Late Tuesday, Israeli soldiers entered Beitunia, a suburb of the West Bank town of Ramallah, Palestinians said, and surrounded the house of a prominent **Hamas** leader. However, the leader, Hassan Yussuf, was not there. The Israeli military had no comment.

In another development, Israel launched the spy satellite Ofek-5, displaying advanced missile capabilities and restoring a military eye in the sky after its last spy satellite burned up in the atmosphere about a year ago.

Defence Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay confirmed it was sent into space from a seaside Israeli air force base. It was launched by a Shavit missile, related to the long-range Jericho ground-to-ground missile. Foreign experts have said the Jericho can carry a nuclear warhead; Israeli officials have not commented on that.

Israel's latest sweep in the West Bank came after a Palestinian blew himself up outside an ice cream parlour and cafe crowded with **women** and children in a Tel Aviv suburb Monday, killing Ruth Peled, 56, and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Sinai Kenaan.

The Al Aqsa Brigades, linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Jihad Titi, 18, a cousin of a leading Al Aqsa militant Mahmoud Titi, who was killed in an Israeli tank attack last week.

Infiltrator kills three Israeli teens

On Tuesday, troops in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps drove into Jenin and a nearby refugee camp at about 3 a.m. and left by midday.

Load-Date: May 29, 2002

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Suicide Bomber Kills 5 on a Bus in Tel Aviv

The New York Times

September 20, 2002 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1435 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept. 19

Body

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a Tel Aviv bus outside the city's main synagogue today, killing five people and wounding scores. Several hours later, Israeli tanks and armored vehicles encircled Yasir Arafat's compound in Ramallah and demanded over loudspeakers that he surrender wanted men who were inside with him.

After an emergency meeting of the Israeli cabinet, the government said it had also made other "operational decisions." The communique gave no details, but Israeli television said the military would impose further restrictions on Palestinian towns. Residents of Gaza also reported shelling from helicopters and tanks.

The bombing attack was the second in less than 24 hours, shattering a stretch of 45 days in which there had been no terror attacks inside Israel. In that time, some new political and diplomatic initiatives had stirred faint hopes that the violence of the past 24 months was abating, and the question now was whether they would be stymied.

Israeli officials, however, insisted that the lull was largely the result of their severe clampdown and daily raids in the West Bank and Gaza. In those same six weeks, Palestinian officials said 75 Palestinians were killed in the Israeli operations, most of them civilians, and several Israelis were killed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Both Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**, the major Islamic militant organizations, claimed responsibility for the attack today, but there was no immediate indication whether it was a joint operation. Both groups have rejected all efforts by moderate Palestinian leaders to abandon attacks within Israel, and have threatened more attacks.

"The martyr operations will continue against the Zionists," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a senior political leader of **Hamas**. "We are defending our people. The resistance will escalate."

The police and witnesses said that the suicide bomber, described as a man with a mustache carrying a duffel bag, boarded the bus shortly before 1 p.m. on Allenby Street in central Tel Aviv, in a busy area full of shops and cafes. He immediately detonated his charge, killing the driver and shattering the front end of the bus, which rolled about 100 feet before coming to a halt.

The police said three men and two **women** died in the explosion, and more than 60 people were injured, 10 of them seriously.

Suicide Bomber Kills 5 on a Bus in Tel Aviv

The explosion was directly across the street from the Great Synagogue, Tel Aviv's main temple, which is protected by a tall concrete wall and suffered no damage. It was not known whether the bomber chose the spot because of the synagogue, because Allenby Street is normally busy at lunchtime, or because the No. 4 bus is one of the most heavily used in Tel Aviv.

"I was walking out of my warehouse, when suddenly there was an explosion," said Misha Yegolubov, a salesman at a piano store behind the bus stop. "There was a great cloud of smoke over the bus. There was a woman on the bench with no face, and a man staggered past with terrible wounds. Then the police and ambulances rushed in."

Even as the police, rescue workers and the Orthodox men who gather human remains for burial followed what has now become a gruesome routine, speculation began on how Israel would retaliate. Israel's Channel Two reported that shortly after the attack, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was overheard to say that Israel should throw Mr. Arafat out.

Within hours of the bombing, 10 tanks and several armored vehicles rolled into the Palestinian leader's badly battered compound, encountering no resistance. Palestinians inside the compound said the Israeli force demolished a dozen trailers the Palestinians had set up on the ruins of buildings destroyed in earlier raids.

In Gaza City early Friday, Israeli forces entered a mixed industrial-residential neighborhood and blew up three metal workshops, witnesses told the Associated Press. Two Palestinians, a 25-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man, were killed by gunfire, doctors said. Nearby houses were damaged by the explosions. Israeli tanks were withdrawing from the area before daybreak, residents said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. In the past, the Israelis have destroyed workshops where they said weapons were made.

In the evening, the full Israeli cabinet convened for the emergency meeting. It was closed, but Israeli reports said several hard-line ministers revived demands that Mr. Arafat be expelled to Gaza or abroad. The reports said intelligence and military officials reiterated their arguments against the measure as too incendiary, and, in the end, the reports said, all cabinet members, with the exception of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, agreed on intensifying the isolation of Mr. Arafat, who has been effectively cooped up since the start of the year in what remains of his compound.

Washington also reportedly reminded Israel of its agreement not to expel or harm Mr. Arafat. The Bush administration has sought to restrain the Israeli conflict while it seeks to build international support for a campaign against Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The Tel Aviv attack followed another one on Wednesday near the northern Arab town of Umm el Fahm, in which a police officer was killed when he approached a suspicious man, the bomber, at a bus stop.

Before that, there had been several developments that seemed to indicate a changing mood. Most notable was a meeting of the Palestinian Parliament last week at which deputies openly assailed Mr. Arafat's leadership and forced him to fire his cabinet and to set new presidential and parliamentary elections for Jan. 20.

Then, earlier this week, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and representatives of the United Nations, the European Community and Russia, acting as a coalition known as the Quartet, agreed in New York on a political road map toward the creation of a Palestinian state in 2005.

There had also been efforts by some senior officials of the Palestinian Authority to wrest an agreement from Islamic militants to abandon attacks within Israel.

Mr. Sharon, however, has consistently held Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to blame for all terror and violence, and his reaction today indicated he held firm to that view. "Israel is engaged in a long and hard battle against a cruel and abject terrorism led by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir Arafat who has set up a terrorist coalition," Mr. Sharon's office said in a statement.

Suicide Bomber Kills 5 on a Bus in Tel Aviv

The Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attacks, and Palestinian officials argued that the bombings by Islamic militants were intended to torpedo whatever conciliatory moves were under way and that the Israeli response served that end.

Before the suicide attack, a 10-year-old Palestinian boy, Abdel Salam Sumreen, was shot dead in Ramallah from an Israeli tank while he was playing outside during a curfew. Earlier this week, one of two bombs planted in a Palestinian elementary school south of Hebron exploded, injuring five children. Israeli police said they have focused their investigation on Israeli militants.

The Israeli measures, Mr. Khatib said, "give the impression that the Israeli cabinet is taking measures without taking into account what the Palestinians are doing or not doing."

He added: "Israel is always trying to achieve the destruction of the Palestinian Authority and all the agreements it signed. Hamas and Palestinian extremists, and extremists in Israel, are consolidating their efforts."

An aide to Mr. Arafat, Nabil Aburdeineh, said by telephone from the compound that the Palestinians will not surrender the men demanded by Israel. The men were said to number 17, and to include the West Bank intelligence chief, Tawfiq Tirawi.

"They are just looking for a pretext to continue their siege and attacks," he said.

In Washington, President Bush interrupted a meeting on Iraq in the Oval Office to condemn the suicide bombings and express his condolences to the families of the victims.

On Allenby Street in Tel Aviv, Jacob Heym, an 87-year-old veteran of British service in World War II and Israeli service in the war of independence, stood surveying the rescue operations from his book shop just behind the site of the explosion. He was standing there when the bomb went off, shattering his plate glass window, he said, but he emerged unscathed.

"I saw the bus rolling under a cloud of smoke," he said. "I saw men laid out on the sidewalk, I saw a heart that was still beating lying here." Did he believe this would ever happen here? "Yes, I knew this could happen here, or anywhere else, unless we do what is necessary to reach a peace," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: An Israeli police officer outside the bus in Tel Aviv yesterday in which a passenger blew himself up, killing five people and injuring scores of others. Hours later, Israeli tanks encircled Yasir Arafat's compound in Ramallah. (Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)(pg. A1); Israeli soldiers guarded Palestinians yesterday at Yasir Arafat's compound in Ramallah, which was surrounded after a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. (Agence France-Presse); A woman was among the scores of wounded yesterday after a man blew himself up during lunch hour on a crowded bus in Tel Aviv. (Associated Press)(pg. A6) Map of Tel Aviv highlighting site of explosion: A bomb exploded yesterday on a bus near a Tel Aviv synagogue. (pg. A6)

Load-Date: September 20, 2002

Collateral damage: There is a deep moral divide between those who deliberately target civilians and those who don't

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 10, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. B5

Length: 1035 words

Byline: GIL TROY

Body

"War is hell," muttered William T. Sherman, the Civil War general who torched Atlanta and imposed much misery on Southerners rebelling against the United States of America more than a century ago. Sherman's delicate sensibility - and martial brutality - capture the absurd anomaly of a democracy at war. The only way to win on the battlefield is to crush your enemy, but "good guys" don't relish the resulting carnage.

For that reason, "collateral damage" is a most unfortunate contribution of Pentagon spinmeisters to the lexicon of war. This awful, dehumanizing phrase obscures thoughtlessly, distances implicitly, excuses categorically. It is, alas, an effective phrase as well, for it describes a widespread reality during wartime. Disasters occur, and democracies at war, "good guys" engaged in brutal activities, genuinely do regret the innocent civilians caught in a crossfire, lives foolishly destroyed by a supposedly smart bomb.

Freelance

Expressed regret

In this epoch of murder and mayhem, during these days when intelligence analysts casually debate whether World War III has begun, defensive and justified wars have been launched against terrorists in various parts of the world, particularly in Israel and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, and inevitably, "collateral damage" has resulted - allied soldiers and innocent civilians have mistakenly died. In the spring in Afghanistan, a U.S. air force bombing resulted in the deaths of four allies - four Canadian soldiers. Last month, another air force bomb killed 50 Afghan revellers at a wedding. And two weeks ago, while "successfully" targeting a master **Hamas** terrorist, Salah Shehadeh, an Israeli air raid in Gaza City killed 14 civilians, including nine children.

In all three cases, the responsible military and political leaders expressed regret for the unintended loss of life. Moreover, both the Americans and Israelis began formal investigations to explain just what occurred and how, if possible, to avoid future tragedies. The Israeli bombing was, of course, the most problematic. Military spokesmen explain that the army did not intend to kill civilians, but they admit that the bomb hit the "right" apartment, that they got the "right" man, a man who was responsible for the deaths of hundreds and was planning the deaths of many more. And, when a tragedy occurs, while it is easy for Americans to express condolences to their Canadian neighbours or to their Afghan allies, it is much harder for expressions of condolences to traverse the Israeli-Palestinian divide.

Nevertheless, immediately after the Gaza City bombing, the Israeli press was filled with expressions of remorse from across the political spectrum. There were many sincere conversations, publicly and privately, about the great psychic, moral, spiritual and physical cost of defending the Jewish state during this tragic period. There was much

Collateral damage: There is a deep moral divide between those who deliberately target civilians and those who don't

Monday-morning quarterbacking about the Israeli army's choice of timing and weaponry, debating how far the army should go in the future to kill a mass murderer who was planning to kill again.

This collective soul-searching is neither tactical nor superficial. It is not done to win some PR points in a media war. It is characteristic of how Israel has operated throughout five decades of painful moral dilemmas and brutal lose-lose choices. It is essential to the functioning of any democracy at war.

Massive celebrations

By contrast, in their 23-month-long jihad against Israel and the Oslo peace process, Palestinian terrorists have repeatedly targeted Israeli civilians. Even more disturbing, some of the most brutal terrorist attacks have triggered massive celebrations. Shortly after a suicide bomber killed men, women and children at the downtown Jerusalem Sbarro pizzeria last summer, a Palestinian university - Najah National University - mounted a celebratory exhibition, replete with representations of severed body parts suspended in midair. Last week, after the senseless bombing of Hebrew University killed seven, including five Americans, and injured dozens of others, including South Koreans, Arabs, Americans and Israelis, thousands of Palestinians rejoiced in Gaza City and the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

These and countless other incidents, including the Palestinian celebrations after the Sept. 11 bombings, illuminate a dramatic moral divide. Targeting pizza eaters, commuters, and students is no mistake; the "damage" is not collateral but intentional. Rejoicing in the deaths and mutilations of men, women and children proves that a strategy is being followed - and ratified. In that strategy we see a cruelty that is deliberate, intense and should be unfathomable.

In our relativistic world, sophisticates snicker when President George W. Bush speaks of "good" and "evil." They are quick to point out all of America's imperfections, all of Israel's mistakes, and all of the "root causes" motivating the 9/11 murderers, the Daniel Pearl kidnappers, the Palestinian mass murderers. But even academics and intellectuals, Canadian labour organizers and European diplomats, should be able to recognize - and condemn - cruelty without relativizing it.

Embrace cruelty

And the fact that Hezbollah and Hamas, Al-Qa'ida and Islamic Jihad, have embraced cruelty as a strategy is all the more contemptible. The deliberate infliction of physical pain and emotional distress on innocent individuals has become the calling card of the Palestinian suicide bombers, the Hezbollah kidnappers who know the fates of missing Israeli soldiers but withhold the information from suffering families, the Osama bin Laden terrorists, in fact, the broader Islamic movement. The entire world needs to denounce this descent into a particularly sadistic form of politics, instead of rationalizing it and thus legitimizing it.

Whatever the delusions from which it might suffer, a culture that regrets war can easily make the transition back to peace. A culture that celebrates cruelty becomes addicted to violence. Palestinians need to purge this poison from their body politic not only for the sake of their future victims but for their own sakes as well.

- Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University.

Graphic

Photo: NIR ELIAS, REUTERS; Passers-by attend to victim of the Hebrew university bomb blast.

Load-Date: August 10, 2002

Collateral damage: There is a deep moral divide between those who deliberately target civilians and those who don't

End of Document

Deal on Israeli Withdrawal Collapses After Early Hope

The New York Times
August 8, 2002 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 1022 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Thursday, Aug. 8

Body

As Israeli military forces pressed their offensive on Wednesday, killing at least six Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority provisionally accepted Israel's conditions for a withdrawal from parts of the occupied territories.

But early today, after a joint meeting of security officials, Palestinian officials accused the Israelis of changing the offer, and any agreement appeared to have already foundered.

The basic terms of the Israeli offer -- a withdrawal, in this case first from Gaza and then other areas occupied by the army, only after the Palestinians ensure tranquillity -- have been repeatedly agreed on and then ignored in the past year.

The diplomatic tumult occurred as Mr. Arafat dispatched three top aides for talks in Washington with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and other administration officials.

The exchange was rare in that it involved high-level, bilateral talks, but it was familiar in that it swiftly appeared to implode in recriminations. The gestures toward a deal came as Israelis, fearful of attack, seemed increasingly uncertain how to protect themselves, and as Palestinians seemed increasingly despairing of freedom from Israeli military control and economic blockade.

With a tearful ceremony in Jerusalem, faculty members and students of Hebrew University memorialized the deaths a week ago of seven people, including five Americans, in a terrorist bombing.

Today a fuel truck exploded near Jerusalem after a small bomb hidden beneath it detonated, the police said. The driver had minor injuries.

With tensions between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens already running high, the Israeli police today arrested two Israeli Arab nursing students on suspicion of knowing about an impending suicide bombing and failing to stop it. The two women were described as stepping off a bus in northern Israel on Sunday and climbing into a taxi after the bomber warned one of them that "something horrible" was about to happen.

The bomber then killed himself and nine other people. Both women were released, and only the one directly warned by the bomber is likely to be charged, said Superintendent Gil Kleiman, a police spokesman.

Deal on Israeli Withdrawal Collapses After Early Hope

The police released statistics today demonstrating that Israel's predicament is continuing to worsen as the conflict grinds on. In the first six months of this year, 238 Israelis died in Palestinian attacks, compared with 68 in the corresponding period a year ago, the police said. Those statistics do not include soldiers.

Many more Palestinians died in the same period, as Israel conducted airstrikes and ground offensives in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In one telling statistic, the police reported that in all of 1999, before the current conflict, 12 bombs were detonated or discovered in Israel. From Jan. 1 through July 18 this year, that number was 465.

The terms of the Israeli deal were proposed this week in a meeting with Palestinian officials by Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer. He offered the Gaza Strip as a test case, saying that if Palestinian security forces demonstrated there that they would ensure calm, Israeli forces would withdraw from recently seized land in Gaza. Reports of the precise proposal differed, but Palestinians said that Mr. Ben-Eliezer indicated that the same deal applied to Bethlehem, in the West Bank.

Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian minister, said on Wednesday that the Palestinians had given "preliminary approval" for the plan, pending full clarification of the offer in the late-night meeting Wednesday.

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Palestinian announcement appeared to have been timed to gain attention in Washington as Mr. Arafat's delegation travels there.

Mr. Gissin said the deal would help Israelis but was also "for the benefit of the Palestinian people, to alleviate the immediate, very difficult, severe economic conditions." During the conflict, as Israel has shut off Gaza, unemployment has soared. A study financed by the United States government and released this week found high rates of malnutrition among Palestinian children there.

But after a follow-up meeting of the two sides, the deal, which some Palestinian leaders had called a sellout, appeared to be off. Afterward, Nabil Aburdeineh, a close aide to Mr. Arafat, told The Associated Press that Israel had imposed new conditions that were "impossible to accept or even to implement." Declaring the meeting a failure, he said that Israel had not mentioned withdrawing from Bethlehem, just Gaza.

Israeli forces are now operating freely in what by treaty is Palestinian-controlled territory in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. After back-to-back suicide bombings in Jerusalem in June, Israel took military control of seven of the eight major Palestinian cities, including Bethlehem, imposing 24-hour curfews that have all but emptied streets and brought industry to a halt.

"The city is still paralyzed," said Hanna Nasser, Bethlehem's mayor. He said Israel was lifting the curfew for three or four hours at a stretch -- not long or predictably enough for businesses to function. "Bethlehem, from the commercial point of view, is dying," he said. "From the social point of view, it is dying."

The Israeli Army said it was working to ease restrictions here and in Hebron, but there was scant evidence of that here today.

This morning in Bethlehem, Israeli forces arrested Yehiyeh Daamseh, a local leader of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades. They also demolished his rented house.

In Tulkarm, another West Bank city, Israeli forces surrounded the hideout of another local Aksa Brigades leader, Ziad Daas, wanted for lethal shooting attacks. A gunfight broke out, and Mr. Daas and three other Palestinians were killed.

Israeli forces also tracked down and killed a wanted man in the Gaza Strip. In the town of Khan Yunis, Hussam Hamdan, 26, a member of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, was shot and killed, evidently by an Israeli sniper. Israeli officials said Mr. Hamdan had overseen the planting of bombs in Gaza and was planning further attacks. **Hamas** supporters promised to retaliate.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Relatives of Levina Shapira, killed in the Hebrew University bombing, at a memorial service yesterday. From left, her niece, sister-in-law and son. (Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

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SUICIDE BOMBERS A GROWING LEGION OF DISPARATE AND DESPARATE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 23, 2002 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

Length: 1489 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Her face adorns no martyr's poster, but Arien Ahmed, a 20-year-old Palestinian student of business administration, has one of the many profiles of the new suicide bomber.

She did not go through months, or even weeks, of indoctrination. She has no connection to the militantly Islamic groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad that once orchestrated most such attacks. She received little more preparation than a demonstration of how to push a button.

Her case is becoming typical. Palestinian society itself, under pressure from the grinding conflict with Israel, is increasingly providing the only necessary indoctrination, experts on both sides say. Indeed, a survey by Israel's national security service of Palestinian suicide bombers has concerned Israeli officials precisely because it identified no particular pattern.

All the suicides and would-be suicides have been Muslim, and most have been unmarried, but their ages and levels of education vary. Since the first female suicide bomber struck here Jan. 27, groups tied to Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction have sent at least seven more women as attackers, at least four of whom were arrested by Israel, including the mother of a 3-year-old.

In the case of Ahmed, reasons as personal as lost love and as political as the hate-soaked conflict led her to act. Last month, she found herself walking through an Israeli town wearing a T-shirt that was too tight and a backpack that was too heavy, laden as it was with nails and a bomb.

A chain of events was dragging her down with a speed that left her frozen, unthinking.

It was only five days before that she had offered her services and maybe her life to a member of a violent Palestinian group in Bethlehem. It was only the day before that her offer had been suddenly, even greedily, accepted.

It was only on this day, Wednesday, May 22, that she had been pulled away from a marketing lecture at Bethlehem University, shown the backpack and how to trigger the bomb inside, put in a beat-up car with another would-be killer, and sent on, dressed to pass as an Israeli woman.

She wondered if she was in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. She was actually in the town of Rishon Lezion.

SUICIDE BOMBERS A GROWING LEGION OF DISPARATE AND DESPARATE

Ahmed was out to avenge the death of her fiancé, a leader of the Bethlehem group that sent her, which was part of the Tanzim, the militia connected to Al Fatah. She believed that he had been killed by Israeli forces, though Israeli intelligence agents said he had accidentally blown himself up.

But Ahmed was now starting to wonder, as she walked along the pedestrian mall, if she was doing the right thing, or if hell rather than heaven awaited her.

"I look at the sky," Ahmed recalled in a jailhouse interview last week, speaking English as she described a kind of awakening, "I look at the people." She said she remembered a childhood belief, "that nobody has the right to stop anybody's life."

Ahmed, a rare exception among suicide bombers, turned back. Her companion, Issa Badir, confided second thoughts to her, she said.

But he ultimately went ahead, killing himself and two Israelis. Issa, the son of a lawyer educated in Wisconsin, was just 16, one of the youngest suicide bombers.

It used to take months of training to prepare a Palestinian terrorist from the West Bank or Gaza Strip to commit suicide in the course of killing Israelis. The attackers were strictly from the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad, envisioning a covey of virgins and automatic passes to paradise for loved ones left behind.

But the who, why and how of Palestinian suicide bombings have changed, and the changes alarm not only Israelis but also Palestinians concerned for the impact on their own society. Palestinian militants and Israeli experts warn that the changes could reverberate overseas, should the target list in this metastasizing conflict continue to grow.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad continue to conduct devastating attacks. But since early this spring, most of the attacks have been conducted by more secular groups, by Fatah-linked organizations like the one that sent Ahmed.

The range of recruits to suicide missions continues to Last week, Israel's forces arrested a 12-year-old Palestinian boy its intelligence had identified as planning an attack.

Dr. Iyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist in Gaza City, has watched the trend toward suicide bombing with growing alarm. He said that having grown up with the idea of suicide attacks, Palestinian children were equating death with power.

"They are creating a new kind of culture," he said, arguing that they were in part compensating for the powerlessness of their parents in the face of the restrictions and frequent humiliations of Israeli occupation.

To this psychiatrist, the development is comparable to a fad for bodybuilding, gathering adherents by presenting an ideal that is embraced, even unconsciously. "Once you create such a culture," Sarraj said, "you create something automatic."

But like many Palestinians, he said even he could not challenge the social acceptance of this ideal by directly criticizing the martyrs themselves. "You can say, 'I condemn terror, I condemn killing civilians,' but you can't say, 'I condemn martyrs,' because martyrs are prophets."

In her interview, Ahmed did not dwell on the glories of martyrdom. She said she had expected training, as well as questioning from her recruiters about why she wanted to kill and die. Instead, her recruiters simply told her that she would rejoin her slain fiancé, Jaad Salem, in paradise, a notion she recalled thinking stupid even at the time.

"They abused me," she said from her confinement.

But though she called suicide bombing a mistake, she said she understood it. "It's a result of the situation we live in," she said. "There are also innocent people killed on our side."

SUICIDE BOMBERS A GROWING LEGION OF DISPARATE AND DESPARATE

As much as any manipulative militant leader, it appears to be the very culture of a ravaged and disoriented Palestinian society that now feeds the recruitment of suicide bombers.

Ahmed said the only Palestinian she had ever heard criticize suicide bombing was her uncle, Omer Shaibat, a mechanical engineer trained in Long Beach, Calif.

"It is becoming a social phenomenon," Shaibat said, sadly but unconsciously echoing the words of an Israeli intelligence agent as he sat in the family living room in Beit Sahur, a Christian town beside Bethlehem. "Every time I wake up, I think, 'What should I have done?' You always think this isn't going to happen to you; it's going to happen to someone else."

From 1993 until the beginning of this conflict in late September 2000, Israeli officials counted 61 attempted and successful suicide attacks; from the beginning of this conflict until the middle of this month, it counted almost twice that number, 116.

"The bottleneck on the Palestinian side is not the suicide attacker," said a senior Israeli security official. "It's the bomb."

Shaibat repeatedly returned to Ahmed's upbringing: Her father died when she was 6 months old. Her mother remarried when she was 6 years old and left her in Beit Sahur; she now lives in Jordan. Ahmed made friends and was an excellent student, earning a partial scholarship to Bethlehem University. But it seemed to her family that she hid a great deal behind her bright smile.

The family resisted her liaison with the Tanzim leader, fearing precisely what proved his fate. Within a month of his death on March 8, Israeli forces invaded Bethlehem. Though Ahmed baked sweets and helped around the house during the 39-day Israeli siege, she was often glued to the television, following the intense fighting.

Then she quarreled bitterly with an aunt shortly before she undertook her mission, without a word to her family.

Ahmed's uncle and aunts repeatedly said they felt guilty, and wondered if she was trying to punish them, using the kind of language that the families of suicides and attempted suicides in the United States often invoke.

In an effort to understand the changing nature of suicide bombing, the Israeli defense minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, recently met separately with Ahmed and a would-be suicide bomber who was intercepted. He said he found little commonality but despair.

The "infrastructure of terror," as the Israelis call it, has fragmented into small cells throughout the West Bank, each fighting its own parallel war. Separate, mid-level leaders emerge briefly, to be cut down by Israel and swiftly replaced. Such men are more than willing to seize on emotional turmoil, weakness of character or zealotry, to give someone a lethal backpack and to send him on his way, Israeli intelligence agents said.

Palestinian intelligence officials say the speed with which bombers are now primed makes intercepting them almost impossible. It used to be that during the long preparation, word of a planned attack might get around.

Israel rejects such accounts, saying Arafat's Palestinian Authority is either cooperating or doing nothing to stop the suicidal killing.

Graphic

PHOTO: Greg Baker/Associated Press: A poster on a wall in Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank glorifies Palestinian suicide bomber Shadi Zakaria. Zakaria killed 16 people in a March 31 suicide attack in Haifa. (Photo, Five Star Edition)

SUICIDE BOMBERS A GROWING LEGION OF DISPARATE AND DESPARATE

Load-Date: June 25, 2002

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Television choice

The Times (London)

March 30, 2002, Saturday

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Section: Features

Length: 403 words

Byline: Dan Cairns

Body

THE GREAT ART SWINDLE

BBC Two, 7.30pm

It promises to be juiciest programme of the week. This is the story of what happened after Dede Brooks of Sotheby's and Christopher Davidge of Christie's, operating at the behest of their respective bosses, got together in the back of a Lexus in the car park at JFK airport in 1995 and set up an illegal commission-fixing cartel. It is a jaw-dropping tale of billionaires behaving badly, of intrigue, snobbery, glamour, betrayal and deceit. There was not even a sniff of a preview tape available - the lawyers were still pouring with sweat.

SUICIDE KILLERS: EVERYMAN

BBC Two, 9pm

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, Everyman examines what turns a person into a suicide bomber. Many, most notably members of Hamas, are driven by a passionate religious certainty that enjoys wide support in their community. Parents speak proudly of losing a son and gaining a hero. And since we know no other weapons, they say, what else can we use? The film also features harrowing contributions from victims of suicide attacks.

UP IN TOWN

BBC Two, 9.50pm

The latest in these ten-minute gems has Joanna Lumley looking back on her affair with the deplorable Jarvis. When she met him, he was designing the packaging for a piggy bank, but she recognised straight away that here was someone in the Da Vinci league. She was right, of course. He went on to make television commercials, and she likes to think that she was, in some small way, responsible. The point is, the two of them clicked immediately. When they agreed to elope, she remembers that "for the first time ever, I didn't want to be somebody else. I just wanted to be me." Wretched, wretched Jarvis.

WHEN MUSCLES RULED THE WORLD

BBC One, 10.35pm

Television choice

A look back at the days when the cinema was dominated by huge people who flexed pecs rather than act. It focuses mainly on the rivalry between Sylvester Stallone (above as Rambo) and Arnold Schwarzenegger, although there are also contributions from Charles Atlas and Jimmy Savile, who was president of the National Amateur Bodybuilding Association. **Women** are represented by Sigourney Weaver and Brigitte Nielsen. The latter, built like an Amazonian warrior, describes how she and Arnie got "very close", which is an unsettling thought. It is left to Jeremy Clarkson to sum up the true Schwarzenegger appeal. "It was such a clever idea," he says, "to make this Austrian robot a robot." DC

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

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MIDEAST TURMOIL: MEDIA; Crisis Deepens Impact of Arab TV News

The New York Times
April 16, 2002 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 16

Length: 967 words

Byline: By TIM GOLDEN

Dateline: CAIRO, April 15

Body

For the last two weeks, Essam al-Sayed has abandoned his normal social life. He no longer stops at his local cafe after work, gathers with friends or goes out to see his extended family. In place of such things, he said, there is only television.

From the time Mr. Sayed, 33, returns home at night, he and his wife sit and sample the endless Arab programming devoted to Israel's military offensive in the Palestinian territories. They turn off the set only when they hear the first call to prayer, at dawn.

"Every Arab is watching this closely," said Mr. Sayed, a neighborhood lawyer in Giza, just outside Cairo. "It may be worse for us even than Sept. 11 was for you -- because it goes on and on. Every time you turn on the television, it's as though you were watching someone beat you."

The Arab world has never seen a television moment quite like it.

On both private satellite channels and state-run national networks, the plight of the Palestinians -- portrayed as the victims of barbaric Israeli aggression -- has saturated the news. The Palestinian cause has become a staple of religious programming, entertainment shows and even sports talk shows.

Cut to a commercial, and the images of broken Palestinian bodies and grieving Palestinian women are still there, in advertisements for one of the several Arab telethons that have been raising millions of dollars for West Bank victims.

"There is a constant flow of information now, all from the same perspective," said Hussein Y. Amin, an expert on the Arab media at the American University in Cairo. "It is on the national media, the local media and the satellite media. Every second, there is a new report, and there is only one message: solidarity with the Palestinians."

The television coverage has been a major factor in stirring Arabs' outrage at Israel and its supporters, especially the United States. The anger has even spilled over into resentment of some Arab governments, particularly those allied with Washington or at peace with Israel.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: MEDIA Crisis Deepens Impact of Arab TV News

Yet it is a sign of the changes taking place that even some of the region's more authoritarian leaders have appeared largely powerless to turn down the volume. With private satellite channels like Al Jazeera, based in Qatar, blanketing the news, media analysts said, state-controlled networks must either follow suit or risk losing viewers.

Some observers compare the story's impact to the way television news reports from the Vietnam War shook Americans in the 1960's. While the scale of the violence in the West Bank might not rank with that of the Arab-Israeli wars of 1967 and 1973 or Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the current Israeli offensive is, for the first time, playing out live in Arab living rooms.

That new intimacy, several Arab analysts said, is deepening the hostility that has long existed.

"The enmity between the Arabs and the Israelis has been there, but before, an Israeli was imagined in Cairo like someone on the moon -- inaccessible, unseeable," a leading Egyptian intellectual, Muhammad Sid Ahmed, said in an interview. "Now, the hatred is closer."

The intensity of the coverage has also strengthened feelings of solidarity with the Palestinians in many countries where such support has at times been less substantial.

"It is as though we were there with them while all of this has been taking place," the director of the state-owned Syrian Satellite Channel, Alaa Nemeh, said from Damascus.

Like some other Arab stations, both Mr. Nemeh's satellite network and the government-controlled Channel Two have steadily cut back their entertainment programming since the Israeli offensive began, he said, replacing variety shows and sporting events with political programs and news.

Last weekend on the privately owned Saudi religious channel Iqra, a popular Muslim televangelist, Amr Khaled, departed from his standard discussion of the Sahaba, the companions of the Prophet, to exhort his viewers to keep the Palestinians' struggle at the forefront.

"Amid this crisis, a young man called to tell me about his feelings for a girl!" Mr. Khaled complained to his studio audience. "Is this the time for such a question? Your brothers are being killed! Your Islam needs you!"

The extent to which most Arabs have seen a conflict different from the one shown to Americans was evident right after a 20-year-old Palestinian woman, Andaleeb Tafafka, blew herself up last Friday in a Jerusalem market, killing six others as well.

The satellite news network Al Jazeera jumped on the story immediately. But as its cameras surveyed the grisly, chaotic scene, a Jazeera anchorwoman turned for context to a leader of the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**.

"As long as the American, the Canadian and the Western Jews stay in our country, there will be no peace," the **Hamas** official, Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, said.

CNN also cut quickly to the bombing scene, but its coverage was not quite the same. One of the network's crews had been nearby when the bomb went off, and its cameras arrived in time to catch bloody victims staggering for help, men shouting in rage and a middle-aged woman, shown repeatedly, wailing in the arms of rescue workers.

"It was horrifying," CNN's correspondent, Jason Bellini, said, describing one victim. "The body itself was not identifiable."

Minutes later, Jazeera was running an inset box with footage much like that of CNN.

Media experts noted that while Al Jazeera had been breaking new ground since it was founded in 1996 with a staff led by young veterans of the BBC, a big gap has remained between the news produced by it and a few other Arab satellite channels and the far less aggressive fare on the state-run networks watched by most of the region's poor. That gap, however, has all but disappeared in coverage of the Israeli offensive against the Palestinians.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Broadcasts of the latest Mideast events are riveting the Arab world. Egyptian men watched news from the West Bank in a Cairo coffee shop. (Mohamed el-Dakhakhny for The New York Times)

Load-Date: April 16, 2002

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'Passover massacre': At least 19 killed, 120 injured as suicide bomber hits Israeli hotel

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 28, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 970 words

Byline: LEE HOCKSTADER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian suicide bomber slipped through a massive security cordon and set off a powerful explosion at a hotel in northern Israel last evening, killing at least 19 people and injuring at least 120 as they sat down to a seder dinner at the start of the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called it the "Passover massacre."

The thunderous blast, in the coastal resort of Netanya, crumpled cars outside in the street, shredded the Park Hotel hotel lobby ceiling and tore apart chairs, tables and people. As medics arranged corpses in rows on the sidewalk afterward, blood-smeared victims wandered dazed in the rain outside, many of them having come just minutes earlier from holiday prayers at synagogues.

Washington Post; AP and Cox news service contributed to this report

Talks in Jeopardy

The bomber, a 25-year-old Palestinian who had worked in Netanya hotels in the past, carried a large bag packed with explosives and shrapnel. He triggered the blast in the dining room just as scores of families were about to begin the annual feast around 7:30 p.m.

Israeli officials and commentators said the bombing, one of the two deadliest in 18 months of violence, could trigger a harsh military response and torpedo U.S.-brokered ceasefire negotiations. The talks, under way for nearly two weeks, have failed to produce a breakthrough or a sharp decline in bloodshed despite U.S. assertions that they are close to a compromise.

"We'll have to reconsider our whole strategy now," said an Israeli official. "We'll have to do something else."

The casualties included men, women, children and the elderly - a cross-section of Israelis.

All were celebrating Passover's first night, a family holiday marked by religious and secular Jews alike to commemorate the biblical exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

At least 20 of the injured were reported to be in serious condition, including children age 5 and 8, and local medical facilities were so overwhelmed that some of the wounded had to be treated in a hospital cafeteria and a synagogue. Many of the victims who were seated had head and chest wounds. Six hospitals in three cities treated the victims.

'Passover massacre': At least 19 killed, 120 injured as suicide bomber hits Israeli hotel

"This is not just terror," said Public Security Minister Uzi Landau. "This is a massacre."

The Islamic Resistance Movement, known as **Hamas**, asserted responsibility for the attack. It identified the bomber as Abdel Basset Odeh, a Palestinian from the city of Tulkarm. Tulkarm, 15 kilometres east of Netanya, lies just beyond the Green Line, the imaginary boundary separating Israel and the West Bank. During the Palestinian uprising that began in September 2000, more than a half-dozen suicide bombings and other attacks have been carried out in Netanya.

The Web site of the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, quoting Palestinian security sources, reported that Odeh once worked in hotels in Netanya and elsewhere in Israel. They said Odeh had been on Israel's wanted list and that Israel has on several occasions warned Palestinian security forces that he planned attacks.

Israeli officials blamed Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority for the attack, insisting he has done nothing to arrest militants or rein in **Hamas** or other militant groups. "That is why they are responsible for this horrible crime," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "Israel will be able to bring the perpetrators and planners, who have lost any trace of humanity, to justice."

After the bombing, Arafat telephoned the U.S. special envoy to the Mideast, Anthony Zinni, who has been trying to coax the two sides toward a truce, and denied he was behind the attack, Israeli television reported.

A statement from the Palestinian Authority condemned the attack, which it said was aimed at the Arab League summit conference under way in Beirut, Zinni's mission and a peace initiative put forward at the summit by Saudi Arabia. "In light of the dangerous aims of this operation, the Palestinian Authority will not take lightly the parties that have taken responsibility for it," said the statement. "And it will take harsh measures to bring those responsible to justice."

Palestinians have carried out dozens of suicide bombings since the violence erupted but last night's was one of the most devastating. Only an attack on Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium disco, which killed 21 last June, has taken more lives.

For days, Israeli security officials have been issuing urgent warnings of imminent terrorist attacks. The warnings have been borne out by 11 apparent attempts to bomb Israeli targets in the last two weeks, including a car bomb that exploded at a police roadblock near Jerusalem's main shopping mall Tuesday, killing only the car's two Palestinian occupants.

All Israeli security forces were on their highest states of alert as the Passover holiday approached. Thousands of extra police were dispatched to patrol Israeli cities and the line between Israel and the West Bank. Netanya, popular with vacationing Israelis and mostly Jewish tourists, was one of the most heavily policed cities.

Israeli police chief Shlomo Aharonishki said the hotel's armed security guard, standing outside, either failed to notice or did not stop the bomber, who was killed in the explosion along with his victims. The reception clerk did see the man and she asked him what he was doing, the police chief said. When she did, the bomber ran from the lobby into the adjacent split-level dining room, where about 250 people were starting the seder in the downstairs section.

"I haven't yet computed what I've seen," said the dining-room manager, Maxim Alkayev. "The first seconds were terrible - blood, screams and body parts."

Police commissioner, Shlomo Aharonishki, said it is impossible to prevent all attacks.

"Even with more policemen and a broader deployment, we cannot block the centres of the cities."

Graphic

'Passover massacre': At least 19 killed, 120 injured as suicide bomber hits Israeli hotel

Color Photo: GADI KABALO, AP; His face smeared with blood, a victim of the blast sits in an ambulance as it arrives at the Kfar Saba hospital.

Load-Date: March 28, 2002

End of Document

Attacks bring air strikes

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 417 words

Body

THE Israeli air force pounded central Gaza City for a second day early today, injuring 37 people in strikes on a security compound -- as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced growing calls from hardliners to get rid of Yasser Arafat.

The strikes were retaliation for a Palestinian shooting attack in Beersheva in southern Israel yesterday which killed two women soldiers, and for the first-ever use by Palestinian militants of home-made rockets against Israeli territory.

Most of the injured in Gaza were security force members, although many civilians were also wounded by shrapnel, including one 67-year-old man, doctors said.

AFP

US-made Apache combat helicopters attacked a building of Arafat's elite Force 17 guards and an office of the military intelligence.

F-16 fighter-bombers then dropped three heavy bombs on the Palestinians' general intelligence offices, officials said. All the buildings are inside the Sariyeh prison and security compound in the centre of the city.

The compound is close to one of the main market areas in the sprawling Mediterranean city, and many of those hurt were civilians walking along the main street, Omar al-Mukhtar.

Thick smoke billowed across the city centre from the strike zone and buildings could be seen in flames.

People ran in panic through streets littered with debris from blown out shop windows and masonry.

The air raids came after F-16s and Apaches hit targets in Gaza and the northern Strip late yesterday in swift retaliation for an unprecedented Palestinian gun attack in Beersheva, which also left the two assailants dead.

Also yesterday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip for the first time fired Katyusha style rockets against Israeli territory, hitting a farming community in southern Israel.

The Qassem 2 rockets developed by radical Hamas landed in fields and caused no injuries, but an Israeli army officer called the attack a "conventional act of war".

Israel followed up the strikes with a brief incursion into the city of Nablus in the West Bank, which triggered firefights with Palestinian gunmen.

Attacks bring air strikes

Last night's strikes also damaged the UN offices in Gaza City and injured two UN workers, drawing a strong rebuke to Israel from the United Nations.

Sharon, who has headed a right-leaning national coalition through a year of deteriorating violence despite being elected on security pledges, was under mounting pressure from the influential right to tackle the crisis with even tougher military measures, including expelling Arafat.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

End of Document

Israelis hit back after women die in suicide attack

The Times (London)

February 11, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 420 words

Byline: Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

Israel retaliated last night after two women soldiers were killed and five people wounded in a Palestinian terrorist attack on a cafe outside Israeli military headquarters in Beersheba.

As soon as Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, had returned from a three-day visit to the United States, he summoned a security meeting of his ministers at his farm in the Negev Desert.

Soon after that, F16 jets bombed a security compound belonging to Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza City, injuring 22 people, including two United Nations observers, and damaging the offices of the UN Special Co-ordinator for the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen.

Fifteen people were also reported injured when Israeli helicopters attacked two metal workshops in the northern Gaza Strip, which the Israeli Army said had been used to manufacture weapons.

An Israeli security source said after the security meeting: "There will be a series of operations intended to deter and also, in their sheer scale, to show the Palestinian Authority that Israel will not overlook this escalation."

In the first Palestinian attack, two gunmen fired into the cafe at lunchtime from a car outside. They were killed in the gunfight that followed. Later the Israeli Army defused explosives that one of the gunmen had strapped to his body.

The attack was endorsed by Hamas, the largest Palestinian terrorist group, but it did not go as far to claim responsibility. The attack was part of a new trend in which assailants use automatic rifles instead of, or as well as, suicide bombs. Earlier, Palestinians fired up to three Kassem-2 rockets, with a range of approximately five miles, in the northern Gaza Strip. It was the first time that the terrorists had used the rocket against Israel. Israeli ministers had given warning in advance that, because of the huge dangers the rocket posed to Israeli cities, a disproportionate response could be expected.

The attacks came as Israeli police statistics showed that last year there were 1,794 Palestinian terrorist attacks, an increase of 337 per cent on the number recorded for 2000, when the Palestinian uprising began in late September.

An aide to Mr Sharon said that the Prime Minister's visit to the US had been a success, but that differences remained between Mr Sharon and the Bush Administration over Mr Arafat. Mr Sharon, who blames Mr Arafat for the recent violence, wants him to be declared irrelevant to the peace process, but Washington has reiterated that he is the elected Palestinian leader.

Israelis hit back after women die in suicide attack

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

End of Document

Suicide bomber kills 19 in 'Passover massacre'

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

March 28, 2002 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 979 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: NETANYA, Israel

Body

NETANYA, Israel (AP) -- A suicide bomber burst into an Israeli hotel dining room and blew himself up Wednesday just as Jews dressed in their holiday best were sitting down to a seder meal celebrating Passover.

At least 19 Jews were killed and more than 120 wounded.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the Park Hotel in a northern coastal resort, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. Bits of rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth and with the elaborate place settings still in place.

"Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52.

"There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

The Islamic militant group ***Hamas*** claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called a "Passover massacre." The bomber, a 25-year-old Palestinian, had worked in Netanya hotels in the past.

The bombing in Netanya threatened to derail the latest U.S. truce mission, just hours after President George W. Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress. In later comments, Bush said "this callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop."

Israel, which had reluctantly accepted the latest U.S. ceasefire proposals, said it would have to reassess its policy and held Palestinian President Yasser Arafat responsible for the bombing. Israeli Police Minister Uzi Landau called for retaliation, saying the Palestinian Authority must be destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing and it would take tough measures against those involved. Palestinian security sources said Arafat ordered the arrests of four key militants on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

The bombing came just hours after Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah presented a new peace initiative at the Arab summit in Lebanon, offering Israel normal relations with the Arab world in exchange for a complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

Suicide bomber kills 19 in 'Passover massacre'

Arafat, who remains confined to the West Bank by Israel, embraced the initiative in a televised speech, and said he hoped it would be adopted by the summit.

Israeli officials responded guardedly, saying the Saudi plan was too vague and somewhat weakened the idea of "normalization" initially floated by Abdullah. The prince's last-minute addition -- a demand that Israel recognize the right of return of Palestinian refugees -- is "totally unacceptable," said Danny Ayalon, a Sharon adviser.

Earlier reports said 16 Israelis were killed but Israeli radio said later the figure had climbed to 19. The injury toll rose to more than 120, including more than two dozen who were in serious condition. It was one of the worst suicide bombings in the last 18 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. The deadliest was an attack in June outside a Tel Aviv disco that left 22 dead.

The explosion occurred at about 7:20 p.m. local time Wednesday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel along Netanya's boardwalk settled down for the Passover seder in the dining hall. Guests were dressed in their holiday best; the women in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark pants.

The bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said. From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

Donenhirsch, the guest, said as she and her family fled, they saw a little girl, about 10 to 12 years old, lying dead on the ground, her eyes wide open as if in surprise.

Some of the wounded staggered out of the lobby, which was plunged into darkness by the explosion. Others were taken to ambulances on stretchers, including a young boy who had an oxygen mask pressed to the face.

One man was covered by a blue blanket, blood dripping from his face. An elderly woman, her face covered with blood, sat on the sidewalk, attended to by several people. Witnesses said they saw five bodies lined up on the pavement, some of them dismembered, including that of a woman in festive holiday clothes.

"They attacked innocent Israelis on one of the most sacred nights to Jewish people, Passover," said Meir, the Israeli government spokesman.

Israeli police had been on high alert for possible attacks during the weeklong Passover holiday, with more than 10,000 officers deployed in potential trouble spots.

The country's police commissioner, Shlomo Aharonishki, said it is impossible to prevent all attacks.

"Even with more policemen and a broader deployment, we cannot block the centres of the cities," Aharonishki said.

Hamas identified the bomber as Abdel Baset Odeh, 25, from the West Bank town Tulkarem. Palestinian security sources said Odeh was wanted by Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel has said repeatedly it cannot tolerate more attacks on its civilians. Earlier this week, Sharon convened his security cabinet to discuss possible options in the event the truce mission fails. One idea raised was a large-scale military operation on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has accused Arafat of doing nothing to rein in militants. Raanan Gissin, a Sharon adviser, said the attack in Netanya "will require us to re-evaluate our overall policy."

"We are still working to achieve a ceasefire to which we are fully committed but if the Palestinians have decided to choose the road of terrorism...then we have to decide what measures we will take," Gissin said.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Arafat to go on television and demand an end to attacks against Israelis. The attacks endanger any negotiations toward a Palestinian state, Powell said.

Suicide bomber kills 19 in 'Passover massacre'

"This sort of activity and the tolerance of this sort of activity will destroy the very vision the Palestinian Authority stands for and Chairman Arafat says he's committed to," Powell said in Washington.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

End of Document

IN THIS HOSPITAL JEW AND ARAB ARE EQUAL, ALL OF THEM NEED HELP

The Express

April 8, 2002

Copyright 2002 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 954 words

Byline: MARK URBAN

Body

WHAT is going on outside seems like just some ghastly soap opera, a TV tragedy of tribal hatreds, when you are cocooned in the canteen of Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. As patients, staff and relatives queue to pay for their food, there are Israeli soldiers, guns slung from their shoulders, Arab women in veils and tired nurses whose semitic features suggest they might belong to either community.

Watching the way people co-exist, you almost imagine that at some point a klaxon will sound and everyone will return to the set and resume their parts in the Middle East's long-running tale of woe.

But when the sirens sound, usually to announce the arrival of fresh casualties by ambulance or helicopter, you see what is so special about this place. As the bloodied victims are stretchered into the trauma unit, nobody knows whether they are killer or bystander. The staff have put Palestinian terrorists back together and struggled to save the lives of Israeli soldiers shot during the recent invasion of Ramallah.

Victim or dealer of death, Moslem or Jew, it is irrelevant.

Avi Rivkind, the head of trauma, is one of the hospital's real characters. He describes it as a "holy environment", free from outside tensions. I tell him about the Israeli mobs that we see sometimes on the streets just after a bomb has gone off, chanting "Death to Arabs" and ask him how he keeps that spirit out of his wards. "First of all, as an Israeli, I apologise for them, " he replies before explaining that every society has its undesirables and that such people know their views are not welcome here.

Rivkind's principles brought him to a surreal point when he was paged at home five years ago. Israeli troops had shot a Palestinian, Hassan Salameh, in the stomach while arresting him and Rivkind had to operate to save his life. Having succeeded, Rivkind watched Salameh, the architect of two 1996 Hamas bus bombings that killed or wounded scores of Israelis, recover in a private room that had previously been booked for an Israeli spymaster facing surgery for a nonemergency complaint.

The intelligence boss had his operation postponed while the Hamas bomber recovered. "Only in Israel, " says Rivkind, rolling his eyes heavenwards. Does he not get bitter sometimes? Rivkind tells another story, of a 24-year-old woman stabbed by an Arab teenager last month in Jerusalem. Both the assailant, injured by police, and his victim were treated at Hadassah. "The following morning I came in and he's sitting up eating and unfortunately the woman had died during the night."

IN THIS HOSPITAL JEW AND ARAB ARE EQUAL, ALL OF THEM NEED HELP

He and his colleagues find themselves berated by fellow Israelis for treating wounded Palestinian militants. "I don't hate them," he says of these patients, adding: "I don't understand them and I don't agree with them but that will not be the solution. Terrorism will not win, it will never win here."

Hadassah has two main sites: one in east Jerusalem treats mostly Arab patients and is the location for various outpatient units and a hospice. It is at the main facility, nestling in the Judean hills to the west of the city, that 4,500 people work. Most are Jewish - and the hospital was set up and is largely financed by a Zionist women's movement.

But many Palestinians work there and not, as in too many places in Israel, just in the kitchens or clearing the rubbish. The leading children's cancer specialist is an Arab, senior nurses are Arabs and one of the eye doctors, a passionate east Jerusalemite called Ragonde Amer, is an Arab, trained in Jordan.

As Amer surveys the bustle of her eye clinic, she confirms: "There really is a sort of co-existence here." But the intifada has, of course, caused stresses. "You see Palestinians losing their eyes and also Israelis being injured and sustaining injuries to their eyes and you come to the original question:

Why should all this happen?"

DESPITE everything that has happened, Hadassah's atmosphere and reputation for medical excellence have kept it popular with Palestinians. Tagreed Abu Rajab has just had a daughter, Warood, by caesarean section. She benefited from being a resident of east Jerusalem, part of the city conquered in 1967 and annexed by Israel but where residence affords its non-Jewish population access to high quality medical care .

Inevitably, most Palestinian victims of the recent violence end up in hospitals under Yasser Arafat's autonomy, in places such as Ramallah or Hebron. Conditions in these are much more difficult and several Arab paramedics have been killed during the recent Israeli incursions.

The Hadassah recently discharged Mustapaha Hirbawi, an accidental Arab victim of Wafa Idris, celebrated by some as the first female suicide bomber. He was looking for work in west Jerusalem when blown up, suffering extensive burns. Mustapaha was grateful itself, praising the quality of his treatment and the staff.

Salma, a 10-month-old baby found on a rubbish tip on the West Bank, was another recent high-profile patient. She had hole-in-the-heart surgery and is now recovering in an orphanage in Bethlehem. But still in the hospital is Sharon Maman, 22, now transferred from intensive care to a plastic surgery ward. He has not spoken and hardly moved since being blown up on a night out last December. This week he showed some signs of being aware of those visiting him. "It's an improvement, a very slight improvement," says the hospital spokeswoman.

A small but deeply appreciated improvement is perhaps what Hadassah has provided in the context of this conflict. For those treated or working there, it is an affirmation of common human values and of priorities more holy than the decadesold struggle over the Holy Land.

Mark Urban is diplomatic editor of Newsnight on BBC2.

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

What is Israel to do?

University Wire

April 1, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Harvard Crimson via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 1030 words

Byline: By Alastair M. Rampell, Harvard Crimson

Dateline: Cambridge, Mass.

Body

Israel's recent military operations, the largest since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, have come under intense international scrutiny and scorn. Even Israel's near-unswerving ally, the United States, has reprimanded Israel for its invasion of Palestinian refugee camps. The chief concerns are that Israel's operations will result in the deaths of innocent civilians, no different from the actions that Palestinian militants have taken against Israeli civilians, and that the violence will escalate even further.

There is, however, a key difference to which the international community at times seems oblivious; Israel, unlike the Palestinian leadership, does not wish to inflict indiscriminate casualties. In the past few weeks there have been countless examples of this basic difference in policy.

Harvard U.

On Jan. 27, Palestinian Authority (PA) president Yasser Arafat appeared on Israeli television to proclaim "my hand is outstretched in peace." Yet just a few hours earlier, in a speech to a Palestinian woman's group, he called for a "jihad" against Israel. Arafat's message worked: the first **female** suicide bomber struck Israel that same day. A week later, in a Feb. 3 op-ed piece to the New York Times, Arafat wrote, "I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians." This was his message to America and, ostensibly, to Israel. But Arafat, to his own followers, proclaimed "into Jerusalem we shall go as millions of martyrs as need be." On Feb. 6, a **Hamas** gunman shot and killed three Israelis at Moshav Hamra. Palestinian radio (controlled by Arafat's government) proclaimed the shooter a "hero." And Arafat himself told his followers, "we will make the lives of the infidels hell," a clear reference to Israelis. One of Arafat's top lieutenants, Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan, was recently quoted as saying that Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli civilians are a "legitimate form of self-defense." Most recently, when a **Hamas** suicide bomber killed 22 Israelis during a Passover meal on March 27, Arafat, in a phone interview with Al Jazeera television, praised the bomber, exclaiming "Oh God, give me martyrdom like this."

The PA and Arafat have not just limited their support of terrorism to words of incitement and encouragement. During U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni's last peace mission, Israel captured an Iranian ship, replete with weapons, that was destined for the Palestinians. Despite their steadfast claims of ignorance, Arafat and his government knew about the ship and its contents. President George Bush acknowledged Palestinian culpability Jan. 25, stating "Ordering up weapons that were intercepted on a boat headed for that part of the world is not part of fighting terror... that's enhancing terror."

What is Israel to do?

The question, then, is this: should Israel hold a largely innocent citizenry responsible for the crimes (and terrorist complicity) of its government? In other words, does Israel have the right to launch military incursions into Palestinian territory in order to defend itself? Israel does not have a choice; it is dealing with a government that publicly denounces terror but privately encourages and praises it, a government that publicly arrests militants but clandestinely releases them, a government that claims to want peace and yet organizes violent uprisings to upset the peace process, a government which uses every means at its disposal to enhance terrorism while publicly disavowing terror as a tool for its cause.

History has shown time and time again that the PA cannot be relied upon to stop terror; instead, many of the terrorist groups targeting Israel, notably the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, come from Arafat's legions and admit to being under his control. But most important is this: Arafat is an elected representative of the Palestinian people. Arafat may rule with an iron fist, but he was elected by a landslide in a popular election.

Most Palestinians are neither terrorists nor involved in terror-related activities. When Israel invades Palestinian refugee camps, blockades Palestinian towns, and demolishes Palestinian homes, innocent people suffer for acts that they did not commit. This is one of many insufferable tragedies of war. The only effective means that Israel has to stop terrorists is to find them and kill them before they strike, and this necessitates the invasion of Palestinian territory; Israel certainly cannot rely on the PA or Arafat, and it cannot rely upon terrorists to heed the words of Bush or U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Israel has not entered Palestinian towns in order to plant bombs in supermarkets, to kill infants, or blow up customers at cafes. Israel's military operations, which have unfortunately (yet not purposefully) killed some innocent civilians, operate out of the need to protect the state and citizens of Israel. They operate out of the sheer necessity of ending terrorism. Talk of eliminating the "causes" of terrorism is perhaps noble and perspicacious, but it does nothing to address the present problem. There are thousands of militants whose only "cause" is to inflict terror upon Israel. Such militants cannot be swayed by reason or logic, but they can be stopped by force.

There are roughly 6 million people in Israel, and 418 Israelis have been killed in terrorist attacks since the PA-backed Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. To put this death toll in perspective, in proportion to Israel's size, this is the rough equivalent of seven attacks of the magnitude of the World Trade Center (in which about 3000 people died). The United Nations can condemn Israel's military operations and targeted killings, but it is too easy to condemn from afar. If Israel wishes to protect its citizens, it must act with lethal force to stop those planning to use lethal force against it. I would like to ask those critical of Israel to think how they would feel upon having their son or daughter killed by a suicide bomber, all while more suicide bombers are trained with impunity and encouragement on Palestinian soil. Should Israel respond with violence? Israel has no choice.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2002

**Israelis back plan by U.S. to free Arafat;
The proposal would allow the Palestinian leader to travel again - as soon as
he surrenders six murder suspects.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

April 29, 2002 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A01; news

Length: 1011 words

Byline: Daniel Rubin, Elise Ackerman and Sudarsan Raghavan Inquirer Staff Writers

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed yesterday to a U.S.-proposed deal to end the standoff at Yasir Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah and allow the Palestinian leader to travel freely for the first time in months.

Arafat must surrender six Palestinians wanted for the murder of Israel's tourism minister and for arranging a shipment of arms to militants. The six are to be moved to a Palestinian prison in the West Bank to be guarded by U.S. and British jailers. Israel had demanded that they be handed over for trial.

The agreement, approved by the Israeli cabinet and Arafat, is a breakthrough for the Bush administration but only a modest first step toward brokering a cease-fire and reviving peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Early today, Israeli tanks rolled into Hebron, occupying more than half of the Palestinian part of the divided West Bank city.

The Israeli army said the Hebron operation was in response to the "cruel massacre carried out Saturday morning" at the nearby settlement of Adora, when Palestinian infiltrators killed four people, including a 5-year-old girl. **Hamas** claimed responsibility.

One Palestinian, a member of one of the security forces, was killed and at least 15 others wounded, Palestinians said. Also, a local **Hamas** leader was arrested, they said. Israel Radio said "a number" of Palestinians were killed.

Meanwhile, the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem continued last night, and Palestinian groups, including one linked to Arafat, have vowed to continue attacking Israeli military posts and settlements in Palestinian areas. Also, the Israeli cabinet decided to bar a U.N. fact-finding mission from investigating allegations surrounding army actions in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin.

Israelis back plan by U.S. to free Arafat; The proposal would allow the Palestinian leader to travel again - as soon as he surrenders six murder suspects.

President Bush, who has repeatedly called on Israel to end a month-old military offensive in the West Bank, described the agreement on Arafat's freedom as "a positive sign." He challenged Arafat to "act decisively in word and in deed" to stamp out terrorism against Israel.

"One of the things Mr. Arafat must do is condemn and thwart terrorist activities," Bush said. "Mr. Arafat must perform. Mr. Arafat must do his job."

U.S. diplomats told the Palestinian leader yesterday that "this is the moment he should really carry out what he's promised," said a senior State Department official in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The agreement would allow Arafat to travel in the Palestinian territories. Arafat has long contended he could not work toward a cease-fire while under house arrest. The Palestinian leader has been a prisoner in Ramallah since Dec. 3, spending much of that time in his headquarters surrounded by Israeli tanks.

A delegation of U.S. and British experts was scheduled to arrive today to work out the details of the agreement, which Bush proposed to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a Saturday telephone call. The State Department official said the negotiations could take two or three days.

Sharon has accepted Bush's invitation to meet in Washington early in May to discuss the next step toward a cease-fire and a political settlement.

The Israeli cabinet decided yesterday not to cooperate with U.N. investigators who are scheduled to begin an inquiry into Palestinian allegations that Israelis massacred civilians at the Jenin refugee camp this month.

The U.N. team is expected to arrive from Geneva, Switzerland, today and negotiations over the scope and composition of the mission continue, Israeli government sources said.

"I really urge the U.N. secretary-general to send the commission without any further delay and let [the Israelis] turn them away at the airport," said Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator.

Israel wants more say about who serves on the fact-finding committee, who is interviewed, and whether Israeli soldiers' statements would leave them liable in future legal action.

The Israelis have pushed for the inclusion of military and antiterrorism experts, and want the inquiry to include the reasons for the eight-day battle in Jenin, which they said was an effort to stem a tide of terror attacks. Since September 2000, Israeli officials contend, 23 suicide bombers have come from the Jenin refugee camp.

"Why should we help them to bring upon Israel a libel or a slander that... a massacre was done by Israeli soldiers?" Israeli Communications Minister Reuven Rivlin said.

Twenty-three Israeli soldiers died in Jenin; the Palestinian death toll is uncertain, with about 48 bodies found so far. Israel maintains that its troops targeted militant fighters.

A Palestinian administrator said he had found no evidence of a massacre or of Israeli troops removing bodies of the dead. But Adnan Al-Subbah, the head of the media center for the city of Jenin and the adjoining refugee camp, said civilians suffered terribly during the fighting.

He described such scenes as a father caught in the crossfire, his body left among his young children for a week, and women and children used by soldiers as human shields.

Peter Bouckaert, a researcher with New York-based Human Rights Watch, said workers found evidence that Israel violated the Geneva Conventions, which require countries to abide by certain rules during war, such as distinguishing between soldiers and noncombatants. Bouckaert said he has identified 21 dead civilians and said hundreds of homes were destroyed or seriously damaged by Israeli bulldozers.

Israelis back plan by U.S. to free Arafat; The proposal would allow the Palestinian leader to travel again - as soon as he surrenders six murder suspects.

Negotiations to end the 27-day standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity deadlocked yesterday. Two hundred Palestinians, including 30 to 40 armed men, are holed up in the church, which Christians believe was the birthplace of Jesus.

Israel released a list of 10 militants it said are inside the church. Israel wants the men in its custody or in exile abroad, while Palestinian negotiators say they want the men sent to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip.

The State Department official said the United States is also working on a compromise in Bethlehem.

Warren P. Strobel of the Inquirer Washington Bureau contributed to this article.

Load-Date: April 29, 2002

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PAGES

Daily News (New York)

February 17, 2002, Sunday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: SHOWTIME;; LIST

Length: 428 words

Byline: By Alissa MacMillan

Body

Unholy Order: A Paul Devlin Mystery by William Heffernan (William Morrow, \$24.95) Former Daily News reporter Heffernan brings back NYPD Detective Devlin ("Red Angel") in an unusual murder case: The heroin-saturated corpse of a woman is found, her throat and torso horribly slashed, and when it turns out she's a nun, the press swarms over the story. Devlin's initial investigation leads to the city's highest offices, but as those doors slam shut, the search shifts to the mysterious, powerful religious order Opus Christi, of which the victim was a member. Meanwhile, priests with AIDS are systematically being murdered, and Devlin's time to stop the killings is running short.

The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other by Randall Robinson (Dutton, \$24.95) Following his much-talked-about book on slavery reparations, "The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks," Robinson, founder of policy group TransAfrica, focuses on the black community itself. From his work with ex-cons, gang members and the poor, He opines on the injustices in urban America, calling on the black community to help shape the future. He illustrates the possibility for change with the story of Richard (Pee Wee) Kirkland, basketball star and one-time criminal who turned his life around.

Enemy Women by Paulette Jiles (William Morrow, \$24.95) As the Civil War rages, 18-year-old Adair Colley and her two younger sisters set out into the Missouri Ozarks on the trail of the Union soldiers who arrested their father, burned their house and sent their brother into hiding. In Jiles' first foray into fiction, Adair is accused of being a Confederate spy and imprisoned, but the soldier assigned to interrogate her, Maj. William Neumann, is taken by her beauty and gift for storytelling. They promise to marry; when he's reassigned, he grants Adair her freedom. But she's left to face a trying journey through the backwoods, searching for a romance that may not exist.

American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us by Steven Emerson (Free Press, \$26) Long before Sept. 11, Emerson was investigating Islamic terrorist networks in the United States, and the picture he paints isn't pretty: The Al Qaeda network is only the beginning; Hamas, another terrorist group, has many members and supporters in the U.S as well, Emerson reports. He examines how terrorist cells exist throughout the country, many with links to the Palestinian cause. Emerson, a reporter and documentary filmmaker ("Jihad in America") who has been marked for assassination by an Islamic terror group, here summarizes his findings.

Load-Date: February 18, 2002

PAGES

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PALESTINIAN WOMAN'S BOMB KILLS HER, ISRAELI MAN

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

January 28, 2002, Monday

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Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 366 words

Byline: GREG MYRE, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- A Palestinian woman on Sunday became the first **female** to launch a bomb attack against Israel, killing herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man and wounding at least a dozen people on a busy Jerusalem street.

Israeli police said they were not sure if the woman intended to kill herself or if the bomb exploded prematurely as she walked along Jaffa Street, the main commercial strip in west Jerusalem.

In Lebanon, the Al-Manar TV station run by the militant Hezbollah movement said the bomber was Shinaz Amuri, a **female** student at Al-Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Israel accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of "encouraging terrorism" and said it was prepared to respond to the bombing the third major attack in an Israeli city in a week.

The blast next to a shoe shop blew out shop windows, set a store on fire and left victims sprawled on the pavement amid shards of glass, pieces of fruit, shoes and storefront mannequins.

"It sounded like half the street exploded," said Hama Gidon, a clothing store worker who was slightly injured. "All the mannequins went flying and I did, too. People were falling, glass was flying everywhere."

More than 100 people were treated on the spot or taken to hospitals, though most suffered only from shock. Three people were seriously hurt and nine had moderate injuries, officials said.

No group immediately took responsibility for Sunday's attack, but Israel said it held Arafat ultimately responsible.

Arafat is "encouraging terrorism, he's sending (attackers) to Jerusalem," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

The Palestinian leadership, meanwhile, "strongly condemned the suicide attack" and called on President Bush to send Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region.

Just south of Jerusalem on Sunday, a Palestinian crowd stormed a prison in Bethlehem and freed seven prisoners belonging to **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, the two groups that have carried out past suicide bombings, Palestinian security officials said. Palestinian security officers did not want to use force with the crowd and did not try to stop them.

PALESTINIAN WOMAN'S BOMB KILLS HER, ISRAELI MAN

Graphic

Ahikam Seri/The Associated Press *Israeli medics and police officers evacuate a wounded woman Sunday from the site of a bombing on a busy Jerusalem street. The blast killed a Palestinian woman carrying the explosives and an 81-year-old Israeli man. At least a dozen were injured.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

BLOODSTOCK BRIEFING: GOFFS FRANCE HOPING TO ADD TO HIGH-CLASS ROLE OF ALUMNI

Racing Post

April 2, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 MGN Ltd

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

Length: 413 words

Byline: RACHEL PAGONES

Highlight: Marotta, winner of the Prix Saint Alary last year, was sold at Goffs France breeze-up

Body

WHILE Doncaster's Breeze-Up sale finishes today, Goffs France is preparing to host its comparable two-year-old feature at Saint-Cloud racecourse on Saturday.

The 123-strong auction, which begins at 2pm, will be followed by a sale for older horses in training. As at Doncaster, the juveniles will breeze at 10am, in this case over 700 metres (just under a half-mile) on the Saint-Cloud racecourse. The breezes will be videotaped and replayed during lunch and throughout the sale.

The auction has turned up three Group/Grade 1 winners to date, Admise, Marotta and Shahmiad.

Ironically, given European sales companies' strong preference for colts and geldings, all are fillies. Admise, by Highest Honor, won the 1996 Oak Tree Turf Championship at Santa Anita, and before that was a Listed winner in France, while Marotta won last year's Prix Saint Alary and Group 2 Premio Lydia Tesio, and was third in the Group 1 Prix de l'Opera. She too is a daughter of Highest Honor. Shahmiad, by Alleged, won the 1994 Oaks d'Italia.

Other prominent Goffs France Breeze-Up alumni include Group/Grade 2 winners Fateful Dream and Peckinpah's Soul, Group/Grade 3 scorers Green Minstrel, Happy Dancer and Kemoon, and 2002 Listed victor Star Valley. The last-named, by Starborough, sold to Agence FIPS for EUR50,000 last April.

One of just two first-season stallions among the top ten juvenile sires in France last year, Starborough has five lots in Saturday's sale, more than any other sire. Four of the five are fillies, going against the overall gender mix of the catalogue, which is 59 per cent male and 41 per cent **female**.

Medaaly, the other first-season sire to break into the top juvenile-sire list, has five catalogued, as does veteran stallion Trempolino. Among the latter's offerings is the first known set of twins to be offered at a breeze-up sale. Catalogued as lots 56 and 57, the pair, both colts, are offered by two different vendors, V Thauhay and l'Ecurie des Fees respectively. They are out of the Wollow mare Snowy, whose daughter Snow House produced Snow Polina to the cover of Trempolino.

Managing director Eric Hoyeau says of the pair, one of whom was bought at auction and one privately: "They both have good development and are correct horses."

BLOODSTOCK BRIEFING: GOFFS FRANCE HOPING TO ADD TO HIGH-CLASS ROLE OF ALUMNI

Other sires with three or more offered include Bering, Exit To Nowhere, Gold Away, **Hamas**, Marchand de Sable, Nikos, Poliglote, Sabrehill and Valanour.

For more information see www.goffs.fr.

Load-Date: April 2, 2003

End of Document

MI5 INVESTIGATION CLEARED BRITISH SUICIDE BOMBERS OF POSING A THREAT

The Scotsman
May 5, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 429 words

Byline: Christina Cran

Body

SECURITY officers in the UK knew that the two Britons who carried out suicide bombings in Israel last week had links with Islamic extremists but decided they were not a threat, it was claimed yesterday.

Asif Mohammed Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif were known to MI5 officers investigating Islamic terrorism and the al-Muhajiroun movement, but officers decided not to put them under observation after deciding they were on the fringes of the group.

The claims, made in the Sunday Telegraph, came as a British Islamic radical warned there were nearly 50 would-be suicide bombers in Britain.

Last week's attack is the first suicide attack by British citizens. Hanif, 21, from Hounslow, West London, killed himself and three Israelis when he detonated an explosive belt in the doorway of Mike's Place, a bar in Tel Aviv.

Sharif, 27, from Derby, fled the scene after his explosive-packed belt failed to detonate. Police are still searching for him. It also emerged that the bombers hid their explosives in a copy of the Muslim holy book, the Koran, to smuggle them across the Gaza Strip border, according to Israeli security sources.

It is believed they brought in explosives devoid of metal to outwit scanners at one of the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

The attack was claimed as a joint operation by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, an armed offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and the armed wing of **Hamas**, the hard-line Islamic group.

UK anti-terrorist police were continuing to quiz six people in connection with the bomb attack. Three men and three **women** are being held under the Terrorism Act following a series of raids across the country on Friday and Saturday as a result of a joint British and Israeli security services operation.

The six arrested are understood to be Sharif's wife Tahira, his two sisters, one of his brothers, a friend of the family and his wife's brother.

Security sources said Sharif was known to police in Derby but denied there was any reason to suspect he was a suicide bomber. "He was a known Islamic activist and there were reports that he was involved in handing out fundamentalist leaflets," said one.

MI5 INVESTIGATION CLEARED BRITISH SUICIDE BOMBERS OF POSING A THREAT

MI5 officers knew for several years that he had attended meetings of the al -Muhajiroun, which advocates the overthrow of Western democracies, in his home town and that Hanif attended meetings of the group at the Hounslow Masjid, the newspaper claimed.

It is also believed that security services knew Sharif was connected to the Finsbury Mosque in London, where Abu Hamza, the radical cleric, preached until recently.

Load-Date: May 5, 2003

End of Document

PALESTINIAN GUNMAN RUNS AMOK WITH RIFLE

Birmingham Post

January 23, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 396 words

Byline: Laura Mitchell

Body

A gunman opened fire with an assault rifle on Israelis at a bus stop in central Jerusalem yesterday, wounding at least 20 people before being shot dead by police.

Israeli security officials said a Palestinian gunman was responsible, but had no additional details on the man's identity, and no group immediately claimed the attack.

The shooting came hours after Israeli commandos killed four members of the militant Islamic group **Hamas** in a raid on their hideout and explosives lab in Nablus in the West Bank.

The group said in a leaflet it would respond with an 'all-out war' against Israeli soldiers and settlers.

In Jerusalem, the gunman began firing on people at a bus stop near one of the busiest intersections in west Jerusalem, sending pedestrians fleeing for cover in all directions.

Some Israeli civilians who were carrying guns ducked behind rubbish bins or building corners and drew their weapons, but did not fire.

Witness Akiva Harari, 21, said the attacker, wearing a heavy coat, emerged from a car park onto Jaffa Street, central Jerusalem's main artery.

'I saw him shoot two **women** and they fell,' he said. Police then chased the gunman back into the car park.

Sporadic gunfire went on for about 10 minutes, according to reports. Large numbers of police quickly descended on the scene.

'The terrorist tried to run away, but after a short chase, police succeeded in hitting him and killed him,' said Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy.

'There was only one terrorists attacker, his rifle is in our hands and the area is being evacuated.'

At least 14 people were wounded, one of them seriously, according to Alex Farkash, a spokesman at Bikur Holim Hospital.

The shooting took place near the corner of Jaffa and King George streets, only a few yards from where a suicide bomber blew himself up at a pizzeria in August, killing 15 people.

PALESTINIAN GUNMAN RUNS AMOK WITH RIFLE

Senior Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders united yesterday to call for an end to the killing of innocent people in the Middle East.

The joint statement followed an unprecedented meeting between leaders of the three faiths in Egypt, organised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

It was the first time such senior figures from the three religions have held focused discussions in this way.

And they emerged from the 36-hour meeting urging an end to the violence and the resumption of the Middle East peace process.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002

End of Document

15 KILLED IN ISRAEL BOMBING

The Scotsman

May 8, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 964 words

Byline: Nick Draine

Body

A SUICIDE bomber caused an explosion which rocked a packed snooker hall and nightclub in the Israeli city of Rishon Letzion last night, killing at least 15 people.

The blast, at 11pm local time, occurred shortly after the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, started a meeting with the US president, George Bush, in Washington DC.

Eyewitnesses reported a man walked into the building, which had no security guards, with a suitcase and detonated a nail-studded device.

Rescue services began a frantic search of the building, which had partly collapsed, amid fears the death toll would rise even further. More than 60 people were taken to hospital.

Al-Manar TV, in Lebanon, said it had received a claim of responsibility from the Islamic militant group, Hamas.

But a Hamas spokesman, Mahmoud Zahar, said from his home in Gaza City that he could not confirm the claim.

He said: "We do not have any clear evidence or information except what we are seeing on TV. But if it is a martyrdom operation, it means that Israel has lost its war against the Palestinians and the Palestinian resistance has proved that it is capable of reaching the enemy everywhere."

Mr Sharon immediately made plans to fly home and called off meetings in Washington, including one with the members of Congress.

Mr Bush expressed "disgust" at the attack.

Mr Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said that after the leaders were briefed, the president "was able to personally convey his condolences to the prime minister and ... register his disgust with this wanton waste of life".

Mr Sharon's aide, Dore Gold, said Israel "will have to do what is necessary" to protect itself. The prime minister ignored reporters' questions as he left the White House and headed home.

Mr Bush said he would send the CIA director, George Tenet, back to help build a Palestinian security force to fight terrorism.

15 KILLED IN ISRAEL BOMBING

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack and vowed to act against those behind the attack.

"The Palestinian leadership strongly condemns the violent attacks against Israeli civilians," a Palestinian Authority statement said.

The statement added that the Palestinian leadership would take "deterrent measures against those involved in the grave attack", but did not say what the measures would be.

"The Palestinian leadership ... considers the parties which carried out the attacks as parties working against the interests of the Palestinian people," the statement also said.

David Baker, an official at the Israeli prime minister's office, called it "another murderous attack against Israelis".

"It is clear that the Palestinian Authority has not given up its terror actions and has not given up its murderous path," added Mr Baker.

Since the current round of Israeli-Palestinian violence erupted in September 2000, there have been nearly 60 suicide bombings. A suicide attack on 27 March that killed 28 people set off Israel's large-scale military operation in the West Bank two days later, aimed at uprooting what the Israelis called "terrorist infrastructure".

The last suicide attack came on 12 April, when a bomber blew herself up at a bus stop in Jerusalem, killing six people. The US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was in the region then, attempting to arrange an end to the violence.

The blast went off at the three-storey building in the heart of the industrial section of Rishon Letzion, a city with a population of 100,000. Part of the ceiling on the top floor collapsed. A sign outside read: "Sheffield Club, snooker, cafeteria." A shop called Baby World occupied the ground floor.

Outside, young women and men cried as they looked up at the gutted building. Emergency workers tried to help many to ambulances as the police investigators scoured the area for evidence.

Haim Cohen, a police commander, said the bomber went right into the pool hall: "He entered all of a sudden into the hall and then he exploded."

Other eyewitnesses claimed there had been no security guards at the entrance.

Israeli police said the explosion had caused a floor of the hall to collapse.

Jack Straw, the British Foreign Secretary, condemned last night's bombing.

After arriving in Washington to discuss the Middle East crisis with Mr Powell, he said: "This atrocity is an appalling, callous attack on innocent life and on the very idea of peace.

"My sympathies go out to the injured, to the families and friends of those killed and to the people of Israel."

Meir Nitzan, the mayor of Rishon Letzion, said more than 60 people had been taken to hospital.

Mr Sharon failed in an attempt to resolve differences over the Middle East crisis when he met with Mr Bush. The US pushed Israel to ease economic restrictions on the Palestinians, while Mr Sharon's government urged cutting Yasser Arafat out of the peace process.

The attack overshadowed a glimmer of good news in the Middle East yesterday when Israel and the Palestinians agreed to terms for ending a 36-day stand-off at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

A deal there could prompt Israel to withdraw troops from Bethlehem, satisfying Mr Bush's month long demand to end incursions into Palestinian towns and cities. However, the Israeli army yesterday said the hoped-for end to the

15 KILLED IN ISRAEL BOMBING

stand-off had been delayed because no country was willing to take in 13 suspected Palestinian militants holed up in the shrine.

An American diplomat acknowledged that the Italians, who had been expected to take in the suspects, had largely been kept in the dark about the deal and officials in Rome said they hadn't received an official request. All day, negotiators went back-and-forth over the details of the deal to end the 36-day stand-off by deporting the 13 militants and transferring 26 others to Gaza, possibly under the auspices of US and British officials.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

End of Document

U.S. sets sights on Lebanon's Hezbollah

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 16, 2003 Friday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1114 words

Byline: Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: BEIRUT, Lebanon

Body

Following up swiftly on its war in Iraq, the United States wants further changes in the Middle East. Among its targets: Hezbollah, the Islamist "Party of God," based in Lebanon, with strong ties to Syria and Iran.

"We have emphasized strongly our concern about continuing terrorist activities of Hezbollah in the region and around the world," U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said after meetings with Syrian and Lebanese leaders this month.

Also serving to put the spotlight on Hezbollah was the visit this week of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, the first by an Iranian leader since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Hezbollah is at the intersection of all the problems the Americans want to solve," says Gebran Tueni, editor of Lebanon's leading Arabic newspaper, An-Nahar.

The United States says Hezbollah gets upwards of \$100 million a year, mostly from Iran. Syria, which has 20,000 troops inside Lebanon and virtually runs its central government, facilitates the transshipment of arms from Iran to Hezbollah's military wing, U.S. intelligence sources say.

Syria says it supports Hezbollah but denies supplying it with arms. The U.S. State Department lists Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Lebanon regards it as a legitimate resistance group, fighting Israeli occupation of a controversially defined tract on the Israel-Lebanon border.

Lebanon claims the parcel. Syria supports the claim. But the United Nations, citing old maps, says it is Israeli-occupied Syrian land.

Political analysts here tend to view it as a pretext for continued fighting.

Hezbollah leaders say fewer than 10,000 full-time fighters live in the rugged hills of southern Lebanon, the crowded Haret Hreik suburb of Beirut, and the lush Bekaa Valley. Vastly more "irregulars" can be mobilized if needed, the leaders say.

U.S. sets sights on Lebanon 's Hezbollah

"Hezbollah [is] a symbol of power and resistance throughout the Islamic world," Khatami said, wrapping up his three-day visit with a news conference. He called for regional calm, demanded that Israel give up its weapons before Hezbollah ever disarms, and swiped at the United States for not knowing "the difference between terrorism and resistance to occupation."

Hezbollah's presence on the Israel-Lebanon border - while the Lebanese army sits six miles away - is a recipe for conflict, says Powell, who wants Hezbollah disarmed and Lebanon's regular army fully deployed.

"This is not the first time the United States has come after Hezbollah rhetorically," says Simon Karam, a Beirut lawyer who was Lebanon's ambassador to the United States from 1991 to 1993. "This kind of verbal campaign was conducted by successive American administrations."

But in a post-9/11 world, with U.S.-led forces having crushed Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Washington's resolve may be different this time.

"It was always well-known that Hezbollah had links to Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But it wasn't until after Sept. 11 that Hezbollah ended up on the U.S. list of terror organizations," says Farid Khazen, chairman of the political studies department at the American University of Beirut.

"We should tell the Syrians that we expect them to shut down [Hezbollah's training camps], and if they don't, we are reserving the right to shut them down ourselves," Sen. Bob Graham (D., Fla.), a former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has said.

The U.S. Congress, through the "Syrian Accountability Act," is considering sanctions against Syria unless it drops its support for groups such as Hezbollah.

The United States and Israel hold Hezbollah responsible for the deaths and kidnappings of hundreds of Americans and Israelis inside Lebanon, including U.S. Marines in the 1980s and sporadic attacks on Israel across Lebanon's southern border.

The group, which deputy U.S. Secretary of State Richard Armitage calls the "A-team" among guerrillas, perfected roadside bombings and other attacks that helped force an end to Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in May 2000.

Operating under other names, Hezbollah's core came together in the early 1980s. It was underground until 1985, when it published a manifesto calling on members to be "fighting soldiers" against Israel and its allies.

"Allah is behind us, supporting and protecting us, while instilling fear in the hearts of our enemies," the document assured.

Today Hezbollah is at once defiant and mainstream. It has eight members in Lebanon's 128-member parliament. It runs a network of schools, hospitals, charitable organizations, and even its own television station, Al-Manar, seen by 10 million viewers in the Middle East.

As the most successful Islamic fundamentalist group, Hezbollah is a model for others, including Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have emulated its tactics in paramilitary operations against Israel.

In an interview Wednesday after Israeli warplanes penetrated Lebanese airspace and Hezbollah responded with antiaircraft fire, Mohammed Raad, 48, a top Hezbollah official and leader of its parliamentary faction, said: "We reply to their message with our message. Breaking the sound barrier disturbs us. So we disturb them."

Raad said Hezbollah gunners shoot at Israeli planes in the direction of the border so that shrapnel falls onto Israeli towns. Last month, a dud round fell near an Israeli school.

"If there is an overflight, there is also shooting," says Capt. Dieter Bachmann, an Austrian soldier assigned to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, which observes and records incidents on the border.

U.S. sets sights on Lebanon 's Hezbollah

"Love for Hezbollah here is strong," said Bachmann, seated in a caf in Aaita ech Chaab, near Lebanon's southern border. "It's everywhere," he said, pointing to a picture of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, whose black-turbaned visage is as ubiquitous here as JFK portraits are in Boston pubs.

"People are tired. They don't want any more fighting," said Ali Rahme, 36, a minivan driver from Aaita ech Chaab. "But we're scared of Israel. That's why we need Hezbollah here."

The Lebanese government has said it will not send its troops to the border because that would provide security for its enemy, Israel.

"When Colin Powell was here, the president [of Lebanon] told him that the Lebanese army is in the south, but we don't want a nose-to-nose confrontation with the Israeli army so we keep it 10 kilometers [six miles] from the border," said Tewfik Mishlawi, editor of the Middle East Reporter newsletter.

"This is an anomalous situation that you don't find anywhere else in the world," says Khazen, the political scientist. "You have a state. You have an army. But the government sends a militia to man the border."

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign@phillynews.com.

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

ADNAN HAJJ ALI, Associated Press

Wearing Hezbollah hats and waving Iranian and Lebanese flags, women in Beirut prepare to greet Mohammad Khatami, the first Iranian leader to visit since 1979. Hezbollah has close ties to Iran.

MAP

Lebanon (SOURCE: ESRI; The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Load-Date: July 28, 2005

Female Palestinian bomber kills elderly Israeli man in Jerusalem

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 28, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 983 words

Byline: Greg Myre The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian woman launched a bomb attack Sunday on a busy Jerusalem street, killing herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man and wounding at least a dozen people. She was believed to be the first **female** suicide bomber since fighting began 16 months ago.

Israeli police were hesitant to call her a suicide bomber, saying it wasn't clear if the woman intended to kill herself or if the bomb exploded prematurely as she walked along Jaffa Street, the main commercial strip in west Jerusalem.

In Lebanon, the Al-Manar television station run by the militant Hezbollah movement said the bomber was Shinaz Amuri, a **female** student at Al-Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Israel accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of "encouraging terrorism" and said it was prepared to respond to the bombing - the third major attack in an Israeli city in a week.

The blast next to a shoe shop blew out shop windows, set a store on fire and left victims sprawled on the pavement amid shards of glass, pieces of fruit, shoes and storefront mannequins.

"It sounded like half the street exploded," said Hama Gidon, a clothing store worker who was slightly injured. "All the mannequins went flying and I did too. People were falling, glass was flying everywhere."

More than 100 people were treated on the spot or taken to hospitals, though most suffered only from shock. Three people were seriously hurt and nine had moderate injuries, officials said.

Up until now, only the radical Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** have sent suicide bombers into Israel, but Islamic law forbids **women** from committing suicide for any cause. Therefore, Israeli security sources, quoted anonymously in the Maariv daily, said they suspected the bomber might have come from a secular movement.

The paper said Israeli security is rethinking its profile of potential suicide bombers. Until recently, most were young, single, uneducated Palestinians. "Lately we are seeing older, married men and now a woman," the paper wrote.

Palestinian **women** have taken a larger part in public life in the West Bank and Gaza than in some other Muslim societies, but they have gradually receded into the background during the current conflict as men have taken the roles of military commanders. Only one woman serves in the Palestinian Cabinet - Intissar al-Wazir, widow of the legendary Palestinian fighter Abu Jihad, killed in a 1988 raid in Tunis, Tunisia, widely attributed to the Israeli secret service.

Female Palestinian bomber kills elderly Israeli man in Jerusalem

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, but Israel said it held Arafat ultimately responsible.

Arafat is "encouraging terrorism, he's sending [attackers] to Jerusalem," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

The Palestinian leadership, meanwhile, "strongly condemned the suicide attack" and called on President Bush to send Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region. However, Bush has been sharply critical of Arafat, and Vice President Dick Cheney suggested on "Fox News Sunday" that Zinni will not return soon.

"At this stage, we need to see some positive signs that his return would do some good. And that means we've got to see some positive results out of Arafat," Cheney said.

Arafat must "make a 100 percent good-faith effort to put an end to terrorism," he said. "So far he hasn't done that."

The Palestinian leadership on Saturday called for a halt to all attacks against Israel. However, several Palestinian groups have said recently that they would no longer observe a cease-fire declared by Arafat in December.

Israel has dismissed the Palestinian cease-fire calls as meaningless and says Arafat has simultaneously been encouraging militants.

In a speech Saturday, Arafat said Palestinians were "facing a military crisis, but despite all this, no one has complained of the suffering. They have said, 'God is great, and jihad, jihad, jihad.'"

"Jihad" is an Arabic word that can be translated as "resistance," "struggle" or "holy war." The context was not clear in Arafat's statement.

Just south of Jerusalem on Sunday, an angry Palestinian crowd stormed a prison in Bethlehem and freed seven prisoners belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two groups that have carried out past suicide bombings, Palestinian security officials said.

Palestinian security officers did not want to use force with the crowd and did not try to stop them, a Palestinian security official said.

Jaffa Street is a Jerusalem landmark lined with shops, and the narrow sidewalks are clogged with pedestrians, particularly in the middle of the day. The streets were full Sunday, the first day of Israel's work week.

The attack came two days after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed himself and wounded 24 people in a pedestrian mall in Tel Aviv. That bombing followed Israel's killing of a senior Islamic militant in a targeted missile strike in the Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian gunman opened fire with an automatic rifle on Jaffa Street only a few yards from the site of Sunday's attack. The gunman killed two women and injured more than a dozen people before he was shot dead by police. Some shops had their windows shot out Tuesday and had just replaced the glass when it was shattered again.

In August, a suicide bomber killed 15 people in a Jaffa Street pizzeria just across the street from Sunday's blast. Some workers at the Sbarro pizza restaurant were treated Sunday for shock, witnesses said.

Palestinian militants have carried out more than 30 suicide bombings during the current Middle East conflict. On Friday, a bomber wounded two dozen people in an attack in Tel Aviv.

Palestinians say Israel undermined a month of relative calm, from mid-December to mid-January, by resuming targeted killings of Palestinian militants. Israel says it acted because Arafat wasn't doing enough to crack down on the militants.

Female Palestinian bomber kills elderly Israeli man in Jerusalem

Load-Date: January 29, 2002

End of Document

Woman suicide bomber strikes: Two dead and 100 wounded in new twist to Middle East conflict

The Guardian (London)

January 28, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

Length: 944 words

Byline: Peter Beaumont in Jerusalem

Body

A 20-year-old Palestinian woman detonated a suicide bomb in the heart of one of Jerusalem's busiest shopping streets yesterday, killing herself and an elderly bystander and injuring at least 100 others, a dozen of them seriously.

It was a dramatic departure for Palestinian extremist organisations, which have previously banned **women** from becoming suicide bombers. Police sources last night identified the attacker as Shinaz Amuri, a **female** student from the Al Najah university in the West Bank town of Nablus.

University authorities, however, denied that the woman was a student and said they did not recognise her name.

The latest attack on an Israeli city centre - the third in a week of rapidly escalating violence on both sides - raises the prospect of massive Israeli retaliation against Palestinian targets, in particular against the institutions of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which both Israel and the US have blamed for sponsoring the violence.

The explosion, which could be heard more than a mile away, occurred in Jaffa Street in West Jerusalem in a busy area of restaurants and shops that has seen a number of terrorist attacks in the past five months, killing 30 people and wounding more than 120.

"There are two bodies - a man and a woman," a police spokesman said. He added that the woman's body had been blown apart in the blast. The second body was that of an 81-year-old man apparently carrying an Israeli ID card.

It is understood to be the first time a woman suicide bomber has carried out an attack in Israel. During the period of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Iranian-backed Hizbullah used **women** suicide bombers who had allegedly dishonoured their families and who killed themselves to clear the stain, a practice later banned by Islamic authorities.

In recent months, however, radicalised young Muslim **women** - in particular those who have lost relatives in the intifada - have said they want to be more closely involved with the armed struggle, including volunteering for "martyrdom" as suicide bombers.

Woman suicide bomber strikes: Two dead and 100 wounded in new twist to Middle East conflict

The bomber detonated the explosives outside a large shoe shop which was gutted by the blast, flinging glass and body parts over a wide area. In the immediate aftermath of the blast dozens of victims were left sprawling in a street littered with glass and shoes.

Damagingly for Mr Arafat, the attack came less than 24 hours after he issued a fresh call on Palestinian extremist groups to abide by a ceasefire and restrain from such attacks.

Mr Arafat is under virtual house arrest in his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, with Israeli tanks and troops 50 metres from his compound. He is already facing the threat of US sanctions after President George Bush on Friday accused him of direct involvement in terrorist activities.

Those threatened sanctions include the closure of the Palestinian Authority's US mission and Washington's listing of Mr Arafat's Fatah organisation and personal Force-17 security unit as banned "terrorist" organisations.

On Friday Mr Bush in effect suspended US peace efforts in the region, while the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, admitted on Saturday that the situation was looking "hopeless".

Commenting on the expected Israeli retaliation, Dore Gold, an adviser to the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said: "The military will bring its recommendations for the approval of the political echelon."

Mr Gold added that, instead of heeding Mr Bush's call to crack down on terrorism, Mr Arafat had on Saturday repeated his public desire to become a "martyr" for the Palestinian cause.

A witness to yesterday's suicide bombing, who gave his name as Avi, said: "People were screaming. I found a woman with a cut on her throat. I put a piece of cloth on it, and rushed her to an ambulance.

"Then I pulled out another young woman who was buried under a heap of shoeboxes. Her hair was burnt."

The attack took place less than 100 metres from the scene of last Tuesday's shooting attack in the same street that left two women dead and more than a dozen injured, and close to the Sbarro pizzeria on the junction of Jaffa Street and King George Street where 15 people were killed by a Hamas suicide bomber last August.

Among the premises damaged by the blast was the Lady Men shoe shop. Reflecting the increasing anger of Israeli hardliners, Asher Bakshi, an Iranian Jew who works in the shop, said: "What is the world doing to protect us? You should just let us kill them all. Our army could do it in 24 hours. And then it would be over."

Among those who rushed to the scene was Jerusalem's mayor, Ehud Omer. Asked if the Israeli security forces could prevent further lethal attacks in the city he said: "I cannot give you an assurance that this will not happen again. This is a long war and there will be casualties."

The latest attack raises serious new questions over the faltering grip on power of Mr Arafat, who has become isolated in recent weeks.

In the past, calls on extremists such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas to halt their violence, backed by pressure from his security forces, have been met with some easing of the violence. But a suicide bombing so soon after his most recent call for a halt on attacks suggests that what influence he may have had on these groups is fading, and that the attacks may represent an effort to undermine Mr Arafat as much as hit at Jewish targets.

The escape of six Palestinian militants from their West Bank jail last night put further pressure on his position. Up to 70 people stormed the prison where the six men were jailed some months ago after international pressure on Mr Arafat to crush militants.

Survivor's tale, page 2

Robin Lustig, page 16

Woman suicide bomber strikes: Two dead and 100 wounded in new twist to Middle East conflict

Load-Date: January 30, 2002

End of Document

Pressure Palestinians to show they are sincere about peace

USA TODAY

January 8, 2003, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 376 words

Body

The deaths of more than 20 innocent people in Tel Aviv on Sunday should result in pressuring the Palestinian Authority to outlaw such groups as Islamic Jihad, **Hamas** and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade ("Fear grows even greater for immigrants in Israel," News, Monday).

There is absolutely no justification for the slaughter of innocent bystanders. Those who planned and carried out the attacks are not fighting for the freedom of Palestinians. They are simply murderers.

The Palestinian Authority must take immediate steps to ban all forms of anti-Semitism, to respect the right of Israel to exist and to arrest anyone planning attacks on Israelis.

When the Palestinians begin to take positive steps toward resolving conflicts, I am certain they will find that Israel is an eager partner for peace.

Arthur J. Schwartz

Raleigh, N.C.

Why not give war a chance?

More than 20 people are dead, and more than 100 are injured in another double homicide bombing in Israel, bringing the death toll to more than 700 during the past 27 months. In reprisal for these terrorist attacks on civilians, the Israeli army probably has killed several thousand Palestinians.

How much longer will this situation be tolerated until it's realized that there's a full-fledged war going on and that both sides need to end it? And I don't mean by signing yet another worthless peace treaty. If a true and meaningful peace is ever going to be achieved in the Middle East, Israel needs to oblige the Palestinians in an all-out, winner-take-all war.

Tragically, because of the Palestinians' fanatical fighting with the open promise of even more homicide bombers to come, peaceful co-existence between these two enemies is as likely as President Bush inviting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to the White House for a state dinner.

Unfortunately, war seems to be the only solution to this perpetual crisis that has baffled the great "peacemakers" of the past two generations. Historically, it is the only real measure to ensure an everlasting peace.

It's time for the international community to give these hated and sworn enemies the green light to take off the gloves and go at it. The sooner they settle their differences, the sooner the world will put this ugly matter to rest.

Pressure Palestinians to show they are sincere about peace

Eugene R. Dunn

Medford, N.Y.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Ariel Shalit, AP; Terrorism: Several women, one carrying a baby, is directed to safety by Israeli police in Tel Aviv after a double suicide bombing Sunday. More than 20 people were killed, including the two bombers. Israel reacted by closing Palestinian universities and raiding a Palestinian site in Gaza.

Load-Date: January 8, 2003

End of Document

Lax refugee rules still a security risk

Ottawa Citizen

September 13, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A17; Letter

Length: 396 words

Byline: Ross Reid

Body

Editor's note: The Citizen invited several people who wrote letters after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to comment on life one year later. This is one of a series of their follow-up letters.

In the wake of unprecedented breaches of security, many fingers had been pointed to Canada as a revolving door for terrorists, who see our country as a training ground and easy access point to the world's longest undefended border into the United States.

The Ottawa Citizen

The Americans have recognized many of their own security shortcomings and have taken significant steps toward preventing further attacks against U.S. targets. But some of their security threats originate on this side of the border, and not much has changed since Sept. 11.

While Denis Coderre, the minister of citizenship and immigration, unveiled the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act on June 28, which introduced permanent resident cards for new immigrants, many individuals can still filter into Canada via the easier refugee route.

The Canadian definition of a "refugee" is so broad it could encompass more than half the population of the world.

Any people landing at a Canadian port of entry would likely be accepted as a refugee if return to their country of origin meant they might suffer "hardship, persecution, or risk of cruel and unusual treatment."

How could we refuse any citizens from countries run by cruel dictators, or those of the war-torn starving nations of the African continent? Are women who are treated as second-class citizens by strict religious regimes facing cruel and unusual treatment?

At the same time, we have seen that terrorist groups, such as Hamas, will use the lives of any man, woman or child to further their cause; no individual making a refugee claim should be above suspicion of such links.

Some refugee claimants are allowed to live in Canada while their status is being determined, only to fade into a network of illegal aliens living within our borders. Though some effort has been made to improve our national security, do these new initiatives go far enough?

Stories of provincial police tracking terrorist cells only until they've left the province don't fill me with confidence, though the Canadian governments believe they've got the problem solved. I hope they're right.

The cost of being wrong could be disastrous -- again.

Lax refugee rules still a security risk

Ross Reid,
Kemptville

Graphic

Photo: John Major, The Ottawa Citizen; Ross Reid says Canada will be an easy source of entry for terrorists as long as its refugee rules remain broad and poorly enforced.

Load-Date: September 13, 2002

End of Document

WORLD REPORT

Windsor Star (Ontario)

April 10, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. B2; News; Brief

Length: 1692 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Dateline: Jenin, West Bank; Gaza City, Gaza Strip; Bagram, Afghanistan; Manila, Philippines; Havana; Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro; Brussels; Johannesburg; United Nations; Sydney; Los Angeles

Body

Bomb detonates in high school, 29 injured

Jenin, West Bank

An explosion in a West Bank high school injured at least 29 students Wednesday, Palestinian police said. At least four of the students were seriously wounded.

One of the students at the school in Jaba, a village outside the West Bank city of Jenin, was playing with the explosive device before it exploded, police said. The student found it outside the school and brought it to the classroom, said Haider Ershade, Jenin's mayor.

The Israeli army said there were no forces in the area at the time but troops have often patrolled the village searching for militants.

Windsor Star News Services

Palestinian police checked the shrapnel found at the scene and said the device was Israeli-made, Ershade said. He said there was Hebrew letters found on it.

Clashes in Gaza kill three Palestinians

Gaza City, Gaza Strip

Clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians on Wednesday killed at least three people, including a 16-year-old boy, as thousands poured into the streets to mourn seven killed in a missile strike the night before.

Israeli troops shot and killed a 21-year-old member of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, a 35-year-old policeman and a 16-year-old boy, witnesses said Wednesday. The army said it fired at the 21-year-old, who was near a rocket launcher, but was unaware of the other two deaths.

Earlier Wednesday, **Hamas** militants fired a homemade rocket at an Israeli town in retaliation for a missile strike that killed a top **Hamas** commander and six others on a Gaza street. There were no injuries in Wednesday's rocket attack on the town of Sderot.

11 Afghan civilians killed in U.S. friendly fire

WORLD REPORT

Bagram, Afghanistan

A U.S. warplane called in to support allied Afghans under fire mistakenly bombed a house Wednesday, killing 11 civilians. It was the worst friendly fire incident in Afghanistan in nine months.

Afghan authorities condemned the bombing and the U.S. military said it was not clear why the bomb missed its target: A group of assailants attacking a checkpoint.

The 20 attackers earlier fought a brief battle with Pakistani soldiers deployed on the Pakistan side of the border, U.S. military spokesman Lt.-Col. Douglas Lefforge said. It was unclear whether they came from Pakistan.

The assailants then headed toward the Afghan checkpoint 220 km south of Kabul and opened fire, wounding four Afghan soldiers.

Americans sent four armoured Humvees with at least 16 U.S. soldiers to the scene and called in two Harrier attack jets, Lefforge said.

The attackers fled, apparently splitting into two groups. One of the planes fired a 30 mm cannon and dropped a 450-kilogram laser-guided bomb that crashed into the house.

American troops arriving at the bomb site found one injured survivor and took him and the four wounded Afghan soldiers to a U.S. base near the eastern town of Khost.

No U.S. soldiers were injured.

Last witness called in corruption trial

Manila, Philippines

Prosecutors presented their 76th and last witness against ousted president Joseph Estrada on Wednesday at the midpoint of the historic corruption trial of the once immensely popular actor.

Estrada was toppled in January 2001 during massive army-backed public protests over allegations of massive corruption and misrule.

His separately elected vice-president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was sworn in to serve the rest of his six-year term.

Estrada's lawyer, Manuel Malaya, claimed prosecutors had failed to come up with any concrete evidence and said the defence was considering asking the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court to dismiss the capital charge of economic plunder for lack of evidence.

Estrada was arrested in April 2001 over allegations that he plundered the economy of the Southeast Asian country that he once pledged to deliver from crushing poverty.

74 dissidents convicted in crackdown, say activists

Havana

Cuban courts have convicted at least 74 government opponents in lightning-fast trials aimed at quashing dissent on the communist island, human rights activists said Wednesday.

The known sentences for 57 of those tried reportedly range from six to 28 years.

The remaining sentences were expected by week's end. None of the trials has lasted more than one day, activists said and there were no reports of acquittals.

The government confirmed that the trials began Thursday and sentences varied between six and 28 years.

WORLD REPORT

The crackdown, which ended several years of relative tolerance during President Fidel Castro's rule, began when Cuban officials accused the head of the U.S. mission in Havana, James Cason, of actively supporting the island's opposition.

Ex-president's aides arrested in murder probe

Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro

A former army intelligence chief and a ranking security official, both allies of former Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, have been arrested for alleged links to a criminal gang suspected of assassinating Serbia's prime minister, the government said Wednesday.

The head of the Yugoslav army intelligence service until last month, Lt.-Gen. Aco Tomic and Kostunica's former security adviser, Rade Bulatovic, were arrested late Tuesday.

Zoran Djindjic was assassinated in downtown Belgrade on March 12.

Kostunica and other critics of a massive police sweep in the wake of Djindjic's slaying claim it is being used to clamp down on political opponents of Serbia's pro-Western government.

EU's parliament gets 10 new members

Brussels

The European Union's parliament ratified a historic expansion Wednesday, making it nearly certain that 10 mostly eastern European countries will join the bloc next year.

The 626-member parliament overwhelmingly backed the countries' entry to the EU in 10 separate votes.

Now the parliaments of all 15 current EU members must approve the expansion and new members must hold public referendums. Support for accession is high and it is almost certain that all member countries will join on May 1, 2004.

"This is the choice to put an end to a Europe fractured by Europe's barbaric 20th century and to create ... a Europe reconciled and united, around common ideals and common values," European Parliament President Pat Cox said.

The 10 countries on the ballot are Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Malta and Cyprus. Malta and Slovenia have backed membership.

Meeting called to halt slaughter of people

Johannesburg

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa Wednesday called an emergency meeting of African leaders in an attempt to prop up a recent Congolese peace accord after hundreds of men, women and children were massacred.

United Nations observers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo revised initial estimates that nearly 1,000 people had been killed in the north-eastern Ituri province, saying the total was "somewhere between 150 and 300."

The UN said a rival tribe had swept through the Drodo area, hacking people to death with machetes.

North Korea's withdrawal from treaty debated

United Nations

The UN Security Council expressed concern Wednesday about North Korea's nuclear program but failed to condemn its withdrawal from a global weapons treaty as the United States demanded because of Chinese and Russian opposition.

WORLD REPORT

Nonetheless, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said the United States was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting. He said Washington still seeks a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff and expressed hope that Pyongyang will not reject diplomatic efforts to address its nuclear program.

At the heart of the dispute is North Korea's insistence on direct talks with the U.S. and Washington's insistence the problem be addressed in a multilateral forum including countries threatened by Pyongyang's nuclear program.

China, Russia, the European Union and Secretary General Kofi Annan have tried to get North Korea and the United States to the negotiating table.

Australians want more sex, says national survey

Sydney

Australians want more sex, but will rarely stray outside their regular relationships to get it, according to the most comprehensive snapshot of the country's sexual attitudes and practices ever undertaken.

One person in four had not had sex in the four weeks before the survey of 19,300 Australians, aged 16 to 59, questioned over the telephone in 2001/2002, the Australian Study of Health and Relationships reported Wednesday.

Most Australians in a regular heterosexual relationship had sex less than twice a week, comparing them unfavourably to the French who had sex an average 2.1 times a week and the Greeks (2.0).

While more than 85 per cent said they would like sex at least twice a week, only 27 per cent actually had sex this often -- leaving 58 per cent who wanted more sex.

Nearly a quarter of the men surveyed said they would like sex daily, if not more often, compared to only eight per cent of women.

Cops used computer to access celebrities records

Los Angeles

A Los Angeles police officer used department computers to access confidential law enforcement records of celebrities and sold the information to tabloids, according to a lawsuit recently settled by the city.

Officer Kelly Chrisman, a 13-year veteran, acknowledged looking up the information, but said he did so at the direction of his superiors, according to internal Los Angeles Police Department records.

Chrisman's lawyer, Christopher Darden, best known as one of the prosecutors in O. J. Simpson's murder trial, said his client never sold the information to anyone.

"There's really nothing in those records to sell to tabloids," Darden said. "He didn't do it. That's that."

The lawsuit prompted the department to launch its own investigation, which the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday turned up "hundreds of hits" on the names of famous people, including Jennifer Aniston, Mickey Rourke, Pamela Anderson and Nicole Brown Simpson.

Between 1994 and 2000, Chrisman also accessed computer files on such celebrities as Sharon Stone, Sean Penn, Meg Ryan, Kobe Bryant, O. J. Simpson, Larry King, Drew Barrymore, Cindy Crawford and Halle Berry, according to the internal documents.

Graphic

WORLD REPORT

Dolly back in the limelight: A photographer takes a photo Wednesday of the preserved body of Dolly, the world's first cloned sheep who died on Feb. 14 this year and now is on permanent display at Edinburgh's Royal Museum. The birth of Dolly on July 5, 1996 was heralded as a scientific landmark but triggered heated discussions about the ethics of cloning. Associated Press photo: Maurice McDonald

Load-Date: April 10, 2003

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Israel storms Arafat's compound: Tanks open fire after Palestinian suicide bomber leaves five dead, dozens injured in bus attack

Ottawa Citizen

September 20, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 1007 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israeli tanks opened fire as they rolled into Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday after a suicide bomber killed five people on a bus in downtown Tel Aviv.

The swift response came as the Israeli security cabinet met in an emergency session amid speculation that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon intended to once again confine Mr. Arafat to the building or even expel him from the West Bank.

The bus bombing, the latest blow in a new wave of strikes against Israeli civilians, injured up to 60 people, eight of whom remained in critical condition last night. "We are fighting to save their lives," said Dr. Pini Halpern, director of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Citizen News Services

A Palestinian bomber boarded the crowded No. 4 commuter bus travelling north through lunchtime traffic in the heart of the city and stood at the front as he blew himself up. The bomb, which detonated beside Tel Aviv's central synagogue, was packed with nails, bolts and ball bearings.

It was the fourth Palestinian terror attack in less than 24 hours. On Wednesday, three Israelis were killed in three incidents.

Another suicide bombing was apparently averted yesterday when Israeli commandos captured a young man from Mr. Arafat's Fatah group who was planning to carry out a similar attack.

In Gaza City early today, Israeli forces entered a mixed industrial-residential neighbourhood and blew up three metal workshops, witnesses said. Two Palestinians, a 25-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man, were killed by gunfire, doctors said. Nearby houses were damaged by the explosions. Israeli tanks were withdrawing from the area before daybreak, residents said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. In the past, the Israelis have destroyed workshops where they said weapons were made.

And in Abu Dis, a West Bank suburb of Jerusalem, Israeli bulldozers destroyed the family homes of two Palestinians who killed 11 people and themselves in Jerusalem in a Dec. 1 bombing.

Earlier yesterday, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy was killed in Ramallah when he broke an Israeli curfew to buy cigarettes for his father. Witnesses said he was shot by Israeli soldiers. The military had no comment.

Israel storms Arafat's compound: Tanks open fire after Palestinian suicide bomber leaves five dead, dozens injured in bus attack

Within hours of yesterday's bombing, tanks entered Mr. Arafat's compound in Ramallah and opened fire with heavy machine-guns. Mr. Arafat was unhurt.

Israeli forces said they surrounded the compound in response to the Tel Aviv attack. Tanks fired in the direction of his office and soldiers with loudspeakers called on wanted Palestinians inside to surrender.

"Tanks and jeeps are inside the compound and surrounding our office from all sides. There is fierce shooting. Two of our men have been injured but the president is fine," one of Mr. Arafat's bodyguards said by telephone from inside the building.

Eight Palestinians reportedly surrendered and were led away blindfolded by Israeli forces.

A senior Arafat aide, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, called for international intervention, charging that Israel was targeting Mr. Arafat. The siege was followed by an incursion of at least a dozen tanks backed by helicopter gunships into the northern Gaza Strip. Witnesses said Israeli forces fired into a residential area on the outskirts of Gaza City and met resistance from gunmen.

Israel accuses Mr. Arafat of doing nothing to stop suicide bombings, but Ghassan Khattib, a Palestinian cabinet minister, blamed Israel for the attacks.

"In recent weeks the Israeli army killed a total of 75 Palestinians -- more than two-thirds of them were civilians, including children," said Mr. Khattib. "This violence, whether it is Israeli or Palestinian, is unfortunate and is happening within the context of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories."

Violence was escalating as a result of Mr. Sharon's policies based on using force to achieve peace and security, Mr. Khattib said. "These developments are examples that force and violence and the policy of putting Palestinians under curfew and killing Palestinians can only result in further violence and violent reactions from the Palestinian side."

The street where yesterday's bombing occurred shortly before 1 p.m. was packed with workers and shoppers enjoying the autumn sunshine.

The wrecked bus, its windows blown out by the blast, careened a few yards down Allenby Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares, before coming to rest near the corner of Rothschild Street, the commercial centre of Israel's busiest city.

"We heard the explosion, went out into the street and saw a bus without a driver rolling towards the bank, where it stopped," said Zvi, an eyewitness.

Everyone on the bus was either killed or injured by the blast, which spewed nails, screws, blood and body parts over a wide radius and brought central Tel Aviv to a standstill.

"I heard a huge explosion," said Ofer Menachem, proprietor of a cafe near the site. "I ran outside where customers were eating lunch.

"I saw people escaping from the bus, jumping out of the windows covered in blood. I saw soldiers and women covered in blood, shouting and screaming."

There was pandemonium as dozens of police cars and ambulances, their sirens wailing, fought their way through heavy traffic to reach the scene. Fearing a second attack, police sealed off the entire area to search for suspicious objects, creating traffic gridlock throughout the city.

David Krauz, deputy police commissioner for Tel Aviv, said his officers were on maximum alert, but "there was no specific warning about the possibility of this attack."

Israel storms Arafat's compound: Tanks open fire after Palestinian suicide bomber leaves five dead, dozens injured in bus attack

Early statements from **Hamas** leaders in the Gaza Strip indicated that their terrorist wing, the Kassem Brigades, was behind the blast, but there was no immediate formal claim of responsibility. And there were also reports that Islamic Jihad was involved.

"The Zionists are paying for the crimes and terrorism of their leaders and they should know that we are the real owners of this land and we would never give it up," said Abdel Aziz Rantissi, a **Hamas** leader.

Graphic

Photo: Yossi Aloni, The Associated Press; A rescue worker attends to a wounded woman at the site of a suicide attack explosion in a bus in Tel Aviv. The street where yesterday's bombing occurred shortly before 1 p.m. was packed with workers and shoppers enjoying the autumn sunshine.; Photo: Yossi Aloni, Reuters; Israeli rescue personnel attend to injured people at the site of a suicide attack on a city bus in Tel Aviv, yesterday. The suicide bomber blew himself up on the crowded bus, killing five people and wounding nearly 50 in the second such attack in two days.

Load-Date: September 20, 2002

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Mideast lingo tries to skew world's view on violence; Verbal feud: Suicide bombings are 'heroic martyrdom' and killing Palestinians is 'focused prevention'

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 25, 2002 Sunday

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Section: Pg. a12

Length: 1097 words

Byline: GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

When Israeli soldiers track and kill a Palestinian militant, the army calls it "focused prevention." When Palestinian suicide bombers strike, their backers cheer "heroic martyrdom operations."

In the linguistic combat of the Mideast, Israelis and Palestinians are remarkably creative in sanitizing descriptions of the ways they kill each other.

The verbal arms race predates the September 2000 eruption of the current Palestinian uprising, but the lingo has been greatly added to over the past 23 months.

"These terms catch on very quickly with the public," said Lior Yavne of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem. "It's important that we don't allow this language to hide what is really happening."

Even the conflict's name is a fuzzy term. Palestinians call their violent uprising against Israeli control the "intefadeh," which means only "shaking off" in Arabic. Still, the term is so ingrained, even Israelis use it.

Both sides have so honed their skills they can detail lethal events entirely in euphemisms.

Relying mostly on combat helicopters, Israeli forces began killing Palestinian militants suspected of attacking Israel and initially labeled the assaults "pre-emptive strikes" - Palestinians called them "assassinations."

Then the army rolled out the phrase "pinpoint preventive operations." Despite its alliterative allure, that never took hold, and was ditched in favor of an even more benign term: "focused prevention" - as in, "the Palestinian terrorist was eliminated during a focused prevention operation."

On the other side, "a heroic martyrdom operation against the Zionist entity" is the way the Islamic movement **Hamas** typically claims responsibility for a suicide bombing. **Hamas** has carried out more suicide bombings than any other faction, although it never employs that term. It also avoids using the word "Israel," which it refuses to recognize.

A number of Israeli officials also reject the term suicide bombers, saying it focuses on the assailant, not the victims. They favor "homicide bombers."

Mideast lingo tries to skew world's view on violence; Verbal feud: Suicide bombings are 'heroic martyrdom' and killing Palestinians is 'focused prevention'

Some Palestinians call suicide bombers "F-11s," a nickname that plays off the Palestinians' view that they don't have high-tech firepower like Israel's F-16 warplanes. "We have F-11s," they say, wiggling their index and middle fingers simultaneously to approximate the legs of a suicide bomber walking toward a target.

Much of the Mideast conflict is about winning international support, with each side attempting to demonize the other and present itself as a victim acting in self-defense. The sides frequently complain to journalists, diplomats and anyone else who fails to adopt their phrases.

Perhaps the most bitterly disputed word is "terrorist," which the Israelis employ liberally, expanding it on occasion to cover low-level activists with no clear involvement in violence. The army has on several occasions announced the killing of a "terrorist," only to retract that later and acknowledge it was an unarmed civilian killed unintentionally.

In contrast, Palestinians normally avoid the word altogether - except when referring to Israeli military attacks on suspected militants. They call those "Israeli state terrorism."

Under intense U.S. pressure, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat made rare use of the word in a Feb. 3 op-ed piece in The New York Times. "I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians," Arafat wrote.

Palestinian leaders, including Arafat, give full-throated support to the Palestinian uprising. But in most cases, they are intentionally vague in comments to journalists and in official statements when talking about violence by Palestinians. They use phrases such as "legitimate resistance" or "military operations."

Explicitly endorsing attacks would anger Israel and leaders in many other countries. Denouncing attacks would risk alienating the majority of Palestinians who support them.

Another euphemism got in the news last week, after Israeli soldiers surrounded a wanted Palestinian militant at a house in the West Bank village of Tubas and then dragooned a 19-year-old Palestinian who lived next door into helping them.

Nidal Daraghmeh was forced to put on a bulletproof vest and ordered to knock on the door and bring out everyone inside. As he approached the house, he was shot in the head and killed - although it's not clear who fired the fatal shot.

Palestinians and human rights groups denounced the army's use of "human shields." The army said it was employing its long-standing "neighbor procedure."

"The idea is that a person is going in to warn people inside and explain the situation," said an army spokesman, Capt. Jacob Dallal. "It's done for the safety of everyone."

Israel is now attempting to expel a trio of Palestinians from the West Bank to the isolation of the Gaza Strip, for allegedly assisting siblings who attacked Israel. The army has a term for this: an "order limiting the place of residency."

The military's armored bulldozers have frequently flattened Palestinian olive groves used for cover by Palestinian gunmen. After one particularly large operation in Gaza, the army's statement described it in the usual way - "engineering work." The words "olive," "grove" and "tree" were nowhere to be found.

Called to break up mobs of Palestinian stone throwers, Israeli security forces don't load up with "riot control gear." They employ "dispersing tools."

And when a Palestinian is killed after his bomb explodes prematurely - a common occurrence - Israelis sarcastically call it a "work accident."

Mideast lingo tries to skew world's view on violence; Verbal feud: Suicide bombings are 'heroic martyrdom' and killing Palestinians is 'focused prevention'

At a recent conference in Gaza City, Palestinian factions debated whether to halt attacks on Israeli civilians. They couldn't reach accord, but it went without saying that the 220,000 Israeli settlers living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip weren't covered by the discussions.

Most Palestinians consider settlers, including women and children, as legitimate "military targets" because they live in territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by Palestinians for their state.

The verbal feud reaches the top levels on both sides.

Arafat returned from exile eight years ago, yet there's no agreement on his title as head of the Palestinian Authority. Palestinians call him "President Arafat." Israelis refer to "Chairman Arafat," saying there's not yet a Palestinian state to be president of.

It's doublespeak that's even in the Israel-Palestinian peace accords of nearly a decade ago. Israel's government agreed then that Arafat's title would be "rais," an Arabic word meaning leader - allowing the Palestinians to translate it as president and the Israelis as chairman.

Graphic

AP illustration

Load-Date: August 27, 2002

**MODERATE PALESTINIANS MUST CONTROL VIOLENCE;
THE FUTURE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE MAY REST UPON MODERATE
PALESTINIANS PROVING THEY CAN CONTROL THE MILITANTS IN THEIR
MIDST.**

Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

June 21, 2002 Friday, ALL Editions

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A12; Editorial

Length: 412 words

Body

The return of suicide bombings in Israel is a test for the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, but more so for Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians. Moderate Palestinians must find their voices and work to end the violence, a necessary step before a skeptical world can conclude that the Palestinians are capable of governing themselves as a peaceful nation.

Two suicide bombings that killed 26 Israeli citizens prompted Sharon's decision to reoccupy Palestinian areas and hold them so long as the attacks continue. Sharon justified his decision as self-defense, but others - including members of Israel's Labor Party - said Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands could aggravate the problem and plays into the hands of the militants.

For the short term, the bombings postponed the delivery of a promising remedy from President Bush. The administration was set to propose a provisional Palestinian state, which would lead to creation of a full-fledged Palestinian nation over time. But as Arafat himself now recognizes, there's no way Bush will make such a speech when Palestinian militants are blowing up innocent men, women and children in the streets of Israel. A proposal to create even a provisional Palestinian state cannot come when elements of that very state are running out of control.

That's why Arafat has appealed to Palestinian militants to halt attacks on Israeli civilians - a call that will likely be ignored by Hamas and Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the latest barbaric bombings. There is now a faction of Palestinian society that does not respond to Arafat or anyone else in authority, but which seems obsessed with the notion of gaining power through death. At what point do Palestinian moderates and intellectuals rise up to resist this lemming-like movement? Some of them spoke out in a full-page advertisement this week in the New York Times, but the average suicide bomber in Jenin probably doesn't get home delivery.

The Bush administration should press ahead with work on the details of its plan, mainly as a sign of faith in the possibility of peace. The rest of the Arab world may be better able to bring pressure on Palestinian militants if it believes the United States is preparing a credible plan.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority must police its own and try to stop the suicide bombings. If Arafat and other Palestinian leaders cannot halt militant groups within easy reach, how can they function as a nation?

MODERATE PALESTINIANS MUST CONTROL VIOLENCE; THE FUTURE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE MAY
REST UPON MODERATE PALESTINIANS PROVING THEY CAN CONTROL THE MILITANTS IN THE....

Load-Date: June 22, 2002

End of Document

It's because we're worth it.

UK Newsquest Regional Press - This is Lancashire

June 19, 2002

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Section: Columnists

Length: 379 words

Body

WHY do we spend so much money on our hair and make-up? Actresses and models, and other nondescript celebs flash their teeth and say 'Because we're worth it.'

So then why would anyone want to adopt the veil. Cherie Blair has criticised it publicly as a symbol of oppression. No dear, that's your husband.

But reader, there comes a time in everyone's life when you have to wake up and smell the khauf. And my time has come. It was not easy. The only cover-up I would previously have considered was a three-in-one foundation stick.

Though my heart belonged to Islam and the desire to submit, worldly thoughts filled my head.

I had an on-off relationship with my hijab, sometimes it was on my head, and sometimes it wasn't, but I began to pray and common sense was hard to ignore.

Okay, so it is easier to wear an hijab in towns where most heads are covered anyway and shampoo manufacturers worry we are trying to put them out of business.

But still years of conditioning make it hard to make that first step in veil-dom.

"Do you wear it to work?" a few sisters asked. Well that's the only place I go, so yes.

"Weren't they shocked," the sisters asked. Not as shocked as when they found out I had in my possession a Celine Dion CD.

Cheeky colleagues now ask if I can please cover my face too. "And how can you pray five times a day?" they ask. Why not? If I can pay homage to Morrisons - sometimes three times a day - what is difficult about giving thanks to my Maker? Oh yes, I have cast aside my music videos and instead watch Dawah in the Park. It's so good you will soon forget all about Baddiel and Skinner. Also my social life has improved.

Last week I was invited to a little house where I sat in the room for women and heard through the door a teenage black boy declare: "I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and Mohammed is his Messenger" and I cried.

Every Muslim woman is my sister, every Muslim man is my brother and no, I am not secretly dating a member of Hamas. Things I didn't care about before now irk me like the men who shake my hand though I am clearly a woman. But the man at security is still baffled. "But why do you lot have to keep your hair covered?" he asks. I think for a second, flash him a smile and say: "Because we're worth it."

It's because we're worth it.

Load-Date: June 19, 2002

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NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
August 1, 2002 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1118 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-12

University Attack Kills 7 Including 3 Americans

A powerful bomb hidden in a bag and left on a table by Palestinian militants tore apart a bustling cafeteria during lunch at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, killing at least seven people, including three Americans, and wounding more than 80. The Islamist group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying that it acted in retaliation for Israel's killing last week of a top Hamas leader. A1

Clerk Kills 8 in Beirut

An Education Ministry clerk opened fire at colleagues with an assault rifle and two pistols, killing eight people and wounding five before he was arrested by the police. Officials said a financial dispute was behind the shootings. A10

High Risks for Iraq Invasion

In the first public hearings on the Bush administration's goal of ousting Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, an array of experts warned a Senate committee that an invasion of Iraq would carry significant risks including more terrorist attacks against American targets. A3

Canonization in Mexico City

Pope John Paul II canonized Juan Diego, an Indian convert to Catholicism in the 16th century, in a lavishly staged mass at the Basilica of Guadalupe. The pope called the canonization "the gift of the first indigenous saint of the American continent," and described Juan Diego as an important force behind the spread of Catholicism among the region's Indians. A10

Koreans Reject Appointment

The National Assembly overwhelmingly rejected President Kim Dae Jung's choice for prime minister, Chang Sang - the first woman ever appointed. A5

Tuna Worries in Philippines

NEWS SUMMARY

A last-minute compromise by Congress on tuna tariffs has done little to appease officials in the Philippines, who are concerned that the legislation could hurt their country's huge tuna industry. They are likely to protest to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell when he visits Manila this weekend. A12

World Briefing A10

NATIONAL A16-23

Senate Rejects Drug Plan For Elderly Patients

The Senate defeated legislation to provide prescription drug benefits promised to the elderly by politicians of both parties. But it passed a bill intended to give all Americans greater access to low-cost generic versions of brand-name medicines. A1

Two Men Slain After Car Wreck

Police held a suspect in the deaths of two men who were dragged from a van and beaten to death with stones and bricks after a traffic accident in Chicago. Their vehicle had veered from the street and struck three young women who were sitting on a stoop. A16

New Wiretap Standards Backed

At a Congressional hearing, lawyers for the Justice Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency expressed support for legislation that would lower the standards of evidence required to obtain court approval for secret wiretaps for use in investigations of foreign terrorists and spies. A20

Stretching the Superfund

Nikki L. Tinsley, the inspector general of the Environmental Protection Agency, said that insufficient spending in the Superfund program was causing delays in cleaning up toxic waste sites and preventing "important work needed to protect human health and the environment." The financing shortfalls will mean, for example, stretching out to 10 years from five years a \$100 million allocation to clean up a site. A23

Art Heist in West Hollywood

A pair of Maxfield Parrish murals, valued at between \$1.7 million and \$2.5 million each, were stolen from an art gallery in West Hollywood, Calif. One or more thieves made a hole in the ceiling, disabled its alarm and cut the murals from massive oak frames sometime between sundown Sunday and the opening of the gallery Monday morning. A16

Suspected Forger Flees

Mohamed El-Atriss, the suspected leader of a fake document ring who sold false identifications to two of the Sept. 11 hijackers, disappeared early this week as detectives were making final plans to arrest him, the authorities said. A20

NEW YORK/REGION B1-10

After Senate Ruling Torricelli Foe Gains Ground

A day after Democratic Senator Robert G. Torricelli was "severely admonished" by the Senate ethics committee for accepting improper gifts, he received noticeably lukewarm endorsements from his own party. New Jersey's Republican nominee for Senate, Douglas R. Forrester, called on Mr. Torricelli to resign. What began as a lopsided race has turned into a free-for-all. B1

New Garbage Plan Unveiled

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced that the city would stop hauling its trash out of state one truck at a time and instead adapt dormant waterfront stations in each borough so garbage can be floated away by barge. A1

NEWS SUMMARY

Harlem Team Gains State Title

A Harlem Little League baseball team has won the New York State championship. The team now has an opportunity to reach the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. The state championship is also validation for an urban Little League program that has had to overcome numerous challenges. B1

CIRCUITS G1-10

HOUSE & HOME F1-12

ARTS E1-10

OBITUARIES B9

Gerald Gunther

A distinguished constitutional scholar and a legal educator, he was 75. B9

SPORTS D1-7

Olympic Skating Arrest

A man accused of being in Russian organized crime was arrested in Italy on an American complaint that he conspired to fix the pairs figure skating and ice dancing competitions at the recent Salt Lake Winter Olympics. A1

BUSINESS DAY C1-12

Halliburton Deal Under Scrutiny

Vice President Dick Cheney's tenure at Halliburton is under new scrutiny. At issue is whether Halliburton was aggressive enough in investigating the asbestos liabilities it was taking on in acquiring Dresser. Mr. Cheney's office said the deal was thoroughly reviewed. A1

G.E. Changes Options Terms

General Electric joined a growing number of companies that are changing how they account for stock options and then went even further by altering some terms of the options granted to executives. A1

Consumer Spending Slows

The post-Sept. 11 growth spurt that ended last year's recession appears to have faded. With spending in the second quarter slower than expected, the economy appears to be weaker than first thought. C1

Buffett Considers Investment

Warren Buffett is close to a deal to invest as much as \$500 million in Williams Companies, the troubled energy concern, executives close to the negotiations said. The move would be his second major investment in the energy sector this week. C5

Business Digest C1

World Business W1

EDITORIAL A24-25

Editorials: What the senator did not say; the fragile recovery; drug coverage failure; bringing Congo's great war to an end.

NEWS SUMMARY

Columns: Bob Herbert.

Bridge E5

TV Listings E9

Crossword E6

Weather D8

Public Lives B2

<http://www.nytimes.com>

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Siege ends as as Arabs file out

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

May 11, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 18

Length: 435 words

Byline: GREG MYRE

Body

PALESTINIAN gunmen wanted by Israel emerged from the Church of the Nativity yesterday, ending a 38-day stand-off at one of Christianity's holiest sites.

The deal -- for 13 militants to be deported and 26 to be sent to the Gaza Strip -- sets the stage for an Israeli withdrawal from Bethlehem.

The gunmen from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an extremist offshoot of Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah party and the hardline Islamic movement **Hamas**, emerged accompanied by priests from the basilica's low-slung main entrance, the Gate of Humility.

MATP

One kissed the ground, while another waved at a group of **women** wearing headscarves, standing opposite the church, weeping with joy and relief.

From there, one-by-one, they walked along Manger Square, on a path marked by police barricades.

They passed through two metal detectors, and were briefly questioned by three Israeli soldiers before boarding an Israeli bus.

Militiaman Jihad Jaara, one of those destined to be deported, was carried out on a stretcher, with a bandage on his right leg. He was taken to an ambulance.

The first to come out just before 7am was the intelligence chief of Bethlehem, Abdullah Daoud, the most senior in the group.

Accompanied by two priests, he approached two Israeli soldiers, who talked to him briefly before directing him to the bus.

More than 120 people walked from the church and were taken to an Israeli military base, where their identities were verified. From there, a group of 13 was taken to an airport for deportation.

They landed in Larnaca, Cyprus, last night aboard a British military aircraft.

Larnaca police chief, Nicos Selepos and a squad of armed police were at Cyprus's main airport to meet them.

Siege ends as as Arabs file out

The deportation was part of a deal worked out with the US and European Union to end Israel's five-week siege of the church.

The negotiations to resolve the crisis came to fruition on Thursday when the EU found several countries prepared to accept the gunmen.

"Cyprus has agreed to take the 13 people as a temporary measure," its foreign minister Yiannakis Cassoulides said yesterday.

Portugal and Greece early today were the only countries to have made public offers to accept some of the militants.

The second group of militants was taken to Gaza and the rest set free.

The crisis began on April 2 when more than 200 people fled into the church that marks the traditional birthplace of Jesus, ahead of invading Israeli troops. At first Israel insisted the gunmen among them surrender but dropped that demand when the Palestinians agreed that 13 of the senior militants would be deported and others sent to Gaza.

Load-Date: May 11, 2002

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