

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

Job Number: 223359060

Documents (100)

1. [Israeli missile boats blast Gaza targets](#)

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

2. [Israel, in Reprisal for Killings, Razes Gaza Refugee Homes](#)

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

3. [Top 10 Plus One: The week's big stories](#)

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

4. [THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE KILLED IN AMBUSH ON WEST BANK ROAD; HOURS LATER, ISRAEL FIRES MISSILES ON GAZA CITY](#)

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

5. [Terrorist says orders come from Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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6. [Arafat gives wary approval to Israeli offer of withdrawal: Despite grassroots scepticism, Palestinian cabinet hopes its response will give momentum to US talks](#)

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

7. [Israeli forces reoccupy Bethlehem](#)

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

8. [Mideast peace in US hands](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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9. [Pullout by Israel equivalent to suicide](#)

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

10. [Israel used flechettes in killing of 4 in family](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

11. [Public liability stopping people from having fun](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

12. [Gunmen pick off bus passengers after bomb attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

13. ['Honest' account depicts reality of Palestinians' lives](#)

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

14. [Mideast toll reaches 19 in violent surge; A suicide bomber killed nine on a bus. Other incidents occurred across Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [Suicide attacks to return](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [Mideast peace process bombed](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [National Briefs](#)

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

18. [Powell ends trip with little to show](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [LETTERS: U.S. MUST PUSH ISRAEL TO SEEK A 2-STATE RESOLUTION TO VIOLENCE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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20. [Four killed in shooting:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better](#)**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, 200322. [Middle East conflict takes to the air](#)**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, 200323. [ISRAEL FIRES FOR SECOND DAY AT PALESTINIAN OFFICES IN GAZA; ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER CALLS MILITANTS' ROCKET ATTACK "A NEW LEVEL OF THREAT"](#)**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, 200324. [WOMAN TRIGGERS BOMB IN ISRAEL ; BLAST KILLS PALESTINIAN BOMBER, ELDERLY MAN](#)**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, 200325. [Israel endures 5 suicide attacks in 48 hours](#)**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

26. [*For the Record*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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27. [*Anti-war students show true feelings*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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28. [*Reviving the Middle East 'road map'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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29. [*Youth and passion identify attackers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

30. [*Nine Palestinians And Two Israelis Die in Day of Fury*](#)

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

31. [*OFFICE OF UN ENVOY DAMAGED IN ISRAELI JET ATTACK*](#)

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

32. [13 Palestinians die in daylong battle](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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33. [A WAR OF WORDS; ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS ARM THEMSELVES WITH EUPHEMISMS TO FIGHT PR BATTLE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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34. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE OVERVIEW ISRAELIS ADVANCING ON THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE 16 ARRESTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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35. [ISRAEL SET TO INVADE GAZA STRIP; PALESTINIANS SAY ATTACK IMMINENT; MEN EXIT FROM BETHLEHEM CHURCH](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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36. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: OVERVIEW 15 KILLED BY SUICIDE BOMBER; SHARON CUTS SHORT U.S. VISIT AFTER A MEETING WITH BUSH](#)
Client/Matter: -None-
Search Terms: Hamas
Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results
Narrowed by:

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37. [Sharon vows to press on Latest suicide bombing kills 8](#)
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
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38. [Israelis capture militants](#)
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
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39. [Israelis taking no chances; Killing of Palestinians sparks inquiry, but Israel says it will protect itself](#)
Client/Matter: -None-
Search Terms: Hamas
Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results
Narrowed by:

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40. [Franklin, dad Billy Graham's successor, pursues his verbal crusade against Islam](#)
Client/Matter: -None-
Search Terms: Hamas
Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results
Narrowed by:

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41. [Slaughter goes on as Sharon flies to US](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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42. [Bombing halts talk of peace; Sharon rushes home from U.S. meetings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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43. [ISRAELIS TARGET REFUGEE CAMP WITH MISSILES](#)

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

44. [CIDA worker linked to Palestinian terrorist: Woman let go after bomb traces found in embassy car in Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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45. [Pay-back raid in West Bank](#)

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

46. [Agreement was to end attacks immediately](#)

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

47. [*Palestinians kill 7 Jews in bus ambush: Gunmen posed as Israeli soldiers in West Bank attack*](#)

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

48. [*Low-level warfare: Bombers hit restaurant, orchard; Palestinians killed in Gaza Strip*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

49. [*Israelis used too much gun*](#)

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

50. [*Mideast violence escalates further*](#)

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

51. [*'THIRTY DEAD' IN HEAVY FIGHTING AS ISRAELIS STORM REFUGEE CAMP*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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52. [MIDDLE EAST ATTACKS KILL 22 IN SINGLE DAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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53. [MIDEAST VIOLENCE ESCALATES QUICKLY; 18 PALESTINIANS DIE; GUNMAN KILLS 3 IN ISRAELI RESTAURANT;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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54. [DOOM & GLOOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [ISRAEL LEVELS ARAB HOMES; GAZA REFUGEE CAMP TARGETED IN RETALIATION FOR SLAYING OF 4 SOLDIERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. [Hope of bomb inflicting pain](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [MIDDLE EAST DEATH TOLL GROWS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [Man in court over murder](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [Gaza bombed in pay-back raids](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [NOT MINE!](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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62. [11 more die in fighting in Israel ; Border with Egypt rare scene of battle](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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63. [Dying for a promise of martyrdom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [CARNAGE RETURNS TO THE STREETS OF TEL AVIV](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [Gaza boy tells of bomb horror;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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66. [TO OUR READERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [ISRAEL MOVES INTO NABLUS, KILLING THREE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [ON THIS DAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [5 Americans among Israel victims](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR, OR FROM, DEMOCRACY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [Warplanes avenge Tel Aviv suicide bomb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [Letters from readers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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73. [Contradictory Doctrine](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

74. [JERUSALEM BLAST KILLS 3, HURTS 100](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

75. [Powell says ties with Arafat may be downgraded](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

76. [BOMB GAFFE CHERIE: I'M SO SORRY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

77. [Sharon vows Israel will not pull back; 8 more killed: Israelis promise destruction of Palestinian forces](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [SHARON: ISRAEL WILL CRUSH MILITIAS; PLEDGE COMES AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 8 ISRAELIS ON BUS](#)

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. [Bitterness deepens in Jenin camp; Refugees say fight will go on](#)

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

80. [Time's up in terror probe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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81. [Israelis fire at Gaza base, dispute Arab detention claim](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [Palestinians claim that smuggling suspects were detained Israel fires missiles for a fourth day, disputing the claim](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [CONTINENTAL DRIPS; EUROPEAN UNION BACKING OF ARAFAT IS ANOTHER MISTAKE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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84. [U.S. continues to ignore fear, terror spread by Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

86. [Protesters around world march against Iraq war](#)

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

87. [MUSLIM FANATICS BATTLING OUR BOYS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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88. [ISRAEL BOMB PLOT: THE MIDLAND LINKS; SUICIDE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED AMONG LOCAL NETWORK OF ISLAMIC](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [Muslims presenting suggested reading](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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90. [Killings won't lead to peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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91. [Terror chief chose to risk lives of innocents](#)

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. [LETTER: THE MIDDLE EAST'S MEN OF VIOLENCE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [RIGHTS GROUP DENOUNCES SUICIDE BOMBINGS](#)

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. [With Us and With the Terrorists](#)

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. [Israeli father tells how bus blast hit three generations](#)

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. [DEATH TOLL SOARS IN MID-EAST](#)

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. [Suicide bomb kills Israelis; 100 injured in shopping area blast](#)

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. [Suicide bomber kills Israeli teen: Attack at eatery caps day of civilian death and injury on both sides](#)

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. [HEROISM?](#)

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. [Israel put on alert as spy chief predicts worsening onslaught](#)

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 missile boats blast Gaza targets

Manchester Evening News

January 12, 2002

Copyright 2002 Manchester Evening News

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 202 words

Body

ISRAELI missile boats blasted a Palestinian naval fuel depot and barracks used by the Palestinian naval police in Gaza today. Both were set ablaze, said Palestinian security sources.

The barracks had been abandoned and there were no reports of casualties. The Israeli warships destroyed a small patrol boat used by the naval police, which was at the dock for maintenance, Palestinian security sources said. Israeli tanks also fired at least four shells and hit homes in the Rafah refugee camp today, injuring at least eight people, including two women.

Yesterday, Israeli bulldozers tore up the runway of the Palestinians' international airport, a day after dozens of homes were razed in an Israeli raid on the Rafah camp. The operations were reprisals for an assault on Israeli troops that left four dead. The militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack - and the gunmen were from the Rafah camp.

Palestinian police have detained two senior Palestinian officials suspected of trying to smuggle a boatload of arms into Gaza. The 50 tons of weapons, including rockets and anti-tank missiles from Iran, was intercepted by Israeli forces. The ship's captain was a member of the Palestinian naval force.

Load-Date: January 12, 2002

Israel, in Reprisal for Killings, Razes Gaza Refugee Homes

The New York Times
January 11, 2002 Friday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 869 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 10

Body

The Israeli Army retaliated today for the killing of four Israeli soldiers Wednesday by Palestinian militants by bulldozing dozens of houses in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, leaving hundreds of homeless people searching for their belongings in a five-acre sea of rubble.

The action in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, was the largest Israeli demolition operation in more than 15 months of violent conflict with the Palestinians. Since the start of that uprising, the army has destroyed scores of homes and large swaths of agricultural land, actions that have drawn strong condemnations from human rights groups. Today, the United States condemned the latest demolition, which the army said was intended to deny cover to Palestinian gunmen.

"We have been very clear about the need for Palestinian action against violence and terror," a State Department official said in Washington. "At the same time, we do not believe that demolitions of Palestinian property and homes can contribute to the restoration of calm and an end to violence."

Agence France-Presse reported early on Friday that 12 Israeli tanks and bulldozers had moved into the Palestinian Authority's airport near Rafah and had begun tearing up the runway. A spokesman for the Israeli Army confirmed that troops and equipment were in the area, but would not give any details about their mission.

An Israeli Army statement said troops had carried out "engineering activity" on Friday, razing only 10 to 13 uninhabited homes that had "served as cover for gunmen firing on army forces operating in the area." The army said the structures were also suspected to have covered tunnels serving for the smuggling of weapons from Egypt.

But an official from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency said that 54 houses were destroyed during today's demolition and that more than 500 people had been left without shelter. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza put the numbers higher: 58 houses destroyed and 700 people left homeless.

Throughout a day of pouring rain, men, women and children picked through the wreckage of the refugee camp where their homes -- cinder-block dwellings with corrugated roofs -- had once stood. They tried to salvage blankets, clothing and identity cards from the rubble. Smashed furniture and crushed appliances poked out from the ruins, along with a child's bed and a bicycle.

Israel , in Reprisal for Killings, Razes Gaza Refugee Homes

Residents said they had grabbed their children and run when they were awakened about 1:30 a.m. by the roar of about a dozen Israeli tanks and bulldozers.

Samir Ghneim, 35, said he had fled with his four children minutes before a bulldozer smashed into his family's house. The children were shaking and frightened, he said.

His 8-year-old daughter, Maryam, said: "I heard the bulldozers and tanks, and we ran away into the night. My father held me, and we were crying."

Tamam Ghneim, 52, a member of the same extended family, said she and her six children had managed to escape through a hole in a wall shared with a neighbor's house before her dwelling was destroyed.

"This is revenge," Mr. Ghneim said. "We didn't do anything. The attack happened in Israel, so why us? Why do our children have to go through this?"

Today's demolitions, after the killing of the soldiers by attackers from the militant group **Hamas**, raised the possibility of a renewed slide into violence after weeks of relative calm that followed a call on Dec. 16 by the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat for a halt to armed attacks on Israelis.

The militant Islamic Jihad group announced today that it was no longer bound by understandings with the Palestinian Authority to halt attacks in Israel.

The area where today's demolitions took place had been the site of frequent fighting between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers posted along the border, and the army said its forces were met with gunfire and grenades during today's demolition. But refugees living in the area said it has been calm since Mr. Arafat's cease-fire call last month.

Wednesday's attack on the soldiers occurred at an army post in southern Israel several miles away, on the border with the Gaza Strip. The **Hamas** gunmen had come from Rafah, but not from the same refugee camp the Israelis entered today.

Since the start of the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli Army has destroyed scores of houses in Rafah during fighting with Palestinian gunmen along the Egyptian border.

Palestinians and Israeli human rights advocates have said that the demolitions are part of a deliberate campaign to clear a swath of territory along the frontier as collective punishment for Palestinian attacks.

The army has said the demolitions, which have also been carried out in neighborhoods bordering Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, removed buildings from which gunmen have attacked Israeli troops.

In saying today that it was no longer bound to stop its attacks, the Islamic Jihad cited what it called Israel's continuing war against the Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority's recent arrests of militants.

Unlike **Hamas**, which announced a suspension of suicide and mortar attacks after Mr. Arafat's cease-fire appeal, Islamic Jihad did not declare a halt to attacks in Israel. But its attacks also stopped.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Residents searched for their belongings in the Rafah refugee camp yesterday. Palestinians said the Israeli Army had bulldozed dozens of homes.; The United Nations refugee agency supplied tents in Rafah yesterday for

Israel , in Reprisal for Killings, Razes Gaza Refugee Homes

residents left homeless by a bulldozing operation by the Israeli Army. (Photographs by Fayeze Nureldine/Agence France-Presse) Map of Israel highlighting Rafah: Israel said its action in Rafah was intended to deny cover to gunmen.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

End of Document

Top 10 Plus One: The week's big stories

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

November 30, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Review; Pg. E3

Length: 430 words

Body

1. Terror strike

Terrorists struck against Israel this week, with varying success. Nine Israelis, nine Kenyans and five suicide terrorists died in Kenya in a car bombing, but two missiles missed an Israeli charter plane. Six died and 40 were wounded when gunmen fired in people voting in the Likud leadership election in northern Israel. Ariel Sharon won. The Gazette

2. Romanow row

Several provinces, including Quebec, slammed the long-awaited Romanow report on Canada's health care system, saying it gives the federal government carte blanche to intrude on what is their jurisdiction.

3. First budget

The megacity's first budget came down Thursday, and 54 per cent of taxpayers will pay less and 46 per cent more as rates across the 28 former municipalities are harmonised. Commercial landlords said the budget unfairly targets them.

4. Cop harassed

RCMP officer Jocelyn Hotte, on trial for killing former girlfriend Lucie Gelin as admitted to the court he had harassed a **female** Mountie years ago .

5. Probe sought

Premier Bernard Landry joined with opposition leader Jean Charest Wednesday in calling for a probe into rumours of a \$200-million cost overrun for the new head office building of the Caisse de Depot et Placement du Quebec.

6. Kissinger job

Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger will head a commission into the intelligence failures that paved the way for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

7. **Hamas** listed

Canada named **Hamas** and five other groups as terrorist organizations Wednesday but came under fire for omitting Hezbollah.

8. We're sick

Top 10 Plus One: The week's big stories

Montreal is Canada's unhealthiest city, according to a new report. We lead the country in cancer deaths, stress and suicides.

9. Ducros quits

Francoise Ducros, Jean Chretien's top press aide, bowed Tuesday to growing pressure to quit after she called U.S. president George W. Bush a moron at the Prague NATO summit last week.

10. Walker cleared

Pointe Claire resident Bob Walker was acquitted Tuesday of charges he harassed his gay neighbours. One of them, Theo Wouters, said: "This is a really sad day for all minorities."

- - -

10 Plus One

Yes, it's. . . a Christmas tree

Around the country, political correctness is in retreat as politicians decide to call those big green things with lights Christmas trees. Signs identified a huge tree outside Montreal city hall last year as a "tree of life" so as not to offend those who do not celebrate Christmas. Not this year. In Toronto, Mayor Mel Lastman stepped in after bureaucrats declared a tree in Nathan Phillips Square was a holiday tree.

Graphic

Color Photo: CP; Kingston city employee Dave Stegmayer sprays Rust Check on a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald Wednesday, part of a city-wide project to preserve bronze statues.; Color Photo: CP; Montreal Alouettes Kevin Johnson takes the stage during the Grey Cup parade Wednesday. About 200,000 cold but happy fans greeted the team, which beat Edmonton 25-16 Sunday.; Color Photo: CP; Not Today, Dear: A 2.7-metre-long male Komodo dragon Doni (top) , on loan from the Minnesota Zoo, nuzzles Draca, who remained uninterested, at the Metro Zoo in Toronto, Wednesday. The zoo hopes Doni will mate with either Draca or a second **female** dragon named Loca; Color Photo: AP; Friends comfort a relative of one of the victims of a shooting attack in Israel during a funeral yesterday.; Color Photo: REUTERS; A Pakistani protester poses as death shrouded in a U.S. flag during a rally on the fourth Friday of Ramadan in Karachi yesterday.

Load-Date: November 30, 2002

**THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE KILLED IN AMBUSH ON WEST BANK
ROAD;
HOURS LATER, ISRAEL FIRES MISSILES ON GAZA CITY**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 24, 2003 Friday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS ; Pg. A2

Length: 512 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: HEBRON, WEST BANK

Body

Palestinian gunmen killed three Israeli soldiers on the West Bank Thursday, and Israeli tanks and helicopters pounded targets in Gaza City hours later, wounding six people, hospital officials said. Witnesses said an Israeli missile hit an Anglican chapel in a Gaza City hospital compound, damaging the roof.

Palestinians said other missiles were aimed at workshops, and six people were wounded early today. They said the helicopters fired 11 missiles.

The Israeli military would say only that an operation was in progress. In the past, Israeli forces have targeted workshops in Gaza, charging that Palestinians use them to make weapons, including mortars and rockets.

The violence came just five days before Israel's elections, in which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is running for re-election with a policy of harsh military reprisals, is favored.

His dovish opponent, Amram Mitzna, has said he favors negotiations with the Palestinians and withdrawal from most of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip.

In the past, Palestinian attacks on the eve of Israeli elections have helped hard-line parties like Sharon's Likud, galvanizing Israeli fears of terror attacks and desires for reprisals.

The shootings of the Israeli soldiers occurred at the Beit Haggai intersection near a settlement in the Hebron hills.

The violent Islamic **Hamas** took responsibility for the ambush, issuing a leaflet saying the shooting was retaliation for attacks by Israeli settlers and the military against Palestinians and their property in Hebron, known as a **Hamas** stronghold.

About 450 Israeli settlers live in three enclaves in the middle of Hebron, making it a flashpoint for violence.

Sharon has said Israel cannot give up the hotly disputed holy site in Hebron - the Tomb of the Patriarchs, where the biblical Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried - while Mitzna favors withdrawal.

THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE KILLED IN AMBUSH ON WEST BANK ROAD; HOURS LATER, ISRAEL FIRES MISSILES ON GAZA CITY

Tensions have been high in Hebron since Nov. 16, when 12 Israeli soldiers and guards were killed in a night ambush. The attack prompted the Israeli army to take over the Palestinian-controlled section of the city.

In other action Thursday:

* In the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian man dressed as a woman was caught trying to cross a military checkpoint shortly after he fired toward a Jewish settlement, military officials said. The man then led troops to where he had stashed an AK-47 assault rifle and hand grenades.

* Israeli forces detained the wife of a jailed Palestinian radical accused of dispatching the gunmen who assassinated an Israeli Cabinet minister, relatives said Thursday.

* An Israeli group that tracks Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip released a report showing a disproportionate amount of money from the Israeli budget going to settlements.

The report by the Israeli group Peace Now says \$450 million from the 2001 state budget went to settlements in the West Bank for housing, road construction and development of industrial areas, as well as income tax benefits. Peace Now said settlers get \$1,500 more in government spending per capita than those living inside Israel proper.

Notes

PAGE TWO

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Photo headshot - (Ariel) Sharon - Campaigning on promise to answer Palestinian attacks with force; (Amram) Mitzna - Labor Party candidate says he favors negotiations; (2) Photo by the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian man dressed in women's clothing on Thursday near the Jewish settlement of Dugit in the northern Gaza Strip. Israeli army radio said a man disguised as a woman had fired at Israeli troops guarding the settlement.

Load-Date: January 24, 2003

Terrorist says orders come from Arafat

USA TODAY

March 14, 2002, Thursday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 1266 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: TULKARM, West Bank

Body

TULKARM, West Bank -- A leader of the largest Palestinian terrorist group spearheading suicide bombings and other attacks against Israel says he is following the orders of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"Our group is an integral part of Fatah," says Maslama Thabet, 33, a leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Fatah, headed by Arafat, is the largest group in the Palestinian Authority, the government of the autonomous Palestinian territories.

Thabet spoke from the Tulkarm refugee camp, where he was holed up with about 300 of his heavily armed followers as hundreds of Israeli soldiers swept through the town. Over the past two weeks, Israel has launched massive incursions into Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza in search of terrorists.

"The truth is, we are Fatah itself, but we don't operate under the name of Fatah," he said in a recent interview. "We are the armed wing of the organization. We receive our instructions from Fatah. Our commander is Yasser Arafat himself."

Spokesmen for Arafat give differing responses when asked about his ties to Thabet and the brigade. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, Arafat's chief spokesman, says he has never heard of Thabet. "The president has nothing to do with these things, he has nothing to say about this issue," Rudeineh says.

But Mohammed Odwan, Arafat's foreign media spokesman, confirms that the brigade is "loyal to President Arafat."

"They are working for the interests of the Palestinian people," Odwan says. "They are fighting because they think these kind of operations -- and I agree -- will push forward their independence and their dream of freedom."

Israeli security officials concede Arafat is not involved in directing the on-the-ground operations of militant groups, but they say his regular calls for holy war against Israel's occupation have been taken up as a directive by the extremists.

In a televised address Saturday, as Palestinian terrorists launched suicide attacks in Netanya and Jerusalem, Arafat urged Palestinians to "sacrifice themselves as martyrs in jihad (holy war) for Palestine."

"When Arafat stands in front of a crowd and calls for millions of martyrs to march on Jerusalem and holy war against Israel, he is giving a clear directive to his followers," says Reserve Col. Eran Lerman, former head of

Terrorist says orders come from Arafat

research for Israeli Military Intelligence and now the Jerusalem director of the American Jewish Committees. "Marwan Barghouti (secretary-general of Fatah in the West Bank) and the local leaders below him take that directive and transform it into actions. . . . Arafat does not personally approve individual operations, but he provides the money for Barghouti's terrorism."

Barghouti, who often is on the guest list at dinners with Arafat in the Palestinian leader's compound in Ramallah, confirmed last week that one of his lieutenants who was killed in an Israeli assassination was a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

The link between the brigade and Arafat signals a turning point in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It means the Palestinian leadership has openly allied itself with a terrorist group. Palestinian officials openly say dealing in death, not diplomacy, is the only viable way to achieve their end: an independent Palestinian state.

As the Palestinians have ramped up their attacks on Israeli targets, Israel has escalated its response. The result has been some of the worst violence the region has seen in decades. More than 200 people have died -- 163 Palestinians and 59 Israelis -- since the beginning of March. More than 1,500 people have been killed in the past 18 months, more than 1,000 of them Palestinians. Israel's incursions into Palestinian territory reached a new level this week: 20,000 troops were deployed, and they searched house-to-house for terrorists and weapons. It has been the biggest Israeli military operation since its invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The emergence of a radical young branch of Arafat's Fatah faction comes as no surprise to Mahmoud Muhareb, a Palestinian professor of political science at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. "They are under siege, under blockade and almost at the edge of starvation," he says. "When you dehumanize the life of human beings, they end up feeling their life is not worthy. Five years ago, you might find one suicide bomber in an entire city. Today, it is different. There are many, because they feel there is no meaning to their lives."

Palestinian Authority officials say most members of the brigade receive salaries from the authority. For example, the leader of the brigade in Nablus, Nasser Awes, is a salaried officer in the Palestinian National Security Force, which is one of 14 armed police and security services that report to Arafat.

In the past two weeks, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade has claimed responsibility for attacks that include:

- * A suicide bombing March 2 in Jerusalem that killed 10 Israelis and injured 44.
- * A sniper ambush on a West Bank checkpoint March 3 that killed 10 Israelis and wounded four.
- * The shooting attack on a seaside hotel late Saturday in Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, that killed two Israelis and injured dozens.
- * An ambush in northern Israel on Tuesday in which gunmen wearing Israeli army uniforms killed six Israelis before soldiers shot two of the attackers dead.

Israeli police say they thwarted a string of other planned attacks by the group in recent weeks.

The brigade, unknown until a year ago, has become the largest armed Palestinian group operating in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. Unlike two other major Palestinian militant groups, the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the brigade is secular. The group grew out of the Fatah youth movement known as the Tanzim. Under the 1993 Oslo peace accords that stated only Palestinian security services may bear arms, Tanzim is an illegal militia of about 10,000 armed young men headed by Barghouti.

As the terrorist wing of Arafat's Fatah faction, the brigade has the support of the largest political and military faction in the Palestinian Authority. Hussein A-Sheikh, a Fatah political leader in the West Bank, seems insulted when asked whether the brigade is under Arafat's control. "Of course, there is control," he snaps. "What do you think? That we are just a bunch of gangs?"

Terrorist says orders come from Arafat

The Israeli army says Fatah, fueled by the brigade's lethal activities, has surpassed **Hamas** in Israeli fatalities. **Hamas** killed 100 Israelis in 2001 and Fatah killed 45, the army says, but since the start of 2002, Fatah has killed 57 Israelis while **Hamas** has killed 27. The brigade also introduced a lethal twist to its attacks: **female** suicide bombers. A woman killed an elderly man and wounded 50 people in a suicide attack Jan. 27 in Jerusalem. Another woman blew herself up at a West Bank army checkpoint Feb. 27, injuring two soldiers.

Thabet, who commands the brigade in Tulkarm, attained notoriety a year ago when, with his friend Raed Karmi, he kidnapped and executed two Israeli restaurateurs who had stopped in Tulkarm for lunch. Karmi, founder of the brigade in Tulkarm, died in an explosion in January in a suspected Israeli assassination. Palestinian security forces arrested Thabet last year. He was released, as were dozens of other suspected terrorists.

"Our struggle is against the Israeli occupation," Thabet said. "We are prepared to fight to the last fighter against (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon and his war machine. . . . Israel must pay a heavy price for the atrocities and massacres which they are perpetrating on a daily basis against the Palestinian people."

* Bush rebukes Israel, 1A

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Elizabeth Dalziel, AP; PHOTO, B/W, Abdellah Senna, Agence France-Presse; GRAPHIC, B/W, USA TODAY (MAP); GRAPHIC, B/W, Robert W. Ahrens, USA TODAY, Source: The Associated Press (BAR GRAPH); Attack in Jerusalem: A man wounded in a suicide bombing at a crowded cafe is evacuated Saturday night. <>Brigade member: A Palestinian militant displays his belt of explosives Friday in Bethlehem.

Load-Date: March 14, 2002

End of Document

Arafat gives wary approval to Israeli offer of withdrawal: Despite grassroots scepticism, Palestinian cabinet hopes its response will give momentum to US talks

The Guardian (London)

August 8, 2002

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 12

Length: 638 words

Byline: Jonathan Steele in Nablus

Body

Yasser Arafat and the rest of the Palestinian cabinet gave cautious approval yesterday to an Israeli proposal to withdraw its troops gradually from Palestinian areas, beginning in the Gaza Strip, in exchange for a Palestinian crackdown on militants.

"There is preliminary approval for the Israeli security plan," said the planning minister, Nabil Sha'ath, after the weekly cabinet meeting. Some details of the offer remained unclear, he said, and ministers would meet again to discuss them.

The Israeli defence minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, offered the so-called "Gaza first" plan earlier this week, suggesting that the pullback should begin there and in parts of the West Bank, perhaps the town of Bethlehem. It would be a pilot scheme to test whether Palestinian security police would clamp down on militants.

Mr Ben-Eliezer is the most ambitious Labour party member in Ariel Sharon's Likud-dominated coalition, and with elections less than a year away he has made a number of moves recently to give himself a marginally less bellicose profile than the prime minister.

The "Gaza first" proposal caught the Palestinian leadership off-guard and there were conflicting initial comments from ministers. Yesterday's apparent cabinet unity seemed to reflect a desire to grasp at any chance of easing the desperate situation on the West Bank and Gaza, as well as to look constructive before key talks involving three Palestinian ministers in Washington.

The new interior minister, Abdel Razeq Yehiyeh, was given the proposal by Mr Ben-Eliezer on Monday night.

The US secretary of state Colin Powell will meet Mr Yehiyeh, the Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, and the economics minister Maher al Masri in Washington today and on Friday.

They will be the first US talks with senior Palestinians since President George Bush urged Palestinians in June to replace Mr Arafat with new leaders "not compromised by terror".

Talks will focus on "Palestinian civil reform efforts, a renewal of security cooperation, and progress on political dialogue", the state department spokesman Philip Reeker said.

Arafat gives wary approval to Israeli offer of withdrawal: Despite grassroots scepticism, Palestinian cabinet hopes its response will give momentum to US talks

Israeli troops have just withdrawn after a five-day incursion into the casbah at Nablus. "At least 25 families were made homeless by house demolitions," Mahmoud al Aloul, the Arafat-appointed governor, told the Guardian as he sat in the home of a man who was shot dead on his roof by an Israeli sniper on Friday.

Mr al Aloul demonstrated that, below cabinet level, Palestinian leaders remain divided over the "Gaza first" plan. Speaking before the cabinet approved it, Mr al Aloul said: "This partial withdrawal idea is an Israeli plan to deceive and cheat the Palestinian people. This aggression must stop unconditionally and immediately."

Hamas also rejected the plan yesterday. Ismail Abu Shenab, a senior **Hamas** official in the Gaza strip, said the proposal was only meant to reduce international criticism of Israel.

Early yesterday, in an apparent warning about the penalties which could still await the Palestinians if they reject the initiative, up to 30 Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles crossed into the northern part of the Gaza Strip. They withdrew three hours later, leaving a Palestinian policeman dead.

In northern Israel, police yesterday arrested two Arab Israeli nursing students on suspicion of failing to tell authorities about the impending suicide bomb attack on the bus which blew up on Sunday. The two **women**, both 19, got off after the bomber told one of them that "something horrible" would happen, said Ilan Harush, the local police chief.

Twenty minutes later, the bomber blew himself up, killing nine passengers.

The **women** said that they did not think they had to inform police, he added, and they were now cooperating with investigators.

Special report on Israel and the Middle East: guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

Israeli forces reoccupy Bethlehem

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

November 22, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1017 words

Byline: By Lee Keath Associated Press writer

Body

BETHLEHEM, West Bank -- Israeli troops reoccupied Bethlehem today, searching homes and deploying tanks outside the Church of the Nativity after 11 bus passengers, including four youngsters, were killed in a Jerusalem suicide bombing.

With troops back in Bethlehem, Israel was again in control of all Palestinian population centers in the West Bank except for the quiet oasis of Jericho -- mirroring the massive deployment that capped military offensives in April and June.

However, Israel's range of responses is limited; it is under pressure from the United States to keep a lid on Mideast violence while Washington concentrates on its campaign against Iraq. In responding to Thursday's bus bombing, the Israeli military was expected to stick to tried methods, such as hunting militants and demolishing homes of terror suspects.

Expelling Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, an option previously raised by hard-liners in the Israeli Cabinet, was not discussed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz in consultations Thursday.

Sharon said today that Israel would show no mercy to militants. "Anyone who harms Israel, a little or a lot, will have his hand chopped off," Sharon said, using a biblical phrase.

Arafat accused Israel of destroying peace prospects, "not only with the Palestinian people, but with all countries in the Middle East and Arab nations."

Also today, Israeli troops exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen in the Jenin refugee camp during an army raid of the hideout of a local leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group. A U.N. official from Britain and an 11-year-old Palestinian boy were killed in separate incidents in the camp, doctors and U.N. officials said. An Irish national was wounded by army fire in the camp, a Palestinian monitoring group said.

In the Gaza Strip, two Palestinian assailants and an Israeli soldier were killed today. One Palestinian had tried to infiltrate into a Jewish settlement and the second -- from the Islamic militant group **Hamas** -- had attacked an army patrol.

Israeli troops also razed five homes or parts of homes of Palestinian terror suspects -- two in Gaza, two in Nablus and one in Bethlehem.

Israeli forces reoccupy Bethlehem

Israeli police said the Jerusalem bus bombing was carried out jointly by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Both groups claimed responsibility, but neither called it a joint attack.

In the Gaza refugee camp of Jebaliya, Hamas leaders told about 2,000 supporters that attacks would continue. "Our resistance will continue until we uproot the occupation," said a leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

The bomber, 22-year-old Nael Abu Hilail from Bethlehem, blew up 11 pounds of explosives strapped to his waist on a Jerusalem city bus that carried youngsters on their way to school. Among those killed were seven adults and four youths, ages 8, 13 and 16.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo condemned "all acts of violence which target Palestinian and Israeli civilians." He blamed Israel for the violence, but called on Palestinian factions to stop targeting Israeli civilians.

Early Friday, Israeli armored vehicles rolled into Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem. Three tanks and armored personnel carriers were deployed outside the Church of the Nativity, Christianity's holiest shrine, to prevent gunmen from seeking refuge there. In the April offensive, gunmen hid in the shrine, leading to a monthlong standoff with Israeli soldiers.

Troops blew up the Bethlehem house rented by Abu Hilail's family -- an Israeli measure meant to discourage suicide attacks and punish bombers' families. Fatima Abu Hilail, the bomber's mother, said the army arrested her husband.

"It is an inhuman, criminal act. I was left without a house for my children," Abu Hilail said as she sat beside the rubble of her home with a group of women.

Army officials said the Israeli presence in Bethlehem was open-ended, but that troops hoped to be out by Christmas. "The idea is to have a completely safe atmosphere by Christmas so that tourists can come without fear of a terrorist attack," said an army spokesman, Doron Spielman.

However, in the past 26 months of fighting, Israeli soldiers have repeatedly kept foreign visitors out of Bethlehem, Jesus' traditional birthplace, citing security reasons. Palestinian merchants have complained that the closure is destroying the town's economy, which heavily depends on tourism.

Troops imposed a curfew on Bethlehem, the nearby towns of Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour, as well as the Dheisheh refugee camp. Lt. Col. Guy Hasson, a senior commander, said soldiers were searching for 30 Palestinians involved in Thursday's attack and other bombings. By daybreak Friday, 20 people had been arrested.

Troops in jeeps cruised through empty streets, following maps with the houses of wanted Palestinians marked. Detained Palestinians were blindfolded, their hands bound with plastic handcuffs, and loaded into armored personnel carriers.

In one raid, troops moved through an olive grove and surrounded a one-story house. Soldiers banged on the door. An elderly man in a bathrobe and a man in his 20s came out. Soldiers ordered the young man to lift his windbreaker and place his hands on a wall before leading him off to other houses.

Israel pulled troops out of Bethlehem in August after a two-month occupation.

The U.N. official, identified as Ian Hook, 50, was killed as Israeli troops raided the hideout of an Islamic Jihad fugitive in the Jenin camp. At the time, there was an exchange of fire between soldiers and Palestinian gunmen, witnesses said.

Hook and several other U.N. officials were in a U.N. small compound, consisting of several mobile homes, near the fugitive's hideout, said Sami Mshasha, a U.N. spokesman.

Israeli forces reoccupy Bethlehem

The U.N. officials in the camp were on the phone, trying to arrange their safe evacuation, when Hook was killed, Mshasha said. "Several bullets hit the trailer and hit him," Mshasha said.

Israeli military officials confirmed exchanges of fire in Jenin. The army said it was not clear yet whether the U.N. official was killed by Israeli or Palestinian fire, and that the incident was under investigation.

Load-Date: November 22, 2002

End of Document

Mideast peace in US hands

The Southland Times (New Zealand)

October 2, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: FEATURES; EDITORIAL;

Length: 603 words

Body

THE sting of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's humiliating rebuke from the United States over his siege of Yasser Arafat's West Bank headquarters appears to have been shortlived.

Barely 24 hours after receiving a rare slap on the hand from US President George Bush and succumbing to international pressure to end Israel's 10-day blockade of the Palestinian leader's compound in Ramallah, Mr Sharon's troops again had their guns trained on Mr Arafat's offices.

The tanks had gone but news agencies reported that Israeli troops had occupied two Palestinian houses in front of the Muqataa compound and pointed their guns out of the windows towards Mr Arafat's all-but-pulverised headquarters. Mr Sharon is a man not easily swayed and he clearly does not take direction with good grace. However, if the reports are correct it is yet another blatant case of Israel flying arrogantly in the face of international opinion -- and more specifically the United Nations Security Council.

Last week the council passed Resolution 1435, demanding Israel "immediately cease measures in and around Ramallah, including the destruction of Palestinian civilian and security infrastructure." A continued aggressive Israeli presence in Mr Arafat's face indicates, at the very least, that Mr Sharon doesn't care what the Security Council thinks. By virtue of Israel's economic, political and human ties to the US, however, he is obliged to care what the US thinks. In future Mr Sharon will have to play his heavy-handed stalking game against the Palestinian leader much more carefully.

Until now Washington has turned a paternal blind eye to Israel's excessive and frequently indiscriminate displays of military superiority in the occupied territories, justifying them as legitimate responses to terrorist attacks on Israeli soil by Palestinian extremists. However, since the al-Qaida attacks on September 11 last year the US has adopted a much broader definition of what constitutes terrorism, and is trying to convince the world that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is a global terrorist threat who must be destroyed at all costs.

Any link between al-Qaida and Saddam is tenuous to say the least -- Mr Bush slapped them together with implausibly broad brush strokes in his "axis of evil" speech -- but for reasons that run to the deeply personal the president wants Saddam, "the guy who tried to kill my dad," dead.

To achieve that, the US desperately needs international support, including the blessing of an Arab world increasingly alienated and outraged by Israel's brutal retributions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The car bombs of **Hamas** and other militant extremist groups are a vicious reminder to Israel that its occupation of those lands is depriving the Palestinian people of their right to a home state. But not all Palestinians agree that

Mideast peace in US hands

there is honour and glory to be gained by sending suicide bombers to take a few Israelis with them to meet Mohammed.

Some of the leaders mooted as possible successors to Mr Arafat -- himself inextricably linked to **Hamas** -- favour a peaceful path to nationhood.

However, while the extremists continue to blow up themselves and innocent Israeli men, **women** and children, and while Israel responds to each such attack by obliterating under a hard rain of missiles and bullets innocent Palestinian men, **women** and children at a rate of more than two to one, there is little hope of getting the peace process back on track. Mr Bush would be doing the Middle East -- and the world -- a huge service if he continued to exert as much influence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as he did when it suited him to.

Load-Date: October 2, 2002

End of Document

Pullout by Israel equivalent to suicide

USA TODAY

August 12, 2002, Monday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 595 words

Body

USA TODAY reader Ray McCaffrey says that Israel, to help restart the peace process, should withdraw from the "occupied territories." That's like telling Israel to commit suicide ("Israel must end its occupation," Letters, Thursday).

As long as **Hamas** and other Palestinian terrorist organizations openly assert that their goal is the total destruction of Israel, that country cannot turn the Palestinians loose. Israel has never existed on Arab maps. **Hamas** and its Arab supporters consider all of Israel to be illegally occupied Palestinian Arab land.

When the British ended their World War I mandate of control over Palestine through the League of Nations and divided Palestine between Israel and Jordan in 1948, the Palestinians controlled all of the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Not satisfied, the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors unsuccessfully attacked Israel on three fronts. That was Israel's war of independence in 1948.

Since then, Israel has had to fight four more wars to survive.

The occupation is the result, and it must continue until the Palestinians end their indiscriminate murder of Israeli Jews, Arabs, tourists, babies, children, pregnant **women** and visiting students.

Peace will come when the Palestinians end the terror, cancel their still-existent 1948 declarations of war and recognize the right of Israel to exist.

Jesse W. Brodey

White Plains, N.Y.

Israel ignores Palestinian rights

I agree with USA TODAY reader Anne Selden Annab's letter regarding the plight of the Palestinians in the Middle East (" 'Honest' account depicts reality of Palestinians' lives," Wednesday).

Israel does not become a democracy simply by calling itself so; it must act like one. Jews have a good track record of advocating civil rights, tolerance and help for those in need -- except when it comes to the Palestinian people.

Of course the suicide bombings must stop. They are totally unacceptable. But so is Israel's disregard for the rights of the Palestinians.

Pullout by Israel equivalent to suicide

Through its harsh policies against the Palestinians, Israel has embarrassed current and past U.S. presidents and our prestige in the world arena.

We should ask our government to stand up to Israel by threatening to hold back American aid and military support until it makes a concrete contribution to peace in the Middle East.

Why not put the same amount of pressure on the Israelis to get rid of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as we are applying on the Palestinians to get rid of leader Yasser Arafat?

Edward Turner

Charlotte

Are Saudis friends?

A recent Rand Corp. briefing for the Pentagon described oil-rich Saudi Arabia as an emerging enemy of the United States and a backer of terrorism.

But the Pentagon responded that Saudi Arabia is "a longstanding friend and ally" and that the Saudis "cooperate fully in the global war on terrorism" ("U.S. calls Saudis an ally despite think tank's briefing," News, Wednesday).

There's no doubt the Pentagon is correct that Saudi Arabia is fully involved, but the questions are: With whom and on whose side?

* Fifteen of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were Saudis.

* Saudi Arabia indirectly helped finance Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda and continues to teach its radical, militant brand of Islam around the world -- including in the United States.

Saudi Arabia has one of the most repressive governments in the world and is an enemy of all we hold dear.

The Saudis are not allies, but our enemies. It is time that we recognize them for what they are and begin implementing measures to protect ourselves from their duplicity and deception.

Michael W. Jones

Lumberton, Texas

Load-Date: August 12, 2002

Israel used flechettes in killing of 4 in family

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 30, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 585 words

Byline: ALAN PHILPS

Dateline: SHEIKH AJLIN, Gaza Strip

Body

It was a terrible weapon that took the lives of four fruit-pickers from a Palestinian family yesterday. Local people said an Israeli tank had shelled the orchard where they were sleeping, but there was no sign of shell craters or shrapnel.

On closer inspection, it was clear that many of the unpicked figs had been torn to shreds, and the trunks of the trees were pin-cushioned with tiny metal darts - called "flechettes" - like an inch-long nail with fins at one end. Some darts bored deep into the wood. Others cut branches in half, while some just scraped bark off the trees.

London Daily Telegraph

It was this hail of darts - 3,000 are contained in one shell that bursts in the air - that killed four members of the al-Hajeen family.

They were Ruwaida Hajeen, 55, her sons, Ashraf, 23, and Nihad, 17, and a cousin, Mohammed, 20. Two other family members are critically wounded.

Doctors at Gaza's Shifa hospital showed X-rays of the darts embedded in the chest of 16-year-old Salah. He is expected to live even though the Israeli army, according to the hospital doctors, prevented ambulances from rescuing him for an hour.

The army said its soldiers protecting the nearby Jewish settlement of Netzarim had fired on "several suspicious figures" in the dark.

The soldiers should not have been surprised to see a family under the fig trees. There is a hut, a water cask, cooking equipment and oil lamps, in addition to bedding, and a family car.

"They have been living here for two months, ever since the fruit season started," said Naji Siyam, a neighbouring chicken farmer.

"They live in Jabalya camp, but this is their land, and they have to bring the figs and grapes to market by dawn, so they sleep here."

Israel Orders Inquiry

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli defence minister, said he regretted the deaths of "innocent Palestinians" and ordered an urgent inquiry.

Israel used flechettes in killing of 4 in family

But that is unlikely to satisfy the Palestinians, who called off talks on implementing the stalled "Gaza-Bethlehem first" withdrawal agreement, which is now at a critical stage.

There has not been a Palestinian suicide bombing inside Israel for three weeks, but the terrorist group **Hamas** has threatened revenge.

"Members of one family were killed in cold blood," said **Hamas** spokesman Mahmoud Zohar.

"When there are killings of Palestinian civilians, Israel can expect killings of its civilians."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called the attack "a deliberate crime that aims to sabotage peace efforts."

Other developments yesterday include:

n Violence continued in Rafah, on the Gaza-Egypt border, where Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy. Israeli forces opened fire after children threw rocks and bottles at Israeli tanks that were tearing down structures, residents said.

n A preliminary report from the UN said Palestinians are suffering from ever-worsening economic deprivation and the threat of malnutrition as a result of two years of fighting. It said 70 per cent of people in Gaza and 55 per cent in the West Bank live below the poverty line, defined as per-capita consumption of \$3 a day. The full report is to be issued next week.

n The Justice Ministry said that an Israeli court has indicted Suad Abu Hamad, a 25-year-old Israeli Arab woman for planning a suicide bomb attack. The indictment indicated that the woman was planning twin suicide bombings with a member of Arafat's Fatah movement. That plan was thwarted on Aug. 7, when Israeli troops stormed the group's Tulkarm hideout.

Graphic

Color Photo: AHMED JADALLAH, REUTERS; Palestinian **women** and children, relatives of the four members of the al-Hajeen family killed in the Gaza Strip, cry during the funeral yesterday.

Load-Date: August 30, 2002

Public liability stopping people from having fun

The Cairns Post/The Cairns Sun (Australia)

August 12, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Pg. 9

Length: 614 words

Body

WHAT'S happening to us as humans taking responsibility for own actions? It's easy to blame someone or something for what happens to you. It's much more difficult to face your ego and be responsible for your own "stuff".

By blaming others, having fun is becoming more difficult. So many people are suing others these days.

Having fun has become very restricted because of public liability. It has become an opening for an excuse to get money out of someone for something you created yourself.

All of a sudden you hurt yourself somewhere and insurance gives you the excuse to sue.

What happened in the "old days", when insurance didn't exist? How did they deal with the situation?

Insurance has its place, but is it getting over the top? So many events have not continued in Cairns because they could not afford to pay the ridiculous cost of insurance.

For example, a healing day where people could get massage, acupuncture, readings etc for a very reasonable price was going to cost \$1000 just to cover people walking around the area.

Certain children's events are no longer happening because of liability insurance. What if you went to a laughing group and got a hernia from laughing too much? Would you sue the group for giving it to you or would you take responsibility, and admit you haven't laughed that well for so long and gave yourself a hernia.

One could blame the Government for printing brainwashing messages on packets of cigarettes telling you you're going to die if you smoke the chemicals they allowed to be put in cigarettes in the first place. But you chose to smoke it.

It's the same if you chose to drink excessively, do drugs or anything else that is addictive to you.

Addictions are also eating, cleaning, working, gambling, shopping and so on.

I believe if it is in control of you it is an addiction. It's yours, no one else's.

Cheryl Davies, Adam Drive, Brinsmead Glen.

Iraq powderkeg

Public liability stopping people from having fun

I AM gravely concerned about the sabre-rattling coming from Canberra. Australian involvement in a war against Iraq would be long and messy.

Assuming they've learnt something (as losers do, but winners don't) since operation Desert Storm of 1991, it will not be as easy to beat them a second time.

Australia would then be obliged to maintain an occupation force to help set up a democratic, pro-West government.

Considering that the Middle East is and always has been a powderkeg, our chances of success are small.

The Australian armed forces have no reserves, and with our involvement in East Timor and Bougainville, they are stretched to the limit.

To blindly follow the United States into Iraq would undoubtedly mean conscription in order to sustain all the overseas conflicts Australia has become involved in. That will inevitably mean a return to the social upheaval Australia experienced during Vietnam, and our servicemen (conscripts) on their return are likely to get the same welcome.

We would also be attracting terrorist attacks which would compound another Vietnam-type scenario.

Public opinion probably is in favour of it, as it initially was in Vietnam. But it will change, and then it will be excruciatingly difficult to get out. It would be extremely foolhardy for Australia to sycophantically bolster America in another conflict. Richard Kubicki, Anderson St, Manunda.

Don't kids count?

WHILE I agree with Ian Lindsay ("No protests as civilians die", 2-8-02), but I feel he has omitted a vital argument - the deliberate policy of Hamas (and other terrorists) of hiding behind women and children.

When Israelis retaliate, we see TV footage of injured children - but not when the Hamas bomb innocent women and children.

Don't Israeli children count?

Robert L. Connell, PO Box 353W, Westcourt.

Load-Date: August 12, 2002

Gunmen pick off bus passengers after bomb attack

The Times (London)

July 17, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 14

Length: 599 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Emmanuel

Body

A NINE-MONTHS' pregnant mother told last night how she cowered on the floor of a bus as Palestinian gunmen disguised as Israeli soldiers killed seven Jewish settlers and injured 15 in a gun and bomb ambush.

Dying women and children - including a grandmother, her son-in-law and his baby daughter of eight months - lay in piles within the shattered coach as it came to rest in a hillside ditch leading to the West Bank settlement of Emmanuel (God Is With Us).

The attack, the first on Israelis for more than three weeks, came only hours before Colin Powell, the US Secretary of State, was to host a meeting of Arab, European, Russian and United Nations leaders to discuss proposals for an end to violence in the Middle East. The White House said that it is no longer prepared to deal with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Natalya Poliak, who is due to give birth in a week, was sitting beside the back door of the armoured No 189 bus as it neared the hilltop settlement when she heard an explosion outside. Police said that the attackers had detonated a roadside bomb and opened fire on the bus as it careered across the deserted road, near the entrance to the ultra-Orthodox settlement. They then threw hand grenades at the bus, some of which fell inside it but failed to explode.

"They started shooting from both sides of the road, very, very close to the bus. I saw at least two people shooting from the side I could see," Mrs Poliak, 36, said.

"Everyone was terrified, but I was right next to the back door; I had no place to run," she added.

Different Palestinian groups have claimed responsibility, including Hamas, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It was the first fatal attack since June 20, the day on which Israeli forces reoccupied seven of the eight leading Palestinian towns across the West Bank and imposed curfews.

Israel has postponed plans for new talks with the Palestinians, an announcement that came before a meeting in New York of the "quartet" of diplomatic players seeking to end the Middle East deadlock - the US, the UN, the European Union and Russia.

Eitan Ben Zakai, the first ambulanceman to reach the armoured bus, found the doors jammed by the blast, so he jumped through one of the narrow side windows shattered by bullets. "The screaming was so loud I couldn't hear anything else," he said. "I was stepping on the bodies of women and children, some dead and some wounded.

Gunmen pick off bus passengers after bomb attack

"I pulled out two or three babies and handed them out the window; one was screaming so loudly. Then I started treating the injured, going from one to the other. One dead woman was lying on top of her children, one of them also looked dead. It was impossible to tell. All I could see was piles and piles of bodies."

Avrams Cohen, the settlement's security chief, said that he had arrived at the scene within minutes after being alerted by a wounded passenger and saw what he assumed were three Israeli soldiers.

"I asked them if I could help them, but before I could finish the sentence all three started shooting at me," Mr Cohen said. He ran to his bullet-proof car, threw it into reverse and raced back to the settlement.

Emmanuel lies on a remote hilltop three miles off the main road between the Palestinian towns of Nablus and Qalqilya. A similar attack by Hamas in the same spot in December killed 11 people.

The US condemned the bus attack last night. Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesman, said: "This underscores the importance of focusing on peace and working with leaders in the Palestinian Authority dedicated to peace."

Load-Date: July 17, 2002

End of Document

'Honest' account depicts reality of Palestinians' lives

USA TODAY

August 7, 2002, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 558 words

Body

Thanks for publishing the brutally honest commentary by Sherri Muzher, an American of Palestinian descent ("Mideast conflict bores too many," The Forum, Friday).

I am outraged by our media's fixation on Israeli pain and suffering, especially when compared with the meager and limited information provided about the plight of Palestinians. I am shocked that U.S. taxpayers are giving billions of dollars in aid that empowers Israel's policies of apartheid.

Despite the ongoing suicide bombings, Jewish Americans are still eagerly encouraging their kids to study in Israel. Jewish-only roads lead to Jewish-only settlements occupied by a fair portion of American Zionists and guarded by American zealots determined to protect "the Jewish state."

It is obvious that the Palestinians are not monsters. They have just complaints about being made into refugees and being impoverished and persecuted by Israel. It's clear to me that Israel's continued racism is made possible with U.S. aid.

A two-state solution is no longer possible because of Israel's state-sponsored terrorism, which includes many illegal settlements.

The only hope now is a secular state with full and equal rights for all. A good first step would be for the United States to stop supporting and sustaining Israel and start paying attention to what is really going on.

Anne Selden Annab

Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Comments 'distort reality'

It is unfortunate that commentary writer Sherri Muzher deludes herself and others about the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during the past several years.

She would have us believe that the current intifada represents a "Palestinian freedom uprising" in which 1,700 Palestinians have been murdered. This is a distortion of reality.

A little more than two years ago, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and former president Bill Clinton sat down with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and negotiated a fair diplomatic settlement to this very complex and painful conflict.

'Honest' account depicts reality of Palestinians' lives

Unfortunately, Arafat proved powerless to take this step toward peace and covertly began supporting militant terrorists in the hopes of gaining further concessions.

Arafat played with fire, and now the situation is out of control. The result: The whole region is getting burned.

This is yet another instance in which the Palestinian leadership has let the world down. It is offensive for Muzher to suggest that strapping bombs to teenagers and sending them to blow up innocent women and children is some sort of freedom uprising.

Stephen Mendelson

Huntington Woods, Mich.

Understanding turns to anger

I feel deep empathy for both the Israeli and Palestinian causes. However, when one side purposefully targets civilians for violence, as Hamas and other groups have, the understanding turns to anger.

Most of those killed by Israel have indeed been "collateral damage," harmed by their proximity to justly targeted military actions. As awful as they are, these deaths are not murder.

Sherri Muzher's anger should be directed at those who operate in and around civilian areas, knowing full well that they will be targeted as Israel attempts to secure itself.

When America was attacked on Sept. 11, I saw Palestinians dancing in the streets. Mothers are happy their sons blow themselves up to kill innocent Israeli civilians. Such people aren't worthy of my support.

Mark Peters

Erwin, Tenn.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi, AP; Mourners: Friends of Meisoun Amin Hasan cry during her funeral Monday in the northern Israeli village of Sajur. Hasan was one of nine persons killed in the suicide bombing of a bus Sunday claimed by the radical Islamic group Hamas.

Load-Date: August 7, 2002

**Mideast toll reaches 19 in violent surge;
A suicide bomber killed nine on a bus. Other incidents occurred across
Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

August 5, 2002 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A01; news

Length: 985 words

Byline: John Ward Anderson and Molly Moore Washington Post

Dateline: MERON JUNCTION, Israel

Body

A suicide bomber detonated a powerful explosive on a morning commuter bus in northern Israel yesterday, killing at least nine people and himself and injuring more than 40. Hours later, three men were killed in a shooting involving a Palestinian gunman and Israeli police in Jerusalem.

At least 19 people were killed and 64 were injured in incidents yesterday and early today across Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, or **Hamas**, claimed responsibility for the bus attack. It said the bombing was part of the continuing retaliation against Israel for the July 22 bombing of a Gaza City neighborhood that killed a senior leader of its military wing and 14 other people, including nine children.

Hamas has claimed to have carried out two major attacks resulting in the deaths of 16 people, including five U.S. citizens killed at Jerusalem's Hebrew University last week, as acts of revenge for the Gaza bombing.

"Palestinian terrorism continues to strike at the very heart of Israel," said David Baker, an official in the office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "Palestinian terrorists view terrorism against innocent Israeli civilians as a feeding frenzy, and their appetite for murder is never quite satisfied."

President Bush, speaking from Kennebunkport, Maine, said: "There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process that we have started. We must not let them."

Israel's military clampdown on the West Bank has kept many Palestinians confined to their homes for most of the last six weeks, but militants continue to elude the troops to carry out attacks.

Mideast toll reaches 19 in violent surge; A suicide bomber killed nine on a bus. Other incidents occurred across Israel , the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli police investigating the bombing near a remote bus stop five miles from the Lebanese border near the northern Israeli town of Safed said the bus probably was targeted because of the large number of Israeli soldiers who use the line on Sunday mornings to return to their bases after weekend leaves.

Three soldiers were among the people killed on the bus, and 23 were injured. The Israeli military identified the dead soldiers, all sergeants, as Roni Ganm, 28; Omri Goldin, 20; and Yfat Gabrieli, 19.

Other victims who died included two Philippine workers, two Israeli women, and a 24-year-old Israeli man. One young woman believed to be a Palestinian also was killed.

Oshrat Amram, 17, was waiting for the bus at the Meron Junction stop when "suddenly the front of the bus blew up and the bus started going up in flames."

Amram said, "I saw soldiers flying out of the bus, I saw soldiers lying on the road, I saw one soldier with pieces of flesh stuck on him, and I saw another soldier on the road shouting, 'Am I dead? Am I alive? Tell me!'"

Oren Rabinovich, 23, a soldier on his way back to base after a weekend with his family in the coastal town of Nahariyya, said the bus was packed, mostly with soldiers, when he boarded.

"There was a boom and shouts and lots of blood. I couldn't move," Rabinovich said, adding that rescuers pulled him out of a bus window.

Several survivors said they detected no one who appeared to be suspicious aboard the bus, which made stops in Jewish towns and Arab villages along its route through Galilee. The bus began its trip in Haifa at 7:15 a.m. and ended one hour and 15 minutes later just west of its final destination in the city of Safed.

Hamas said it would not release the name of the bomber as part of a new policy to prevent Israeli military forces from punishing relatives of bombers by destroying their houses or exiling them to Gaza. An Israeli military spokesman said nine Palestinian houses were destroyed yesterday near the West Bank cities of Jenin, Hebron and Nablus.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bus attack, but issued a statement that said Israel's policy of "mass detentions, repressive measures and home demolitions" was responsible for the cycle of violence.

About three hours after the bus bombing, a Palestinian man walked up to an Israeli telephone company truck parked across the street from the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City and began shooting, witnesses said.

The gunman killed a security guard in the truck and wounded the driver. Seconds later, Israeli police began firing, and the gunman was killed and an Arab bystander was killed by cross fire. More than a dozen people were hurt, most of them Palestinians, according to Israeli officials.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group associated with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the shooting. The gunman was later identified as a 19-year-old Palestinian from Hebron.

In other violence yesterday, Palestinian security officials said a truck driver was shot and killed in the West Bank town of Hebron while violating the curfew. An Israeli military spokesman said the incident was under investigation.

In the northern part of the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man in a scuba-diving suit after he emerged from the Mediterranean Sea near the Israeli settlement of Elei Sinai. A military spokesman said a Kalashnikov with four magazines of bullets and eight grenades were found on his body.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, where Israel launched a large military incursion last week, three Israeli soldiers were injured when a booby trap exploded near them, the military spokesman said. He said soldiers discovered another weapons laboratory - the fourth uncovered in two days - and destroyed it in a controlled blast.

Mideast toll reaches 19 in violent surge; A suicide bomber killed nine on a bus. Other incidents occurred across Israel , the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The bloodshed continued after midnight. Palestinians opened fire on a car traveling on the main road through the West Bank, between Ramallah and Nablus, killing an Israeli couple and wounding two of their children, the military said.

Also, Israeli troops today fatally shot two Palestinians, including a fugitive local leader of Arafat's Fatah movement, in the village of Borqa north of Nablus, relatives said.

Load-Date: August 5, 2002

End of Document

Suicide attacks to return

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

January 12, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 220 words

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad said yesterday it was scrapping a deal with Yasser Arafat to stop suicide attacks in Israel.

The move opened the way to fresh violence and dealt a blow to US peace efforts.

REUTERS

The group's military wing in the West Bank announced its decision after Israeli tanks and bulldozers demolished dozens of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip in retaliation for an attack by **Hamas** which killed four Israeli soldiers.

Homeless **women** and children were left shivering in mud in a field of craters where their houses stood.

Israeli tanks and bulldozers also ploughed up runways at the Palestinian-controlled Gaza International Airport in the small hours of yesterday morning.

Pressure also mounted on Mr Arafat over Israel's seizure of a ship which it said was carrying 50 tonnes of arms to the Gaza Strip, an allegation denied by the Palestinian leadership.

US officials in Washington said there was a compelling case against high-ranking Palestinian officials over the shipment, and one senior US official said there were strong suspicions that Mr Arafat knew of the shipment.

Palestinian officials dismissed the charge against Mr Arafat but US President George W. Bush said he was beginning to suspect the shipment was intended to promote terror.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

Mideast peace process bombed

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

May 8, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A1; NEWS

Length: 980 words

Dateline: RISHON LETZION, ISRAEL

Body

A pool hall popular with Israeli teenagers became the latest Palestinian target yesterday when a suicide bomber set off nailstudded explosives and killed 16 people.

It was the first such attack in more than three weeks and the first since the Israeli army began pulling out of the main Palestinian cities on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

The dead included the bomber and at least 60 people were wounded, authorities said.

Haim Cohen, a police commander, said the attacker walked straight into the Sheffield pool hall in Rishon Letzion, a city of 100,000, 16 kilometres south of Tel Aviv.

Associated Press

"He entered all of a sudden into the hall and then he exploded," Cohen said.

Suicide bombings had been happening every few days until Israel consolidated its West Bank offensive. But there have been none since April 12, when a bomber blew herself up at a bus stop in Jerusalem, killing six people while U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was in the region trying to end the violence.

Al Manar TV in Lebanon said it received a claim of responsibility for the bombing from the Islamic militant group **Hamas**.

A **Hamas** spokesman, Mahmoud Zahar, said he could not confirm that but added, "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."

Since Israeli-Palestinian violence erupted in September 2000, there have been nearly 60 suicide bombings.

An attack March 27 that killed 28 people set off Israel's large-scale military operation two days later, aimed at uprooting what Israel called "terrorist infrastructure."

In a strong statement with a rare choice of words, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority yesterday called suicide bombings "terrorist crimes."

It said it would "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."

Mideast peace process bombed

Public opinion polls have shown many Palestinians believe suicide bombings are a legitimate weapon.

David Baker, an official at Sharon's office, blamed the Palestinian Authority for the bombing.

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

The latest bombing came as U.S. President George Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were meeting in the White House. It also came amid efforts to strike a deal which would end Israel's military siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and allow the completion of the withdrawal from the West Bank.

Sharon cut short his U.S. visit to head home, while Bush offered him condolences and registered "his disgust with this wanton waste of life," a Bush adviser said.

Outside the pool hall, young women and men cried as they looked up at the bombed-out building. Emergency workers tried to help many to ambulances as police investigators scoured the area for evidence.

Part of the ceiling on the top floor collapsed. A shop called Baby World occupied the ground floor.

SECURITY RULES BROKEN

Israel's Channel 2 TV said no security guard was posted outside the hall, despite new rules ordering places of entertainment to provide security.

Meir Nitzan, the mayor of Rishon Letzion, said more than 60 people had been taken to hospitals, some in critical condition.

Yeruham Mandola, a spokesman with the Israeli ambulance service Magen David Adom, said part of the three-storey building had caved in.

"Some of the wounded are trapped in the building," he said.

An Israeli woman identified on Israel Radio as Hanit Azulai said she headed home when she heard "a huge explosion."

"I turned the corner and I saw the whole building go up before my eyes."

Amit Elor, an off-duty soldier, was just outside when the blast occurred.

"All of a sudden we heard this loud blast with noises. I went in to help.

"It's simply shocking what is going on here."

It was not clear how the bombing would affect Israel's plans to withdraw from Bethlehem, the only Palestinian city where it still has a large military presence.

Israeli, Palestinian and international negotiators had discussed exiling 13 suspected militants in the church to Italy but the deal was delayed yesterday when officials in Rome said they hadn't received an official request.

A U.S. diplomat acknowledged the Italians had largely been kept in the dark.

All day, negotiators went back and forth over the deal to exile the 13 and transfer 26 others to Gaza, possibly under U.S. and British auspices.

One of the top wanted men inside the church, Abdullah Daoud, said he and the other 12 had agreed to exile in Italy.

Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the agreement was sealed and he had ordered troops to prepare to withdraw from Bethlehem.

Mideast peace process bombed

Bush has been pushing for Israel to withdraw from all the Palestinian-run areas it has occupied since March 29.

DEBATE OVER ARAFAT

Sharon wants to sideline Arafat but the Bush administration believes Sharon should accept Arafat as the leader of the Palestinians.

Arafat came under sharp criticism at home for agreeing to the deportations -- considered by many Palestinians to be the bitterest of punishments.

A leader of Arafat's Fatah movement on the West Bank, Hussein al-Sheik, said approving exile sets a dangerous precedent.

Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin called one of his followers, Aziz Abayat, inside the church and put pressure on him to reject the deal.

"Sheik Yassin told us that . . . anyone who accepts exile does not represent the movement's position," Abayat said.

The standoff in Bethlehem began April 2, when more than 200 people fleeing Israeli forces ran into the Church of the Nativity. About 75 have since emerged from the basilica.

Those remaining inside include the 39 gunmen, as well as civilians, clerics, policemen and 10 foreign supporters who slipped past Israeli guards last week.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

End of Document

National Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

January 29, 2002 Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. a7

Length: 622 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Body

Relatives of couple: Question Arafat

Relatives of a slain Jewish couple want their lawyers to question Yasser Arafat and five PLO security chiefs as part of a \$250 million federal lawsuit filed over the deaths.

The lawsuit was filed by the family last year against Arafat, the PLO and the Islamic group Hamas. It claims Palestinian officials were responsible for the 1996 shooting because they allowed Hamas to operate training facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and encouraged terrorism in the region.

The notices were filed in U.S. District Court in Providence and sent to the parties Jan. 24. The family of victims Yaron and Efrat Ungar is seeking depositions of Arafat and the others in Rhode Island in March.

"It's not a formality," said David J. Strachman, a lawyer for the family. "The PLO is involved in killing Americans and they have to answer for it."

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, a lawyer representing the PLO in the lawsuit, was out of the country and unavailable for comment, his office said.

Expert: Woman suffers from disorder, depression

DALLAS - A mother who locked her malnourished, 8-year-old daughter in a closet suffers from borderline personality disorder and depression, a psychiatrist for the defense testified Monday.

Dr. J. Douglas Crowder, testifying during the sentencing phase of the woman's trial, said the woman was adopted as a 3-year-old and felt unloved and angry as a child.

"We have here a miserable person that didn't know how to cope," he said.

Barbara Atkinson, 30, pleaded guilty Thursday to serious bodily injury to a child and faces five years to life in prison. Prosecutors said the girl was nearly dead when she was found last summer in a Hutchins mobile home, weighing only 25 pounds.

Bush names Terpeluk to ambassador post

National Briefs

WASHINGTON - President Bush on Monday chose Peter Terpeluk, a lobbyist and leading fund-raiser for Bush's presidential campaign, as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Terpeluk was among the "pioneers" who helped raise \$\$ @100,000 early in Bush's White House effort. He is a managing director of the lobbying firm American Continental Group in Washington.

Jury of 8 women, 4 men picked for Yates trial

HOUSTON - A jury of eight women and four men was picked Monday for the murder trial of Andrea Yates, the mother who claims she was suffering from postpartum depression when she drowned her five children in the bathtub.

Eight jurors indicated they have children. Two of them, both women, also said they had psychology degrees.

Yates, 37, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. She is charged in three of the drownings, which took place last June. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Jury selection began Jan. 7. Three alternate jurors must still be selected, and testimony is expected to begin in mid-February.

20 indicted in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA - Twenty people, including 18 current or former city officials, were indicted Monday in an alleged bribery scheme that cost the city more than \$\$ @2 million.

Federal prosecutors say city workers accepted bribes in the form of cash and merchandise - including air conditioners, computer equipment, televisions, car alarms and microwave ovens - in return for helping the now-defunct AAA Electric Motors Corp. overcharge the city for repairs.

Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia district attorney whose office investigated the case with the FBI, said city employees in five departments would take cash or merchandise equaling about one-third of the overcharged amounts, with the rest going to AAA.

AAA owner John Fafalios, 71, and his son, Nicholas Fafalios, 41, were named in the 35-count indictment. Also named were 18 former and current city supervisors authorized to sign invoices for repair work or equipment.

Load-Date: January 29, 2002

Powell ends trip with little to show

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

April 17, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1020 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM -- Ending a 10-day Mideast peace mission with little to show, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday that Israel had promised to withdraw troops from the West Bank within a week. He bluntly admonished Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that he had to do more to fight terrorism.

President Bush said Powell had made progress but made clear that much more remains to be done, saying, "the time is now for all to make the choice for peace."

Israel and the Palestinians blamed each other for Powell's failure to achieve more. "Who can accept this?" said an angry Arafat, complaining of the Israeli siege of his Ramallah headquarters.

Powell, for his part, focused on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's promise to wind down the Israeli military offensive in Palestinian towns and villages, calling the operation an obstacle to starting peace talks.

"I came here not knowing how long the operation would go on," Powell said. "We had heard everything from a couple more weeks to a couple more months. I leave here able to say to the president, it wasn't immediate but it is now coming to an end."

Bush, in a speech at Virginia Military Institute, offered next steps for all sides, saying the Palestinian Authority "must act -- must act -- on its words of condemnation of terror." Israel, he said, "must continue its withdrawal and all Arab states must step up to their responsibilities."

In a news conference before heading home via Egypt, Powell said he would return to the region "to move ahead" with efforts to get peace negotiations on track.

He gave no date and said in the meantime, CIA Director George Tenet, U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni and Assistant Secretary of State William Burns will try to improve security and direct the two sides to peacemaking.

After their meeting, Arafat focused on Israel's siege of his battered compound and appealed for international help.

"I have to ask the whole international world, I have to ask excellency President Bush, I have to ask the United Nations is this acceptable that I can't go outside the door?" he said, his voice rising with apparent exasperation.

"They are returning," Arafat said, referring to Israel's latest surge into Palestinian areas, after Sharon had said he would withdraw Israeli troops within a week from all towns and villages except Ramallah and Bethlehem. The Palestinian leader called Israel's siege of the holy Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem "shameful."

Powell ends trip with little to show

During their meeting, Powell asked Arafat to comply with Israel's request to hand over wanted suspects holed up with him in his Ramallah headquarters and to facilitate the surrender of gunmen who took refuge in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, Palestinian officials said.

But Arafat was outraged at the continued Israeli siege of the holy site, as well as of his own compound.

He called Israel's encirclement of the church "shameful," asking: "Who can accept this against these very holy sacred places?"

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks and troops returned to two West Bank villages Wednesday in a hunt for Palestinian suspects.

In the northern West Bank, the army conducted searches and arrested suspects in the villages of Silat a-Hartia, northwest of Jenin, and Balaa, east of Tulkarem, a spokesman said.

The army had been in both villages several times during the West Bank operation that began March 29 to seek out and arrest Palestinians it holds responsible for violence against Israel.

Overnight, Israeli forces sealed off the Palestinian neighborhood of Issawiyah in Jerusalem, removing residents and searching their homes for militant suspects. Police spokesman Gil Kleiman said two men were detained before the operation ended early Wednesday.

Residents said the military brought bulldozers into the village. Men were taken to a gas station and women and children to a school. Police imposed a nearly 18-hour curfew -- rarely done inside Jerusalem's city limits -- during which families were barred from returning to their homes. Many slept in their cars.

In Nablus, military authorities released some of the Palestinians detained in their sweep after questioning, including Associated Press reporter Mohammed Daraghme.

After Daraghme's release late Tuesday night, soldiers told him he had to walk home, 6 miles away, even though the city is under a strict curfew. Gunfire broke out near him at one point, and later, soldiers posted in the city ordered him to strip to his underwear to check for weapons.

Following Powell's mission, efforts appeared to be aimed at starting an international peace conference, probably in June, while senior U.S. officials continued working in the region.

Sharon has eased objections to Arafat's participation, saying it was not up to him to decide who would represent the other parties.

But the Palestinians were skeptical.

"The next steps are clear. We have all the right to defend ourselves. And now the Arab countries have to understand that they carry no weight with the Americans, who consider Sharon as the only leader in the region," said Dahlan, the security chief.

On Tuesday, Israeli forces entered three Palestinian villages near Jerusalem -- Abu Dis, Izzariyeh and Sawahra As-Sharkiyeh -- declared a curfew and searched for suspects, acting on intelligence of a planned attack.

Since the fighting began 18 months ago, 1,508 Palestinians and 468 Israelis have been confirmed killed, but the Palestinian death toll from fighting this week, mainly in the Jenin refugee camp, was still unclear.

At the Jenin refugee camp, scene of the heaviest fighting between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen and bombers, Red Cross teams joined the Israeli military in searching for bodies. Israel said it allowed humanitarian groups to bring food and medicine into the camp and were working to restore water and electricity.

In Gaza, the militant Hamas group issued an appeal to Muslims around the world to donate money, listing the prices of bullets, rifles and explosives. A posting on the Hamas Internet Web site said the group is manufacturing

Powell ends trip with little to show

rockets and other weapons and said that **Hamas** was responsible for 65 percent of Israeli deaths during 18 months of fighting.

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

End of Document

LETTERS: U.S. MUST PUSH ISRAEL TO SEEK A 2-STATE RESOLUTION TO VIOLENCE

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
April 7, 2002 Sunday CITY EDITION

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Section: LOCAL; LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Pg. 7B; LETTERS

Length: 959 words

Body

Those of us who remember the Nazi occupation of Europe are having a sense of déjà vu. We have seen repression of an occupied people before. We have seen massive retribution after an act of resistance. We are seeing it all again.

When one of Adolf Hitler's top aides was assassinated in the Czech village of Lidice, the German army shot the inhabitants and destroyed their houses. They leveled the entire village. Hitler could not stop the resistance, but he could create massive suffering among the civilian population.

This is what is happening today. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon thinks he can stop the Palestinian suicide bombers with massive retribution against innocent civilians. He seems to think isolating Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will magically stop the terrorists. It won't.

Hamas does not need Arafat or any other particular leader. What it needs is an unlimited supply of young people whose lives are so hopeless they will blow themselves up in order to kill a few Israelis. The more the civilian population is persecuted, the more recruits **Hamas** will have.

Israel depends on U.S. support. We therefore have a responsibility. We must push our administration to insist on prompt negotiations leading to a two-state resolution. Israel cannot continue if we withdraw our support.

We must do this for the sake of Israel. Unless some plan such as the one proposed by the Saudi Arabian crown prince is implemented, Israel's long-term survival as a nation is most unlikely. We or our children will be seeing another diaspora.

Carl D. Hyde Yellow Springs

Israel can't achieve peace through oppression

At last, our president said a few words about the awful situation in Palestine. Stop the incursion. Secretary of State Colin Powell is coming. We can only hope this is not too little, too late.

There have been at least five United Nations resolutions calling for an end to the occupation of Palestine, yet we have consistently ignored these possible roads toward peace. We can only hope our government will wake up from its slumber; take a big strong whiff of the blood, tear gas and gunpowder and finally get the message:

LETTERS: U.S. MUST PUSH ISRAEL TO SEEK A 2-STATE RESOLUTION TO VIOLENCE

Occupation is not the answer. Tanks are not the answer. Sending more helicopters and weapons to Israel is not the answer. Killing is not the answer. Bulldozing houses is not the answer. Depriving people of food, water and medical care is not the answer.

These tactics only encourage and escalate the violence. There are sane heads on both sides of this conflict who want an end to all of this mess.

Does the United States really want to encourage World War III? I think not. I hope not.

Madeline Breslin Centerville

Palestinian 'freedom fighters' deserve no support

The evening news as well as periodical and radio outlets intone the mantra equating the Palestinian and Israeli casualties like a major-league box score. "There have been 1,000 casualties, most of them Palestinians," is a line I grow weary of reading and hearing.

The obvious conclusion we are to draw is that the beleaguered and outnumbered Palestinians deserve our sympathy and help in their struggle as oppressed and evicted people. Lost in this diatribe is that they are asking us to compare apples to oranges - things that are not the same - as if they were.

On the Israeli side, the death toll has predominantly been innocent children, youths and women in shopping plazas or couples out for a meal. Hamas, as well as Al-Aqsa Brigade, Fatah and other groups well known in name and location to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat try to terrorize the Jewish people.

While claiming to be 'freedom fighters,' they mock those true freedom fighters of our past such as George Washington. True freedom fighters do not attack the innocent but focus on military targets.

Let us continue to support Israel's right to exist and protect itself from Osama bin Laden-like terrorism. Let us encourage our government to forgo the 'land for peace' proposal as we refuse extortion in hostage situations. And let us ever pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Ken Keene Bellefontaine

World holds Israel to a double standard

It has taken the Jewish people 2,000 years to get a homeland. Israel has struggled with enemies on every side since the beginning. The world has continued to hold Israel to a different standard. Why the double standard?

The United States would never sit by after a bombing such as occurred in the Park Hotel in Natanya on March 28, timed for the beginning of Passover, one of the most significant of Jewish holidays. Yet Israel has been pressured to show restraint after daily acts of Palestinian terrorism.

Why does the world, including the United States, expect Israel to do what any other country would not do? Why was Israel expected to not retaliate when Scud missiles were falling during Desert Storm? Why is Israel expected not to act in its own defense, not to act as any other country, especially the United States, would act?

Do you think for a moment that the United States would not be bombing an enemy that was sworn to its destruction as the Palestinians have sworn to destroy Israel, and who commit suicide bombings in grocery stores and college dorms, against 13-year-old boys hiking, families eating at Sbarro's and teens in a disco?

There are not two types of terrorism.

Karin Hirschkatz Clayton WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS All letters, including those sent by e-mail, must include the writer's full name, home address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters of fewer than 200 words are preferred; all are subject to editing.

LETTERS: U.S. MUST PUSH ISRAEL TO SEEK A 2-STATE RESOLUTION TO VIOLENCE

Because of volume, unpublished letters to the editor cannot be acknowledged. LETTERS ADDRESS Dayton Daily News, P.O. Box 1287, Dayton, Ohio 45401-1287. Fax 225-7302. E-mail: edletter@coxohio.com

Graphic

PHOTO, D.B. JOHNSON/LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE

Load-Date: April 10, 2002

End of Document

Four killed in shooting;

Irish News

February 11, 2002

Copyright 2002 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 14

Length: 614 words

Body

TWO Palestinian gunmen opened fire yesterday outside a large Israeli military base in the southern city of Beersheba, killing two women and seriously wounding five others before they were shot dead.

The gunmen sprang from a car and started shooting with automatic weapons near the gates of the army's southern command headquarters in the centre of the city, police said.

Many soldiers were on the streets during their lunch break, and quickly began firing back at the attackers, who were shot dead within minutes, witnesses and officials said.

The seven people shot by the attackers included soldiers and civilians, and two women died shortly afterwards, according to police spokesman Gil Kleiman.

"I was on the street and suddenly the two got out of a car and started firing in all directions, " Israeli army Captain Guy Shaham said.

"They were spraying from the hip in all directions."

"I whipped out my gun and started firing back at them, " Shaham said, adding that he felled one of the attackers. The second ran toward a shopping centre, but soldiers chased him down and killed him as well, Shaham said.

Israel TV said the area had been closed off and a search was on for a third Palestinian who may have been involved in the attack, disguised in the uniform of an Israeli soldier. But Shaham said he was sure there were only two attackers.

One of the dead assailants had explosives strapped to his body and was killed before he had a chance to detonate them, Kleiman said.

Palestinian militants have carried out scores of attacks in the 16 months of Mideast fighting. The desert city of Beersheba has been comparatively calm, but it is relatively close to both the West Bank and Gaza.

The latest attack underscored the vulnerability of such Israeli cities in the current situation: the main Palestinian cities are blockaded by the army, but there is little serious policing of the Israel-West Bank border itself, which snakes through hundreds of miles of hills, plains, woods and desert.

Four killed in shooting;

"We do not know how to hermetically seal the borders of Israel, " Israeli police chief Shlomo Aharonishki said when he was asked whether such attacks can be prevented.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli troops briefly entered the West Bank city of Nablus. The soldiers exchanged heavy fire with Palestinians.

The incursion came hours after a Saturday night roadside shooting by a Palestinian killed a 79-year-old Israeli woman and injured her son.

The soldiers in tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved into Nablus around 4am (0200 GMT) and gunbattles soon erupted.

Seven Palestinians were wounded, two seriously, Palestinian hospital officials said.

An Israeli attack helicopter circled overhead but did not open fire during the Israeli incursion, which lasted about two hours.

The Israeli military said its forces searched buildings, arresting several Palestinians, and left the city before daybreak.

The Israeli troops also took up positions around the Askar refugee camp in the city but did not go in.

Tanks broke through the doors of two nearby metal workshops and soldiers searched them.

The workshops belong to a man who is close to the militant Hamas group, Palestinian sources said.

Hamas announced recently that it has succeeded in manufacturing ground-to-ground rockets and showed them on a video film made available to the media.

Last week, Israeli soldiers seized some of the rockets, which were hidden under a load of vegetables on a Palestinian truck.

Elsewhere, an explosive round was fired from the Gaza Strip onto a communal farm in southern Israel.

Israeli military sources said they were investigating to see if a mortar or rocket was fired into a farm field.

No one was injured.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better

Ottawa Citizen

April 2, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A14; Editorial

Length: 591 words

Body

As each day dawns, it seems inevitable that another Palestinian terrorist will strap a bomb to his or her body and seek out civilians -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- to kill or maim. Just as inevitable are demands that Israel not retaliate against these murderous attacks, as if inaction would somehow stop the killings. That is utter nonsense. The Ottawa Citizen

The suicide bombers who are terrorizing Israel and the West Bank are controlled, trained, supported and incited by radical Palestinian, Arab and other groups bent on destroying the Jewish state. These groups, including segments of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, of **Hamas** and of Hezbollah (and their state-sponsors, Iran and Syria among them), do not want peace between Israelis and Palestinians. They will not regard kind gestures by Israel as anything but an excuse to step up their attacks.

That is why Israel was right on the weekend to declare "war" on terrorism and move to destroy terrorism's infrastructure. Middle East peace cannot be achieved until those who advocate terror are no longer able to use it.

That does not mean Israel must destroy all its enemies, but it must weaken them enough to make them deal, and that means striking a severe blow. Yet it is a measure of Israel's desire for a negotiated rather than a military settlement that it has exercised so much restraint -- even during its current exercise.

The Israeli Defence Force's siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah shows, for example, that Israel could, if it wished, kill the Palestinian leader. Instead, it permitted peace activists to meet him. Its tanks now on the streets of several West Bank cities could unleash total destruction; instead, the army's actions are targeted ones, aimed not at innocent **women** and children but at terrorists or those harbouring them.

Israel cannot remain idle in the face of relentless suicide bombings any more than the Canadian or American governments can when brutal attacks occur on our soil. (Anyone watching the first part of Trudeau on CBC Sunday night will recall how swiftly the prime minister suspended civil rights here under what, compared to Mideast standards, was small provocation. In the last four weeks alone, several dozen Israelis have been killed by suicide bombers). Israel's enemies must be taught to accept that it will exert its right to exist.

Thus, the suggestion that the Uni-ted States pressure Israel to pull back is misguided: The Americans now should let Israel do what it must. U.S. influence would be better directed at those states that sponsor terrorist groups, that have supplied Mr. Arafat with weapons and cash, and that have helped teach terrorist tactics to **Hamas** and Hezbollah "martyrs." Each and every suicide bomber is supported, trained and equipped by networks of terrorists who, in turn, are protected by several of Israel's neighbours.

Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better

Those networks must be destroyed or weakened. While Israel focuses on the fight at hand, its friends can insist nearby governments stop their mischief. And, longer term, western nations should be pressing for fundamental rights and democratic practices in other Middle East states. Prosperity and freedom at home may one day create more Arab leaders disinclined to side with terrorism.

Peace between Palestinians and Israelis is not impossible, as Israel's normalization of relations with Egypt and Jordan demonstrates.

The most dangerous obstacle to Middle East peace now is the belief that nations may not take action to trounce terrorism but must passively endure it.

Load-Date: April 2, 2002

End of Document

Middle East conflict takes to the air

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

February 13, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 08

Length: 566 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Highlight: Opening a new front, Israel has begun using F16s to attack sites in Gaza.

Body

Israeli F-16s circled through the Gaza skies yesterday. But as of nightfall, they had not fired any rockets as they had three times in the previous two days.

"Only [Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon knows if they will attack," says an officer outside the badly damaged headquarters of the Palestinian security forces on Gaza's main street.

The first Israeli airstrikes on Sunday took place hours after a the Islamic Resistance Movement, **Hamas**, killed two **women** soldiers in southern Israel.

Israel says it opted for greater use of the planes in order to deter Palestinians from using a new rocket, the Kassam 2, which is believed to put Israeli areas in range of Palestinian fighters several kilometers away.

"We are sending them a clear message not to use the Kassam 2," said army spokesman Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz.

With no diplomacy on the horizon, both sides see the nearly year-and-a-half-old conflict escalating. Israel has been turning more and more to its airforce, and increasingly uses the F-16s - provided by the United States to use only in cases of self defense - alongside the more accurate Apache helicopters that previously were the weapon of choice.

Palestinians say Israel's heightened use of the warplanes puts more of their civilians at risk. And Israel's leading military affairs commentator, Zeev Schiff, wrote yesterday that it is increasing the probability of a "mistake" in which a large number of civilians are killed. "This happened to the Americans frequently in Afghanistan and also to our best pilots in the past. He who magnifies use of the airforce must be ready for mistakes."

Several Kassam rockets fell harmlessly into an open area inside Israel when they were fired for the first time by members of **Hamas** on Sunday.

Middle East conflict takes to the air

Palestinians say the Israeli concern about the primitive rocket is ridiculous. The Israeli rockets fired from warplanes and helicopters on Gaza, for example, have wounded more than 40 members of the security forces and civilians since Sunday.

The difference in terms of damage and potential fatalities from the use of airplanes rather than helicopters is clear from the wreckage of Monday's attacks, during which one section of the police compound was struck by Apache helicopter rockets and a second by those fired from F-16s. The Apache rockets were so precise that they sailed through the windows of the building they struck. The outer structure of the building, including its roof, was still standing, complete with an intact antenna. Embers were still smoldering inside, where the furnishings had been blown to pieces.

Wa'il Kandal, the gym teacher at the Mutassim B'allah school about 200 yards away from the site of the Israeli strikes, said the children were sent home after the Apache helicopters began their attacks but before the F-16s fired their rockets.

Sixth grader Shihab Obeid recalled how the school's 800 children at first assembled in the courtyard. "Only the first graders were afraid," he said.

"We were afraid the school itself would be a target," says Kandal. "The Israelis can hit the school and then say it was a mistake, as they have done before when they killed children. They will say that they were aiming at the police headquarters. A hundred of our children will die, and what will the world do? Bush will tell Sharon, 'say you are sorry,' and that will be the end of it."

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Load-Date: February 12, 2002

**ISRAEL FIRES FOR SECOND DAY AT PALESTINIAN OFFICES IN GAZA;
ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER CALLS MILITANTS' ROCKET ATTACK "A
NEW LEVEL OF THREAT"**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 12, 2002 Tuesday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 512 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel unleashed another airstrike on Palestinian offices in Gaza City on Monday, as the defense minister declared that Palestinian militants had raised the stakes in the Mideast conflict by firing new, longer-range rockets.

The Islamic movement **Hamas** sent two Qassem rockets into southern Israel on Sunday, digging large craters in two farm fields. Israel viewed the missiles as a serious military escalation, because rockets launched from the West Bank and Gaza could reach some Israeli cities.

In response, Israeli warplanes fired six missiles Monday into the walled Saraya security compound in downtown Gaza City, setting buildings ablaze and sending black smoke into the sky.

More than 30 people were injured, most of them slightly. George Kochaniec, a photographer for Denver's Rocky Mountain News, was treated for a hand injury.

The attack unfolded at a time of changeover between morning and afternoon shifts at nearby schools. The streets were crowded with youngsters, who raced away from the explosions, some screaming in panic.

Hundreds of Palestinians ran to the compound, demanding that suspected Islamic militants jailed there be released.

In the West Bank city of Hebron on Monday, about 300 people stormed a Palestinian prison and released 17 inmates as security guards stood aside. One of the prisoners was Ayub Sidr, an Islamic Jihad activist. Palestinians said he was once the target of an Israeli assassination attempt.

Israeli warplanes blasted a separate Gaza City security compound Sunday night near the offices of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

In Washington, Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, criticized Israel's bombing in populated areas, warning that it could intensify the fighting. He also called on Arafat to make efforts to stop the rocket attacks.

Speaking about the Palestinians' rocket attack, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said it represented "a new level of threat."

ISRAEL FIRES FOR SECOND DAY AT PALESTINIAN OFFICES IN GAZA; ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER CALLS MILITANTS' ROCKET ATTACK "A NEW LEVEL OF THREAT"

"You try to deal with it in all sorts of ways - by intelligence, by prevention and by struggling against those places where you suspect and discover that there are factories or workshops for manufacturing those rockets," Ben-Eliezer said.

The rocket attack Sunday was the first with the homemade Qassem rocket in 16 months of fighting. The Qassem has a range of three to five miles, enough to hit Israeli towns from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the past, **Hamas** has fired several shorter-range Qassem rockets that caused no damage.

Also on Sunday, two Palestinian gunmen opened fire near the gates of one of Israel's biggest military bases, killing two **female** soldiers and wounding five other people before being killed in a hail of return fire.

Arafat, who has been restricted to the West Bank town of Ramallah by Israeli forces for the past two months, denounced the Israeli airstrikes Monday and called for international intervention.

"These attacks prove that (Israel's) government is not interested in quiet and stability," said Ahmed Qureia, the Palestinian Parliament speaker. "It should be clear there is no military solution to the conflict."

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Photo by EITAN HESS-ASHKENAZI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Idit Roteshtein comforts her mother, Aviva, at the funeral of Roteshtein's twin sister, Israeli soldier Karen Roteshtein, in the southern city of Ashkelon on Monday. Karen Roteshtein was one of two soldiers killed Sunday when Palestinian gunmen opened fire in a street outside an Israeli military base.; (2) Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - A building housing the Palestinian Public Security Directorate takes a hit from a missile from an Israeli F-16 fighter jet in Gaza City on Monday. The strike was in retaliation for a rocket attack by Palestinian militants on Sunday.; Note: photo and caption (2) appeared in the THREE STAR Edition.

Load-Date: February 12, 2002

**WOMAN TRIGGERS BOMB IN ISRAEL;
BLAST KILLS PALESTINIAN BOMBER, ELDERLY MAN**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 28, 2002 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 606 words

Byline: LEE HOCKSTADER, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian woman triggered a massive explosion in central Jerusalem's bustling main street yesterday, killing herself and an elderly Israeli man and injuring more than 150 people.

The blast littered Jaffa Street with body parts, debris and glass shards, soaking the pavement with blood and transforming the midday shopping rush at the start of Israel's work week into a ghastly tableau of carnage.

It was the fourth major terrorist attack on an Israeli city center in 11 days, and the second on the same block in six days. Israel is now in the throes of one of the bloodiest and most concerted waves of Palestinian attacks in its 54-year history, a string of assaults that is generating intense political pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to take drastic action, including jailing, exiling or eliminating Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Yesterday's explosion occurred a half-block from where a Palestinian gunman killed two people on Tuesday, so close that some just-replaced store windows were blown out for the second time in six days.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy suffered chest pains as he directed his officers at the scene of the bombing, and suffered a massive heart attack a short while later in a nearby hospital. He was in stable condition last evening.

Minutes before he walked to the hospital, short of breath, the 50-year-old Levy told journalists, "Even if I take all the 3,500 policemen I have, I still can't close the city hermetically."

Despairing, dejected and fearful of further attacks, many Jerusalem residents are now avoiding the city center, warning their children against venturing into crowds and dialing their relatives' cell phone numbers the moment they hear an ambulance siren. "Enough, enough, we don't have the strength for this," Simcha Levy, a witness to yesterday's bombing, told Voice of Israel radio. "It's just impossible to live like this."

The dead man was identified as Pinhas Tokatli, 81, a tour guide, seventh-generation Jerusalemite and grandfather of 13.

Two of the wounded were in serious condition; most of the others, including a number of Israeli police officers and some Arab Israelis, were being treated for cuts, burns and other wounds of varying severity.

WOMAN TRIGGERS BOMB IN ISRAEL ; BLAST KILLS PALESTINIAN BOMBER, ELDERLY MAN

The injured also included Jamie Sokolow, a 12-year-old American girl visiting Jerusalem with her parents. Her father, corporate lawyer Mark Sokolow, survived the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center, where his firm's offices were on the 38th floor of the South Tower.

A television station in Lebanon run by the militant Islamic Party of God, known as Hezbollah, reported the bomber was a Palestinian woman. Israeli sources confirmed it several hours later, after studying the mangled remains at the scene. They were not sure if the bomber intended to blow herself up -- virtually unprecedented for a Palestinian woman -- or was carrying or planting the bomb when it exploded prematurely.

There were unconfirmed reports identifying the bomber as Shahinaz al-Amari, a student in her early 20s at al-Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus who was affiliated with the radical Islamic Resistance Movement, known as **Hamas**.

Hamas has carried out many of the 30 suicide bombings in Israel in the last 16 months' violence, and the group vowed last week to declare "all-out war" after two of its members were assassinated. However, no group immediately took responsibility for yesterday's attack.

Besides assassinations, Israel has responded to recent Palestinian attacks with airstrikes using F-16 fighter jets as well as helicopter gunships against symbols of Arafat's authority and his security headquarters.

Graphic

PHOTO: Nir Elias/Reuters: An Israeli forensics team collects evidence yesterday from around the body of a **female** suicide bomber in downtown Jerusalem.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

Israel endures 5 suicide attacks in 48 hours

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 20, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. d5

Length: 1058 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: AFULA, Israel

Body

A Palestinian woman blew herself up during a security check outside a mall on Monday, killing three Israelis in the fifth suicide bombing in 48 hours - a violent challenge to a U.S.-backed Mideast peace initiative and the new Palestinian prime minister.

The bombings, as well as suicide attacks in Saudi Arabia and Morocco in the past week, also raised questions about President Bush's ability to stem global terrorism.

Monday's blast in the northern working-class town of Afula near the West Bank was claimed by a militia linked to the mainstream group Fatah, proving particularly embarrassing to the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, a Fatah leader, who has denounced violence and promised to rein in the militants.

Israel blamed Yasser Arafat for one of the steepest spikes in violence in nearly three years of fighting, saying he encourages terror, even if he is not directly involved in planning attacks. Arafat angrily denied the accusations, claiming Palestinian security agents have foiled several attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resisted renewed pressure from his Cabinet to expel Arafat, apparently because of U.S. opposition to a step that could derail the "road map" plan and send the situation spinning further out of control.

After the Iraq war, with Bush promising to turn his attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there had been hope of a breakthrough in ending 32 months of fighting.

However, Palestinian militants have often stepped up attacks at critical times in peacemaking, to prevent progress. Sharon, in turn, has given veto powers to the militants by insisting that violence must stop before negotiations can begin.

Bush said he was determined to push ahead with the peace plan, a prescription for ending violence and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005. "We're still on the road to peace," the president said. "It's just going to be a bumpy road. But I'm not going to get off the road until we achieve the vision."

The blast in Afula went off at 5:14 p.m. at a back entrance to the Shaarei Amakim mall, where shoppers were waiting in line for a security check.

Israel endures 5 suicide attacks in 48 hours

The attacker, identified as Hiba Daraghmeh, 19, from the West Bank village of Tubas, detonated the explosives as she stepped up to security guards, witnesses said.

"There was a big explosion and my friend and I were blown over backwards," said Etti Pitilon, 19, a border policewoman. "I saw bodies, but I don't want to think about it," she added, crying.

Two guards, a man and a woman, were among the three people killed. Forty-seven people were wounded, several of them seriously.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Fatah, and the Islamic Jihad group both claimed responsibility for the bombing. The two militias have carried out joint attacks in the past.

The bomber was an English literature student, described as very devout by her father, Azem. She usually wore a veil over her entire face except her eyes, a particularly conservative covering rarely seen even among religious Palestinian women. She left home Monday afternoon, saying she was going to class, her father said.

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. Three of the bombers were from Hebron.

The attacks come at a time when Abbas and Sharon are in a deadlock over who should make the first move on the new peace plan.

Abbas told Sharon during the summit that the Palestinian security forces could only move against the militias once Israel has accepted the new peace plan. Sharon said he first wants to discuss his objections with Bush. He was to have done so this week, but canceled his Washington trip because of the bombings.

At the United Nations, the top U.N. envoy for the Mideast urged Israel and the Palestinians on Monday to start implementing the new "road map" to end their conflict - but both sides refused.

Terje Roed-Larsen, U.N. special coordinator for the Mideast peace process, told the Security Council both Israel and the Palestinians are now at fault. And he said Israeli security measures have effectively barred hundreds of U.N. staffers from doing their work in the Gaza Strip.

Abbas condemned the Afula bombing, and said the violence helped ease pressure on Sharon to accept the peace plan.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas spokesman, said attacks would continue. "As long as the occupation remains on our land, and as long as the occupation soldiers are breathing our air we will continue our resistance," he said.

Trying to deepen Arafat's isolation, Israel decided Sunday to boycott foreign envoys who meet with the Palestinian leader. Arafat has been confined to his compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah for more than a year by Israel.

Arafat told The Associated Press, speaking in halting English, that he opposes violence. "You know that we are from the beginning against these activities, and we are condemning it from the beginning," he said.

Bush is pressing Arab nations to block funding and other support for militant Palestinian groups.

Radical Palestinian groups were closing down operations in Syria, officials in the groups said Monday, following intensified U.S. pressure on the Damascus government to curb Palestinian militants.

Journalists who went to the Damascus offices of three of the main organizations - Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command - found them closed Monday.

Israel endures 5 suicide attacks in 48 hours

The wave of suicide bombings washing across the Middle East, from Morocco to Saudi Arabia, has renewed fears over global terrorism.

Fifty-three people, plus 22 attackers, were killed in the attacks in Casablanca, Morocco, and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and officials were investigating possible connections to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Palestinian militants have distanced themselves from conflicts elsewhere, saying their struggle is against Israel.

But a Sharon adviser, Raanan Gissin, tied the bombings in Israel to attacks elsewhere, saying they were "a late reaction to the victory of the United States in Iraq." The Palestinian attacks were also aimed at deposing Abbas, Gissin said.

Graphic

photo

Load-Date: May 20, 2003

End of Document

For the Record

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
August 2, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A2; Correction

Length: 213 words

Body

The Definitive Elvis, a 16-part series airing daily, Monday to Friday, at 1 p.m. on Bravo! until Aug.22, will be rerun nightly at 11, not at 10 as was incorrectly reported in yesterday's paper.

The Gazette regrets the error.
The Gazette

- - -

On July 20, The Gazette ran a story from Southam News about the non-renewal by the Canadian International Development Agency of its contract with Kirsty Wright, director of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives office in Ramallah, in the West Bank. The story contained comments by Israeli officials who said the non-renewal was a consequence of a routine inspection on May 24 of a Canadian embassy car driven by Wright in which Israeli border guards believed they detected trace elements of explosive materials.

The story included a denial of this explanation by a CIDA spokesman, who said CIDA had eliminated the position because of lack of security in Ramallah.

The story did not include Wright's views. According to Wright, she has never had a personal relationship with a male or female member of Hamas, Islamic Jihad or any other terrorist organization; she has never transported explosives in her embassy car or allowed others to do so; and she was traveling alone when she was detained by agents of the government of Israel.

Load-Date: August 2, 2002

Anti-war students show true feelings

University Wire

January 11, 2002

Copyright 2002 The California Aggie via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 625 words

Byline: By Andrew Mercy, The California Aggie

Dateline: Davis, Calif.

Body

The small but vocal group of students who have arrogantly defended the Taliban and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan, Israel and throughout the world have really shown their true feelings on campus in the last few weeks.

Not only have they shown contempt for the values that shaped this nation and the right of the American people to defend themselves, but in their own communications they also demonstrate their dislike for most of the students on this campus.

Without a doubt, by the time this column prints there will have been small protests with a few students who think that coming up with a rhyming chant makes them clever, annoying the average student trying to get a bite of lunch at the Coffee House.

As poorly as the production will be, it has actually, believe it or not, been weeks in the planning. According to the planners of the event, your everyday "Joe Student" is an uneducated lout needing these anti-American protesters' enlightenment.

U. California-Davis

In an e-mail sent to me by a reader, The California Students Against the War (CSAW) had this to say: "We need to give peeps a reality check after they've finished celebrating Capitalismas and rejoiced in the excesses of American consumerist gluttony ... even if it's just a bullhorn and a few heads."

The first student, whom I will politely refrain from identifying but will forward the e-mail to anyone requesting it, is fairly representative of the type of students who feel that the destruction of the World Trade Center and the murder of thousands was a good thing.

At the Palestinian Awareness Day on the quad, other student leaders in the same faction defended the suicide bombing that killed Jewish men, women and children as justified, but of course decried any retaliation for the brutal attacks as being cruel and completely unwarranted.

What this truly shows is what the protesters have denied all along -- they are in fact anti-American and pro-terrorist. If any of you have just come back to Davis after celebrating Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa with your families, then according to the protester you are just an "American consumerist glutton."

Anti-war students show true feelings

You are the type of people who, in the minds of terrorists and their sympathizers on this campus, deserved to die in terrorist attacks. Bin Laden would be proud.

Should anyone be surprised at what these groups are saying and doing when they do put their bullhorns down and do not think anyone knows what they say? No, we should not.

Just look at the active groups within this coalition. There are the "Free Palestine" groups who've already demonstrated within their leadership that they think Hamas and Arafat are justified in killing Jews.

It is obvious what attitude pro-Hamas students are going to have toward the rest of the student body. The rest of us embrace the freedom to think independently as well as the upward mobility that capitalism provides. After all, capitalism is merely the only economic system that allows any freedom.

The essence of capitalism for an individual is to earn monetary rewards for working hard and providing services to society.

Twice now, I have had the privilege of assisting in President Bush's motorcade as a driver during his last two visits to California. In Sacramento a few months ago, and last Saturday in Ontario, I saw who came out to vocally express their opinions about how Bush is doing.

Despite a small handful of fewer than 50 people who came to jeer, literally thousands came out to thank the president for the excellent job he has done. So no matter how loud the protestors on campus may scream, they represent an insignificant portion of the people in America, and an even smaller portion of the electorate.

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Load-Date: January 11, 2002

Reviving the Middle East 'road map'

The Times (London)
May 26, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 17

Length: 222 words

Body

From Miss Maggie Foyer

Sir, I have my doubts that the stirrings to revive the "road map" in the Middle East are so directly related to the recent spate of suicide bombings as you suggest (leading article, May 19). The nihilism of life in Palestine is quite enough reason.

Israel's "closure" policy in the occupied territories of the last two-and-a half years has brought life to a standstill. At the beginning of this year I spent three weeks in a Palestinian village as a peace monitor for the International Women's Peace Service.

The main entrance to the village was blocked with sand and debris. It was possible to take a bus or taxi only as far as the next manned checkpoint where I had to get out, wait to cross and get another taxi.

One day a young Israeli soldier at the checkpoint stopped a crowd of men, women and children for several hours and refused to let anyone go on their way until everyone was quiet and stood absolutely still.

Palestinians have been cut off from their employment, schools, hospitals, even social life. Life is not just difficult, it is well nigh impossible. People have lost hope and young people with no hope do desperate things. They don't need Hamas or anyone else to tell them that they might as well end it in a suicide attack.

Yours faithfully, MAGGIE FOYER,

18 Oakhill Place, SW15 2QN.

May 20.

Load-Date: May 26, 2003

Youth and passion identify attackers

The Times (London)

June 19, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 223 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

From the poverty-stricken despair of West Bank refugee camps to affluent suburbs, suicide bombers have little in common except youth, anger and absolute devotion to the cause.

One of the difficulties facing Israeli security forces is that there is no clear-cut definition of what a bomber will look like, or where he or she will come from.

In the first wave of bombings that culminated in an attack killing 29 people at a Passover meal in Netanya, the majority were male and left video "calling cards" swearing allegiance to the extremist Islamic groups ***Hamas*** and Islamic Jihad.

But then a spate of young ***women*** altered the stereotype: one was a volunteer medical worker, another a promising student from Nablus, who disappeared saying she was going to do homework, and the teenager who struck at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda outdoor market two months ago.

The sole defining characteristic appears to be pent-up anger at Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, to the point where they believe all Israelis are legitimate targets.

"You have to understand nobody wants to die, there is no other way to achieve our goal," one self-confessed suicide bomb dispatcher told The Times in the Jenin refugee camp on September 11 last year, 20 minutes before the attacks on America. "Suicide bombs are our Apache helicopters. They are all we have."

Load-Date: June 19, 2002

Nine Palestinians And Two Israelis Die in Day of Fury

The New York Times

January 13, 2003 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1041 words

Byline: By DEXTER FILKINS

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 12

Body

Nine Palestinians and two Israelis were killed today in fighting across Israel and the occupied territories, as the conflict here became entangled in Israeli electoral politics.

It was the deadliest day in Israel and the territories since suicide bombing attacks killed 22 people last week, and the violence broke out in one area that is ordinarily quiet.

The events came a day after the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, asked Palestinians to refrain from attacking Israeli civilians.

In a speech today, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, denounced Mr. Arafat's appeal, accusing him of trying to swing the election to his more dovish opponent, Amram Mitzna, the Labor Party candidate. Page A6.

On Israel radio, the country's defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, promised "vast operations" against Palestinian militants in the occupied territories.

Today's events, which included significant Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip and in the Palestinian town of Jenin, prompted accusations from Palestinian leaders that Mr. Sharon was deliberately trying to torpedo their peace offerings. They asserted that Mr. Sharon was stepping up attacks on Palestinians in order to rally Israelis to his side in the runup to parliamentary elections later this month.

"Sharon will not leave us alone," said Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Authority's minister for local government. "He is determined to mark the election campaign with more Palestinian blood."

But much of the violence appeared to be initiated by Palestinian fighters, while some appeared to follow no discernible pattern. The violence began shortly after midnight and continued throughout the day.

In one of the most violent incidents, two Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed in a gunfight that broke out when a team of Israelis spotted a group of militants who they said were crossing into Israel from Egypt near the town of Nitzana.

Israeli troops killed two militants, and lost one of their own as well. Israeli officials said their soldiers had swept the area in vain for a third militant, making them wonder if there was a third one at all.

Nine Palestinians And Two Israelis Die in Day of Fury

The incident marked a rare departure from the quiet that ordinarily prevails on the border between Egypt and Israel. A majority of the military activity in the area is concentrated on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

In another deadly incident, a pair of Palestinian gunmen slipped into the Israeli farming town of Gadish, near the boundary with the West Bank, and killed an Israeli resident there, Israeli officials said. Israeli security forces killed the two militants during a gunfight, one Israeli official said. Gadish is near the predominantly Palestinian town of Jenin, a center of the Palestinian resistance and the site of heavy fighting earlier this year.

Israeli security forces mounted at least three military operations against Palestinian targets in Gaza today. In the most dramatic, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a car believed to contain at least two members of Hamas, the hard-line Palestinian group.

Palestinian witnesses said the car did carry two members of Hamas, identified as Muhammad abu Shamalah and Raed al Attar. But the Palestinian witnesses said the missile, fired by an Israeli Apache helicopter, hit two civilians instead.

According to those witnesses, the Israeli missile killed Mohammed Kawarea and Abed al Rahman al Najjar, both unarmed civilians.

Israeli officials acknowledged that the missile had missed its target, but said they could not confirm any casualties.

The missile attack came after at least two Palestinians were killed during separate Israeli operations in Gaza carried out early this morning.

In the first, Israeli tanks and helicopters entered the town of Khan Yunis, where they dynamited and bulldozed several buildings where Israeli officials said Palestinian militants had been making bombs. Local Gaza residents said the buildings had been used to fabricate metal.

In the Khan Yunis operation, Palestinian witnesses and security officials said a gunfight broke out when the Israeli troops entered the area and killed a member of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a group that has carried out several suicide attacks against Israelis. At least 23 others were wounded, the Palestinian sources said, among them women and children. They insisted that the Israelis had singled out Palestinians who were not engaged in gun making.

Ibrahim Zakzuk, a 55-year-old factory owner in Khan Yunis, said the Israeli operations had destroyed \$50,000 worth of his equipment. "I challenge Sharon and his army to bring to the world any evidence that this small industrial area was used on any day to produce weapons," Mr. Zakzuk told Agence France-Press. "It's war against our economy."

In the Gaza city of Beit Hanun, Israeli forces said they had destroyed the home of Muhammad al Masri, a fighter for Islamic Jihad who was killed while attacking an Israeli naval vessel in November. A Palestinian militant, Ali Nasar, was killed during the operation today, Palestinian sources said.

Later in the day, three rockets fired from Gaza landed near an Israeli school in the southern Israeli town of Sderot, injuring two people. Hamas claimed responsibility, saying it was retaliation for the Israeli incursions in Khan Yunis and Beit Hanun.

In Hebron, Israeli officials said a Palestinian gunman was killed after he fired on a fuel tanker protected by an armed civilian security guard. The guard returned fire, Israeli officials said.

Palestinian witnesses said the man was an unarmed civilian.

Amid the day's violence, efforts at diplomacy sputtered as well. Mr. Sharon met with the British ambassador, Sherard Cowper Coles, and refused to reverse his decision prohibiting a Palestinian delegation to travel to London for a conference intended to encourage change in the Palestinian leadership.

Nine Palestinians And Two Israelis Die in Day of Fury

The decision by Mr. Sharon was sharply criticized today by a senior British official, Clare Short, the minister for international development.

"The Blair conference was about helping the Palestinians to build the institutions that would be the beginnings of a competent, well-run Palestinian state," she said. "The conference has been destroyed by the present Israeli government."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Brothers of Hazem Fanoun, killed in Hebron yesterday. Reports differ on whether he was a Palestinian gunman or an unarmed civilian.; Esther Biton, the mother of an Israeli man who was reportedly killed by Palestinian gunmen in the town of Gadish, with a family member. (Photographs by Agence France-Presse)(pg. A6) Map of Israel highlighting Nitzana: Two Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed near Nitzana. (pg. A6)

Load-Date: January 13, 2003

End of Document

OFFICE OF UN ENVOY DAMAGED IN ISRAELI JET ATTACK

The Independent (London)

February 11, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 223 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 having lunch near by shot dead the assailants, and sappers later detonated an explosive belt.

Palestinians also fired three Kassam missiles into the fields of a Negev kibbutz.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

13 Palestinians die in daylong battle

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 2, 2003 Friday

Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 655 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Body

Jerusalem --- Thirteen Palestinians, including a 2-year-old boy and a suspected Palestinian bomb maker, died and at least 60 others were wounded in an intense daylong gunbattle Thursday triggered when Israeli tanks and infantry raided a crowded Gaza neighborhood, hospital sources and witnesses said.

The violence followed by hours the release of a U.S.-backed plan that aims to stop 31 months of fighting and restart peace negotiations. The "road map" to peace obligates Palestinian leaders to crack down on illegally armed groups and Israelis to end punitive measures against Palestinian civilians.

Israeli officials said they would not change the way they confront uprisings until the Palestinians show they have not just reined in militants, but also destroyed their infrastructure, a task that the Israeli army has not succeeded in doing. Sending troops into Palestinian territory, they argue, protects their citizens from suicide attackers, who continue to terrorize the country.

Cox International Correspondent

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told reporters the Israeli action was a "massacre." Mohammed Dahlan, a Palestinian security official who was sworn into office Wednesday, denounced the Gaza raid as a provocation to Palestinian militants who want to torpedo the peace plan.

The operation followed a suicide bombing early Wednesday in Tel Aviv that killed three Israelis and wounded dozens.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was visiting Spain on Thursday before heading on to Syria and Lebanon, urged the two sides not to let the cycle of violence get in the way of a new chance for peace.

"We've got to get beyond this period of suicide bombings and retaliatory actions or other defensive actions that are taken to end the violence and to protect one's society," Powell told reporters after a meeting with his Spanish counterpart, Ana Palacio. "We can't let these sorts of incidents . . . contaminate the process that we are now involved in."

13 Palestinians die in daylong battle

Hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon received a copy of the plan for peacemaking, Israeli tanks backed by helicopters moved into Gaza's Shijaiyah neighborhood around 1 a.m. to blockade the home of Yousuf Abu Hein, described by the Israelis as a top **Hamas** bomb maker. **Hamas** is one of three militant Palestinian groups that took responsibility for the Tel Aviv bombing.

Israeli army sources said that before fighting started, their troops called over loudspeakers for residents to leave their homes. Witnesses said shooting started immediately after residents saw the tanks approaching their neighborhood. Because armored vehicles and tanks had surrounded the neighborhood, there was no chance for the dozens of civilians to escape what was turned into a war zone, witness Samir Hito said.

He said there was a lull in the fighting around sunrise, when **women** and children left their houses carrying white flags. The toddler killed was struck in the head by a bullet.

During the night, loudspeakers from neighborhood mosques called for men to join the fighting against Israeli troops, residents said.

After daybreak, soldiers entered the Abu Hein home, ordering family members to leave the building. A tank shot at the house, where Abu Hein and his two brothers remained, and the three were crushed to death when the home collapsed. Two neighboring homes were also destroyed.

Gaza hospital officials said at least six of the 13 people killed in the fighting were civilians. They included the toddler, a 13-year-old boy and a 15-year-old boy. Fifteen people remained hospitalized in critical condition, according to Dr. Maawiya Hasanin.

Eight Israeli soldiers were injured in the operation, army officials said.

Residents cry as they watch houses destroyed when Israeli troops stormed the Shijaia neighborhood of Gaza city to blow up a house of suspected militants, Thursday, May 1, 2003. At least six Palestinians were killed and 12 were wounded, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Graphic

Photo: Residents weep Thursday as they watch Israeli troops destroy houses in the Shijaia neighborhood of Gaza City. / RICARDO MAZALAN / Associated Press

Load-Date: May 2, 2003

**A WAR OF WORDS;
ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS ARM THEMSELVES WITH EUPHEMISMS TO
FIGHT PR BATTLE**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 23, 2002 Friday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: NEWS ; Pg. A8; PROFILE; YASSER ARAFAT; WAR IN ISRAEL

Length: 898 words

Byline: Greg Myre The Associated Press

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 one another.

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.

"Terrorist" is disputed

A WAR OF WORDS; ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS ARM THEMSELVES WITH EUPHEMISMS TO FIGHT PR BATTLE

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.

"Human shields"

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."

Israel is trying to expel three 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."

"President" Arafat

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 have a president.

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.

A WAR OF WORDS; ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS ARM THEMSELVES WITH EUPHEMISMS TO FIGHT PR BATTLE

Notes

WORLD FOCUS

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Photo by SAIF / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - ISRAELIS: "FOCUSED PREVENTION"; An unidentified Palestinian woman sits on the rubble of a house on the West Bank destroyed Aug. 165 by Israelis seeking Hamas militant Nasser Jarrar, who was killed when the building was bulldozed. A Palestinian youth ordered by Israeli soldiers to bring out the home's inhabitants - a practice Israel calls "neighbors procedure" - was shot to death before he got the door. Palestinians say people used in the practice are "human shields."; (2) Photo by HAIM AZULAY / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - PALESTINIANS: "A HEROIC MARTYRDOM OPERATION"; A police workers looks over the wreckage of a bus after a suicide bombing AUG. 4 in Isarael, in which inie passengers were killed. Palestina refer to the bombing as "heroic martyrdom operations."; (3) Photo Headshot - YASSER ARAFAT; To Palestinians, he is the president of the Palestinian Authority.; To Israelis, he is chairman, since there is yet a Palestinian state for a president to lead.; In the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, his title was "rais," an Arabic word meaning, simply leader.

Load-Date: August 24, 2002

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MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE OVERVIEW; ISRAELIS ADVANCING ON THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE 16 ARRESTS

The New York Times

May 10, 2002 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 1408 words

Byline: By ALAN COWELL

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Friday, May 10

Body

Israel had tanks moving toward the Gaza Strip today as it prepared to retaliate for a Palestinian suicide attack that killed 15 Israelis south of Tel Aviv three days ago.

In Bethlehem, after several false starts and last-minute delays, Palestinians began to file out of the besieged Church of the Nativity one by one as the church bells tolled 7 a.m.

The military steps initiated on Thursday, including calling up reservists and threatening airstrikes, provided ample evidence that, as anticipated, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon set no store by Yasir Arafat's order for a crackdown on militants by his own battered security force, which on Thursday arrested 16 members of **Hamas**, the group believed to have carried out the suicide attack.

Indeed, Israel seemed to be investing far more diplomatic energy in ending the 38-day standoff in Bethlehem after yet another deal stalled early Thursday, dashing the hopes of the more than 150 people who were still inside the church, one of Christianity's holiest sites.

After a day of multicornered diplomacy, the foreign minister of Cyprus, Ioannis Cassoulides, told a hastily arranged news conference in Nicosia on Thursday night that his government had agreed to help remove an obstacle to earlier deals. Cyprus said it would "keep for a few days" the 13 Palestinian gunmen wanted by Israel who are inside the church before they are dispersed in at least seven other countries.

The 13 men were the first to emerge, going through a metal detector, having their belongings checked by Israeli soldiers, then boarding a bus that would take them to the airport in Tel Aviv where a British military plane would take them to their first stop, Cyprus. Officials said that one of the 13 fugitives, who was injured and carried out on a stretcher, would be treated for his wounds.

The men emerged into bright sunshine after five and a half weeks inside the church, all but one needing to stoop before he could leave through the cramped opening known as the Door of Humility. They then stood face to face with Israeli soldiers. The men shook hands with priests who stood by as Israeli soldiers took their papers. But the men did not shake hands with the soldiers.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE OVERVIEW ISRAELIS ADVANCING ON THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE 16
ARRESTS

Female relatives watching the scene on nearby rooftops wept and shouted, "God is great!" Then, they shouted, "God is greater!"

The 13 militants were followed by the first of 26 other men who were to be taken to an army base at Gush Etzion, near Bethlehem, and then after being checked were to be released in Gaza in small groups.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said Italy and Spain would accept some of the 13 men along with Austria, Greece, Luxembourg, Ireland and possibly Canada, in an arrangement that would spread the burden of keeping them.

The siege ended after days of disagreement and delay. Right up until dawn's light spilled over Manger Square on Thursday, negotiators were preparing to lift the siege, which started when some 200 people, including armed Palestinians, burst into the church as Israeli troops overran Bethlehem on April 2.

But as Thursday morning wore on, Israeli soldiers dismantled the tables they had set up at the low door to the ancient shrine built on the site where Jesus is believed to have been born -- and a tank rumbled back into position opposite the entrance. Negotiators said the plan stalled over demands for European protection for the 13 militants until a foreign sanctuary for them could be found.

Israeli officials said the lifting of the siege and the release of the people in the church, among them members of the clergy and foreign supporters of the Palestinians, were already beginning when the 13 hard-liners raised new demands that a European envoy be sent into the church as the other people left.

But Palestinian officials accused the Israelis of backtracking on an earlier agreement that the envoy, Alistair Crooke, a European Union official, would enter the church.

European nations also raised a legal objections to previous proposals. The first setback came Tuesday when Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi abruptly denied reports that Italy had agreed to offer sanctuary to all 13 gunmen.

In remarks made public Thursday, Mr. Berlusconi, who has said Italy was not consulted as a likely destination, questioned how the men could legally be moved to his country.

"How can we now accept Palestinians accused of serious acts of terrorism who would inevitably be free here since they haven't been tried or convicted?" he said. The Spanish foreign minister, Josep Pique, also said the legal position surrounding the 13 men was ambiguous because they did not face charges in Europe. "They aren't even on the list of persons linked to terrorist organizations," he said.

However, the latest deal foresees the European Union, as a bloc, devising a legal basis for the Palestinians' exile. Within this region, though, sensitivities about the arrangement are certain to persist.

Jordan said on Thursday that it, too, had been approached to accept the gunmen but had refused on the grounds that it did not in principle approve of deportation.

Arab states in general -- and many Palestinians -- remain wary of any talk of deportation and exile since the creation of Israel in 1948 and the 1967 war sent hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan.

Amr Moussa, the secretary general of the Arab League, told reporters in Cairo on Thursday that "there is a total Arab rejection to the issue of deportation."

In Gaza, Mr. Arafat sought Thursday to display his resolve to curb terrorism by ordering the arrests of the **Hamas** members.

But **Hamas** said the detainees were low-ranking, and the arrests elicited not only Israel's dismissive reaction but also a skeptical response from the White House. President Bush has put Mr. Arafat on notice that he expects not

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE OVERVIEW ISRAELIS ADVANCING ON THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE 16
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only a tough stance against terrorism but also moves to make the Palestinian Authority a far more effective administration.

"Now it's up to Chairman Arafat to perform, to keep them in jail -- arrest them and keep them in jail," President Bush said Thursday.

At the same time, he made statements to shore up Mr. Arafat's position. Mr. Bush said that, despite reports in Israel, he had never indicated to Mr. Sharon that, under the guise of the White House embrace of "reform" of the Palestinian Authority, his administration was trying to move Mr. Arafat out of power.

"It's not an accurate reflection of what went on in the Oval Office," he said Thursday. "What is an accurate reflection of my opinion is that Mr. Arafat has let the Palestinian people down. He hasn't led. And as a result, the Palestinians suffer and my heart breaks for the Palestinian moms and dads who wonder whether or not their children are going to be able to get a good education and whether or not there's going to be a job available for their children."

Mr. Bush also said he was "pleased that Chairman Arafat spoke in Arabic against terrorism. That's good. That's a positive development."

Israeli officials were less fulsome. "We will judge Arafat by his actions, not his declarations," said Ephraim Sneh, the transport minister. In the past, Mr. Arafat has ordered arrests only to release the detainees soon after.

Sensing an impending attack, some among the one million residents of Gaza -- a narrow, overcrowded strip of refugee camps -- began stockpiling food and water.

Since March 29, Israeli forces have been attacking Palestinian-run cities in the West Bank in an effort to crush the infrastructure behind a wave of suicide bombings. But Gaza, the spiritual home and headquarters of the ***Hamas*** movement, has so far been largely spared. Israeli military planners say it presents far more complex challenges and risks to Israeli ground forces if only because of its teeming refugee camps.

Mr. Sharon cut short a visit to Washington to fly back to Israel late Tuesday night and immediately secured the backing of security chiefs for military action.

While Israel's incursions into the West Bank drew in thousands of reservists and lasted through weeks of re-occupation of Palestinian towns like Jenin and Nablus, Shimon Peres, the dovish foreign minister, indicated that the attacks on Gaza might be conducted differently.

"We are going to strike at the nests of terrorism, whether in Gaza or elsewhere," he said. "The intention is to reach only those places where the isolated concentrations of suicide terrorists are located."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: A Palestinian man, right, was one of the first people to leave the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem today. (CNN)(pg. A1); Palestinians waited at the Abu Holi crossing point in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Israel has been restricting travel between regions in Gaza. (Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A16) Map of Israel highlighting the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem: Israel moved forces near Gaza and tried to solve the Bethlehem siege. (pg. A16)

Load-Date: May 10, 2002

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE OVERVIEW ISRAELIS ADVANCING ON THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE 16
ARRESTS

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**ISRAEL SET TO INVADE GAZA STRIP;
PALESTINIANS SAY ATTACK IMMINENT; MEN EXIT FROM BETHLEHEM
CHURCH**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 10, 2002 Friday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

Length: 1034 words

Byline: ALAN COWELL, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel had tanks moving toward the Gaza Strip today as it prepared to retaliate for a Palestinian suicide attack that killed 15 Israelis south of Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

In Bethlehem, after several false starts and last-minute delays, Palestinians began to file out of the besieged Church of the Nativity one by one as the church bells tolled 7 a.m. today.

The military steps initiated yesterday, including calling up reservists and threatening airstrikes, provided ample evidence that, as anticipated, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon set no store by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's order for a crackdown on militants by his own battered security force, which yesterday arrested 16 members of Hamas, the group believed to have carried out the suicide attack.

Indeed, Israel seemed to be investing far more diplomatic energy in ending the 38-day standoff in Bethlehem after yet another deal stalled early yesterday, dashing the hopes of the more than 150 people who were still inside the church, one of Christianity's holiest sites.

After a day of multicornered diplomacy, the foreign minister of Cyprus, Ioannis Cassoulides, told a hastily arranged news conference in Nicosia last night that his government had agreed to help remove an obstacle to earlier deals by offering "to keep for a few days" 13 Palestinian gunmen inside the church before they are dispersed in at least seven other countries.

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ISRAEL SET TO INVADE GAZA STRIP; PALESTINIANS SAY ATTACK IMMINENT; MEN EXIT FROM BETHLEHEM CHURCH

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European nations also raised a host of legal objections to previous proposals. The first setback came Tuesday when Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi abruptly denied reports that his country had agreed to offer sanctuary to all 13 gunmen. In remarks made public yesterday, Berlusconi, who has said Italy was not consulted as a likely destination, questioned how they could legally be moved to his country.

"How can we now accept Palestinians accused of serious acts of terrorism who would inevitably be free here, since they haven't been tried or convicted?" he said. Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique also said the legal position surrounding the 13 men was ambiguous since they did not face charges in Europe. "They aren't even on the list of persons linked to terrorist organizations," he said.

However, the newest deal foresees the European Union as a bloc devising the legal basis for the Palestinians' exile and spreading the burden of taking them.

Within this region, though, sensitivities about the arrangement are certain to persist. Jordan yesterday said it, too, had been approached to accept the gunmen but had refused on the grounds that it did not approve of deportation on principle. Jordan has a Palestinian majority population and has been acutely leery of taking Palestinian extremists since it put down an uprising by militant Palestinians in 1970 that became known as "Black September."

Arab states in general -- and many Palestinians -- remain wary of any talk of deportation and exile since the creation of Israel in 1948 and the 1967 war sent hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa yesterday told reporters in Cairo, "There is a total Arab rejection to the issue of deportation."

In Gaza, Arafat sought yesterday to display his resolve to curb terrorism by ordering the arrest of the **Hamas** members. But **Hamas** said the detainees were low-ranking, and the arrests elicited not only Israel's dismissive reaction but also a skeptical response from the White House in Washington.

President Bush has put Arafat on notice that it expects not only a tough stance against terrorism but also moves to make his Palestinian Authority a far more effective administration. "Now, it's up to Chairman Arafat to perform, to keep them in jail -- arrest them and keep them in jail," Bush said yesterday.

ISRAEL SET TO INVADE GAZA STRIP; PALESTINIANS SAY ATTACK IMMINENT; MEN EXIT FROM
BETHLEHEM CHURCH

Load-Date: May 10, 2002

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**MIDEAST TURMOIL: OVERVIEW; 15 KILLED BY SUICIDE BOMBER;
SHARON CUTS SHORT U.S. VISIT AFTER A MEETING WITH BUSH**

The New York Times
May 8, 2002 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 974 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER

Dateline: RISHON LE ZION, Israel, Wednesday, May 8

Body

A suicide bomber blew up a crowded gambling and billiards club near Tel Aviv late Tuesday night, killing at least 15 people and wounding 58, 3 of them critically, the police said.

The attack came after 11 p.m. here, precisely as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was meeting President Bush in Washington to discuss ways to move the region out of 18 months of deepening conflict.

Almost immediately, Mr. Sharon decided to return home, declaring "Israel will not surrender to blackmail." Excerpts, Page A14.

The militant Palestinian group ***Hamas*** reportedly claimed responsibility for the bombing, which witnesses outside the club said had been carried out by a man carrying a suitcase full of nails and explosives who had been mistaken for a technician.

The front windows and walls were blown out and part of the ceiling collapsed. Chunks of glass littered a gas station across the street, more than 120 yards away.

The Palestinian Authority of Yasir Arafat was quick to condemn the attack and said it "will not be light-handed in punishing those who have caused great harm to our cause." Transcript, Page A14.

But Mr. Sharon has in the past held Mr. Arafat responsible for all terror attacks, and the Palestinians leader's position now seemed as precarious as ever. Mr Sharon's statements made clear that Israel will be contemplating new military strikes.

"He who rises up to kill us, we will pre-empt him and kill him first," Mr. Sharon said in a news conference before departing for home. He vowed that there would be no shelter for terrorists.

Mr. Sharon sent Israeli troops in force into Palestinian-ruled areas of the West Bank on March 29, in the largest operation in 20 years, to prevent just this kind of attack, the first of its kind since April 12.

Israeli security officials said they had been concerned that the Palestinian militants would try during Mr. Sharon's trip to Washington to show that his effort had been in vain.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: OVERVIEW 15 KILLED BY SUICIDE BOMBER; SHARON CUTS SHORT U.S. VISIT AFTER A MEETING WITH BUSH

Uzi Landau, Israel's minister of internal security, who came to the scene of the bombing, called for a tough military response, saying: "We have to keep fighting. The harder we fight, the fewer attacks there will be."

The attack was on a club full of people, many of them elderly women, said one survivor, Shlomo Michael, watching as white plastic body bags were brought down from the third-floor Sheffield Club by men on a fire ladder.

He said there had been no security guard at the entrance, as required by law, but the police said the club had been operating without permits.

The suicide bombing seemed certain to complicate negotiations to end the siege at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where Palestinian militants have sought refuge from Israeli forces since April 2. A deal to end the siege, which would have sent some Palestinians militants to Italy, stalled on Tuesday after Italy said no one had sought its consent.

The deal was struck after Mr. Arafat made steep concessions to Israeli demands. But any favor he may have curried was certainly erased by the pool hall attack.

Yafa Ben Ari, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that "Arafat has not answered the call of President Bush to put a stop to terror."

"We need to see some concrete action on the ground to show that Arafat has made the strategic choice President Bush has been calling for," he said.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Kofi Annan said he was appalled by the attack. A statement, issued through his spokesman, Fred Eckhard, called it "morally repugnant."

At the same time, the General Assembly voted by a large majority to request that Mr. Annan prepare a report on events last month at the Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin, where Israeli forces leveled hundreds of homes.

The scene of the latest suicide bombing was a gambling club on the third and top floor of a concrete building in a commercial zone of this city 10 miles south of Tel Aviv. Rishon le Zion, founded in 1882 by 10 pioneers from Russia, was the first permanent settlement set up in Erez Israel by Zionist immigrants. Today it is a city of about 140,000 people.

Mr. Michael, who stood outside the scene, said the club was popular and open late, and nervous clients had asked the owner more than eight months ago to ask Israeli Arabs not to patronize it. He made 200 shekels on Tuesday night, about \$45, he said. "Dedi, the cashier, asked me why I was leaving so early," he recalled. "I said I'd got my money, and when I was a little way down the street I heard the explosion. Now I want to read the paper and find out which of my friends are alive and which are dead."

Haim Cohen, a police commander, said the bomber had walked right into the pool hall "and then he exploded."

Emergency workers poured into the area along with scores of ambulances, as passers-by gathered to watch. A few chanted "Death to the Arabs." Others were crying.

Yehiel Hazan, 53, said he "heard the explosion, and I immediately understood this is a terror attack.

"People started to shout and panic," he said. "I saw people run out covered in blood. I could see they were burned and injured."

Ran Rokach told Israeli radio: "I was driving in the area, and I heard this loud bang. At first I thought this might be gunshots, but when I turned around to see what happened I saw people flying out of the window."

The suicide bombing was the first in Israel since a young woman detonated herself and killed six other people on April 12 at a Jerusalem market.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: OVERVIEW 15 KILLED BY SUICIDE BOMBER; SHARON CUTS SHORT U.S. VISIT AFTER A MEETING WITH BUSH

Al Manar TV in Lebanon said it had received a claim of responsibility for the pool hall bombing from the militant group **Hamas**. A **Hamas** spokesman, Mahmoud Zahar, told The Associated Press he could not confirm the claim, but said, "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."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Rescue workers in Rishon le Zion, Israel, early this morning after the bombing of a gambling club. (Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A1); Police officers surveyed the scene inside a gambling and billiards club in Rishon le Zion, Israel, late last night after the bombing there. (Associated Press); An Israeli man was comforted by a friend. Many of the people in the bombed club were elderly **women**. (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A14) Map of Israel highlighting Rishon le Zion: Rishon le Zion was founded in 1882 by immigrants from Russia. (pg. A14)

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

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Sharon vows to press on Latest suicide bombing kills 8

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 11, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 1143 words

Byline: Greg Myre The Associated Press

Body

JENIN, West Bank - From a West Bank army base overlooking the scene of the deadliest fighting in Israel's 13-day-old offensive, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Wednesday delivered a blunt message: Israel will not pull back until Palestinian militias are crushed.

Despite his pledge to continue the offensive in the face of intense U.S. and international pressure to call it off, Sharon's defense ministry announced late Wednesday that troops were pulling out of the West Bank villages of Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

Then early today, Israeli forces and tanks rolled into the central West Bank town of Ber Zeit - north of the commercial center 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.

Yatta and Samua are near the southern city of Hebron, and Qabatya is near the northern city of Jenin, where some of the fiercest fighting has been reported.

The White House supported the withdrawal and said the Palestinians should respond.

Also Wednesday night, Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians armed with hand grenades and Kalashnikov rifles near the Kisufim crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the military said.

Sharon's statement earlier Wednesday defied increasingly impatient U.S. demands for a withdrawal from Palestinian towns - to be delivered in person Friday by Secretary of State Colin Powell - and came hours after an Islamic militant blew himself up on a bus in northern Israel, killing himself and eight passengers.

Speaking to cheering soldiers at a post overlooking the battered Jenin refugee camp, Sharon said he explained to President Bush that "we are in the middle of a battle" which, if abandoned prematurely, would only require another round of fighting later on.

"Once we finish, we are not going to stay here," the former general said. "But first we have to accomplish our mission." He added that unless Israel crushed the militants, the phenomenon of suicide bombings "could spread like a plague around the world."

Earlier in the day, Israel's Security Cabinet affirmed the decision to continue the offensive. By nightfall, resistance was subdued in the Jenin camp - where fighting has raged for days and where 13 Israeli soldiers were killed Tuesday in a sophisticated Palestinian ambush - and in the old town of Nablus, the largest West bank city.

Sharon vows to press on Latest suicide bombing kills 8

Powell insisted his peacekeeping mission was not threatened by Sharon's refusal to halt the incursions. "My mission is not in the least in jeopardy," he told reporters in Spain.

Powell, who is scheduled to arrive in Jerusalem late today, said he intends to meet both Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Sharon said Powell would be making a "tragic mistake" in meeting with Arafat, who has been confined to his Ramallah offices by Israeli forces for the past two weeks.

Still, Israel has said it would not try to prevent a Powell-Arafat meeting. Israel allowed Arafat to see several senior aides on Wednesday. Later in the day, the Palestinian officials met with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni.

Sharon has branded Arafat the leader of a "regime of terror" and has suggested he would no longer do business with him. However, Powell reiterated Wednesday that the United States would continue dealing with Arafat.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia said the Palestinians would demand that Powell secure an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas and that U.S. mediators come up with a timetable for carrying out a cease-fire.

Israel withdrew from two Palestinian towns earlier this week, but its forces remained in four others.

In the Jenin refugee camp, dozens of gunmen holed up in a small area fired sporadically Wednesday morning at Israeli troops advancing with bulldozers. A local leader of the militant group Hamas, Jamal Abdel Salam, quoted one gunman as telling him by phone: "We are in a group inside a house. They [the Israelis] are at the door and they are coming to arrest us. Take care of my family."

Later Wednesday, about 300 camp residents, including armed men, women and children, surrendered to Israeli troops. An Associated Press photographer driving through the camp saw many building facades with wreckingball-size holes from Israeli shelling.

More than 100 Palestinians are believed to have been killed in the Jenin camp, and many bodies remain in the streets. Among those reported dead was Mahmoud Tawalbeh, a 23-year-old leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group who masterminded a number of suicide bombings.

In Nablus, rescue workers on Wednesday retrieved the bodies of 14 Palestinians, bringing the total of dead in the city since the start of the Israeli invasion to 60. The old city of Nablus, a warren of narrow alleys, had been the scene of fierce battles for days.

On the city's outskirts, Israeli tanks and helicopters shelled the Al Ain refugee camp, damaging some homes. After daybreak, soldiers with loudspeakers called on teen-age boys and men to come out of their homes, and witnesses saw hundreds of Palestinian men sitting on the ground in front of the mosque.

And in Bethlehem, a standoff continued at one of Christianity's holiest sites, the Church of the Nativity. An Armenian monk in the compound was seriously wounded, and Israeli troops and armed Palestinians blamed each other for the shooting.

Franciscan Father David Jaeger said he had proposed to both sides that the Palestinian gunmen be escorted to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip, with international guarantees, to defuse the crisis at the church.

Israel's Security Cabinet on Wednesday repeated its earlier position - that the siege will continue until the gunmen surrender. The Palestinian Authority has not commented on the plan.

Palestinian security sources and the Israeli military also said Israelis killed the leader of the Hamas military wing in Hebron, Akram al-Atrash, in his hideout in the nearby village of Dura.

Twenty-eight soldiers have been killed in Israel's offensive, according to the military. The Palestinian Red Crescent says it has confirmed at least 128 Palestinians dead and 337 wounded, but that the toll was expected to rise significantly.

Sharon vows to press on Latest suicide bombing kills 8

The army said it has detained more than 2,100 Palestinians, including 117 on Israel's wanted list, and confiscated nearly 2,500 rifles.

Wednesday's suicide bombing near Haifa was the fourth since Israel began its operation in the West Bank. **Hamas** claimed responsibility, and sources in the group identified the assailant as Ayman Abu Haija, 22, from the Jenin refugee camp.

The bomber detonated explosives strapped to his body at 7:15 a.m., moments after boarding the bus. Eight passengers were killed, in addition to the bomber, and 14 were wounded. Among the dead were four Israeli soldiers and Noa Shlomo, 18, a niece of Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Lancry, police said.

Load-Date: April 12, 2002

End of Document

Israelis capture militants

The New Zealand Herald
November 16, 2002 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 721 words

Body

TULKARM - The Israeli Army has captured a senior Palestinian militant it accused of masterminding an attack on a kibbutz that killed five Israelis, including a mother and her two children.

Fresh surges in Israeli-Palestinian violence have added to problems besetting a new US peace mission already overshadowed by a stormy Israeli election campaign and a possible US-led war against Iraq. Two Palestinians were killed yesterday.

Israeli troops surrounded and shelled a neighbourhood in the West Bank village of Shweike where Palestinian witnesses said Mohammed Naifeh, wanted by Israel for plotting the kibbutz attack, slipped from hideout to hideout before he was cornered in a house.

The army said human rights activists helped to negotiate the surrender of Naifeh, a leading member of an armed group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction. A second wanted man was also arrested.

Israel, battling to halt a two-year-old Palestinian uprising for statehood, says Naifeh dispatched the gunman who escaped after killing five people at Kibbutz Metzger in northern Israel last Sunday. The gunman, like Naifeh, belonged to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

Al-Aqsa's leadership said it would halt attacks inside Israel if Israeli troops withdrew from Palestinian towns. Israel was quick to reject the offer, which did not include the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israeli Government official said its military presence in the towns was necessary to stop Palestinian gun and suicide bomb attacks, and troops would leave only after all militant groups pledged to stop violence.

Fatah and the Islamic militant group ***Hamas*** are in Cairo discussing a possible halt to suicide bombings against Israelis. Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman met Arafat at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah to discuss the Cairo meetings.

Following the kibbutz attack, Israel sent troops backed by tanks into the West Bank city of Nablus in an operation it said was aimed at thwarting Palestinian attacks on its citizens.

Troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian in the city, where 11 Palestinians have been arrested in the present incursion. Witnesses said soldiers opened fire on stone-throwers, killing the youth. The army said it shot an attacker who threw a petrol bomb.

Israelis capture militants

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, facing a leadership challenge from hawkish Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with the Jewish state's security high on the agenda, told soldiers in Nablus he would not put a time limit on their presence there.

"We are placing no restrictions on our operations," Sharon said. "Israel is under no pressure. No one is criticising us or has the right to do so. We are talking here about Israel's right to protect its citizens."

Arafat told reporters in Ramallah that "fanatic groups" were now in power in Israel. "[The Israelis] are escalating every day, every hour," he said.

In Gaza, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 37-year-old Palestinian on the Egyptian border, Palestinian security officials and medics said. The army said soldiers had fired at Palestinians throwing hand grenades in the area but had no report of casualties. In a pre-dawn raid on Palestinian-ruled Gaza City yesterday, Israel arrested three wanted men.

Later on in the day, soldiers surrounded a wedding hall in Ramallah where relatives of Palestinians killed by Israel were having a Ramadan meal, Palestinian witnesses said. **Women** were ordered out of the hall as soldiers checked the identities of the men and detained several.

The army said that 17 **Hamas** militants were arrested in the Ramallah area and military sources said some of the arrests were carried out in the wedding hall. In the Hebron area, forces arrested what Israel said was a high-ranking militant linked to Fatah responsible for five Israeli deaths.

US officials in Washington said that while they would continue to work on a peace "road map", they were resigned to slow progress in Middle East talks at least until Israel's general election on January 28.

At least 1657 Palestinians and 631 Israelis have been killed in the Palestinian uprising that erupted in September 2000.

- REUTERS

Further reading

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?reportID=56522> Feature: Middle East

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=1844330&thesection=Story&thesubsection=&reportid=56522>

Related links

Load-Date: December 20, 2002

Israelis taking no chances; Killing of Palestinians sparks inquiry, but Israel says it will protect itself

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

September 3, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B02; News

Length: 684 words

Byline: Ramit Plushnick-Masti

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel's defence minister has ordered a speedy investigation into the military's killing of 12 Palestinians, including at least eight civilians, by army fire.

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, appointed a general to head the inquiry. He asked the army chief, Lieutenant-General Moshe Yaalon, to present by Friday "operative findings to prevent such unfortunate mishaps in the future."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat demanded that soldiers responsible for killing civilians be brought to justice, but said that based on previous inquiries, he didn't believe the investigation would lead to soldiers being disciplined.

The Associated Press

An Israeli daily newspaper, meanwhile, reported that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his cabinet that if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat leaves the West Bank, he won't be allowed to return. Ben-Eliezer opposed the idea of blocking Arafat's return, the Yediot Ahronot reported.

Also yesterday, an Israeli source said Israeli and western intelligence showed that between 150 and 200 al-Qaeda operatives, including several senior commanders, have settled in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in Lebanon, with Syria's permission. The source spoke on condition of anonymity. Reports of the al-Qaeda members' presence there came yesterday in the Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz.

The recent killings of Palestinian civilians by army fire have sparked debate in Israel over the use of force, and Yaalon, who was appointed army chief less than two months ago, has come under criticism.

In interviews and speeches, Yaalon has described Palestinian militants as a cancer-like threat to Israel's existence, and said Israel must win the war against them at all costs if it wants to maintain its deterrence.

Ben-Eliezer, meanwhile, has apologized for the killings of civilians in recent days, including a six-year-old girl, a 10-year-old boy and two teenagers.

Several Palestinian officials demanded an end to recent Israeli-Palestinian security talks on a gradual ceasefire.

Israelis taking no chances; Killing of Palestinians sparks inquiry, but Israel says it will protect itself

Early Thursday, Israeli troops fired a tank shell at a home in the Gaza Strip, killing a mother, her two grown sons and another relative.

The army said at the time the troops saw suspicious figures crawling in an area off-limits to civilians and opened fire. It apologized for the killings. The victims' relatives said troops fired randomly from tanks toward farmers sitting under a fig tree.

On Saturday, an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at a car in the West Bank town of Tubas, targeting a senior militant. Instead, a lower-level militant, two teenagers who were in the car with him and two young children who were playing nearby were killed. The target of the attack escaped.

Four more Palestinians were killed early Sunday.

The army said the four were moving in a field farmed by Jews, and soldiers -- who were warned that four Palestinians would try to carry out an attack in the area -- fired and killed them. Palestinians say the four were labourers killed in cold blood.

Ben-Eliezer's order that the investigation be finished before the weekend was interpreted as a sign of his displeasure with Yaalon's performance. Israeli officials, including President Moshe Katsav, urged the army to investigate the deaths.

Israeli Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh, a former general, did not criticize Yaalon directly but said botched operations are counterproductive. "Operations that hit innocent civilians encourage terrorism," he told Israel's Army Radio.

The recent deaths follow the July killing of 14 civilians, among them nine children, in an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

In that incident, the air force targeted senior **Hamas** militant, Salah Shehadeh, and dropped a one-tonne bomb on his home. He was killed in the attack.

The operation was harshly criticized, including by the United States. But Israel's air force commander, Maj.-Gen. Dan Halutz, defended the strike, saying Shehadeh was responsible for carrying out several attacks against Israelis. The Islamic group **Hamas** is responsible for a spate of suicide bombings in Israel that have killed hundreds of civilians in the past two years.

Graphic

Photo: Ammar Awad, Reuters; Palestinian **women** venture into razor wire outside the Israeli city of Ramallah. Israel will investigate the recent killing of Palestinians while seeking terrorists.

Load-Date: September 3, 2002

Franklin, dad Billy Graham's successor, pursues his verbal crusade against Islam

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

August 24, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Religion; Pg. A11; News

Length: 679 words

Byline: Richard N. Ostling

Body

Last fall the White House called for interfaith understanding as Americans recovered from the Sept. 11 shock and pondered Islam. But Rev. Franklin Graham took a contrarian stand.

"We're not attacking Islam but Islam has attacked us," the evangelist, who succeeded his father as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, told NBC News.

"The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the Son of God of the Christian or Judeo-Christian faith. It's a different God, and I believe it is a very evil and wicked religion."

The Associated Press

Jews ignored the Son of God flub about their faith, but Muslims were predictably irate. Graham gave no apology in a follow-up statement that expressed concern about "the treatment of women and the killing of non-Muslims or infidels."

Act 3, a Graham piece for the Wall Street Journal, clarified that Muslims aren't "evil people" because of their faith, but he decried "the evil that has been done in the name of Islam, or any other faith -- including Christianity."

He insisted that "persecution or elimination of non-Muslims has been a cornerstone of Islamic conquests and rule for centuries" and that the Koran "provides ample evidence that Islam encourages violence in order to win converts and reach the ultimate goal of an Islamic world."

Now comes Graham's Act 4, just in time for the Sept. 11 anniversary and amid ongoing attacks on Christians in Pakistan.

Islam is the most newsworthy of the many topics in Graham's new book, *The Name* (Thomas Nelson). The work awkwardly combines personal anecdotes, testimony stories, quotes from others, sermon points, information on world relief projects and a bit of Bible prophecy concerning Israel.

The main point among his many themes is that it's proper for Christians to pray in Jesus' name at public occasions (for which Graham has been criticized) and to insist that "Jesus is the only way to God."

In response to the book and Graham's latest interviews linking the religion with violence, the Council on American-Islamic Relations urged politicians and clergy to speak out against "extremist right-wing and evangelical commentators who seek to demonize Islam and Muslims."

Franklin, dad Billy Graham's successor, pursues his verbal crusade against Islam

Anyone looking for wisdom on the complexities of current Islam would be much better off reading Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam by John Esposito of Georgetown University.

However, The Name does explain the context of Graham's fury about Islam, which contrasts with the gentler remarks from some other conservative Protestants, Billy included.

Graham runs both the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the relief agency Samaritan's Purse, whose projects include a hospital in Lui, Sudan. There, Graham says, he "learned firsthand how some followers of Islam express their faith."

Sudan is enmeshed in a ruinous civil war where, by Graham's account, the Islamic government has "overseen the annihilation" of more than two million people in the southern, non-Muslim region.

Graham charges that Christians are targeted, their children are forced into Muslim indoctrination and black slaves are bought and sold "in the name of Islam."

He protests that Muslims are free to worship and proselytize in North America, while Christians are denied those freedoms "in most Muslim countries" -- a telling point.

Responding to Sept. 11, he cites Muslim texts that undergird a warlike mindset. Such treatment, as with Christianity, ignores the complexity of Islam and, as with the Bible, Muslim experts say the context of scriptural sayings must be carefully assessed.

You wouldn't know it from The Name, but there's an important worldwide ideological struggle within Islam. The modern ***Hamas*** or bin Laden approach mines Islamic traditions to justify violence and revolution, while traditional Islam is typically more peaceful and non-political.

Christian evangelists tend toward blunt messages rather than nuance, and Franklin Graham more than many. He agrees with ***Hamas*** and bin Laden and simply presents that view as standard Islam, which is a disservice to his conservative Christian audience.

Graphic

Photo: Gary O'Brien, Charlotte Observer, Associated Press; Christian evangelist Franklin Graham's new book, The Name. explains the context of his fury at Islam.

Load-Date: August 25, 2002

Slaughter goes on as Sharon flies to US

The Advertiser

June 10, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 21

Length: 244 words

Body

THREE Israelis - including a pregnant woman - and seven Palestinians were buried yesterday as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived in Washington for peace talks.

The militant Islamic group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the attack in which the woman, her husband and an army reservist were killed.

One of the Palestinian infiltrators was also killed in the attack, on a fledgling mobile home community in the Jewish settlement of Karmeit Tzur.

Four Israeli soldiers were wounded and a Palestinian gunman killed in a similar attack on the settlement of Yitzhar.

Two heavily armed Palestinians who tried to swim along the Mediterranean coastline from the Gaza Strip into Israel had intended to mow down civilians bathing on the beaches, an army officer said yesterday.

The two were detected by **women** naval personnel operating an observation station. Both men, identified as members of the militant group Islamic Jihad - were shot dead.

A bag belonging to one of them was found along with automatic rifles and grenades.

Also in the Gaza Strip, three Palestinians were killed when a bomb they were planting at the security fence between the coastal strip and Israel exploded prematurely.

The men apparently planned to detonate the bombs when soldiers passed by on patrol.

Meanwhile, Mr Sharon is expected to tell Mr Bush peace talks with the Palestinians should not be relaunched until the violence ends.

The talks are not expected to produce major developments.

Load-Date: June 9, 2002

Bombing halts talk of peace; Sharon rushes home from U.S. meetings

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 8, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01; News

Length: 1016 words

Byline: William Walker

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

A suicide bombing in Israel yesterday spoke more clearly about the deeply troubled Middle East than any words from President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after their White House meeting.

Both leaders were handed slips of paper by advisers during their Oval Office meeting, informing them of the bombing at a billiard hall near Tel Aviv shortly after 11 p.m. which killed at least 16 people and injured 60 more, some seriously.

After meeting with reporters, Sharon immediately cancelled two additional days of meetings with American groups, including a gathering last night with congressional leaders, and was whisked to a waiting plane to fly home.

Even as Bush and Sharon spoke after their meeting about making "progress" toward a potential peace summit this summer, ambulance crews were hauling bloodied bodies out of the heavily damaged Israeli hall.

Torstar News Service

The militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the bombing -- presumably timed to happen during the Bush-Sharon meeting after earlier in the day declaring it rejected any efforts toward a peace process with Israel.

At the White House, neither Bush nor Sharon addressed the latest violence directly.

Sharon, after listening to Bush talk to reporters about the creation of a Palestinian state, rejected the notion, saying he thinks it's "premature" to discuss the subject until Israeli security can be guaranteed.

The closest either leader came to referring to the bombing was when Bush commented that he worries about Middle East families who have no hope.

"I deeply hurt when there is a lack of hope for moms and dads of anybody," Bush said. "Palestinian moms and dads, it bothers me to think that for some, their children are so hopeless that they're willing to commit suicide."

The only concrete decision yesterday was that the president will send CIA director George Tenet to the Middle East to design and build a "unified security force" to crack down on terrorism "and bring some stability to the region," Bush said.

"We have to make sure that any vision understands that there are people in Israel who long for security and peace, people in the Palestinian world who long for security, peace and economic hope," Bush said.

Bombing halts talk of peace; Sharon rushes home from U.S. meetings

Both leaders called for reforms to the Palestinian Authority in terms of the way it operates. Bush also called on countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt to ensure that the money sent to Palestinians is going to human aid efforts and not terrorist activities.

Neither Bush nor Sharon addressed their disagreement over the role of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in any future peace negotiations. Sharon, in rejecting discussion of a Palestinian state, appears stuck to his position that he will not negotiate with Arafat at this time. Bush, meanwhile, continued to call for Arafat to lead the Palestinians toward peace.

Asked directly whether Sharon should negotiate with Arafat, Bush said: "I'm never going to tell my friend the prime minister what to do, how to handle his business ... he's a democratically elected official.

"But I will reiterate, I have been disappointed in Chairman Arafat. I think he's let the Palestinian people down. I think he's had the opportunity to lead for peace and he hasn't done so."

Middle East experts and lobbyists on both sides of the dispute said yesterday's suicide bombing only proved that the peace process thus far, overshadowed by heavy military aggression and frequent terrorism in the region, isn't headed down the right road.

"My view is this latest attack shows that Israel cannot build security by dominating the Palestinians militarily and that seems to be the focus of Sharon," said law professor Michael Lynk of the University of Western Ontario, a former United Nations official in the Middle East.

Lynk said the irony of Israel remains that it has one of the world's most skilled armies and yet it is one of the world's most insecure nations in terms of protecting itself from such attacks.

The latest suicide attack shattered a pool hall in Rishon Letzion, a city of 100,000 about 16 kilometres from Tel Aviv, killing more than 15 people and wounding at least 60, police and officials said.

David Baker, an official at Sharon'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," Baker told The Associated Press.

Al Manar TV in Lebanon said it received a claim of responsibility from the Islamic militant group **Hamas**.

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 blast went off at a three-storey building in the heart of the industrial section of Rishon Letzion. Part of the ceiling on the top floor collapsed. A sign outside read Sheffield Club, Snooker, Cafeteria.

Meir Nitzan, the mayor of Rishon Letzion, said more than 60 people had been taken to hospital.

Yeruham Mandola, a spokesman with the Israeli ambulance service, said some of the wounded were trapped in the building.

An Israeli woman identified on Israel Radio as Hanit Azulai said she was on her way home when she heard "a huge explosion."

"I turned the corner and I saw the whole building go up before my eyes."

An Israeli man who gave his first name as Oren told the radio that he was near the scene at the time of the explosion. "I just ran away from there," he said.

Bombing halts talk of peace; Sharon rushes home from U.S. meetings

The last suicide bombing occurred April 12 in the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem when a **female** Palestinian suicide bomber blew herself up, killing another six people and wounding 84. The Israeli army says it has prevented a number of attempted suicide bombings since then.

A suicide attack during a Passover seder in March left 29 people dead and prompted a large-scale Israeli military operation in the West Bank to weed out terrorists.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

End of Document

ISRAELIS TARGET REFUGEE CAMP WITH MISSILES

Coventry Evening Telegraph

April 8, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Coventry Newspapers Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 238 words

Body

ISRAELI helicopters fired nearly 20 missiles into the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank early today.

The missile barrage appeared to signal growing Israeli impatience with the gunmen in Jenin, where some of the fiercest battles have taken place during Israel's 11-day drive to wipe out militant networks in the West Bank.

Before the missiles were fired shortly after midnight yesterday, Israeli troops used loudspeakers to warn people in the camp that they should surrender or face a punishing attack, witnesses said.

The military would not comment on the attack, but a military source said that about 150 men put down their weapons and emerged from the camp early today.

But Jamal Abdel Salaam, a Hamas militant group leader inside the camp, said that only women, children and the elderly left the camp. The militants were staying put, ready to fight to the death, he said.

Israeli troops surrounding Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity exchanged fire today with armed Palestinians holed up in one of Christianity's holiest shrines.

A Palestinian policeman, who was trying to extinguish a resulting blaze, was shot dead by an Israeli sniper, said a fellow policeman.

Each side accused the other of causing the fire in the courtyard of St Katherine's, a Roman Catholic church next to the Church of the Nativity, which is built over the traditional birthplace of Christ. The extent of the damage was not immediately clear.

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

CIDA worker linked to Palestinian terrorist: Woman let go after bomb traces found in embassy car in Israel

Ottawa Citizen

July 20, 2002 Saturday EARLY Edition Correction Appended

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Section: News; Pg. A9; Crime

Length: 592 words

Byline: Mike Trickey

Body

Canada's international development agency is terminating the contract of a British woman who had been detained by Israeli officials in May after trace elements of explosive materials were found in an embassy car transporting her into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Kristy Wright, director of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives Office in the West Bank city of Ramallah, will not be renewed when her contract expires July 31.

Canadian International Development Agency officials say her contract was due to end on that date and the changed political and humanitarian situation in the West Bank has resulted in a new focus for the Canada Fund, making Ms. Wright's position redundant.

The Ottawa Citizen

However, Israeli officials say Ms. Wright is being let go because her boyfriend is a member of a Palestinian terrorist organization and Canadian authorities were notified of his ties after the May 24 incident in which Ms. Wright and an unidentified man were interrogated for several hours after Israeli border guards found trace elements of explosive materials in the car in a routine inspection.

Israeli sources would not specify which organization Ms. Wright's boyfriend was a member of, saying only it was either ***Hamas*** or Islamic Jihad, both of which have claimed responsibility for the majority of the recent suicide attacks in Israel and both of which are on Canada's list of terrorist organizations.

The timing was particularly sensitive because Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham was to arrive in Israel two days later to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Israeli officials say "a gentleman's agreement" was worked out between Canadian and Israeli authorities in which Ms. Wright's boyfriend's links would be kept quiet in exchange for a promise from Canada that Ms. Wright would be terminated when her contract expired.

"There was a gentlemanly understanding," says a senior Israeli source. "We told (Canada) to look at his background and when they did, they said, 'Oh, sorry.' They were quite nervous because the minister was coming, but we asked them to take the necessary action and they said OK."

Neither Canadian nor Israeli officials would comment on Ms. Wright's relationship, but an Israeli official said the man in question was more than a mere acquaintance.

CIDA worker linked to Palestinian terrorist: Woman let go after bomb traces found in embassy car in Israel

"It was serious enough to draw the conclusion that we had good reason to worry."

CIDA spokesman Steven Morris said the May 24 incident had nothing to do with the decision not to renew Ms. Wright's contract, saying that her employment was due to expire at the end of July and there were organizational changes being made in Ramallah.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs and Israel say there are no further developments in the case of a Lebanese-born Canadian citizen who has been held by Israeli authorities since being arrested June 25 in the West Bank city of Hebron on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack in Israel.

The 35-year-old man identified as Abu Ahmed by Israel and Fayzi Uayoub Abu Abbas by Foreign Affairs has connections to the Shi'ite Muslim organization Hezbollah, according to Israel.

Canadian diplomats in Israel have not been granted permission to see the man, which is required by the Vienna Convention.

Israeli security officials allege the man had been scouting for locations suitable for an attack similar to a plot thwarted in May that had targeted a gasoline depot in suburban Tel Aviv. Israeli officials said if successful, the attack would have destroyed a neighbourhood, and likely claimed hundreds of lives.

Correction

The story did not include Ms. Wright's views. According to Ms. Wright: she has never had a personal relationship with a male or female member of Hamas, Islamic Jihad or any other terrorist organization; she has never transported explosives in her embassy car, nor allowed others to do so; and she was travelling alone when she was detained by agents of the government of Israel.

Correction-Date: August 2, 2002 Friday

Load-Date: July 20, 2002

Pay-back raid in West Bank

The Advertiser

February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 24

Length: 236 words

Byline: By ATEF SAAD in Nablus

Body

ISRAELI tanks and troops struck in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, clashing with gunmen in a pay-back for Palestinian attacks.

The raid followed Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip after two Palestinians sprayed gunfire at a cafe near an army base in southern Israel, killing two Israeli women soldiers before being shot dead themselves.

The army also said the Palestinians fired a new type of rocket, an upgraded version of the "Qassam" made by the militant group Hamas, into Israel yesterday.

Israel had said such a cross-border attack would lead to an escalation of military action to try to quash a 17-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened a meeting of senior ministers and defence chiefs after he returned from a visit to the US to discuss the rocket and 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.

"Special attention would be paid to the West Bank, where the Israeli army seized eight of the upgraded Qassam rockets," he said.

Palestinian security sources and witnesses said Israeli tanks backed by helicopters entered Nablus from the east before dawn and battled with gunmen about 200m from the Palestinian Authority headquarters in the city centre.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

Agreement was to end attacks immediately

The Times (London)

July 25, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 12

Length: 712 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

THE Palestinian declaration to end suicide bombings that was wrecked by Israel's air strike on Gaza on Monday contained an unprecedented call for an "immediate" end to all attacks on Israeli civilians, according to a copy obtained by The Times.

The 249-word document had been approved by senior members of Yassir Arafat's Fatah movement and the Tanzim - officials closest to its armed wing - and their most militant cells, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, West Bank sources confirmed.

The agreement committed its backers not only to ending suicide bombings and other armed attacks on innocent people but also to urging other groups not to carry them out.

After extensive discussions between senior militants and political activists in Nablus, Jerusalem, Jenin, Ramallah and Gaza, the text stated: "We will end attacks on innocent, non-combatant men, women and children in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza."

But it stops short of a full ceasefire, saying that they would continue to regard Israel's military in the West Bank and Gaza as an occupation.

The clear implication - confirmed in a wider-ranging statement also seen by The Times - is that Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza would continue to be regarded as legitimate targets. Officials said that the plan had the support of Mr Arafat and that Fatah was optimistic about gaining Hamas's approval.

According to Israeli newspaper reports yesterday, Mohammed Dahlan, Mr Arafat's former security chief, was in Gaza holding discussions with Hamas leaders two hours before the strike and had secured their acceptance of the principles of the announcement. However, the document is now in cold storage amid Palestinian fury at the deaths of 16 people in the strike.

West Bank sources said that the declaration was motivated by the growing concern among many influential Palestinians at the potentially disastrous effect that suicide bombings were having on their own society.

"In the past two months there has been a sea change in the way that Palestinians have looked on this strategy," one of the key figures involved said.

Agreement was to end attacks immediately

"They are really worried that their children are growing up with posters of guys wearing suicide belts. There has been a rethinking on the ground of who they are and what kind of strategy they are participating in. It's not just a tactical point; many have begun to accept it was a moral mistake."

Dore Gold, a senior adviser to Ariel Sharon, dismissed reports of a breakthrough as baseless. "In the past ten days we have picked up dozens of infiltration attempts by suicide bombers who have been trying to get through to Israeli towns and cities," he said.

THE DECLARATION

This is the Palestinian declaration scheduled to have been made public on Tuesday:

"We, the representatives of the Tanzim and Fateh, in the names of our members and the political organisations that we represent in all of the cities, towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza, declare that we will end attacks on innocent, non-combatant men, women and children in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza.

We call on all Palestinian political organisations, factions and movements to end all such attacks immediately, and to do so without hesitation or precondition.

We will immediately cease all such operations, we will work with other Palestinian political organisations to gain their support for this principle, we will police our own memberships to make certain that no such operations are planned or carried forward and we will engage in a national dialogue to convince our people of the wisdom of this programme. Our efforts will be relentless, our actions tireless, our commitment permanent.

Our revolution goes forward under a new principle. We will continue our struggle. We will defend our people. Aggression against our cities and our families, the confiscation of our lands, the destruction of our orchards, our businesses, our homes, the closings of our schools, the detention of our young men in squalid camps, the curfews and closures, the demonisation of our leaders and their assassination, the deportations of our people, the slow, purposeful, seemingly inexorable destruction of our society and our dreams - the continued Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza - will be resisted."

Load-Date: July 25, 2002

Palestinians kill 7 Jews in bus ambush: Gunmen posed as Israeli soldiers in West Bank attack

Ottawa Citizen

July 17, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8; News

Length: 631 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Dateline: EMMANUEL, West Bank

Body

EMMANUEL, West Bank -- A nine-months pregnant mother told last night how she cowered on the floor of a bus as Palestinian gunmen disguised as Israeli soldiers killed seven Jewish settlers and injured 15 in a gun and bomb ambush.

Dying women and children -- including a grandmother, her son-in-law and his eight-month-old baby daughter -- lay in heaps inside the shattered bus as it came to rest sideways across a hillside ditch leading to the West Bank settlement of Emmanuel (the town's name means God is With Us).

The attack, the first on Israelis for more than three weeks, came only hours before U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell hosted a meeting to discuss proposals for an end to violence in the Middle East, with the White House saying it is no longer prepared to deal with Yasser Arafat.

Natalya Poliak, who is due to give birth in a week, was sitting beside the back door of the armoured bus as it neared the hilltop settlement when she heard an explosion outside.

The Times, London

Police said the attackers detonated a roadside bomb, then opened fire on the bus as it careered across the deserted road, near the entrance to the Ultra Orthodox settlement. They then threw hand grenades at the bus, some of which fell inside, but failed to explode.

"They started shooting from both sides of the road, very, very close to the bus. I saw at least two people shooting from the side I could see," said Ms. Poliak, 36.

Different Palestinian groups claimed responsibility, including Hamas, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It is the first fatal attack since June 20, when Israeli forces reoccupied seven of the eight major Palestinian towns across the West Bank and imposed stringent curfews.

The first paramedic to reach the armoured bus, Eitan Ben Zakai, found the doors jammed by the blast, so he jumped through one of the narrow side windows shattered by bullets.

"The screaming was so loud I couldn't hear anything else. I was stepping on the bodies of women and children, some dead and some wounded.

Palestinians kill 7 Jews in bus ambush: Gunmen posed as Israeli soldiers in West Bank attack

"I pulled out two or three babies and handed them out the window, one was screaming so loudly. Then I started treating the injured, going from one to the other. One dead woman was lying on top of her children, one of them also looked dead.

"All I could see was piles and piles of bodies."

The settlement's security chief, Avrams Cohen, said he arrived at the scene after being alerted by a wounded passenger, and saw what he assumed were three Israeli soldiers.

"I asked them if I could help them, but before I could finish the sentence all three started shooting at me," Mr. Cohen said. He ran to his bulletproof car, threw it into reverse and raced back to the settlement.

Among the dead on the bus, said witnesses, was Kashi Zilfa, a grandmother, and her eight-month-old granddaughter, whose twin sister, two-year-old brother and mother were also injured. When their father, Gal, heard the shooting, he ran to the scene and was shot dead, said family friends.

As Israeli soldiers and helicopters searched the surrounding countryside in vain, forensic experts sifted through the dry red soil.

Emmanuel lies on a remote hilltop about five kilometres off the main road between the Palestinian towns of Nablus and Qalqilya. Both are sealed off by Israeli tanks and soldiers, and their populations -- like 700,000 Palestinians across the West Bank -- are under curfew.

A near-identical attack by **Hamas** in the same spot in December last year killed 11 people during the Jewish festival of Hannukah.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer condemned the attack last night, saying: "This underscores the importance of focusing on peace and working with leaders in the Palestinian Authority who are dedicated to peace."

Graphic

Photo: Gerry Abramovic, Reuters; Israeli paramedics evacuate a wounded person yesterday after Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli bus near Emmanuel, a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, killing seven and injuring 15.

Load-Date: July 17, 2002

**Low-level warfare: Bombers hit restaurant, orchard;
Palestinians killed in Gaza Strip**

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

June 12, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 636 words

Byline: MEGAN K. STACK

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The man with the beard and the big green shirt sauntered into a steak restaurant in the coastal town of Herzliya yesterday, asked for a bottle of water and blew himself up. Ten wounded diners were hurried to the hospital as the sun set into the sea. A teenage girl survived for a few hours, then died of her wounds.

"It's horrible when innocent civilians - men, women and children - just out to get a bite to eat are hurt," said Yael German, mayor of the coastal town north of Tel Aviv. The dinner-time suicide attack capped a Tuesday of scattered civilian death and injury among both Israelis and Palestinians as low-level warfare simmered throughout Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Los Angeles Times; AP contributed to this report

Earlier, three 15-year-old Israeli boys were injured when a bomb exploded near the gate of a Jewish orchard in the West Bank. The high school boys spent the morning picking cherries and were waiting for a bus home when they stumbled across the bomb, apparently planted by Palestinian militants. Many Palestinian radicals object passionately to the growth of Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands west of the Jordan River.

"We should remember that the Palestinians are trying to kill us everywhere," local councilman Zvi Bar-Hai told Israeli radio. "We should understand that this is war, and fight back."

The Palestinian government immediately condemned the Herzliya bombing. And Palestinians were grappling with deaths of their own. In the tiny Gaza village of Al Mograka, 8-year-old Hussein al Matwi died when gunfire struck his family's home from the direction of a neighboring settlement. A second boy, 13, was also badly injured in the shooting, Palestinian security officials said.

A 9-year-old Palestinian boy was killed and another 13-year-old boy was injured when Israeli soldiers shot at them near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian security and hospital officials said. The army said troops responded to intense firing at an army outpost nearby.

In the morning, a 23-year-old man was blown up in a botched attempt to plant a bomb near an Israeli border fence southeast of Gaza City. The radical Hamas claimed the accidental suicide bomber was a member of its military wing. He died just hours after another Hamas member was shot to death in the Gaza Strip after he opened fire on a passing convoy of Jewish settlers. Israeli soldiers guarding the procession of cars shot back, killing the 22-year-old militant.

Low-level warfare: Bombers hit restaurant, orchard; Palestinians killed in Gaza Strip

On the main drag of predominantly Arab East Jerusalem, an Israeli border policeman was seriously wounded when a man charged up from behind, slit his throat and disappeared into the crowd.

Palestinians killed two fellow Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility.

Amid the flurry of attacks, Israeli soldiers kept up a relentless siege on Ramallah, where they arrested Abdel Rahim Mallouh, deputy secretary of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Sixty other Ramallah activists were taken into custody in the two-day siege, and soldiers seized caches of bombs. The raid kept Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat locked down in the remains of his battered compound for a second day. Israeli soldiers also clamped a curfew on Tulkarm and moved briefly into a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

As the unrest continued, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appeared on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., which has been a reliable source of political and financial support for Israel.

Sharon thanked Congress for its "solidarity and backing" after a meeting with members of the Senate foreign relations committee. The committee's chairman, Joseph Biden, a Democrat of Delaware, responded: "There is no disagreement in this country on support for Israel. We support Israel, period."

Graphic

Map:

Load-Date: June 12, 2002

Israelis used too much gun

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

July 27, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE; Pg. 17

Length: 608 words

Byline: BRUCE WILSON

Body

THERE was a self-preservation saying among the old African big-game sportsmen that said: "Use enough gun." It meant, don't under calibrate, take into account the quarry, adjust the load, select the projectile.

This week, Israel used too much gun. Having found the quarry, Sheikh Salah Shehada, a leader of the Palestine **Hamas** movement, tracked him to his overnight lair and pin-pointed the time to nail him, the Israelis sent in an F16 jet with a one-tonne bomb.

MATP

This killed Shehada -- a fate he no doubt half-expected -- but also killed at least 15 other people, 10 of them children, many infants. Most were not in the same house as Shehada, and they had no links to him, apart from being Palestinians in a crowded street in the very crowded Gaza Strip.

This was, literally, overkill and the Palestinians never miss a trick when they have a chance to show the world Israeli atrocities -- and this was an atrocity. The picture of the dead baby, held high over an Islamic funeral procession, went around the world.

Quite right. Pictures of this kind really do speak thousands of words, and while the Palestinians made much of the dead children, there was no escaping the fact that they were, yes, dead and they were, yes, innocent.

They were no more dead nor no less innocent than Israeli victims of suicide bombers in this endless war, you might say, but that would be morally incorrect. This was no act of terrorism. This was a deliberate act by the armed forces of a recognised state considered to be a friend, if not an ally, of much of the non-Arab world.

A very sophisticated warplane, built in the USA, dropped a "smart bomb" -- origin unknown, but maybe Britain -- into a sleeping, pre-dawn urban street in which so-called collateral casualties were inevitable, once it was decided to use more than enough gun.

It was a dreadful and criminal mistake, and Israel's reaction to it told the tale. Our e-mails were immediately crowded by the stuff you get from Israeli embassies when one of these things happens. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hailed it as a major triumph.

Buried in the small print was a sidebar noting there had been some unfortunate civilian casualties. But the tone was all upbeat, that a known killer had been tracked down and executed.

Israelis used too much gun

The dead babies changed the tone. For a time, Israel tried out the defence that Shehada had been deliberately protected by a Palestinian policy of using women and children as human shields. But most of the dead kids were not in the same house as Shehada, so this pretty despicable line was dropped.

Soon it became clear that within Israel itself there was genuine distress. And this is very important.

Ariel Sharon's leadership has created in the world's eye a false picture of Israel. Israel is not, repeat not, like Ariel Sharon. It is a strange mixture of a place, to be sure, but within it are strong and admirable strains of tolerance and a desire for peace, things inherent in Jewish culture.

But they seem to be gagged or impotent under the rampant Zionism of Sharon, so rampant that even George W. Bush was moved to say a mild tut-tut over the Gaza bombing. He won't take that much further in this congressional election year, and besides, Sharon doesn't listen to him anyway.

What is especially tragic about this week is that diplomats from Europe and the US believed -- and it was confirmed by Israeli officials -- the Tanzim, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian militia, was about to announce a unilateral ceasefire. Hamas would have been under huge pressure to go along with that.

Now the word is not ceasefire, or negotiation, or peace. It is vengeance.

bruce.wilson@news1td.co.uk

Load-Date: July 26, 2002

End of Document

Mideast violence escalates further

USA TODAY

March 6, 2002, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 655 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israelis and Palestinians are sliding toward all-out war amid a swelling cycle of mutual bloodletting.

More than 90 people -- 61 Palestinians and 31 Israelis -- have died in recent days, making the past week one of the deadliest since the Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. More than 1,000 people have died in the intifada.

Attacks Tuesday by Palestinian militants left five Israelis and two Palestinian assailants dead. Israeli warplanes and helicopters retaliated by hitting seven Palestinian government compounds and security complexes in the West Bank and Gaza. There were no reported casualties. At least two Palestinians were killed after Israeli troops entered the town of Dura, south of Hebron. An Israeli raid in the West Bank city of Ramallah killed three Palestinian security officers in a car; one of the men was wanted by Israel, Palestinian officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his Security Cabinet "decided to continue stepped-up security activity, including in Ramallah." Israeli forces have prevented Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from leaving his headquarters there since Dec. 3.

Sharon called Secretary of State Colin Powell on Tuesday and said, "Israel will continue to use all means necessary to defend the lives of its citizens. The state of Israel will not allow the Palestinian Authority and the refugee camps to turn into terrorist sanctuaries."

Responding Monday to weekend attacks that killed 22 Israelis, Sharon said his plan was to hit the Palestinians hard "so they understand they will not get anything through terrorism." He added, "We are waging a real war against a cruel and bloodthirsty enemy."

Speaking at the American University in Cairo on Tuesday, Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the League of Arab States, said, "There can be no military solution to this (situation) . . . and the Arabs will never surrender. They can only make peace with Israel if it is fair and balanced."

He spoke shortly before Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, alarmed by several days of extreme violence between Israelis and Palestinians, met in Washington with President Bush to press for U.S. help in ending the violence. Israeli officials rejected an offer from Mubarak to host a meeting between Sharon and Arafat at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheik. Powell has said it is up to the parties to decide whether to meet.

Mideast violence escalates further

Meanwhile, attack and counterattack have become a daily -- sometimes hourly -- pattern. Tuesday's violence began early in central Tel Aviv when a member of Arafat's Fatah group killed three people and injured 36 in a restaurant/nightclub. Among the dead: Salim Barakat, an Israeli-Arab police officer. Barakat apparently shot the gunman and was leaning over him to administer first-aid when the attacker stabbed him. A civilian then shot and killed the Palestinian.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Fatah's terrorist wing, said the attack was "in retaliation for the massacre of women and children in Ramallah and the massacres in Jenin," referring to both the deaths Monday of the wife and children of a local Hamas terrorist leader and to Israeli incursions in the West Bank last week in which 30 Arabs were killed.

Thousands attended Tuesday's funeral for Bushra Abu Kweik, wife of Hamas activist Hussein Abu Kweik, and their three children. They and two unrelated children died when an Israeli shell hit their cars.

Later Tuesday, an Israeli woman was shot dead as she drove with her husband in the West Bank. An Israeli man died and 35 people were hurt when a suicide bomber blew himself up on a bus in the northern Israeli town of Afula.

In Sur Baher, an Arab village annexed to Jerusalem by Israel after a war in 1967, eight Arab schoolchildren and a teacher were injured in a blast at a school. Israeli police defused two more devices found on the school grounds. A previously unknown group of Jewish extremists claimed it planted the bombs.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Elizabeth Dalziel, AP; After explosion: Israeli border police push back an Arab-Israeli youth who joined a protest after a blast at an Arab-Israeli playground in East Jerusalem injured eight schoolchildren and a teacher.

Load-Date: March 6, 2002

End of Document

'THIRTY DEAD' IN HEAVY FIGHTING AS ISRAELIS STORM REFUGEE CAMP

Independent on Sunday (London)

April 7, 2002, Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 633 words

Byline: Justin Huggler In Jerusalem The body of a Palestinian boy of 13 is carried out after Israeli incursions yesterday in a refugee camp in the West Bank town of Hebron; NASSER SHIYOUKHI/AP

Body

In the worst day of fighting for more than a week, Palestinian fighters claimed as many as 30 Palestinians had been killed in a refugee camp in the occupied Palestinian city of Jenin yesterday. The Israeli army said "very close combat" was taking place in the area, and that two of its soldiers had been killed in fighting overnight. It was impossible to verify the claims of either side.

Amid protests from across the world, Israel yesterday continued to defy George Bush's call to pull its troops out of Palestinian towns in the West Bank, in the worst day of fighting yet. The most serious clashes yesterday were in Jenin and Nablus. In Jenin, the one thing that everyone seemed to agree on was that people were dying inside the refugee camp.

The crowded narrow streets of the camp are usually home to more than 9,000 people. The Israeli army has already occupied Jenin city, but Palestinian fighters have been holding out inside the camp, and the Israeli army said a full-scale assault was under way. There were reports that gunmen were handing out explosives to residents.

"Nobody works as Fatah or Hamas, everybody works together," Jamal Abu al-Haija, a local Hamas leader, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press agency. "All the factions have distributed explosive belts and hand grenades to the people of the camp to defend themselves." Locals in Jenin said no one has been allowed to leave the camp, and that women and children are trapped in the midst of the Israeli assault.

The commander of Israeli forces in Jenin, Brigadier Eyal Shlein, told Israeli radio: "Yes, it is a tightly packed refugee camp. I am sure they do not like it, and I imagine that there are injuries. But people who raise children willing to commit suicide, who choose this path, they are expected to pay the price." Brigadier Shlein said the Palestinian fighters in the camp were putting up a fierce resistance. Abu Irmalla, a Palestinian fighter inside the camp, was quoted by the Reuters agency as saying: "I myself counted 30 dead bodies. There are a tremendous number of injured people." His account could not be verified, nor could claims from various sources that houses inside the camp were being destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority issued a statement calling on the US and the international community to "intervene immediately to stop the massacres and the war of extermination being waged by the Israeli occupation army". An Israeli army spokesman responded: "Any claim of intentional killing is absolutely baseless and a lie, it's pure unadulterated propaganda."

'THIRTY DEAD' IN HEAVY FIGHTING AS ISRAELIS STORM REFUGEE CAMP

Dr Ziad Ayaseh, the hospital director in Jenin, claimed ambulance crews had been warned by Israeli forces they would be fired on if they went to the aid of the injured, and that shots had been fired at one ambulance driver. His claim could not be verified, but the International Red Cross has publicly accused Israel of preventing ambulances from reaching the injured.

Meanwhile, Vatican diplomats were negotiating to end a stand-off at the traditional birthplace of Christ in Bethlehem. Israeli troops have surrounded the Church of the Nativity, where 200 Palestinian gunmen have sought sanctuary. Sources in the Vatican said the church was proposing a deal under which the Palestinians would leave their weapons inside the church and the Israeli troops would withdraw and allow the Palestinians to leave. Around 40 Franciscan monks and four nuns are in the church with the gunmen, and say they are staying to prevent a "bloodbath".

Father David Jaeger, a spokesman for the Franciscan custodians of Roman Catholic sites in the Holy Land, said he feared the monks were being described as "hostages" to justify storming the church.

"The friars are not hostages; they are in their own house, in the precise place where they belong," he said.

Load-Date: April 7, 2002

End of Document

MIDDLE EAST ATTACKS KILL 22 IN SINGLE DAY

The Scotsman

February 20, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 661 words

Byline: Foreign Staff

Body

PALESTINIAN gunmen killed at least six Israelis at an army checkpoint in the West Bank yesterday in an attack that was certain to draw strong Israeli retaliation, worsening a cycle of death and retribution that claimed 22 lives in 24 hours.

Bloodshed has surged with international diplomacy largely dormant amid increased pressure on Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon. He is under fire from both Right and Left after a sharp rise in the number of Israeli deaths. At least 861 Palestinians and 273 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising began in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

Security sources said the latest Israelis to die were ambushed at Ein Ariq, north-west of Ramallah. In addition to the six dead, at least one other Israeli was wounded in the attack on a caravan at the checkpoint.

Earlier, in the West Bank's Jordan Valley, a Palestinian bomber tried to board an Israeli bus outside the Jewish settlement of Mehola, the army said. He got only to the second step before the driver pushed him off and sped away. Witnesses said the Palestinian bolted and blew himself up in a field. There were no other casualties.

"He looked suspicious because he was wearing a jacket zipped to the collar" on a warm day, the driver, Shalom Dray, told Israeli television. "Thank God I saved 50 people."

Earlier, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at an office of **Hamas**, the leading armed militant Islamic group, in the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp, killing two militants and wounding several children.

Mahmoud al-Zahar, a **Hamas** political leader in Gaza, vowed revenge for the missile strike. "The answer for the killing of children and civilians can never be silence," he said. "The new crime will never deter us from continuing to fight the enemy until we drive it out."

The missile hit between shifts at a nearby school in Jabalya, meaning that many pupils were entering or leaving. A nine-year-old girl was critically wounded by shrapnel and five other children were seriously hurt. **Women** wept as they frantically searched for missing children. "God, please save my child. I have no other child," one woman wailed.

Inside Jabalya's hospital, surgeons operated on nine-year-old Inas Salah, her body drenched in blood and riddled with shrapnel. "She will be lucky to survive," one doctor said.

MIDDLE EAST ATTACKS KILL 22 IN SINGLE DAY

The attack followed Israeli air strikes overnight in Gaza and the West Bank that were Israel's response to four Israeli deaths in Palestinian attacks. In all, 12 Palestinians, including two suicide bombers and a gunman killed after firing at an Israeli convoy in Gaza, died on Monday and yesterday. The Israeli army said the missile strike had been in response to a wave of "murderous terror attacks".

Incidents cited by the army included the Gaza convoy ambush in which the gunman killed four Israelis before being shot dead and an incident near Jerusalem in which a suicide bomber blew himself up, killing a policeman.

Elsewhere, hospital sources in the refugee camp town of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, said a 14-year-old girl, a 37-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man had been killed when Israeli tank shells smashed their homes overnight. B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights group, accused the army of firing indiscriminately at civilians during the incident, using Flechette shells that spray darts.

Other hospital officials said two Palestinians, at least one of whom was armed, had been killed outside the Jewish settlement of Morag and Israeli troops had shot dead another two Palestinians in a gunfight early yesterday in the West Bank city of Nablus.

At a cemetery in Israel, meanwhile, mourners buried Ahuva Amargi, a woman settler killed in a roadside ambush in the Gaza Strip on Monday.

"I ask you for forgiveness because I could not save you," her sister said at the graveside. She said Ms Amargi had called her by cellular telephone as the shooting attack was under way and the sound of gunfire could be heard during the call.

Load-Date: February 21, 2002

End of Document

**MIDEAST VIOLENCE ESCALATES QUICKLY;
18 PALESTINIANS DIE; GUNMAN KILLS 3 IN ISRAELI RESTAURANT;**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 5, 2002 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 663 words

Byline: STEPHEN FRANKLIN AND CHRISTINE SPOLAR, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

The Israeli military yesterday hammered a series of Palestinian targets, killing at least 18 people, after a weekend of bloody Arab assaults on soldiers and civilians. Among the dead were a woman and her three children mistakenly killed by an Israeli tank shell and a doctor slain when Israeli forces fired on his ambulance in what they said was self-defense.

The long day of Israeli attacks was followed early this morning by a Palestinian terror assault in Tel Aviv. Israel officials, calling it a "suicide attack," said a Palestinian man opened fire at a nightclub and steakhouse, killing at least three people and wounding 16 before being shot to death.

The attack came in the early hours today on a central street called Entrance to Hope, Israel Radio reported. The man, who witnesses said was armed with a knife and automatic rifle with explosives strapped to his belt, stabbed and shot several patrons.

Also early today, Israeli troops raided Hebron and a Palestinian-ruled town near the West Bank city, killing one Palestinian and wounding 10 others in exchanges of fire, Palestinian security and hospital sources said. Troops entered the town of Dura, south of Hebron, with bulldozers and tanks and demolished a house while coming under fire. One man was killed and five wounded in the town.

Troops also entered the Palestinian-controlled sector of Hebron and wounded five Palestinians, including a 13-year-old girl who was critically hurt, hospital sources said.

Unease is growing alongside bitterness and anger as more Israelis question their leadership's ability to control the violence. Clashes and killings were reported throughout the day yesterday, from Ramallah and Bethlehem in the West Bank to the Rafah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

As children walked home from school, an Israeli tank shell hit two vehicles filled with Arab women and children on a busy Ramallah street. The wife of a local leader of the militant Islamic group Hamas died along with her three children.

Palestinians expressed outrage. The army said it was a mistake.

MIDEAST VIOLENCE ESCALATES QUICKLY; 18 PALESTINIANS DIE; GUNMAN KILLS 3 IN ISRAELI RESTAURANT;

The Israeli actions came a day after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Cabinet approved a plan to "apply constant military pressure on the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian terror organizations," Sharon's office said.

Waves of Israeli fighter jets last night attacked Palestinian security facilities and offices in Gaza, Ramallah and Bethlehem. The loud roar of the shelling in Bethlehem could be heard in Jerusalem.

Saying Israel is facing a "war" with the Palestinians, Sharon asserted that the only way to drive the Palestinians back to negotiations is deliver a "heavy blow" to them.

"We must inflict heavy losses on their side," he said. "The Palestinian Authority will not fight terror because they are the terror."

Facing a decline in public support as the violence spirals, Sharon was defending his government's plan to take the military confrontation with the Palestinians up a notch. The decision came after 21 Israelis died in 24 hours in attacks.

Right-wing Israeli politicians repeated their criticism of Sharon for not waging a more forceful effort against the Palestinians, while left-wing politicians again accused him of dragging Israel into a quagmire with no possible way out.

Much of the Palestinian outrage was focused on the tank shelling on a busy street leading out of the al Amari refugee camp. A tank shell hit a pickup truck killing Bushra Abu Kweik, wife of Hussein Abu Kweik, a local leader of Hamas. She had just picked up her children, ages 7, 8, and 14, from school.

The shell flattened the truck, killing everyone inside. A car carrying eight people, six of them children, also was hit by shrapnel from the blast. Two children, ages 4 and 16, were killed, and their uncle, Imad Masri, 34, was seriously wounded.

Abu Kweik told mourners that his loss would be avenged. Israeli army officials said the shelling was an accident, and that they had intended to hit a car carrying two armed men.

Graphic

PHOTO: Ariel Sharon/"We must inflict heavy losses on their side."

Load-Date: March 5, 2002

DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

November 22, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 263 words

Body

ISRAEL PONDERES BOMB RESPONSE

ISRAEL started burying its dead and mulling a swift response today after a Palestinian Islamist blew himself up in a packed Jerusalem bus during morning rush hour, killing 11 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was locked in talks with his military chiefs hours after the blast, first claimed by the hardline Islamic group Hamas and then by Islamic Jihad.

DEADLY STATS AS AIDS SPREADS

AIDS is the leading killer of women in South Africa and is claiming increasing numbers of lives every year, according to a government study released today.

AIDS-related illnesses, including tuberculosis, flu and pneumonia, were responsible for 9.8 per cent of female deaths in South Africa last year, up from 5.6 per cent in 1997, Statistics South Africa's causes of death survey showed.

DUMP EXPLOSIONS ROCK ECUADOR

RESCUERS desperately searched for survivors today as hospitals fought to cope with casualties from a munitions dump disaster in the Ecuadoran city of Riobamba that left seven dead and hundreds injured.

An explosion in the ammunition depot in an army camp yesterday afternoon set off a series of blasts that blew windows out 1.5km from the blasts.

UN LAYS TIMOR MURDER CHARGES

EAST Timor investigators have charged 12 people with committing murder shortly before the territory's vote for independence at the end of August 1999, the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor said.

The 12 "are all charged with crimes against humanity: murder and persecution", and include former Indonesian Government officials, soldiers and pro-Indonesia militia.

Load-Date: November 22, 2002

DOOM & GLOOM

End of Document

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS; Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties

The New York Times

June 21, 2002 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 2401 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, June 20

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 before setting out last month on a suicide bombing mission. She had 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, appears to be 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 on Jan. 27, groups tied to Yasir 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 Ms. Ahmed, reasons as personal as lost love and as political as the hate-soaked conflict led her to act. Last month, as she described it in a jailhouse interview, 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, she recalled, that her offer had been suddenly, even greedily, accepted.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties

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 le Zion.

Ms. 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 Ms. 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," Ms. Ahmed recalled this 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."

Ms. 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 bombing 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 Ms. Ahmed.

The range of recruits to suicide missions continues to broaden in often bewildering ways. This 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 body-building, gathering adherents by presenting an ideal that is embraced, even unconsciously. "Once you create such a culture," Dr. 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, Ms. 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.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties

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."

Ms. Ahmed was interviewed in the presence of agents from the Israeli Internal Security Agency, known also as the Shin Bet, who objected only to questions about her interrogation. Asked how she had been treated, Ms. Ahmed said that she had not received prompt dental treatment for a toothache, but that she had otherwise been treated as she expected a prisoner would be.

Poised and seemingly at ease, she was dressed in street clothes -- dark corduroy pants and a blue-and-white striped tunic -- and she smiled and joked easily during almost two hours of conversation.

Ms. Ahmed said she wanted to be interviewed to discourage other Palestinians from conducting suicide attacks, and to gain sympathy for herself. The Israeli Security Agency appeared eager to illustrate how easily militants manipulate susceptible people and send them to kill and die.

But 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.

Ms. 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," Mr. 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."

Mr. Shaibat repeatedly returned to Ms. Ahmed's upbringing: Her father died when she was 6 months old. Her mother remarried when she was 6 and left her in Beit Sahur; she now lives in Jordan. Ms. 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 Ms. Ahmed baked sweets and helped around the house during the 39-day Israeli siege, she was often glued to the television, following the Israeli offensive.

Then she quarreled bitterly with an aunt shortly before she undertook her mission, without a word to her family.

Ms. 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.

"There is a saying in America," Mr. Shaibat said. "I didn't see the writing on the wall."

In an effort to understand the changing nature of suicide bombing, the Israeli defense minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, recently met separately with Ms. Ahmed and a would-be suicide bomber who was intercepted. He said he found little commonality but despair.

Ms. Ahmed was composed during the interview. Tears sprang to her eyes only when she recalled the death of her fiance. "So I lost all my future," she said simply.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties

She insisted that the man she loved, Mr. Salem, attacked only soldiers -- an account disputed by Israel -- and said he had refused even to discuss with her the details of his operations. "He didn't want to put me in this," she said. "He was telling me all the time that I am his life."

Scared for him, she tried to persuade Mr. Salem to stop fighting, but he replied, "It's too late." His comrades would think he had become a collaborator, she explained.

Such pressures within Palestinian society are intense. 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 Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority is either cooperating or doing nothing to stop the suicidal killing.

Arien Ahmed and Issa Badir would not have made anyone's list of likely killers. His brothers said Issa, like Palestinians in general, had been upset by watching images of Israeli military operations on television. But he seemed most passionate about swimming.

While attending a Lutheran high school in Bethlehem, Ms. Ahmed took part in joint discussions with Israeli students, and she made some friends among them, she said. "Maybe if I check my e-mail, I will see e-mail from them," she said, smiling.

Just as the bombers are becoming individually harder to identify and to stop, the broader cultural phenomenon of suicide bombing may prove difficult to restrain, experts say.

It appears that violent groups have seized on the method specifically because it is an effective means of killing but also one with an intrinsic political message of desperation and despair, which a car bomb or kidnapping might not convey.

"Our aim first is to show the world that we no longer love this life without our land," said Dr. Nizar Rayan, a **Hamas** leader in the Gaza Strip. One of Dr. Rayan's sons died last fall in a suicidal shooting attack on a Jewish settlement, Eli Sinai.

Dr. Rayan, who studied martyrdom as a graduate student, brought his Toshiba laptop to a recent interview in Gaza City, so that he could call up relevant Islamic scripture.

He questioned what he described as American hypocrisy on the use of suicide as a weapon, saying Palestinians were at war with Israelis and had no other choice. "If we had weapons like the Israelis, we would kill them in a way that is acceptable to Americans," he said wryly.

In Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, Salah Othman is known as the "live martyr." In the service of **Hamas**, Mr. Othman joined in a suicidal attack on a Jerusalem bus almost nine years ago, during the first intifada, or uprising. He was shot in the head and back. Israel returned his nearly dead body to Gaza, where he recovered, married and now works in a **Hamas** rehabilitation center.

Mr. Othman said he required a great deal of psychological preparation. He prayed and fasted, he said, and tried to "look at this life the way God looks at it."

"This life -- whatever we see now -- for God, it's not worth the wing of a mosquito," he explained, sitting with his wife in their comfortable home. "You cannot compare this life with the afterlife. It's like a drop in the ocean. Why should I waste the ocean for this drop?"

MIDEAST TURMOIL: THE BOMBERS Rash of New Suicide Bombers Exhibit No Patterns or Ties

Like Dr. Rayan, he said he hoped his children would martyr themselves. "The new generation, they will be more fond of martyr attacks than the previous one," he said with satisfaction.

On Wednesday, a group of 55 Palestinian intellectuals published an advertisement in an Arabic-language newspaper, Al Quds, calling for a halt to attacks on Israeli civilians.

"We urge those behind military attacks against civilians inside Israel to reconsider their positions and to stop pushing our youth to carry out these attacks, which only result in deepening hatred between the two peoples," the advertisement read.

The group argued that "military attacks" on Israeli civilians were counter to the Palestinian national interest -- the same approach that Mr. Arafat has recently used to distance himself from suicide bombing. A poster of Issa Badir, "martyr hero," now adorns walls around Bethlehem.

For her part, Ms. Ahmed said she expected to be in prison for several years. But the security agency has recommended that she not be charged because she regrets her act, an official said tonight.

Eventually Ms. Ahmed hopes to make a new life in Jordan, because if she is eventually released, "they will refuse me," as a coward. Asked who would refuse her, she replied, "My nation."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Arien Ahmed, 20, skipped a marketing lecture at Bethlehem University on May 22 to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel, but changed her mind on the way. Arrested by Israel, she discussed her motives and change of heart in a jailhouse interview. (James Bennet/The New York Times)(pg. A10)

Load-Date: June 21, 2002

End of Document

**ISRAEL LEVELS ARAB HOMES;
GAZA REFUGEE CAMP TARGETED IN RETALIATION FOR SLAYING OF 4
SOLDIERS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 11, 2002 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 646 words

Byline: JOEL GREENBERG, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli army retaliated yesterday for the killing of four Israeli soldiers by Palestinian militants Wednesday by bulldozing dozens of dwellings in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, leaving hundreds of homeless people searching for their belongings in a five-acre sea of rubble.

The action in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, was the largest Israeli demolition operation in more than 15 months of violent conflict with the Palestinians. Since the start of that uprising, the army has destroyed scores of homes and large swaths of agricultural land, actions that have drawn strong condemnations from human rights groups. Yesterday, the United States condemned the latest demolition, which the army said was intended to deny cover to Palestinian gunmen.

"We have been very clear about the need for Palestinian action against violence and terror," a State Department official said in Washington. "At the same time, we do not believe that demolitions of Palestinian property and homes can contribute to the restoration of calm and an end to violence."

An Israeli army statement said troops had carried out "engineering activity," razing only 10 to 13 uninhabited homes that had "served as cover for gunmen firing on army forces operating in the area." The army said the structures were also suspected to have covered tunnels serving for the smuggling of weapons from Egypt.

But a U.N. Relief and Works Agency official said 54 houses were destroyed during the demolition yesterday and that more than 500 people had been left without shelter. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza said 58 houses had been destroyed and 700 people left homeless.

Throughout a day of pouring rain, men, women and children picked through the wreckage of the refugee camp where their homes -- cinder-block dwellings with corrugated roofs -- had once stood. They tried to salvage blankets, clothing and identity cards from the rubble. Smashed furniture and crushed appliances poked out from the ruins, along with a child's bed and a bicycle.

Residents said they had grabbed their children and fled when they were awakened about 1:30 a.m. by the roar of about a dozen Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbling into the camp.

ISRAEL LEVELS ARAB HOMES; GAZA REFUGEE CAMP TARGETED IN RETALIATION FOR SLAYING OF 4 SOLDIERS

Samir Ghneim, 35, said he had fled with his four children minutes before a bulldozer smashed into his family's house. The children were shaking and frightened, he said.

His 8-year-old daughter, Maryam, said: "I heard the bulldozers and tanks, and we ran away into the night. My father held me, and we were crying."

Tamam Ghneim, 52, a member of the same extended family, said she and her six children had managed to escape through a hole in a wall shared with a neighbor's house before her dwelling was destroyed.

"This is revenge," Ghneim said. "We didn't do anything. The attack happened in Israel, so why us? Why do our children have to go through this?"

Yesterday's demolitions, after the killing of Israeli soldiers by attackers from the militant group **Hamas**, raised the possibility of a renewed slide into violence after weeks of relative calm that followed a call Dec. 16 by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for a halt to armed attacks on Israelis.

The militant Islamic Jihad group announced yesterday that it was no longer bound by understandings with the Palestinian Authority to halt attacks in Israel.

The area had been the site of frequent fighting between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers posted along the border, and the army said its forces were met with gunfire and grenades during yesterday's demolition. But refugees living in the area said it has been calm since Arafat's call for a cease-fire last month.

Wednesday's attack on the soldiers occurred at an army post in southern Israel several miles away, on the border with the Gaza Strip. The **Hamas** gunmen had come from Rafah, but not from the same refugee camp the Israelis entered yesterday.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

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Hope of bomb inflicting pain

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

June 20, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 31

Length: 240 words

Body

AL FARAA REFUGEE CAMP -- Stymied twice before, suicide bomber Mohammed al-Ghoul wrote "this time, I hope I will be able to do it"

in a note that was found yesterday.

He blew himself up on a Jerusalem bus and killed 19 Israelis.
AP

Al-Ghoul, who had just begun a master's program in Islamic studies at a nearby West Bank university, dated the letter Saturday and went to see relatives one last time.

At the weekend, he visited his 80-year-old aunt and three sisters, bringing them sweets.

One sister, Layla, said he seemed normal but relatives realised only later he must have been saying goodbye.

In his note, al-Ghoul said he had tried to stage attacks twice before, but did not explain why he had failed.

"How beautiful it is

to make my bomb shrapnel kill the enemy," al-Ghoul wrote.

"How beautiful it is to kill and to be killed -- not to love death, but to struggle for life, to kill and be

killed for the lives of the coming generation."

Next to his name, he wrote "Izzedine al Qassam" -- the military wing of **Hamas**, the Islamic militant group that has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Al-Ghoul fitted the profile of the typical bomber: a devout Muslim who is single, in his early 20s and affiliated for some time with an extremist Islamic group.

But in recent months, Palestinians from other sections of society have come forward as volunteers, including **women**, high school students and married men.

Load-Date: June 19, 2002

Hope of bomb inflicting pain

End of Document

MIDDLE EAST DEATH TOLL GROWS

Daily Star
March 6, 2002

Copyright 2002 Express Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 249 words

Body

FIVE Israelis were killed by Palestinians yesterday in two bloody suicide attacks and a drive-by shooting. One maniac slaughtered three people and injured 31 in a gun and grenade assault on two packed restaurants.

His rampage was only stopped by a diner who shot him with his own pistol.

Another suicide attacker blew himself up on a bus, killing one. Other militant Palestinians ambushed Israeli motorists in the West Bank.

The attacks came a day after 16 Palestinians were killed by Israeli defence forces. Victims included the wife and three children of Hussein Abu Kweik - a leader of the feared **Hamas** group.

Abu Kweik vowed revenge and within hours the killings escalated further. The latest began when a man opened fire in an all-night restaurant in Tel Aviv. He let rip with a M16 rifle at a group of **women** on a hen night and threw in a grenade.

The gunman, Ibrahim Hassouna, 20, then barged into a diner. Shoe salesman William Hazan, who was with his wife, drew his gun and shot Hassouna.

He said: "I crawled under a table but he stuck a knife in my back. I saw he was the terrorist and immediately started shooting him."

Hours later, a maniac bomber blew himself up in a bus station in Afula, killing one and wounding 11.

Palestinians also killed a **female** motorist in the West Bank. In the past four days of fighting, 32 Palestinians and 27 Israelis have been killed.

Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of trying to "plunge our country into bloodbath".

Load-Date: March 6, 2002

Man in court over murder

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

February 17, 2003, Monday

Edition 1

Copyright 2003 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd

Section: NEWS,

Length: 266 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

A 27-year-old man was appearing in court today charged with the murder of a woman who was shot in the head. Samantha Hocking, 25, died at Southmead Hospital in Bristol on Saturday.

The man, from the Southmead area, was due to appear before Bristol magistrates, charged with the murder of Ms Hocking, also from Southmead.

Bomb blast

SIX people escaped injury in a pipe-bomb explosion at a flat in Northern Ireland. The device was pushed through a letter box last night at the property in Armagh city.

Israeli attack

ISRAELI troops raided a **Hamas** stronghold in Gaza City today, killing two Palestinians and blowing up the home of an alleged bomb-maker in retaliation for an attack on an Israeli tank yesterday.

Will's charity

POP Idol Will Young has been made an ambassador for a domestic violence charity, it was announced today. The chart star will work with **Women**'s Aid to raise awareness of issues and get involved with fundraising campaigns.

Cancer failure

SKIN cancer is a "Cinderella" disease that has been seriously neglected in the UK, a working group of MPs concluded today. It called for a shake-up in NHS skin cancer services, including better training for GPs.

Sub slip-up

THE Australian navy's submarine fleet has been recalled to port after a pipe burst and tonnes of water gushed into one of the subs, forcing it to resurface hastily.

Treat for fans

Man in court over murder

HOLLYWOOD heart-throb George Clooney was set to delight his army of **female** fans today with an appearance at the UK premiere of his latest film. The star is in London for the screening of his directorial debut, Confessions of a Dangerous Mind.

Load-Date: February 17, 2003

End of Document

Gaza bombed in pay-back raids

The Advertiser

February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 24

Length: 259 words

Byline: By SAKHER ABU EL OUN in Gaza City

Body

THE Israeli air force pounded central Gaza City for a second day yesterday, 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 in retaliation for a Palestinian attack in Beersheva in southern Israel on Sunday in which two women soldiers were killed, and for the first-ever use by Palestinian militants of homemade 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.

Fighter-bombers dropped three heavy bombs on the Palestinians' general intelligence offices, officials said. The buildings were inside the Sariyeh prison and security compound in the city's centre.

Many of those hurt were civilians walking along a main street in an adjacent market area.

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 unprecedented Palestinian gun attack in Beersheva, which also left the two assailants dead.

Also on Sunday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired Katyusha-style rockets against Israeli territory for the first time, 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, triggering battles with Palestinian gunmen.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

NOT MINE!

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)
December 18, 2002 Wednesday City Edition

Copyright 2002 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A-24

Length: 272 words

Body

If Palestinian suicide-assassins do not come from the lowest economic rungs, then they do not come from elevated economic and political levels, either.

The New Republic reports that when a certain young Palestinian did not show up at drill for budding militants, an activist called his mother to ask why.

She explained he was tired because he had stayed up all night studying. But, the leader said, "your son has been chosen to become one of martyrs." She replied that although "I bless you," her little darling "is not involved with any of that." Einstein "is busy with his studies."

The incident did not involve an anonymous family but the wife and child of a top-ranking **Hamas** official. It's one thing to urge others to sacrifice themselves while slaughtering Jews, but the children of the elite are, well, the children of the elite. As The New Republic notes, regarding "young suicide bombers blowing themselves up for the Palestinian cause": "Not one has come from a prominent family."

Perhaps to stave off embarrassment, the husband/father in the family of the studious son publicly said he would encourage the youngster to carry out an attack. And none other than Yasser Arafat's wife says she and the chairman gladly would send a son on a suicide strike. The Arafats have a daughter. Although their numbers are few, young Palestinian **women** have killed themselves while on terrorist missions. It's possible the off-spring of the privileged promoters of terror someday will die in a self-inflicted orgy of bloodshed, but during the so-called intifada the motto of the ringleaders has been the universal, "Not with my child, you don't!"

Load-Date: December 21, 2002

**11 more die in fighting in Israel;
Border with Egypt rare scene of battle**

The International Herald Tribune

January 14, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 765 words

Byline: Dexter Filkins

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Nine Palestinians and two Israelis have been killed in fighting across Israel and the occupied territories as the conflict here became entangled in Israeli electoral politics.

It was the deadliest day in Israel and the territories since suicide bombing attacks killed nearly two dozen people last week, and the violence broke out in one area that is ordinarily quiet.

The events Sunday came a day after the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, asked Palestinians to refrain from attacking Israeli civilians.

In a speech Sunday, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, denounced Arafat's appeal, accusing him of trying to swing the election to his more dovish opponent, Amram Mitzna, the Labor Party candidate.

The New York Times

The country's defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, promised "vast operations" against Palestinian militants in the occupied territories.

The events Sunday, which included significant Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip and in the Palestinian town of Jenin, prompted accusations from Palestinian leaders that Sharon was deliberately trying to torpedo their peace offerings. They asserted that Sharon was stepping up attacks on Palestinians to rally Israelis to his side before the parliamentary elections this month.

"Sharon will not leave us alone," said Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Authority's minister for local government. "He is determined to mark the election campaign with more Palestinian blood."

But much of the violence appeared to be initiated by Palestinian fighters, while some appeared to follow no discernible pattern.

In one of the most violent incidents, two Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in a gunfight that broke out when a team of Israelis spotted a group of militants who, the Israelis said, were crossing into Israel from Egypt near the town of Nitzana.

11 more die in fighting in Israel ; Border with Egypt rare scene of battle

Officials said their soldiers had swept the area in vain for a third militant, making them wonder if there was a third one at all.

The incident marked a rare departure from the quiet that ordinarily prevails on the border between Egypt and Israel. A majority of the military activity in the area is concentrated on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

In another deadly incident, a pair of Palestinian gunmen slipped into the Israeli farming town of Gadish, near the boundary with the West Bank, and killed an Israeli resident there, officials said. Security forces killed the two militants during a gunfight, an official said.

Gadish is near the predominantly Palestinian town of Jenin, a center of resistance and the site of heavy fighting earlier this year.

Security forces mounted at least three military operations against Palestinian targets in Gaza on Sunday. In the most dramatic, a helicopter fired a missile into a car believed to contain at least two members of Hamas, the hard-line Palestinian group.

Palestinian witnesses said the car did carry two members of Hamas, identified as Mohammed Muhammad abu Shamalah and Raed Attar. But the witnesses said the missile hit two civilians instead.

According to those witnesses, the missile killed Ali Kawarea and Abed Rahman Najar, both unarmed civilians.

Israeli officials acknowledged that the missile had missed its target, but said they could not confirm any casualties.

The missile attack came after at least two Palestinians were killed during Israeli operations in Gaza carried out early Sunday morning.

In the first, Israeli tanks and helicopters entered the town of Khan Yunis, where they dynamited and bulldozed several buildings where officials said Palestinian militants had been making bombs.

Local Gaza residents said the buildings had been used to fabricate metal.

In the Khan Yunis operation, Palestinian witnesses and security officials said a gunfight broke out when the troops killed a member of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group that has carried out several suicide attacks against Israelis. At least 23 were wounded, the witnesses said, among them women and children.

Ibrahim Zakzuk, a 55-year-old factory owner in Khan Yunis, said the Israeli operations had destroyed \$50,000 worth of his equipment.

"I challenge Sharon and his army to bring to the world any evidence that this small industrial area was used on any day to produce weapons," Zakzuk told Agence France-Presse. "It's war against our economy."

Amid the day's violence, efforts at diplomacy sputtered as well.

Sharon met with the British ambassador, Sherard Cowper Coles, and refused to reverse his decision prohibiting a Palestinian delegation from travel to London for a conference intended to encourage change in the Palestinian leadership.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003

Dying for a promise of martyrdom

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

May 18, 2003

Copyright 2003 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 1276 words

Byline: The recent wave of suicide bombings shows there is no shortage of people willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their cause. The chosen few tend to be quiet individuals rather than swaggering types, writes Peter Kammerer

Body

Explosives are strapped to the waist, security guards dodged and the crowd is suddenly all around. The bomb is detonated and at least one life, and maybe dozens, is extinguished.

Such is the dream of the suicide bomber, chosen by terrorists to make the ultimate statement - that even living is worth giving up for the cause. An increasing number of people are living that dream.

In the past week, at least 135 people - 30 of them suicide bombers - have been killed in attacks in Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the separatist Russian republic of Chechnya.

Co-ordinated, synchronised suicide operations have become the terrorists' preferred weapon. The method was dramatically - and chillingly - used in the World Trade Centre and Pentagon hijackings on September 11, 2001.

Then, last October, a man with explosives strapped to his body ran into a Bali nightclub, sending panicked tourists fleeing into the blast of a nearby truck bomb.

Muslim extremists carried out all the attacks and, except for those in Chechnya, they have been connected by officials to al-Qaeda, the international terrorist network established by Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden in the early 1990s.

The suicide-bombing method is most associated with Islamic militants, although it has been used to express opposition to officialdom from Colombia to Sri Lanka. First used by the anti-Israel Hezbollah in 1983 and later adopted by Hamas, barely a week goes by in the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis without another young Arab taking his or her life and those of Israelis in the name of an independent Palestine.

But suicide bombings are a political, rather than religious, weapon. The beliefs of Islamic militants are not held by the majority of Muslims, who say suicide bombings are sully their religion. Islam is being used to justify terrorism, they argue.

Saudi Arabia's leading Islamic scholar, Abdulaziz bin Abdallah al-Sheikh, said in April 2001: "What you call suicide bombings in my view are illegitimate and have nothing to do with jihad in the cause of God."

Dying for a promise of martyrdom

Bin Laden and his supporters believe jihad, or holy war, is justified because of perceived Israeli oppression of Arabs, American support of the Jewish state. The US-led conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are seen as being against Muslims rather than terrorists.

The roots of suicide attacks lie in the biblical Samson, who used his strength to bring down a building on his enemies. In the 19th century, Russian revolutionaries carried sticks of dynamite into war, having put their affairs in order in the belief they would not be returning.

Middle East terrorism expert Magnus Ranstorp, of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St Andrew's University in Scotland, said last week the method had since been adopted out of strategic choice by many terrorist groups around the world. Explosives were inexpensive and easy to come by. The most costly part of an operation was the logistics - providing safe houses and making preparations for the attack.

Recruitment was a secretive process. Potential suicide bombers had to have an ability to be indoctrinated and stay calm under pressure.

"It's a process that takes time to cultivate and generate the right momentum," Dr Ranstorp said. "Counter-terrorism has pushed it underground in Europe, but elsewhere - especially in the Middle East - there are plenty of volunteers."

The methods used made preventing the attacks difficult, as Israel has found, despite having an almost hermitically sealed security environment.

"They have security guards outside restaurants or in crowded places, checking people wearing bulky clothing, and vigilant law enforcement," he said. "Suicide bombers follow the path of least resistance - they do surveillance, check security and go for the target that is surmountable."

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers had probably the most sophisticated approach, creating special vests, intricately planning attacks and making use of female bombers to attract the minimum attention.

From the first Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam suicide attack on July 5, 1987, until a ceasefire with the government last year, hundreds of civilians were killed, including Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake.

The Sri Lankan Central Bank, World Trade Centre and Colombo's international airport were devastated by separate bombings.

An expert on terrorism and the psychology of terrorist behaviour, John Horgan, said terrorist groups preferred suicide bombings because they were effective.

"Terrorist tactics are all about causing disarray and exploiting confusion and anxiety," he said. "The idea that someone could be capable of committing such an act sickens and appalls us. We only see the end result and not the time and effort taken to recruit someone and to plan such an operation."

Dr Horgan, a lecturer at Cork University in Ireland, said finding recruits was not as simple as anti-Israeli groups like Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah made out. Their propaganda made it appear most Arabs were willing to become bombers.

In an attempt to make the role attractive, the groups had glorified the role to one of martyrdom and in the Palestinian territories, successful attackers were treated as heroes.

"It's in the vested interests of terrorist groups to have a very strong and high psychological premium on becoming a suicide bomber," Dr Horgan said. "It's seen as a position for the chosen few ... a sought-after position."

Hamas, the military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, did not take volunteers as this could leave them open to spies for Israel. Instead, Hamas recruiters identified specific qualities in potential bombers, such as a non-

Dying for a promise of martyrdom

obtrusive character. Extremists who marched with knives and guns in support of bin Laden were not the sort of people who would become suicide bombers.

Women were often trained as suicide bombers to avoid suspicion in male -dominated societies. People with secretive, introverted lifestyles were preferred to those with outgoing characters.

Dr Horgan said that as a result, it was difficult for security officers to identify attackers.

"Psychologists used to think that there was a profile of a suicide bomber," he explained. "Generally speaking, this was someone without a job or any prospects of attaining meaningful significance in his or her life. But that's changed, and suicidal terrorists tend to be quite heterogeneous and come from varying backgrounds."

Some had a direct experience of family victimisation. They were not loners in the sense they were isolated from society, but for various community, social and psychological reasons, terrorist organisations were careful about who they took on. Those with a family to support or single children were not recruited.

Group attacks, as on September 11 or in Saudi Arabia and Chechnya, had become increasingly common because of the peer pressure placed on participants. If one terrorist went ahead with plans, the bonding created by the shared goal made it more likely the others in the group would follow. Those who backed out or were arrested were shamed within their communities.

Suicide bombings frequently achieve their aims by killing the intended target. In the process, they focus the world media on the social, political or religious cause. At the same time, though, they are counter-productive.

In many cases, suicide bombings result in massive public outrage that governments interpret as a mandate to crack down harder.

Graphic

(Photo: Reuters); Palestinian suicide bomber Abdel-Basset Odeh, who killed at least 20 people last year in a hotel attack in the Israeli town of Netanya.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003

CARNAGE RETURNS TO THE STREETS OF TEL AVIV

The Independent (London)

September 20, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: BUSINESS; Pg. 2

Length: 677 words

Byline: Justin Huggler In Tel Aviv An Israeli police officer pauses at the site of the suicide bombing in a bus in Tel Aviv yesterday Lefteris Pitarakis/AP

Body

A VOLUNTEER was searching through the wreckage of shop fronts of Allenby Street yesterday, looking for survivors from bus number 4. Flowers lay amid broken glass all over the pavement. Workmen were removing the window of the Piano House music store, that had been punched through with large shrapnel holes. Outside the bookshop next door, one of the shop assistants sat on the steps and smoked, his hands shaky, with the camera crews looking on.

Every few minutes, another bus number 4 came by. At the stop where, just hours before, a suicide bomber had got on the bus, detonated his hidden explosives and tore the bus apart, residents were queuing up and getting on the bus to go home. Five people died in the bus bombing yesterday. More than 40 were injured, including two British students, one in critical condition last night.

Elad Zifrin was watching when the bomb went off. At his father's cafe, just a few metres up the road, the 21-year-old was standing outside, encouraging passers-by to come in. It was just before 1pm, the busiest time of the day on one of Tel Aviv's busiest shopping streets.

"Just at that moment, I glanced at the street, at the spot where the bus was pulling away from the stop. First, I heard an explosion. It took three seconds but it seemed like a lifetime. First I heard it, then I saw the bus filling with black, black smoke, then it was exploding out from the bus. I saw the bus still coming towards me but without the driver."

What happened to the driver, we asked. "Oh, he was still sitting in his seat, but his body wasn't in one piece," the young man said. "I saw people knocking at windows, trying to get out." Another witness told us she saw people desperately crawling through the broken windows of the bus. "There were a lot of pieces of body near the restaurant," Mr Zifrin continued. Some young women came into the restaurant. They had blood on their faces, they went and locked themselves in the toilet and wouldn't come out, they were really frightened. They were screaming."

It is not the first bomb to go off here. Allenby Street has been the target of several. A year-and-a-half ago, Mr Zifrin's restaurant was blown apart by a bomb left behind in a bag. He showed us a photograph of the wreckage then. "It looked almost exactly the same today," he said. He was shaken. His conversation veered from one bombing to the other. A-year- and-a-half ago, nobody was injured because his parents noticed a bag had been lying uncollected for hours so they evacuated the restaurant.

CARNAGE RETURNS TO THE STREETS OF TEL AVIV

Before the police could arrive, the bomb went off. Now the Ziffrins have jokingly renamed the restaurant "The Bomb Place".

It is part of the same defiance that had commuters queuing up yesterday evening at the bus stop where the bombing took place. "I came to work on bus number 4 today," said Mr Zifrin. "I got off at that same stop, where the bomber got on." Would he be taking the bus home? "No, not for a few days." There were reports of claims of responsibility by **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, the two main Islamist Palestinian groups yesterday. For six weeks, there has not been a serious militant attack in Israel. That ended on Wednesday, with a shooting and a suicide bombing in which an Israeli policeman died. And now bus number 4 on Allenby Street.

Hours before Wednesday's attacks, the Palestinian Authority offered a partial ceasefire. Israel rejected it because it was not going to apply to soldiers or civilians inside the Occupied Territories. **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad are considered more reluctant to agree to a ceasefire than other militant groups. It is not certain whether the violence has returned over the past few days because the ceasefire failed but returned the violence has. Last night, Israeli tanks were advancing on Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah, firing as they went.

"I don't think there can ever be peace," said Mr Zifrin last night. "Not with this Palestinian government. And not with" he hesitated. What he said next seemed hard to say. "With our way of thinking. We need to compromise to have peace."

Load-Date: September 20, 2002

End of Document

Gaza boy tells of bomb horror;

Morning Star

July 26, 2002

Copyright 2002 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 270 words

Body

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Khamees Hawayta, his face swollen with bruises and cuts, sat on his hospital bed yesterday underneath a photograph of his mother and two younger brothers who were killed in an Israeli air attack in Gaza.

Like many of the 145 injured in the attack early Tuesday morning, the Palestinian boy was asleep when the one-ton bomb targeted the house of a senior militant next door.

It blasted it to bits and destroyed nearby houses in the crowded district.

"The blast threw a cabinet on top of me and rubble on top of my little brother Subhi, " said Khamees.

"Subhi cried to me: 'I can't get out. Help me!'

"I said: 'I can't help you because I can't see you'."

Injured family members struggled to rescue them.

Subhi went quiet. Khamees was retrieved and taken to hospital.

"Subhi is now in the grave, " said Khamees, his head swathed in a cloth bandage.

On the hospital wall, the photograph of his mother and two boys was decked with carnations.

Israel fired the "smart-bomb, " so-called because it is guided to hit a specific target, into a neighbourhood of densely packed residential buildings late on Monday night, killing **Hamas** military-wing leader Salah Shehada.

Bulldozers shovelled aside hills of concrete rubble tangled up in steel reinforcement bars - all that remains of the walls and foundations of Mr Shehada's pulverised home.

Women stumbled among what was left of their homes nearby, trying to salvage children's toys.

Up to six nearby houses and blocks of flats were destroyed in the attack, leaving many Palestinian families homeless.

Palestinian emergency workers sifted for human remains in the chaos.

Gaza boy tells of bomb horror;

Graphic

SAD REMNANT: A Palestinian woman salvaging a child's doll from the wreckage of a building in Gaza.

Load-Date: July 26, 2002

End of Document

TO OUR READERS

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

August 2, 2002 Friday City Edition

Copyright 2002 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: AREA/STATE; Pg. A-4

Length: 249 words

Byline: Bill Millsaps, executive editor,

Body

The first call yesterday morning came from a Dr. Norman Sporn, of Richmond. How, he wondered, could we justify playing on yesterday's Page A5 the death of seven people, including five Americans, in a bombing in Israel?

The answer is simple: We misplayed the story.

The bombing story was placed on Page A1 of The Times-Dispatch in the first of our three editions for Thursday morning. A very good wire story arrived after the first-edition deadline - a huge study in Sweden indicating that mammography really does save the lives of women.

Our editor in charge of newsroom operations Wednesday night believed the mammography story deserved to be played on the front page. I agree. But I do not agree that the Israel bombing story should have been taken off the front and replaced with the mammography story for our second and third editions.

Later in the day yesterday, other callers and e-mailers asked if our newsroom is so inured to the terrible violence in the Middle East that we think it no longer is news. That is not true. We are acutely aware of the continuing tragedy of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broad interest in that conflict among our readers.

Our news department is doing its level best to play this sad story straight, without taking sides or minimizing the violence visited on one side by the other. If we left the impression, with the display of the latest Hamas attack, that we are tilting our coverage of the story in a certain direction, we apologize. We will do better.

Load-Date: August 4, 2002

ISRAEL MOVES INTO NABLUS, KILLING THREE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 3, 2002 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 651 words

Byline: J. MICHAEL KENNEDY, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

The Israeli army, using helicopter gunships and more than 100 armored vehicles, shut down this Palestinian city yesterday, leaving three people dead in a retaliatory strike after the bombing of a Jerusalem university cafeteria.

Israeli officials said the military operation was also intended to round up local militants and destroy bomb factories located in Nablus' Old City, or casbah. The roundup could take several days as troops make door-to-door searches along the casbah's narrow alleyways, which are likely to be lined with booby-traps, said a senior Israeli commander in Nablus.

A spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces said two bomb factories have been discovered and that one contained a Kassem rocket, which has a range of about five miles.

The military operation came two days after a bomb was detonated inside a crowded Hebrew University cafeteria, killing seven people, five of them Americans. The militant group **Hamas** said the bombing was in retaliation for an Israeli air attack last week that killed the leader of its military wing and 14 others, including **women** and children.

In the last several days, the people of Nablus, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank, have refused to adhere to a strict Israeli-imposed curfew that has been in effect for more than a month. They opened shops and took to the streets, attempting to return to a semblance of normal life despite Israeli sanctions imposed on seven of eight Palestinian cities in June after back-to-back suicide bombings.

But yesterday, this city of 135,000 people was eerily deserted, save for a few adventurous children who dashed out into the street to play soccer, listening for the sound of approaching Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Armored vehicles surrounded the Old City, and by late afternoon, about 50 Palestinians had been arrested. The Israeli army had not entered the casbah since April, when it was the scene of bloody gun battles.

Outside Nablus, in the village of Salem, troops surrounded the home of **Hamas** activist Amjad Jabur, and shot and killed him when he tried to escape, Israeli officials said. At least two other Palestinians were shot to death in the Old City.

ISRAEL MOVES INTO NABLUS, KILLING THREE

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat called the Israeli operation "a new massacre," while Israeli government spokesman Dore Gold said the reason for the incursion was that Nablus had replaced nearby Jenin as a hub for plotting suicide bombings.

"We are dealing with a new generation of terrorists, which sprang up relatively recently under the leadership of their more seasoned cohorts," said the Israeli military commander.

At Rafidia Hospital in the heart of Nablus, an ambulance arrived carrying the body of a young man who had been shot in the head during the Israeli operation.

"Look at him," said ambulance driver Said Aker angrily. "He was just sitting in his house. He's wearing his pajamas."

Husam Jawhari, the hospital director, said that in some cases it took more than an hour and a half to get the wounded to the hospital. "People were making telephone calls and begging someone to come help them," he said.

In the Gaza Strip, an 85-year-old Palestinian woman died early yesterday after being shot by Israeli soldiers who mistook her for a gunman trying to sneak up on an Israeli settlement. An IDF spokesman said soldiers detected someone moving "suspiciously" in an area near the Kfar Darom settlement and opened fire. When the soldiers discovered it was an elderly woman, they took her to an Israeli hospital, where she died. The IDF expressed "extreme sorrow" over the death.

Meanwhile, the Israeli media reported that the commander of the Israeli forces on the West Bank, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, has signed orders to expel two relatives of Palestinian suicide bombers and that the Israeli attorney general had given his approval. If appeals fail, they would be expelled from the West Bank to Gaza.

Graphic

PHOTO: Enric Marti/Associated Press: An Israeli army soldier blindfolds a Palestinian suspect on the street before he is taken away on a bus on the edge of the Old City of the West Bank town of Nablus yesterday.

PHOTO: Joe Hermitt/Associated Press: An unidentified mourner, left, walks with the family of Benjamin Blutstein as they leave Keshet Israel Synagogue in Harrisburg after his funeral yesterday. The 25-year-old Harrisburg native was killed in the bombing at Hebrew University in Israel on Wednesday. The family members are his father, Dr. Richard Blutstein, second from left; mother, Dr. Katherine Blutstein; and sister, Rivkah Blutstein.

Load-Date: August 7, 2002

ON THIS DAY

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 9, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-COLUMN- ON THIS DAY SYDNEY LIVE; Pg. 79

Length: 294 words

Body

Saturday

1831 The French Foreign Legion is founded by King Louis Phillippe, with headquarters in Sidi-bel-Abbes, Algeria. The headquarters moves to France in 1962.

MATP

1903 Ten die when Cyclone Leonta hits Townsville, north Queensland.

1916 Germany declares war on Portugal on grounds that Portugal had seized German shipping in Portuguese harbours.

1951 The Communist Party Dissolution Act of the Menzies Government is declared invalid by the High Court after a challenge by the Communist Party of Australia.

1979 The Arbitration Commission grants maternity leave of up to 12 months to working women who have at least one year's unbroken service.

1990 Dozens of protesters are arrested in London as riot police break up demonstrations against the poll tax.

1991 The Yugoslav military enters Belgrade with tanks after thousands of anti-communist rebels clash with police.

Sunday

1876 Alexander Graham Bell makes the first ever telephone call, dialling his assistant in an adjoining room in Boston and saying: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you".

1919 The Australian Government offers a pound stg. 10,000 prize for the first flight by Australians from England to Australia before December 31.

1945 A total of 300 US aircraft B-29 bombers devastate Japan's capital, killing 100,000 people in what comes to be known as the Great Tokyo Air Raid.

1987 The Vatican issues a document on scientific techniques involving procreation, condemning surrogate motherhood and cloning.

1995 A bomb on a motorbike explodes outside a mosque in Karachi, Pakistan, and gunmen shoot at people on the street. At least 10 people die.

ON THIS DAY

1996 Palestinian police arrest the commander of the military wing of the radical Muslim movement **Hamas**, which claimed responsibility for terrorising Israel.

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

End of Document

5 Americans among Israel victims

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

August 1, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1194 words

Byline: By Mark Lavie Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, once a student at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, denounced Palestinian terror attacks and laid a wreath at the school Thursday after a bomb detonated by a cell phone killed seven people -- five of them Americans.

"We have grieved with all the people of Israel as they have faced Palestinian terrorism," said Kurtzer, speaking in front of the Frank Sinatra International Students Center, where the blast tore apart a cafeteria a day earlier. "Now that five American citizens have been killed, our grief is even deeper."

The militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the cafeteria blast at the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University, a popular gathering spot for Jewish, Arab and foreign students. **Hamas** called it revenge for an Israeli attack last week in Gaza that killed the leader of its military wing and 14 others, including **women** and nine children.

President Bush mourned the American dead as he met Thursday with King Abdullah of Jordan on how to move the Mideast peace process forward. "I am just as angry as Israel is. I am furious," he said.

"But even though I am mad, I still think peace is possible," the president said at a picture-taking session with the king at the start of a meeting in the Oval Office.

The U.S. citizens included an Israeli-American and a French-American, police said Thursday. Israelis, Arabs, as well as four Americans and three South Koreans were among the 80 wounded.

Unlike other recent Palestinian attacks, Wednesday's attack was not a suicide bombing. The bomb, laden with nails and other metal objects, was in a bag left on a table in the center of the cafeteria and was detonated remotely by cellular phone, said an Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Police detained a number of Arab employees of the university on suspicion of having aided the bomber, said a police official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kurtzer, who took Middle Eastern studies at the university in 1969-70, placed a wreath in front of the cafeteria Thursday and observed a moment of silence.

"The terrorist murderers -- those who sent them and those whose action and inaction contributed to this despicable act -- have descended to a new depth of depravity," he said. "They have violated the sanctuary of a university, in which Israelis, Arabs, Jews, Muslims and Christians study together."

5 Americans among Israel victims

The university student newspaper, "Student Legends," had printed two articles in April warning of lax security at the university, including one that imagined a suicide bomber blowing himself up inside the Sinatra cafeteria, killing seven people, said editor-in-chief Yaniv Tohorylef.

He said the cafeteria was in a particularly vulnerable position near a fence, and the newspaper's scenario envisioned the bomber crossing the fence onto campus. At the time, the university assured students security was under control, he said Thursday.

Israeli police canceled training courses and put officers, including those with administrative jobs, on active duty in Jerusalem and elsewhere, police said. Checkpoints were also erected in the Sharon area of central Israel amid warnings that armed Palestinians had entered from the West Bank.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli troops who had remained on the edge of town moved into the city center. Residents who had defied the army-imposed curfew for four days stayed home.

The attack came as Israel's Security Cabinet considered ways to stop or at least hinder suicide bombers, including measures such as expelling relatives of bombers from the West Bank to Gaza or destroying their houses.

In the Palestinian town of Beit Jalla, next to Bethlehem, the Israeli military destroyed the family house of Hazem Atta Sarasara, who carried out a suicide bombing attack on Tuesday in Jerusalem that wounded seven Israelis, the military said in a statement. Military sources said the destruction was a deterrent measure to show that such actions carry a price.

Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Jenin also demolished the home of an Islamic Jihad activist arrested earlier this week, residents said. The army said it was checking the report.

In new violence Thursday, a 27-year-old Israeli man, his hands and feet bound, was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head in his factory office near the Palestinian town of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, police and the army said.

Brig. Gen. Gershon Yitzhak, the divisional commander of the West Bank, told Israel Radio the attackers were believed to be Palestinians who had taken advantage of the lifted curfew in Tulkarem on Thursday.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian universities, Al Quds on the edge of Jerusalem and Bethlehem University, sent their condolences to their families of Wednesday's bomb blast at Hebrew University.

In an ad published in the Israeli daily Haaretz, the Palestinian universities said they "share in your sorrow over the murder of your dear ones and the repugnant attack."

Police and family members identified the American dead as Benjamin Blutstein, 25, of Susquehanna Township, Pa.; Marla Bennett, 24, of San Diego; and Janis Ruth Coulter, 36, who worked in New York.

The others were David Gritz, 24, who holds dual American-French citizenship; and an Israeli with American citizenship whose name was not released, Jerusalem Police spokesman Kobi Zrihen said.

The two slain Israelis, Lavina Shapira, 53, and David Ludovisky, 29, were to be buried Thursday in Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, an estimated 10,000 people rallied on Wednesday night to celebrate the bombing attack and endorsed calls for more "martyrdom operations."

A leading ***Hamas*** official, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said Thursday it did not matter that mostly Americans, and not Israelis, were killed in Wednesday's attack since it was an attack against Israeli occupation.

"We are fighting on our occupied land, and we didn't go to America or France," he said. "It is better for America and France to advise their citizen not to go to a war and resistance territories."

5 Americans among Israel victims

Spencer Dew, 26, an American student from Owensboro, Ky., who was lightly wounded by flying glass, said he had worried about such attacks in Israel, "but it didn't deter me from coming. I assume I'll come back next year."

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack but said it considered Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "responsible for this cycle of terror."

The 22-month Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been marked by more than 70 Palestinian suicide bombings, killing more than 250 people. Wednesday's attack was one of the deadliest not perpetrated by a suicide bomber.

Israeli troops control seven of the eight main Palestinian centers in the West Bank, moving in after back-to-back suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem June 18-19. The university bombing and a suicide attack the day before were the first in Jerusalem since the incursions.

The attack occurred on the eve of the release of a U.N. report into the Israeli military actions in the West Bank town of Jenin in March. The report rejected Palestinian claims that 500 Palestinians were killed, but criticized both sides for putting civilian lives at risk, Western diplomats said in New York.

Load-Date: August 1, 2002

End of Document

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR, OR FROM, DEMOCRACY

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

June 27, 2002 Thursday City Edition

Copyright 2002 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: GENERAL; Pg. A-8

Length: 697 words

Byline: John Hall, John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service. E-mail jhall@mediageneral.com

Body

The Middle East doctrine President Bush laid out this week was full of contradictions. The most glaring was his call for the Palestinian Authority to oust its current leadership, reconstitute itself as a democracy with full separation of powers and hold elections.

The problem is that Yasser Arafat, the current Palestinian leader, would have to be deposed against the clear will of his people. That seems undemocratic on its face. But Bush, without naming him, declared the Palestinian leadership was "compromised by terror."

Even more curious was Bush's suggestion that Saudi Arabia and other Arab authoritarian states have a stake in the reform process and should help create in their midst "a practicing democracy based on tolerance and liberty." States that have no conception of religious liberty, treat women like chattel and have little regard for human rights have not been known to pray for Madisonian democracy on the West Bank.

Making the world safe for democracy has been the American mission since Woodrow Wilson's time. It has been a huge success on balance. The collapse of the Soviet empire and the advent of free elections in the world's most closed societies was a triumph for that ideal.

Nonetheless, there are limits to what the single-minded pursuit of democratic values as a diplomatic mantra can achieve for civilization and American interests. Adolf Hitler, after all, used democratic processes to gain power.

Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, now in the dock in The Hague, was re-elected after his policies of ethnic cleansing began. While there was an active student protest against him, he was popular and wasn't ousted until NATO bombing and economic isolation made conditions unbearable.

The spread of democracy in the Western Hemisphere has been dazzling. Nonetheless, the White House this year briefly celebrated the overthrow of an anti-American pro-Castro admirer of Saddam Hussein, Hugo Chavez, as the elected president of Venezuela, only to see him crush the coup.

Some think Fidel Castro would be the hands-down favorite if democracy broke out in Cuba tomorrow.

In much of the Arab world, democracy likely would bring religious zealots and militants to power. A nuclear-armed, democratic Pakistan under the control of freely elected Islamic militants is a nightmare scenario that could make the world want to be safe from democracy.

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR, OR FROM, DEMOCRACY

The Palestinians have seemed receptive to secular democracy. Arafat remains vastly popular. He could win re-election easily, some experts believe. If he has any opposition, it is among the **Hamas** militants he has lately - but not very energetically - sought to restrain.

If Arafat is ousted, the most likely group to come to power through the voting booth are representatives of **Hamas**. Both United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, author of the peace plan for the area, voiced such warnings in the wake of Bush's speech. What a bitter irony that would be - the accession to power of the sponsors of suicide bombers in the name of democracy.

Interestingly, Arafat didn't seem to mind Bush's demand that he be dumped. It might help his ratings.

The Palestinian Authority, which he heads, issued a statement praising the Bush peace plan.

This appeared to be the result of some preparation by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who has been working the phones for weeks to keep Arafat's eye on the ball - the firm American message of support for Palestinian statehood. The implication is Arafat may be willing to do whatever it takes - including stepping down or becoming a figurehead - in order to make that dream a reality.

Indeed, the most interesting thing about the speech was the reaction to it. Israel also was net positive toward the plan even though it called for a cessation of settlements on the West Bank and a withdrawal of Israeli troops to pre-2000 borders.

The usual chorus of Washington think tanks sniffed the Bush doctrine away as inconsequential, but in the region it was being welcomed. The United States still holds most of the cards and both sides look to this country for leadership. Bush, if he will only take some risks, has potential to make things happen there.

Load-Date: June 29, 2002

End of Document

Warplanes avenge Tel Aviv suicide bomb

The Guardian (London)

January 26, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 14

Length: 282 words

Byline: Brian Whitaker and agencies in Tel Aviv

Body

Israeli F-16 warplanes attacked Palestinian targets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last night, hours after a Palestinian suicide bomber wounded at least 25 people in Tel Aviv.

Palestinian medical officials said that at least two people were wounded when two missiles hit Palestinian Authority security and intelligence facilities.

Witnesses reported huge plumes of smoke over the West Bank city of Tulkarm.

The bomb in a Tel Aviv pedestrian mall followed an Israeli helicopter missile strike which killed a member of the militant **Hamas** group in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Tel Aviv attack. Israel said the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, bore ultimate responsibility.

The authority said in a statement after the bombing that it condemned "any action that harms Israeli civilians".

The police said that the bomber was torn to pieces by the blast, which shattered windows and overturned cafe tables along the tree-lined pedestrian street.

"The blast lifted (a parked) motorbike into the air and people were blown all over the place," a witness told Israeli television.

It was the second serious attack on Israeli civilians in four days.

On Tuesday a Palestinian man fired into a bus queue in central Jerusalem, killing two **women**.

The Israeli defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, said the police had caught a second attacker in Tel Aviv who had planned to open fire on passersby.

Israeli television said the man's Kalashnikov assault rifle had jammed.

Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank, said: "The Israelis can't have security and the continuation of occupation and aggression at the same time."

Load-Date: January 26, 2002

Warplanes avenge Tel Aviv suicide bomb

End of Document

Letters from readers

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)
July 27, 2002, Saturday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 18A

Length: 1238 words

Body

Victims of big business

John J. Labosky seems to be saying that the market will take care of bad actors ("Business is able to clean up its own act," July 24).

Did Merrill Lynch — his example — repay the people who were hurt by the conflict of interest between the investment bankers and financial analysts? If not, can we say that justice has been done?

How about Enron? It seems that in the Enron situation the market penalized the innocent and let the guilty escape with millions.

Where is the justice? I think I would be happier with a system that tries to prevent these crimes from happening in the first place.

— David Kester, Minneapolis.

Sharon's reign of terror

I can't help wondering who's the real terrorist after hearing about the latest Israeli attacks that have terrorized civilians in yet another Palestinian neighborhood.

Though it's rarely reported, three times more Palestinians than Israelis have been killed in the past 18 months.

Perhaps it's time for the United Nations to consider indicting and trying Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as a war criminal.

— Thomas Handy Loon, Shevlin, Minn.

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Blame the criminal

When you claim that a crime is caused by anything other than the criminal, you condone the act.

When the Star Tribune editorial staff suggests, however indirectly, that Hamas' murderous activities are "caused" by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ("Missile in Gaza / Sharon government oversteps," July 24), it is condoning the deliberate and indiscriminate slaughter of civilians.

Letters from readers

Hamas may have grievances, and they may even be reasonable (if inflamed and exaggerated) grievances.

But when **Hamas** expresses those grievances through the murder of anyone it can get its hands on, with not even the pretense of separating combatants from civilians, it has crossed a line, and the world should be unanimous and unequivocal in its condemnation.

Terrorism is a Palestinian choice. While Sharon has not stopped it, he has done something very important _ he has given it a price tag, rather than a reward.

Palestinians are starting to realize that booby-trapping their children does not further their cause.

When enough Palestinians figure this out, there can be a real, honest dialogue with those Israelis who are willing to negotiate peacefully.

_ Randy McGregor, Minneapolis.

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Clinton crippled economy

A July 24 letter writer questioned the reasoning of those of us who deny former President Bill Clinton the credit for the economy in the '90s and who blame him for the current malaise.

The explanation is quite simple: When, in 1992, candidate Clinton was bashing the economy as "the worst economy in 50 years," it was growing at 4.3 percent.

There was a slight blip in 1991 that was due to the Gulf War and the 1990 tax increase, but the overall growth pattern, which began with President Ronald Reagan, continued through the 90s.

Clinton happily took the credit even though he had nothing to do with it.

In fact, if you'll remember, Clinton started taking the credit in December of 1992, one month before taking office.

In 2000, when Clinton's presidency was coming to a long-awaited end, the economic growth rate was 3.8 percent and falling, corporate scandals were starting to emerge and the stock market was beginning to teeter.

In a nutshell, Clinton inherited a strong and growing economy and he left his successor with a weakened and faltering economy.

_ Matt Marchetti, North St. Paul.

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Frightening view of life

Justice Antonin Scalia, in his July 21 commentary on the death penalty, states that "for the believing Christian, death is no big deal . . . [one is] losing this life, in exchange for the next."

This attitude is disturbingly similar to that held by the terrorists who embraced death on Sept. 11 and by the suicide bombers in the Middle East.

Scalia at least acknowledges that "intentionally killing an innocent person is a big deal."

However, the use of the word "intentionally" is revealing, since it seems to imply that unintentionally killing an innocent person would not be such a big deal (a view that his other opinions seem to confirm).

Letters from readers

That a Supreme Court justice holds these views should concern us deeply, given that the machinery of death in this country is warped by systemic flaws, human error and racism, and that innocent people have been sent to death row, albeit "unintentionally."

Justice Scalia, who claims to be a religious man, has shown in these views about death and the killing of innocents that he is lacking the most fundamental religious value of all _ a recognition of the sanctity of life.

_ Mark Berkson, assistant professor, Department of Religion, Hamline University, St. Paul.

Fly the dangerous skies

We've got drunk America West pilots. And now they can carry guns. I feel safer already.

_ Pat Proft, Wayzata.

Working to make miracles

All of us at Feed My Starving Children appreciate your July 22 editorial focusing on Africa's famine, but we have to take issue with your concluding paragraph about the ease of dispensing blame rather than working on the miracle of food for all children.

In fact, the 15,000 volunteers who visit us every year come because they have taken to heart the call to feed the hungry.

These volunteers, the majority of whom are youth, believe that miracles can happen right here.

Is this naive optimism on their part? Well, last year our volunteers packaged more than 3.4 million meals for hungry kids around the world. That may be a drop in the bucket when faced with the crisis of global hunger. But that amount of food would also feed for nearly five months the 24,000 poor who, as you point out, die of hunger every day.

In contrast to the "miracle-free world" of the editorial, there are miracles _ small and slow _ that consist of thousands of individuals giving of their time, energy and money to feed children they will never see half a world away.

_ Roger Hegeman, executive director, Feed My Starving Children, Minneapolis.

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Thoughtless pet owner

On my way into Target recently, I walked past a little beagle barking and jumping frantically in the front seat of a car.

The temperature that morning was 85 degrees with a dew point of 75, leading to a 95-degree heat index.

When I entered the store and approached a salesclerk about the pup, I overheard her informing a customer that many people had requested that someone call the police. Assuming this action would clear up the problem, I continued on to do my shopping.

When I left the store, I saw two police cars. Two women were standing by, watching out for the animal. One of the policeman spoke rather sharply to the women, telling them not to hassle the driver when she arrived at the car.

The poor lady. She was so inconvenienced. To think she was expected to leave her shopping in the air-conditioned store to assist her hot and probably thirsty dog.

_ Lynn Bottge, St. Louis Park.

In bad company

Thank you very much for the editorial regarding the U.N. Population Fund that the United States refused to honor ("Snubbing women / White House move will boost abortion," July 26). We are continually thrown into bad company around the world by our withholding, withdrawal, removing and thwarting those efforts that might indeed help people in other countries.

_ Joan Reitz, Northfield, Minn.

Load-Date: July 29, 2002

End of Document

Contradictory Doctrine

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

June 27, 2002, Thursday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 695 words

Byline: JOHN HALL; John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service. E-mail: jhall@mediageneral.com

Body

The Middle East doctrine President Bush laid out this week was full of contradictions. The most glaring was his call for the Palestinian Authority to oust its current leadership, reconstitute itself as a democracy with full separation of powers and hold elections.

The problem is that Yasser Arafat, the current Palestinian leader, would have to be deposed against the clear will of his people. That seems undemocratic on its face. But Bush, without naming him, declared the Palestinian leadership was "compromised by terror."

Even more curious was Bush's suggestion that Saudi Arabia and other Arab authoritarian states have a stake in the reform process and should help create in their midst "a practicing democracy based on tolerance and liberty."

States that have no conception of religious liberty, treat women like chattel and have little regard for human rights have not been known to pray for Madisonian democracy on the West Bank.

Making the world safe for democracy has been the American mission since Woodrow Wilson's time. It has been a huge success on balance. The collapse of the Soviet empire and the advent of free elections in the world's most closed societies were triumphs for that ideal.

Nonetheless, there are limits to what the single-minded pursuit of democratic values as a diplomatic mantra can achieve for civilization and American interests. Adolf Hitler, after all, used democratic processes to gain power.

Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, now in the dock in The Hague, was re-elected after his policies of ethnic cleansing began. While there was an active student protest against him, he was popular and wasn't ousted until NATO bombing and economic isolation made conditions unbearable.

The spread of democracy in the Western Hemisphere has been dazzling. Nonetheless, the White House this year briefly celebrated the overthrow of an anti-American, pro-Castro admirer of Saddam Hussein, Hugo Chavez, as the elected president of Venezuela, only to see him crush the coup.

Some think Fidel Castro would be the hands-down favorite if democracy broke out in Cuba tomorrow.

Contradictory Doctrine

In much of the Arab world, democracy likely would bring religious zealots and militants to power. A nuclear-armed, democratic Pakistan under the control of freely elected Islamic militants is a nightmare scenario that could make the world want to be safe from democracy.

The Palestinians have seemed receptive to secular democracy. Arafat remains vastly popular. He could win re-election easily, some experts believe. If he has any opposition, it is among the **Hamas** militants he has lately - but not very energetically - sought to restrain.

If Arafat is ousted, representatives of **Hamas** are most likely to come to power through the voting booth. Both U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and former Sen. George Mitchell, author of the peace plan for the area, voiced such warnings in the wake of Bush's speech. What a bitter irony that would be - the accession to power of the sponsors of suicide bombers in the name of democracy.

Positive Reaction

Interestingly, Arafat didn't seem to mind Bush's demand that he be dumped. It might help his ratings.

The Palestinian Authority, which he heads, issued a statement praising the Bush peace plan.

This appeared to be the result of some preparation by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who has been working the phones for weeks to keep Arafat's eye on the ball - the firm American message of support for Palestinian statehood. The implication is that Arafat may be willing to do whatever it takes - including stepping down or becoming a figurehead - in order to make that dream a reality.

Indeed, the most interesting thing about the speech was the reaction to it. Israel also was positive toward the plan, even though it called for a cessation of settlements on the West Bank and a withdrawal of Israeli troops to pre-2000 borders.

The usual chorus of Washington think tanks sniffed the Bush doctrine away as inconsequential, but in the region it was being welcomed. The United States still holds most of the cards, and both sides look to this country for leadership. Bush, if he will only take some risks, has potential to make things happen there.

Notes

OTHER VIEWS

Load-Date: June 28, 2002

JERUSALEM BLAST KILLS 3, HURTS 100

Daily News (New York)

March 22, 2002, Friday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 685 words

Byline: By CORKY SIEMASZKO DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER With News Wire Services

Body

A grinning Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in downtown Jerusalem yesterday, killing three people, wounding more than 100 - and leaving the truce talks in shambles.

As U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni tried to salvage his peace mission, a furious President Bush demanded that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat crack down on militants.

"Mr. Arafat must do more to stop the violence in the Middle East," Bush said. "Innocent lives were lost."

Secretary of State Powell called Arafat and insisted that he condemn the attack.

Buckling under American pressure, Arafat took the rare step of personally denouncing the attack "against innocent Israeli civilians" and vowed to catch the culprits.

But Arafat's words did not satisfy the Israelis, who canceled a meeting with Palestinian negotiators and accused Arafat of failing to rein in militants.

They noted that the bomber, Mohammed Hashaika, had been jailed by the Palestinian Authority for attempting to carry out an earlier attack - and released last week.

Last night, Zinni weighed in with his own condemnation of the attack as the world waited to see whether Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would retaliate.

"Israel will not be able to sustain for long its one-sided effort to implement the [truce plan]," Sharon's office said. Declaring them terrorists The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which are linked to Arafat's Fatah faction, took credit for the suicide attack. Afterward, the White House took steps to declare the group a foreign terrorist organization - a move to stem financial support by making it illegal for Americans to give the organization money.

Sharon, whose forces have kept Arafat trapped in the West Bank town of Ramallah for three months, had said he would let him attend the Arab Summit in Beirut next week if he agreed to a ceasefire.

But yesterday's bombing cast doubts on whether Arafat would be allowed out of Ramallah - and all but doomed his proposed meeting with Vice President Cheney in Cairo.

King George St. in Jerusalem was packed with people leaving offices and shoppers heading into stores at 4:25 p.m. when the 22-year-old bomber strode down the street wearing a denim coat and a grin.

JERUSALEM BLAST KILLS 3, HURTS 100

But just as wary officers were about to stop Hashaika, he detonated the nail bomb beneath his coat. The force of the explosion sent nails and body parts flying. Carnage all too familiar Blood-spattered bystanders hugged one another and wailed over the broken bodies.

Paramedics carried off the bomber's severed head while cops hustled an Arab from the scene. It wasn't clear whether the man was an accomplice or whether police were trying to protect him from the angry crowd.

It was the third suicide bombing since Zinni arrived in Israel last week to try to end 18 months of fighting that have left more than 1,400 dead on both sides. The attack happened near the Sbarro pizzeria where 15 people died in a suicide blast in August.

"It's like Russian roulette," said survivor Shlomo Levi.

LATEST ATTACKS

So many suicide bombers and gunmen have struck on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road that local people have dubbed it the street of the bombers. Terrorists' favorite target on Jaffa Road is the intersection of King George St., the city's busiest spot. YESTERDAY Palestinian suicide bomber blows himself up at Jaffa Road and King George St., killing at least 3 and wounding more than 100 others.

JAN. 28 Suicide bomber blows herself up outside a shoe store near King George St., killing an 81-year-old man and wounding 150 others.

JAN. 22 Gunman with an M-16 kills two women and wounds 20 others near Zion Square. Police hunt him down and shoot him dead.

AUG. 9, 2001 Fifteen are killed - including seven children - and 130 injured in suicide bombing at Sbarro pizzeria on corner of King George St. Hamas and Islamic Jihad claim responsibility.

MAY 27, 2001 Thirty are injured as bomb containing several mortar shells explodes near Cheshin St. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.

MARCH 3, 1996 Suicide bomber attacks the No. 18 bus near Shlomzion Hamalka and Cheshin Sts., killing 18 others and wounding 10. An offshoot of Hamas claims responsibility for the bombing.

Graphic

KRT HORROR UNLEASHED Israeli police officer and passerby tend to man injured in suicide bombing as victim lies nearby yesterday moments after attack on downtown street in Jerusalem. KRT Site of yesterday's suicide bombing

Load-Date: March 22, 2002

Powell says ties with Arafat may be downgraded

The Times (London)

January 26, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 282 words

Byline: Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

COLIN POWELL, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that the United States would consider a full range of diplomatic and political steps to adopt with Yassir Arafat and would not rule out a possible downgrading of ties with the Palestinian Authority.

General Powell, who was renewing US demands that the Palestinian leader punish officials implicated in a recent foiled arms-smuggling operation, said: "We continue to give a strong message to Chairman Arafat that he must act."

His message was made in a telephone call to Mr Arafat on Wednesday. He said: "I had a very long talk with Chairman Arafat...and once again pointed out to him the necessity for him taking strong, resolute, irreversible action to get terror under control."

President Bush also increased pressure on Mr Arafat to end violence in the region. He said: "I am disappointed in Yassir Arafat. He must make a full effort to rout out terror in the Middle East."

Bombing continued last night when Israeli F16s attacked Palestinian security positions in Tulkarem, in the northern West Bank, and in Gaza City. At least one Palestinian was killed and 40 others were wounded.

A Palestinian suicide bomber struck a crowded shopping area of Tel Aviv yesterday, wounding 24 people including a four-year-old boy.

There were scenes of pandemonium near the city's old bus station after the bomber detonated nail-studded explosives attached to his waist.

It was the second attack this week and followed Tuesday's shooting rampage in Jerusalem in which two women died.

The bombing came only hours after an Israeli helicopter gunship killed Adali Bakr Hamdan, 27, a senior Hamas activist, in a missile attack in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: January 26, 2002

BOMB GAFFE CHERIE: I'M SO SORRY

The Sun

June 19, 2002

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Section: WAR ON TERROR

Length: 698 words

Byline: Trevor Kavanagh and Simon Hughes

Body

As long as young people feel they have got no hope but to blow themselves up you are never going to make progress Cherie Blair yesterday, after suicide maniac murdered 19 Israelis.

CHERIE Blair was last night forced into a humiliating apology after offering sympathy to Palestinian suicide bombers.

Her astonishing gaffe, during a visit to a Palestinian charity, came hours after a bus bombing outrage in which 19 died. Many victims were children.

The PM's wife, visiting the Medical Aid For Palestinians HQ in Islington, North London, said: "As long as young people feel they have got no hope but to blow themselves up you are never going to make progress."

Mrs Blair was standing beside Palestinian-born Queen Rania of Jordan when she made her remark, which flew in the face of earlier strong condemnation of the latest killings by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

He denounced the attack as "evil beyond words". And he told MPs: "None of us should ever seek to justify the use of terror against innocent civilians to advance a political cause."

But last night the Government faced further anger after Mr Straw himself admitted he felt compassion for the bombers.

Interviewed by The Sun's sister paper The Times, he said: "When young people go to their deaths, we can all feel a degree of compassion for those youngsters. They must be so depressed and misguided to do this."

Mrs Blair's blunder also sparked a diplomatic furore -with an official Israeli protest.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman said it regretted "any public statements which might be interpreted as expressing understanding for Palestinian terrorism."

He added: "Particularly on a day on which 19 innocent lives were taken by a bomber from ***Hamas***. Those who glorify and encourage such atrocities, preaching hatred and violence cannot be absolved of responsibility."

Furious Israelis also said they interpreted Mrs Blair's remark as a sign of support for the Palestinian cause -the eradication of the Israeli state.

BOMB GAFFE CHERIE: I'M SO SORRY

The Jewish Chronicle said: "There is a dangerous line between suggesting there is a rational explanation for the targeting of men, women and children in buses and restaurants and justifying them.

"For public figures to cross that line -which her husband has been very careful not to -gives hope to terrorist bombers."

Backbench Labour MP Louise Ellman accused Mrs Blair of "glamorising" the killers.

As the storm exploded into a full-scale political crisis, Tony Blair tried to defend his wife.

A defiant Downing Street spokesman said: "What Mrs Blair was saying is a statement of the obvious. There is a consensus that many Palestinians feel they have no hope."

Mr Blair then claimed his wife's remarks had been taken out of context. He said: "I hope that no one misdescribes her sentiments or mine.

"Everybody in this situation feels nothing but the deepest sympathy for the people who have lost their lives." But after the official protest from the Israeli Embassy, a spokesman for Mrs Blair issued a full apology.

He said: "If any offence has been taken Mrs Blair is obviously sorry. None was intended and she condemns the atrocity.

"She would never condone suicide bombers or say they had no choice." Mrs Blair has caused controversy with her growing political role and some ministers questioned her judgment in attending the Palestinian charity.

Up to ten children were last night feared to be among the victims of the Jerusalem bomber and 50 people were hurt by shrapnel and nails.

It was the worst terror massacre in the city for six years. A teenage survivor said he saw the killer "get on the bus really fast", adding: "He didn't pay and after a couple of seconds there was an explosion."

Islamic terror group Hamas admitted responsibility and named the bomber as Mohammed al-Ghoul, 22, from a refugee camp near Nablus.

Israel, which fears three more suicide bombers are on the loose, sent tanks into the West Bank city of Jenin last night.

Two Israeli helicopters and F-16 jets were seen over the city as more army vehicles approached.

In a statement early today the Israeli government said its forces would retake parts of the West Bank and hold them as long as terror attacks continued.

See The Sun Says

Load-Date: June 20, 2002

**Sharon vows Israel will not pull back; 8 more killed: Israelis promise
destruction of Palestinian forces**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 11, 2002 Thursday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. a1

Length: 1176 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JENIN, West Bank

Body

From a West Bank army base overlooking the scene of the deadliest fighting in Israel's 13-day-old offensive, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Wednesday delivered a blunt message: Israel will not pull back until Palestinian militias are crushed.

Despite his pledge to continue the offensive in the face of intense U.S. and international pressure to call it off, Sharon's defense ministry announced late Wednesday troops were pulling out of West Bank villages of Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

Yatta and Samua are near the southern city of Hebron, and Qabatya is near the northern city of Jenin, where some of the most fierce fighting has been reported.

Sharon's statement earlier Wednesday defied increasingly impatient U.S. demands for a withdrawal from Palestinian towns - to be delivered in person Friday by Secretary of State Colin Powell - and came hours after an Islamic militant blew himself up on a bus in northern Israel, killing himself and eight passengers.

Speaking to cheering soldiers at a post overlooking the battered Jenin refugee camp, Sharon said he explained to President Bush that "we are in the middle of a battle" which, if abandoned prematurely, would only require another round of fighting later on.

"Once we finish, we are not going to stay here," the former general said. "But first we have to accomplish our mission." He added that unless Israel crushed the militants, the phenomenon of suicide bombings "could spread like a plague around the world."

Earlier in the day, Israel's Security Cabinet affirmed the decision to continue the offensive. By nightfall, resistance was subdued in the Jenin camp - where fighting has raged for days and where 13 Israeli soldiers were killed Tuesday in a sophisticated Palestinian ambush - and in the old town of Nablus, the largest West bank city.

Powell insisted his peacekeeping mission was not threatened by Sharon's refusal to halt the incursions. "My mission is not in the least in jeopardy," he told reporters in Spain.

Sharon vows Israel will not pull back; 8 more killed: Israelis promise destruction of Palestinian forces

Powell, who arrives in Jerusalem late today, said he intends to meet both Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Sharon said Powell would be making a "tragic mistake" in meeting with Arafat, who has been confined to his Ramallah offices by Israeli forces for the past two weeks.

Still, Israel has said it would not try to prevent a Powell-Arafat meeting. Israel allowed Arafat to see several senior aides on Wednesday. Later in the day, the Palestinian officials met with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni.

Sharon has branded Arafat the leader of a "regime of terror" and has suggested he would no longer do business with him. However, Powell reiterated Wednesday that the United States would continue dealing with Arafat.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia said the Palestinians would demand that Powell secure an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas and that U.S. mediators come up with a timetable for carrying out a cease-fire.

Israel withdrew from two Palestinian towns earlier this week, but its forces remained in four others.

In the Jenin refugee camp, dozens of gunmen holed up in a small area fired sporadically Wednesday morning at Israeli troops advancing with bulldozers. A local leader of the militant group Hamas, Jamal Abdel Salam, quoted one gunman as telling him by phone: "We are in a group inside a house. They (the Israelis) are at the door and they are coming to arrest us. Take care of my family."

Later Wednesday, about 300 camp residents, including armed men, women and children, surrendered to Israeli troops. An Associated Press photographer driving through the camp saw many building facades with wreckingball-sized holes from Israeli shelling. Streets were deserted, and there was no sign of Palestinian resistance.

More than 100 Palestinians are believed to have been killed in the Jenin camp, and many bodies remain in the streets. Among those reported dead was Mahmoud Tawalbeh, a 23-year-old leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group who masterminded a number of suicide bombings.

In Nablus, rescue workers on Wednesday retrieved the bodies of 14 Palestinians, bringing the total of dead in the city since the start of the Israeli invasion to 60. The old city of Nablus, a warren of narrow alleys, had been the scene of fierce battles for days.

On the city's outskirts, Israeli tanks and helicopters shelled the Al Ain refugee camp, damaging some homes. After daybreak, soldiers with loudspeakers called on teen-age boys and men to come out of their homes, and witnesses saw hundreds of Palestinian men sitting on the ground in front of the mosque.

And in Bethlehem, a standoff continued at one of Christianity's holiest sites, the Church of the Nativity. An Armenian monk in the compound was seriously wounded, and Israeli troops and armed Palestinians blamed each other for the shooting.

Franciscan Father David Jaeger said he had proposed to both sides that the Palestinian gunmen be escorted to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip, with international guarantees, to defuse the crisis at the church. "It's lives we are talking about," Jaeger said.

Israel's Security Cabinet on Wednesday repeated its earlier position - that the siege will continue until the gunmen surrender. The Palestinian Authority has not commented on the plan.

Palestinian security sources and the Israeli military also said Israelis killed the leader of the Hamas military wing in Hebron, Akram al-Atrash, in his hideout in the nearby village of Dura.

Twenty-eight soldiers have been killed in Israel's offensive, according to the military. The Palestinian Red Crescent says it has confirmed at least 128 Palestinians dead and 337 wounded, but that the toll was expected to rise significantly.

Sharon vows Israel will not pull back; 8 more killed: Israelis promise destruction of Palestinian forces

The army said it has detained more than 2,100 Palestinians, including 117 on Israel's wanted list, and confiscated nearly 2,500 rifles.

Wednesday's suicide bombing near Haifa was the fourth since Israel began its operation in the West Bank. **Hamas** claimed responsibility, and sources in the group identified the assailant as Ayman Abu Haija, 22, from the Jenin refugee camp. It was not clear when he left the camp.

The bomber detonated explosives strapped to his body at 7:15 a.m., moments after boarding the bus. Eight passengers were killed, in addition to the bomber, and 14 were wounded. Among the dead were four Israeli soldiers and Noa Shlomo, 18, a niece of Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Lancry, police said.

The bombing might help Sharon convince Israeli public opinion of the need to prolong the operation.

Although the offensive is widely supported in Israel, there was criticism Wednesday of the army's practice of sending reserve soldiers, who have had little recent training in urban warfare, into complex operations like the sweep in Jenin camp.

Also Wednesday, Lebanese guerrillas fired more than a dozen rockets and mortars at the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights and northern Israel in one of the most extensive attacks since Israel withdrew from Lebanon nearly two years ago. Israeli warplanes fired missiles at suspected guerrilla positions.

Graphic

Police and rescue workers look through the remains of a bus in Haifa after another suicide-bomb strike. Wednesday's bomber killed eight Israelis and himself in the attack

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

**SHARON: ISRAEL WILL CRUSH MILITIAS;
PLEDGE COMES AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 8 ISRAELIS ON BUS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 11, 2002 Thursday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1052 words

Byline: Greg Myre The Associated Press

Dateline: JENIN, WEST BANK

Body

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Despite Sharon's pledge to continue the offensive in the face of intense U.S. and international pressure to call it off, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced late Wednesday that troops were pulling out of the West Bank villages of Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

Then, early today, Israeli forces and tanks rolled into the central West Bank town of Ber Zeit - north of the commercial center of Ramallah - and troops quickly occupied the police station and began searching houses, witnesses said. The soldiers met no resistance, they said.

Yatta and Samua are near the southern city of Hebron, and Qabatya is near the northern city of Jenin, where some of the most fierce fighting has been reported.

The White House applauded the early reports of withdrawals and said the Palestinians should respond.

"The burden isn't Israel's alone. All parties have responsibilities," spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

SHARON: ISRAEL WILL CRUSH MILITIAS; PLEDGE COMES AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 8 ISRAELIS ON BUS

Also Wednesday night, Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians armed with grenades and Kalashnikov rifles near the Kisufim crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the military said.

Sharon's statement earlier Wednesday defied increasingly impatient U.S. demands for a withdrawal from Palestinian towns - to be delivered in person Friday by Secretary of State Colin Powell - and came hours after the suicide bomber blew himself up on the bus near Haifa.

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"A tragic mistake"

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Later Wednesday, about 300 camp residents, including armed men, women and children, surrendered to Israeli troops. An Associated Press photographer driving through the camp saw many building facades with wrecking ball-sized holes from Israeli shelling. Streets were deserted, and there was no sign of Palestinian resistance.

More than 100 Palestinians are believed to have been killed in the Jenin camp, and many bodies remain in the streets. Among those reported dead was Mahmoud Tawalbeh, 23, a leader of the militant group Islamic Jihad, who masterminded a number of suicide bombings.

In Nablus, rescue workers retrieved the bodies of 14 Palestinians on Wednesday, bringing the total of dead in the city since the start of the Israeli invasion to 60. The old city of Nablus, a warren of narrow alleys, had been the scene of fierce battles for days.

On the city's outskirts, Israeli tanks and helicopters shelled the Al Ain refugee camp, damaging some homes. After daybreak, soldiers with loudspeakers called on men and teen-age boys to come out of their homes. Witnesses saw hundreds of Palestinian men sitting on the ground in front of the mosque.

SHARON: ISRAEL WILL CRUSH MILITIAS; PLEDGE COMES AFTER SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 8 ISRAELIS ON BUS

Christian monk is wounded

In Bethlehem, a standoff continued at one of Christianity's holiest sites, the Church of the Nativity. An Armenian monk in the compound was seriously wounded. Israeli troops and armed Palestinians blamed each other for the shooting.

Palestinian security sources and the Israeli military also said Israelis killed the leader of the **Hamas** military wing in Hebron, Akram al-Atrash, in his hide-out in the nearby village of Dura.

Twenty-eight Israeli soldiers have been killed in the offensive, according to Israeli forces. The Palestinian Red Crescent says it has confirmed at least 128 Palestinians dead and 337 wounded. That toll is expected to rise significantly.

The Israeli army said it has detained more than 2,100 Palestinians, including 117 on Israel's wanted list, and confiscated nearly 2,500 rifles.

Notes

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Graphic

PHOTO, MAP; (1) Color Photo by DAVID GUTTENFELDER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - At a funeral Wednesday in the southern Israeli town of Be'er Sheva, Pnina Yaskov weeps at the grave of her husband, Avner Yaskov. He was one of 13 Israeli soldiers killed in action Tuesday fighting Palestinians in the West Bank town of Jenin.; (2) Photo by LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; A Palestinian family ventures out Wednesday amid battle debris in the West Bank town of Nablus after Israeli troops pulled back in the area. The family said they had kept under cover for eight days. The old city of Nablus, a warren of narrow alleys, was the scene of fierce battles. (3) Post-Dispatch Map - ISRAELI FORCES PULL BACK; Suicide bomber: Jerusalem; WHERE TROOPS PULLED BACK: Jenin, QABATYA, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, YATTA, SAMUA

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

Bitterness deepens in Jenin camp;
Refugees say fight will go on

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 25, 2002 Thursday,

Home Edition

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**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: News;

Length: 1156 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Jenin Refugee Camp, West Bank --- When they came here on the run 54 years ago, the refugees lived in tents sewn from cloth scraps and pitched amid the remains of a British army post.

With time, they fashioned houses of mud brick, then concrete block, amid narrow alleys. When sons married, new stories would be stacked above, the only space available for a growing family.

But each year marked new resentment at being deprived of a homeland in what became Israel, which lay tantalizingly visible on the horizon over green farmland.

Cox Washington Bureau

Poverty abounded, and the people living here felt neglected by Israeli --- and, more recently, Palestinian --- officials. Militant groups filled the void with money and radical ideology. Suicide bombers who killed Israeli **women** and children were celebrated as new heroes of the "Triangle of Fire," a region known since the 1930s for fighting British and then Jewish adversaries to the death.

Cycle of destruction

This week, as residents of the Jenin refugee camp continued sifting through the staggering swath of destruction caused by Israeli troops, their thoughts turned to the familiar cycle of destruction, displacement, militancy and more destruction.

From a plastic chair on her rooftop overlooking the wreckage, Lutfia Abdel Rahman, 65, took in the view. "We have gone back many years," she said.

She came to the camp at age 11 when her family fled the village of Zireen during the war in 1948. Her family home there eventually was destroyed by the Israelis, and her house in the camp just escaped destruction this month.

Bitterness deepens in Jenin camp; Refugees say fight will go on

Below her, on the other side of "Return Street," neighbors poked around in the rubble for lost property or loved ones.

Some half-houses poked up from sand-and-gravel rubble, their upper floors caved in and their walls sheared away, exposing furniture and pictures inside.

The United Nations says 2,000 of the 13,979 people who live in the camp may be homeless. The organization has called for a "fact-finding" mission to find out what happened here. On Wednesday, Israel pressed for changes in the makeup of the U.N. team, which is expected to be in the Middle East by Saturday.

Israeli troops invaded this patch of the northern West Bank on April 2, expecting a tough fight and getting one even tougher than they planned.

Fighters from Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah party, were waiting with booby traps, suicide bombs and rifles.

In the fighting, which ended last week, 23 Israeli soldiers died, including 13 in an ambush that prompted Israel to order heavy rocket fire from helicopters and the mass bulldozing of homes.

About 45 Palestinians have been found dead, but Palestinians say hundreds could be under the rubble, which is being excavated slowly in large part because of Israeli restrictions on aid agency workers.

Israeli officials say they demolished about 100 of the camp's 1,100 houses, each likely home to a few families. Palestinian officials say 150 houses were demolished and another 700 made unlivable.

Numerous Palestinians tell of being indoors when bulldozers came crashing into their walls. Israeli officials acknowledge they would start many demolitions that way but then allow time for those inside to leave. Some residents, however, might have stayed inside.

As crowds gathered earlier this week, men with pickaxes dug through the gravel into a buried, tile-lined room to find the corpse of a man. Onlookers said he had been a fighter from the Islamic Jihad militant group who had come from another city to join the battle of Jenin.

He would be the latest in a long line of Palestinians to pass through Jenin in an ultimately deadly fight.

Like most of the other 58 U.N.-run refugee camps in the region, Jenin is home to Palestinians who fled or were forced from lands in what became Israel after the 1948 war.

Most of their home villages were destroyed as Israeli officials decided they would not be allowed to return. An abandoned Turkish train station without tracks sits in the camp as a reminder of the now-prohibited passage to the coast.

There are about 3.7 million refugees, including descendants of the approximately 700,000 who originally were displaced.

Those who can pay have moved out of the camps to private homes. Those left are the 1.1 million poorest and most alienated. They hold on for the unlikely prospect of a "right of return" to their homelands. The camps also serve as symbols of the Palestinian plight.

A 'rebellious' camp

Tucked just inside the Israeli border and isolated by rough terrain from other Palestinian cities, Jenin is one of the toughest camps in the West Bank.

Bitterness deepens in Jenin camp; Refugees say fight will go on

"Historically, Jenin in the past century, was rebellious," said political scientist Ali Jarbawi, who lives in the city of Jenin adjoining the camp. "It's remote, far away. People are poor. They don't have any outlet. They feel they don't have anything to lose."

The local economy depended on contacts with Israel, which dried up after the start of the latest Israeli-Palestinian fighting almost 19 months ago. Jarbawi estimates that unemployment in the camp could run as high as 75 percent.

People in the Jenin camp made a new occupation out of attacking Israel. Israeli officials say 28 suicide attackers, including bombers or gunmen, have attempted or carried out attacks on Israelis from the Jenin area.

Their posters are affixed to nearly any flat wall in the camp, from the U.N. school to private homes.

Israeli officials say that **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad won favor in Jenin by putting more money into the camp than Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement. **Hamas** ran clinics and polished a reputation for being incorruptible compared to the sullied record of Arafat's government.

As far as Israelis are concerned, the suicide bombings are caused not by camp conditions, but by Arafat's failure to rein in militants and by continued incitements against Israel.

But the suicide bombers are a source of pride in the camp, where people say they are the only way to get Israelis to pay attention to their hardships.

"Why we kill them and blow them up and blow ourselves up is because they have helicopters and tanks, but we only have rifles," said Abdel Rahman Mahmoud Hassan Amori, 65.

Israeli troops made him and his family sit out in the street overnight while they searched his house and smashed a hole in a wall to pass to a nearby house.

The troops began withdrawing from the area in the past few days, but military officials say they expect more bombers to come from the camp.

People here say the Israeli attack, the destruction, the searches, the deaths of at least several civilians and the mass arrests only reinforced what they already thought of their adversary.

"As long as there is occupation, there will be resistance," said Jamal Hindi, a Palestinian legislator from the camp. "The people of the camp and the fighters consider Israel defeated, despite the destruction."

Graphic

Photo:

Lutfia Abdel Rahman says of the destruction: "We have gone back many years." Photo:

A Palestinian man leads his sheep through the rubble of destroyed houses at the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank on Wednesday. Residents gave Israel a very tough battle./ GREG BAKER / Associated Press

Load-Date: April 25, 2002

Time's up in terror probe

Nottingham Evening Post

May 5, 2003

default

Copyright 2003 Nottingham Evening Post

Section: News; 999; Murders/violentcrime; Pg. 2

Length: 303 words

Body

The woman, who has not been identified, was arrested late on Friday during operations in Notts and Derbyshire. The deadline for questioning ended last night - 48 hours after the arrest.

But police bosses could apply to magistrates to quiz the woman for a further five days. She was being held at a high-security police station in central London.

She was one of five people arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act during operations on Friday night.

Two men and two women from Derbyshire were also held on the night, and another man was arrested in London on Saturday morning. Uniformed officers from Notts were thought to have assisted specialist officers from the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorism branch in Friday night's operation.

The Notts Special Branch said it was not involved.

A Metropolitan Police spokeswoman confirmed that searches were being carried out at addresses in Notts and Derbyshire during Friday night. But she would not reveal the location of the arrest or the searches.

The events came as part of a joint British and Israeli security services operation following a suicide bombing on Wednesday in Israel.

Israeli police said that Asif Mohammed Hanif, 21, of Hounslow, west London, detonated a device in the doorway of Tel Aviv bar Mike's Place, killing three and himself.

His accomplice was alleged to be Omar Khan Sharif - a 27-year-old, father of two born and brought up in Derby.

The ex-pupil of Bemrose Community School was said to have fled the scene after his own device failed to detonate.

The two men were thought to have entered the country separately.

Hanif is thought to be the first Briton to have carried out a suicide bomb attack.

The bombing was claimed as a joint operation by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, an offshoot of the Fatah movement, and the armed wing of Hamas.

Time's up in terror probe

Load-Date: September 15, 2003

End of Document

Israelis fire at Gaza base, dispute Arab detention claim

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 13, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 744 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Israel fired missiles at a Gaza City naval base Saturday in a fourth day of reprisals for a Palestinian weapons smuggling operation and disputed a Palestinian claim that two suspects in the affair have been detained.

One of the men supposedly in detention is not even in the Palestinian areas, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said.

The Palestinians said Israel's daily attacks, including the razing of homes and the demolition of the runway of Gaza International Airport, were inflaming an already tense situation.

"This is not the way to bring the peace process back on track," said Ahmed Qureia, the speaker of the Palestinian parliament.

In Saturday's attack on Gaza City's harbor, Israeli navy boats fired missiles at a Palestinian naval base, destroying a small patrol boat and setting fuel tanks ablaze. Divers also blew a large hole into the Jandala, a vessel that had occasionally been used by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The Israeli military said the base was targeted because Palestinian naval police officers were involved in the smuggling and a Wednesday attack that left four soldiers dead.

Israel last week intercepted a boat carrying 50 tons of weapons from Iran that the Palestinian captain said were destined for the Gaza Strip.

Israel has said Arafat and his Palestinian Authority were behind the shipment of arms.

Palestinians have come under intense Israeli and U.S. pressure to produce explanations and punish anyone involved but have denied any ties to the shipment.

"We don't know where the ship was going. We don't know whether it was private enterprise, arms smuggling, arms dealing, whatever," said Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi.

The Palestinian Authority said two men were detained for questioning in connection with the smuggling operation; Fuad Shobaki, who Israel says authorized payments for the ship, and Adel Mughrabi, in charge of weapons purchases.

Israelis fire at Gaza base, dispute Arab detention claim

A third official, Fathi Razim, deputy commander of the Palestinian navy, is believed to be in Jordan, Palestinian security officials said.

The Palestinian Authority said the suspects were detained based on information received from international sources.

However, Sharon's office said Mughrabi is not in the Palestinian areas and Shobaki is in the West Bank town of Ramallah but not in detention.

"The Palestinians have had a revolving door policy," said Israeli government spokesman Arie Mekel. "They used this gimmick of arrests over and over again and then the people were found to be on the streets."

Israeli forces continued their reprisals Saturday. Since Wednesday, Israeli bulldozers have torn up the runway of Gaza International Airport and, according to the United Nations, destroyed 54 homes in the Rafah refugee camp, making 511 people homeless.

The commander of Israeli forces in Gaza disputed those assertions, saying that 21 buildings were destroyed. The Israeli military initially said 10 buildings were razed.

"These are houses that for three months have been empty, they are houses from where Israeli soldiers were fired on," Maj. Gen. Doron Almog said on Israeli television. "In the last three months five bombs have been detonated from those houses."

Almog said that 50 percent of all the attacks that take place against Israeli forces are carried out in the area where the house demolitions took place.

Early Saturday, the bulldozers returned to the airport to continue digging up the runway, the military said.

The army also said troops uncovered a tunnel in the Rafah refugee camp that was used to smuggle weapons from nearby Egypt.

Palestinian officials said Israel fired four tank shells toward homes in Rafah, injuring at least eight people, including two women. The Israeli army denied the report saying that its forces only fired machine guns after grenades were hurled at soldiers.

Also Saturday, several thousand Palestinians gathered in the pouring rain in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip for the funeral for the two Palestinian gunmen who carried out Wednesday's attack on the Israeli army post.

Gunmen fired in the air during the funeral and chanted slogans calling for increased attacks against Israel.

The militant Hamas organization said its fighters carried out the attack in part to protest the capture of the ship. It vowed Saturday to retaliate for the destruction of homes in Rafah.

"The Rafah crime will not pass without real punishment against Israel," Hamas said in a statement broadcast on Lebanon's Al Manar television.

Load-Date: January 13, 2002

Palestinians claim that smuggling suspects were detained Israel fires missiles for a fourth day, disputing the claim

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 13, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P11A

Length: 766 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak The Associated Press

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israel fired missiles at a Gaza City naval base Saturday in a fourth day of reprisals for a Palestinian weapons smuggling operation, and disputed a Palestinian claim that two suspects in the affair have been detained.

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Israel last week intercepted a boat carrying 50 tons of weapons from Iran which the Palestinian captain said were destined for the Gaza Strip.

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

Palestinians have come under intense Israeli and U.S. pressure to produce explanations and punish anyone involved, but have denied any ties to the shipment.

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AP-ES-01-12-02 1321EST

Load-Date: January 14, 2002

Palestinians claim that smuggling suspects were detained Israel fires missiles for a fourth day, disputing the claim

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**CONTINENTAL DRIPS;
EUROPEAN UNION BACKING OF ARAFAT IS ANOTHER MISTAKE**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

February 3, 2002 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 737 words

Body

The leaders of the European Union have demonstrated once again why serious people do not take them seriously.

Many who previously backed him say Yasser Arafat's days as head of the Palestinian Authority are numbered. Thomas Friedman of The New York Times has described him as "dead man walking." Jim Hoagland of The Washington Post said Arafat's continuation in office "primarily threatens the interests of the Palestinian people." Palestinians themselves are talking openly of a successor, unheard of in the Arab world, where the king is considered immortal until the king is dead.

But at a meeting in Brussels on Jan. 28, EU foreign ministers issued a statement saying: "Israel needs the Palestinian Authority and its elected president, Yasser Arafat, as a partner to negotiate with, both in order to eradicate terrorism and to work towards peace."

Each day brings news of yet another terrorist atrocity, as Arab suicide bombers attack civilians, most of them women and children, at restaurants, shopping malls and bus stops. But the EU foreign ministers had words of condemnation chiefly for Israel. Israel should "withdraw its military forces and stop the extra-judicial executions, lift the closures and all restrictions on the Palestinian people and its leadership," their statement said.

"I think it is very dangerous if the United States is supportive of the Israeli government," said Sweden's Anna Lindh.

How anyone could still regard Arafat as a "partner in peace" boggles the mind. For months, liberals have been debating earnestly whether Arafat is unwilling to halt the violence, or unable to do so. The correct answer probably is both.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad appear to be acting independently of his authority. But many terror attacks are being conducted by forces directly controlled by Arafat. And his attempt to smuggle in 50 tons of weaponry from Iran does not telegraph pacifistic intentions.

The EU leaders are out to lunch. But there could be more at work here than that. Many in Europe eagerly collaborated with the Nazis in their efforts to exterminate the Jews. Anti-Jewish sentiment, especially in the upper classes, is a long way from gone, as an incident at a recent London dinner party illustrates.

At a party in the home of newspaper magnate Conrad Black in December, Daniel Bernard, the French ambassador to Britain, described Israel as "that [obscenity] little country." Why, asked Bernard, should "we be in danger of World

CONTINENTAL DRIPS; EUROPEAN UNION BACKING OF ARAFAT IS ANOTHER MISTAKE

War III because of these people?" Black mentioned the remarks to his wife, Barbara Amiel, who is Jewish and a strong supporter of Israel. She reported the comments in her Daily Telegraph column, identifying the speaker simply as the "ambassador of a major EU country." The British press sussed out the rest.

Bernard's gaffe indicates he is as stupid as he is bigoted -- he should have known that newsworthy remarks in the proximity of journalists get reported. Any American politician who said such a thing would be toast. But the French government stood by Bernard, perhaps because the views he expressed were not his alone.

The kindest explanation for the EU's blindness toward Palestinian terror and Arafat's duplicity is cowardice. Europeans cling to the illusion of a failed peace process because they flinch at having to face the harsh choices recognition of reality would force upon them.

"The alternative to the Palestinian Authority is Palestinian anarchy," said EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

But this reasoning is foolish for anyone who is not reflexively anti-Israel.

When Arafat falls, there is a slim possibility he will be replaced by a Palestinian who would negotiate in good faith. This would be better than Arafat, who has broken every promise he has made.

There is a much greater likelihood that Arafat will be replaced by a leader who is openly hostile to Israel. But that would be better for Israelis than to continue in power a ruler who is as committed to the destruction of Israel as anyone in Hamas or Islamic Jihad, but who lies about it.

A third possibility is that civil war would break out among Palestinian terror groups. But then they would be killing each other instead of Jews, which could be considered worse than the current state of affairs only if one preferred to have them kill Jews.

Whether the EU's counsel is motivated by bigotry, cowardice or just plain stupidity, President Bush should give it the disregard it deserves.

Notes

Jack Kelly is national affairs writer for the Post-Gazette and The Blade of Toledo, Ohio (jkelly@post-gazette.com).

Load-Date: February 5, 2002

U.S. continues to ignore fear, terror spread by Israel

The Pantagraph (Bloomington, IL)

April 1, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 The Pantagraph

Section: Editorial; Pg. A9

Length: 310 words

Body

Just exactly what people brought terrorism to the Middle East in the first place? According to former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's book, "The Revolt," he bragged that he was the father of modern terrorism.

His Irgun gang and Itzhak Shamir's Stern gang developed to a fine art the use of terrorism as a weapon of choice against the British and Arabs in Palestine in the 1940s.

Americans never saw on TV in the '40s the bombed United Nations shelters, ambulances and civilian refugee camps or the bombed-out King David Hotel in Jerusalem that killed over 100 people by Jewish terrorist gangs.

We never saw on TV the Irgun gang's raid on the village of Deir Yassin in April 1948, where Begin's men raped all the women and killed 254 innocents, including 25 pregnant women. Begin's massacres in Palestinian villages created over 600,000 homeless refugees, whose children would decades later form the PLO.

But long before there was a PLO or a Hamas, there were the terrorist Irgun and Stern gangs, that specialized in letter bombs, assassinations of U.N. diplomats, torture and mass murder.

The inescapable fact is that Israel was born and built by invasion, theft and terrorism. What goes around comes around. The terrorism Israel is experiencing today is a case of reaping today what Israel sowed in the '40s.

As long as America continues to finance and arm them, and even fight wars on their behalf, we, too, become targets of terrorism, like on Sept. 11, 2001. And Israel, now by its own admission, has several hundred nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

But I won't hold my breath on America inspecting, bombing or invading them. The world's founders of modern terrorism are untouchable. The American people are some of the stupidest, most brainwashed people in the world thanks to our one-sided media and biblically ignorant clergy.

Lyndle J. Gharst

Oreana

Load-Date: April 1, 2003

U.S. continues to ignore fear, terror spread by Israel

End of Document

Six Britons held over suicide-bomb bar attack

The Sunday Herald

May 4, 2003

Copyright 2003 Scottish Media Newspapers Limited

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.

* News In Focus: pages 12&13

Load-Date: May 5, 2003

Six Britons held over suicide-bomb bar attack

End of Document

Protesters around world march against Iraq war

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

April 5, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a6

Length: 302 words

Byline: KHALID TANVEER, Associated Press writer

Body

MULTAN, Pakistan -- More than 50,000 people marched through the streets of this central Pakistani city on Friday, denouncing the U.S.-led war in Iraq and urging Muslims to prepare for holy war against "American infidels."

Across the world, tens of thousands protested against the war Friday in the Middle East and Asia.

In Multan, 400 miles south of Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, demonstrators praised Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, waved placards and burned effigies of President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

More than a dozen people were arrested in Cairo after trying to hold an anti-war protest outside a mosque.

Protesters said about 100 demonstrators were arrested. Police said 15 arrests had been made.

About 20,000 others protested the war elsewhere in Egypt, while in Jordan, hundreds took to the streets chanting "down, down U.S.A." and burning American and British flags.

More than 7,000 people, carrying miniature versions of Scud missiles over their shoulders, stopped traffic in the capital of Bahrain for more than two hours, chanting: "Children are dying, women are dying, let's go on jihad."

Police used batons and tear gas Friday to disperse thousands of anti-war demonstrators who stormed the offices of two U.S. companies in Bangladesh. Police said at least 50 people were injured

In Solo, Indonesia, a crowd of 10,000 torched a plastic foam Statue of Liberty and chanted "Bush is a terrorist."

In Gaza City on the West Bank, about 2,000 supporters of the Islamic militant Hamas group marched to the city center, waving Iraqi and Palestinian flags and carrying a coffin with "U.N. Security Council" written on it.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, about 1,500 Palestinians burned Israeli, American and British flags and effigies of Bush, Blair and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Load-Date: April 6, 2003

MUSLIM FANATICS BATTLING OUR BOYS

Daily Star

March 29, 2003

Copyright 2003 Express Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 310 words

Byline: by JERRY LAWTON

Body

MORE than 1,000 international terrorists are fighting for Saddam Hussein's death squads.

Al-Qaida members trained in leader Osama bin Laden's camps are battling British soldiers near the southern Iraqi town of Basra.

Several hundred fighters from Lebanese terror group Hizballah were last night travelling across Syria to join Saddam's forces.

And the leader of terror group **Hamas** called for an "army of suicide bombers" to confront the British and US.

Syria's top Islamic cleric ordered Muslims to launch suicide attacks on our forces.

The news came as cowardly Iraqi troops opened fire yesterday on 2,000 civilians trying to flee besieged Basra.

They used mortars and machine guns to stop the group - including **women**, children and the elderly.

Soldiers from Britain's 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, had to act quickly to stop a slaughter of the innocents.

They blasted Iraqi positions before helping civilians to evacuate and treating the wounded. Speaking of the new terror threat, military chiefs admit they hadn't bargained on facing legions of terrorists who don't obey the rules. They wear civilian clothes, use **women** and children as shields, force kids to fight, and kill their own men for propaganda points. US Army chiefs also fear the terrorists have no qualms about using chemical or biological weapons.

Intelligence chiefs believe Saddam may have promised to supply them with such weapons for saving his ailing regime. US Lieutenant General William Wallace, who'll lead the attack on Baghdad, said: "We knew the paramilitaries were there but we didn't know they'd fight like this." A US military source declared:

"We will react, adapt and conquer. It could be a blessing because as well as taking out Saddam we will be eradicating legions of killers posing a real threat to world peace. You could say we'll be killing two birds with one stone."

Load-Date: March 29, 2003

MUSLIM FANATICS BATTLING OUR BOYS

End of Document

**ISRAEL BOMB PLOT: THE MIDLAND LINKS;
SUICIDE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED AMONG LOCAL NETWORK
OF ISLAMIC**

Sunday Mercury

May 4, 2003, Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8,9

Length: 761 words

Byline: AMARDEEP BASSEY BOMBER... Asif Mohammed Hanif died in the Tel Aviv blast; HORROR... injured victims lie in the road; ALLEGED ACCOMPLICE: Omar Khan Sharif is wanted man

Body

THE Tel Aviv suicide bombing plot may have been hatched in the Midlands among the region's network of underground Islamic fundamentalists, the Sunday Mercury has learned.

Anti-terrorist officers from Scotland Yard's elite SO13 unit are investigating the possibility that the attack was 'commissioned, instigated and prepared' on our own doorstep.

It is understood that Israeli security agencies have asked SO13 to look at several individuals and organisations based in and around Birmingham.

A source close to the investigation revealed: 'The Israelis have handed us a list of individuals and groups who, they believe, may have been involved in the preparation of the Tel Aviv attack, particularly on the financing side.

'Some of the suspects on this list are already known to us but a few new names have also cropped up.

'It is very probable that there will be further arrests in the Midlands in the next few weeks.'

The revelation comes after a sixth man was arrested following the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night.

He was held at an address in London and taken to a police station in the city centre, where he joined two men and three **women** arrested during raids last week in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to confirm whether those arrested included relatives of Omar Khan Sharif, the 27 year-old from Derby alleged to have fled the scene of the bombing after his device failed to detonate.

But a source told the Sunday Mercury that those in custody did include Sharif's Syrian wife, Tahira, who is said to be co-operating with SO13 officers.

All six suspects were arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which relates to those suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

ISRAEL BOMB PLOT: THE MIDLAND LINKS; SUICIDE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED AMONG LOCAL NETWORK OF ISLAMIC

Police have already searched addresses in the Midlands but no weapons or any explosive devices are believed to have been found. Birmingham and the Midlands region have traditionally been seen as fertile ground for recruiting disenchanted British Muslims for jihad across the world.

Hardline Islamic groups like Al Muhajiroun, exposed by the Sunday Mercury three years ago, regularly hold talks and conferences in the region.

Its self-styled leader Sheikh Omar Bakri has boasted that Birmingham and the Midlands is a key area for recruitment.

Evidence put forward include the spurious claims that 20 year-old Mohammed Bilal, from Birmingham, had blown himself up in a suicide attack in Kashmir four years ago.

Months earlier, three Birmingham men were sentenced to five years each in Yemen for allegedly plotting a terrorist attack in Aden.

One of the three, Samah Ahmed from Yardley, Birmingham. attended the same university as fugitive OmarKhan Sharif, a father of two.

More recently the so-called Tipton Taliban, currently languishing in Camp Delta, were said to have links with Al-Muhajiroun's controversial spokesman Hassan Butt. Other more Islamically politicised organisations like Hizb-ut-Tarir have also made Birmingham a central focal point for recruiting new impressionable followers.

But the common theme uniting all hardline Islamists from Al Qaida to **Hamas** is the Palestinian conflict and the duty of all Muslims to help their oppressed brothers.

Friday night's arrests follow a joint British and Israeli security services operation to establish how a British Muslim became a suicide bomber.

Israeli police claim that Asif Mohammed Hanif, 21, of Hounslow, west London, detonated a device in the doorway of Mike's Place, a bar in Tel Aviv, in the early hours of Wednesday, killing three other people.

Authorities are still hunting for his accomplice, Sharif, who now finds himself one of the most wanted men in the world.

Security forces are focusing their search on south Tel Aviv, a rundown area popular with foreign workers.

Pictures of his passport photo have been handed out in the streets in a bid to track him down but police believe he may have altered his appearance in a bid to evade capture.

Chancellor Gordon Brown has instructed the Bank of England to freeze all UK accounts belonging to the two men.

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 have carried 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 hardline Islamic group.

Load-Date: May 6, 2003

Muslims presenting suggested reading

The Philadelphia Inquirer

September 10, 2002 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A04; news

Length: 330 words

Byline: Ben Finley Knight Ridder News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Muslim groups are pressing new educational materials onto U.S. schools and libraries, hoping to enhance the impression Americans have of Muslim faith and culture.

"The serious lack of information about Islam in America is causing our nation to be divided and makes our nation vulnerable to misinformation," said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, based in Washington.

A recent Knight Ridder poll found that a quarter of Americans admit having unfavorable feelings toward Muslim Americans. Majorities want to limit the immigration of foreign Muslims into the United States. Nearly 2,000 U.S. Muslims have reported acts of discrimination to the council since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The council, which promotes political activism among Muslim Americans, announced yesterday that it had compiled a collection of books, videotapes and DVDs on Islam that it hopes to place in 16,000 libraries nationwide. The group seeks private sponsors to pay the \$150 cost of each collection and help place the materials in libraries.

The council is funded by individuals, mostly in the United States and Canada. It has condemned Israel's use of U.S.-supplied weapons against Palestinians, but it has not, its opponents point out, condemned Islamic groups such as **Hamas** and Hezbollah, which have followers who have practiced terrorism. The council also has condemned the Sept. 11 attacks.

Demand is surging for information on Islam; Middle Eastern history and politics; terrorism; and the country of Afghanistan, said Larra Clark, press officer for the American Library Association in Chicago.

Ninety-five percent of U.S. libraries have sought new materials on these subjects since last Sept. 11, a recent study by Libraries for the Future, a national advocacy organization, said.

Clark praised the council's collection, which includes a translation of the Koran, books for children, two books on **women** in Islam, and documentaries by ABC News and PBS on Islam.

Muslims presenting suggested reading

Load-Date: September 10, 2002

End of Document

Killings won't lead to peace

Western Daily Press

June 26, 2002

WP LATE CITY

Copyright 2002 Bristol United Press

Section: Features :General :Letters, Pg.12

Length: 300 words

Byline: Mr AT Clare; Balham; London

Body

SIR - It would be optimistic to think, as DP Bonner seems to think, that the hideous and brutal suicide bombing of innocent men, women and children in Israel is a result of economic despair or trauma due to Israeli occupation.

I have great sympathy with the Palestinian people.

All right-thinking people will surely agree that the sooner a two-state solution is established the better for all moderates in the land. However, the actions of groups such as Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Hezbollah and Al-Aqsa Brigade are not an attempt to further this process.

They are the results and actions of fanatical Islamic/ religious extremists - groups who simply want to kill Jews and extinguish the state of Israel.

As we sip coffee in our street cafes and nonchalantly take a bus ride to work, spare a thought for the millions of Israelis who consistently hear the hate-filled diatribes of these terrorist groups.

Arafat was offered more than ever before under the deal brokered by President Clinton and the then prime minister of Israel, Ehud Barak - a deal he rejected out of hand. This paved the way for the more hardline policies of Ariel Sharon.

However, to call Sharon a 'terrorist' and to compare him to the suicide bombers is despicable. DP Bonner's comments that 'hundreds of civilians' were 'killed in Jenin' are similarly false.

Israeli soldiers went house to house in an effort to avoid civilian casualties unlike, say, American and European actions in Afghanistan, where blanket bombing from thousands of feet in the air truly did lead to hundreds/thousands of civilian deaths.

Civilians did die in Jenin - I think the official number is 18. Each death is a tragedy, but each death results from the fact that the real terrorists of this situation hold no qualms about hiding amongst the civilian population.

Load-Date: June 26, 2002

Killings won't lead to peace

End of Document

Terror chief chose to risk lives of innocents

Western Daily Press

July 26, 2002

WP LATE CITY

Copyright 2002 Bristol United Press

Section: Features :General :Letters, Pg.13

Length: 291 words

Byline: M McNulty Filton Bristol

Body

SIR - Israel has been widely criticised for the airstrike on the home of **Hamas** leader Salah Shehadeh which also killed 14 other people, including nine children.

There is little doubt that the operation was heavy-handed, even by Israeli standards. In the past its military has targeted wanted men as they travel in cars on open roads minimising the risk of 'collateral damage'.

The Israelis had gone after Shehadeh before. This time they saw an opportunity to take him out that was considered too good to miss.

Defence officials claim they had intelligence that suggested there were no civilians in the area, although it is hard to imagine that they thought an F -16 could fire a missile into a crowded neighbourhood without risking civilian lives.

The loss of innocent life was terrible. But it should not be forgotten that the man the Israelis were after was responsible for masterminding a wave of suicide bombings that have left dozens of Israelis dead, among them children and pregnant **women**.

These people were no less innocent than the civilians killed in Monday's attack and they were not bystanders caught up in an attack on a military target - they themselves were the target.

Shehadeh was a coward, responsible for sending many impressionable young Palestinians to 'martyrdom' while he basked in the glory of the destruction they wrought.

Rather than picking up a gun and fighting himself, he chose to hide in residential areas. And if combatants hide among civilians there is always a chance that innocent people will be killed.

Shehadeh chose a life of violence and must have known he was risking the lives of his family and others. He as much as the Israelis is responsible for the deaths of those nine children.

M McNulty Filton Bristol

Load-Date: July 26, 2002

Terror chief chose to risk lives of innocents

End of Document

LETTER: THE MIDDLE EAST'S MEN OF VIOLENCE

The Independent (London)

April 20, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 19

Length: 310 words

Byline: Robert Cowen

Body

Sir: Mark Steel's article "Take me to the Promised Land (the long way)" (18 April) is to my mind wholly mistaken and it is to be hoped that one day he will come to regret it. In the meantime Israel has to protect itself from an enemy on its doorstep, fighting against guerrillas whose avowed aim is more than just liberation but the destruction of Israel itself.

Now leaving aside nice cuddly Mr Arafat, who has said that he denounces terrorism, yet uses it when it suits him, how does Mark Steel reckon Israel should deal with Hamas, Hizbollah etc even if a deal with Arafat can be struck?

The imagery of a dead child is not worthy of a professional journalist in this instance. Of course the child should not be there, nor did the Israeli soldiers seek to be there either. Men of violence, who fight behind the skirts of women and children know full well the propaganda value that ensues from the death of a child. Whose responsibility is that? Would Mark Steel put his children in that invidious position?

War is a nasty, brutal business. Claiming that Israeli soldiers deliberately target children is inaccurate and offensive, as is the use of the word slaughter. If slaughter had been the IDF's intention then Jenin could have been bombed from 30,000 feet in the comfort of an F16 with no risk of loss of life on the Israeli side. The Israelis however chose to clear out the deadly bomb-making infrastructure on the ground at great personal loss to themselves.

It is claimed that Arafat has no power. Funny then that when Palestinians shouted their jubilation at the horrific attack on the World Trade Centre he soon told them to desist because it caused him a public relations problem. It seems his powerlessness or otherwise is very conditional, and some Western journalists swallow his propaganda unquestioningly.

ROBERT COWEN

Whitefield, Greater

Manchester

Load-Date: April 20, 2002

RIGHTS GROUP DENOUNCES SUICIDE BOMBINGS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

July 12, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a6

Length: 355 words

Byline: CELEAN JACOBSON, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Amnesty International condemned Palestinian suicide bombings against Israelis on Thursday, calling them crimes against humanity and declaring in a report that no Israeli military action justified the killing of civilians.

Israeli officials welcomed the report, saying the London-based human rights organization had frequently criticized Israel and rarely pointed a finger at the Palestinians. Palestinian officials dismissed the Amnesty report as unbalanced.

The report said 350 Israeli civilians have been killed in 130 attacks by Palestinian militias since September 2000.

"The attacks against civilians by Palestinian armed groups are widespread, systematic and in pursuit of an explicit policy to attack civilians," the Amnesty report said. "They constitute crimes against humanity. ... They may also constitute war crimes."

According to figures compiled by The Associated Press, 1,752 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 565 on the Israeli side. The totals include 71 Palestinian suicide bombings that have killed 251 Israelis.

Israeli Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit applauded the report, saying Amnesty officials "had seen the light."

"They finally understand that we have no interest in harming Palestinians but just protecting our citizens," Sheetrit said.

Amnesty International has occasionally criticized the Palestinian Authority in past reports.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian leadership and prominent Palestinian moderates had condemned suicide bombings, but he added, "All that is happening to Israeli citizens is a normal consequence for their occupation and rejection of Palestinian rights."

Ismail Abu Shanab, spokesman for Hamas, which has claimed responsibility for many of the suicide bombings, dismissed the report as "completely biased."

Some Palestinian extremists argue that since most Israelis serve in the military, virtually all Israelis are legitimate targets for attack. Many also claim that Israeli settlers, including women and children, are valid targets because they live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which the Palestinians claim for a state.

RIGHTS GROUP DENOUNCES SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Load-Date: July 12, 2002

End of Document

With Us and With the Terrorists

New York Sun (Archive)

February 18, 2003 Tuesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 1379 words

Byline: By FRANK GAFFNEY JR.

Body

President Bush has characterized the choice to be made in this war on terror: "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists." The stark clarity of this binary decision has served America well in marshaling a large number of nations in the fight against Al Qaeda and a smaller, but still ample, number for the next phase of this war: the liberation of Iraq.

Regrettably, in the months since September 11, 2001, people who have made no secret of their sympathy for terrorists, provided them financial support, excused their murderous attacks, or sought to impede the prosecution of the war against them, have repeatedly been put in the company of the president. In other words, individuals and organizations who appear to be "with the terrorists" have time and again been allowed to be with the president in the White House and elsewhere. For example:

* On September 20, 2001 - just nine days after the deadly attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon - Shaykh Hamza Yusuf was the Muslim representative in a small ecumenical gathering held in the Oval Office. At the same time, FBI agents were trying to interview him at his house in California since he had declared two days before the attack: "This country is facing a terrible fate. ... This country stands condemned. It stands condemned like Europe stood condemned because of what it did - and lest people forget that Europe suffered two world wars after conquering the Muslim lands." His wife told the incredulous agents Mr. Yusuf wasn't home, he was with the president.

* Six days later, Mr. Bush met in the Roosevelt Room with a Muslim imam by the name of Muzammil H. Siddiqi. Mr. Siddiqi is a longtime board member of several organizations in America funded by, and closely tied to, Saudi Arabia's radical state religion known as Wahhabism. Two of these groups, including one where Mr. Siddiqi still sits on the board, were raided in March 2002 by federal authorities in pursuit of terrorist financing.

This presidential meeting was all the more puzzling since the imam had shown his true colors by claiming at a rally the previous October: "America has to learn ... If you remain on the side of injustice, the wrath of God will come. Please, all Americans. Do you remember that? Allah is watching everyone. God is watching everyone. If you continue doing injustice, and tolerate injustice, the wrath of God will come."

* On September 17, 2001, Mr. Bush paid a visit to the mosque in Washington. There he was photographed flanked by Nihad Awad, the executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations. CAIR has long been an admirer and public defender of terrorist organizations whose attacks against even innocent women and children it sees as legitimate acts of "liberation." Mr. Awad has personally declared, "I am a supporter of the Hamas movement."

With Us and With the Terrorists

* Also in the picture with Mr. Bush at the mosque was Khaled Saffuri, currently chairman of an organization called the Islamic Institute, which he co-founded with conservative activist Grover Norquist. Mr. Saffuri previously served as the development director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, a supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at a time when the PLO made no bones about using terrorism for political purposes. He went on to become deputy director of the radical American Muslim Council under then-director Abduraman Alamoudi - a publicly declared supporter of Hamas and Hezbollah, whose statements of solidarity with these groups prompted the Bush 2000 campaign to return his contributions.

Under Mr. Saffuri's leadership, the Islamic Institute has attacked the Bush administration's investigations of radical Muslim groups and closures of organizations suspected of funding terrorists. The Institute has been funded by groups raided in the above-mentioned terrorist financing investigations. It lobbied intensively against portions of the USA Patriot Act. And Mr. Saffuri has personally denounced the president's listing of the Holy Land Foundation as a charity that supported terrorist organizations. He has acknowledged sponsoring the children of suicide bombers through the foundation, even after its closure by the government.

In addition to the president, a number of his senior subordinates - including cabinet officers - have met, in some cases more than once, with members of the aforementioned and other organizations with troubling attitudes towards jihadist terrorists. A particularly bizarre instance was the FBI's director, Robert Mueller, making the keynote address last year to the American Muslim Council.

The AMC has a long record of activities hostile to the Bush administration's prosecution of the war on terror. It has even urged Muslims not to cooperate with the FBI. Nonetheless, according to a press release dated last Thursday, Mr. Mueller has invited the AMC's chairman, Yahya Mossa Basha, to attend an upcoming meeting with him and "leaders of major Muslim and Arab-American organizations."

As recently as January 16, 2003, White House officials engaged in a "dialogue" with representatives of the AMC and CAIR, among others opposed to the administration's efforts to register aliens from terrorist-sponsoring and terrorist-harboring nations. In a press release issued the next day, the American Muslim Council's executive director, Eric Vickers (who has called Al Qaeda "a resistance movement" and repeatedly refused to denounce Hamas or Hezbollah), thanked the associate director for cabinet affairs, Ali Tulbah, for ensuring that AMC and CAIR were included.

As it happens, Mr. Tulbah's father was, as recently as 2001, treasurer of a large Wahhabi center in Houston. This may have influenced his judgment about the advisability of bringing people who sympathize with terrorists into the White House complex. Suhail Khan, the son of another prominent Wahhabi (who hosted bin Laden deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri on two fundraising tours in the 1990s), was the man first charged by the Bush administration with Muslim "outreach." He was in place in the White House's Public Liaison Office when several of the meetings described above were arranged during the months after September 11.

One might be forgiven for assuming that, even if political appointees failed to understand the folly of bringing people who are not with the president on the Islamist terrorist threat into the White House, the Secret Service would. Unfortunately, Mr. Bush's spokesman excoriated the Secret Service in June 2001 after it expelled from a meeting in the complex the son of Sami al-Arian, another Islamist who helped raise funds for Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The guys protecting the president got the message: It is not the Secret Service's job to protect his administration from making the mistake of embracing its foes.

That mistake has two possibly far-reaching strategic repercussions. First, making no distinction between peaceable, pro-American Muslims and those with ties to radical, anti-American Islamism affords the latter opportunities to exercise undesirable influence over American policy. In America, they have ample legal means to try to undermine the president on the war with Iraq, strengthening law enforcement tools and intensifying surveillance of hostile groups and facilities (including mosques). These groups are making full use of such techniques. They should not, however, be granted the opportunity also to advance this agenda by pressuring administration officials behind closed doors.

With Us and With the Terrorists

Second, photographs with the president and press releases exulting over access to the White House enable radical Islamists a further windfall: With the exclusion of moderates, it increases the radicals' stature within the Muslim community and facilitates their efforts to dominate and claim to represent the larger and surely less anti-American portion of that religious population.

It is much in the president's interest - and the nation's - that moderate, law-abiding, peace-loving, and patriotic American Muslims be embraced and empowered by the Bush administration and that all those who support it in waging a war on terror, not on Islam. To do so, however, the administration must not allow those who are with its enemies in that struggle to continue being with the president and his team.

Load-Date: March 25, 2004

End of Document

Israeli father tells how bus blast hit three generations

The Times (London)

June 21, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 791 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Jerusalem

Body

An Israeli father told yesterday how three generations of his family were killed or maimed by the suicide bomb that exploded beside a bus stop in Jerusalem's rush hour.

After spending his working life in the city's hospitals, Dr Isaac Aizenman, 36, found himself frantically visiting emergency wards to find his family, at the scene of Wednesday night's blast.

After an hour of desperate phone calls and visits he discovered the worst: his daughter, Gal, 5, was among the seven dead, together with his mother-in-law, Noa Alon. His wife, Pnina, now lying seriously injured in hospital with chest and facial injuries, and his son, Sagi, 18 months, who has shrapnel lodged in his foot and lung injuries, were fortunate to escape with their lives.

Standing in the intensive care unit where his son is under close observation, Dr Aizenman told how he was at work when his wife called to tell him that she was at the French Hill junction, taking the family home.

Soon afterwards he heard ambulance and police sirens heading in that direction and, in a reaction that has become automatic for thousands of Israelis, immediately dialled her mobile telephone number. "She didn't answer," he said.

The Aizenman family were on their way home from an end-of-year kindergarten party at the West Bank settlement of Ofra, where Mrs Alon, 60, was a teacher. They had travelled in an armoured bus and were crossing the street to catch another to their home in a settlement east of Jerusalem when the bomber emerged from a red car and blew himself up near a row of bus stops popular with hitch-hikers.

Dr Aizenman was stopped by police before he could reach the spot where the bomb exploded, and spent the next frantic hour calling hospitals to try to track them down.

"It was like a nightmare. I had a feeling that the worst had occurred, and I had lost my little child -my beautiful girl - and my wife's mother, and almost lost my whole family. I know I need to be strong for my family growing up, but I will never be the same again.

"I can't understand what they are looking for, the leaders of the Palestinian people. How can they try to search for a Palestinian nation by killing children? I just want to see them look at the picture of my little boy and ask themselves if it is really fair to put people in this condition for your political aspirations."

Israeli father tells how bus blast hit three generations

Lying in a hospital bed, Mrs Aizenman was weak and unable to remember anything about the bomb. But she insisted that the Israelis would not be defeated.

"The Palestinian people send their children to kill babies, women and men," Dr Aizenman said. "We are suffering, we are the victims. Not them. I hope that my mother and daughter will be the last victims."

Arabic television channels have reported conflicting claims, and it is unclear which militant group was responsible for the bombing.

Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, cancelled a planned public appeal to end suicide bomb attacks yesterday.

His officials had earlier said that he planned to issue the call after his condemnation and demand of the night before that such strikes on civilians "must be completely halted" lest the Palestinians risk "full Israeli occupation of our lands".

Few were convinced by the explanation that the address was cancelled for technical reasons. Nor were people satisfied by the leader's appearance before his Ramallah headquarters, where he reiterated his opposition to the suicide bombers, and the reading out of a statement by Voice of Palestine radio announcers.

In Ramallah many ordinary Palestinians said that they supported the groups carrying out the suicide attacks, believing them to be the only means of striking back at an enemy with huge military superiority. One angry resident at the al-Amara refugee camp said: "He can't come to us empty-handed, telling us to stop bombing. He knows he has to bring us something in return, otherwise who will he be talking to? Who will listen?"

The militant group Hamas also said that it would not stop. Ismail Abu Shanab, a Hamas spokesman, said: "If we have an effective weapon in our hands and the whole world is trying to take it off us, this kind of reaction shows it to be the most effective way."

Israeli forces rounded up Palestinians for questioning in Jenin, Qalqiliya, Bethlehem and Beitunia, a suburb of Ramallah. Israeli forces tightly encircled Tulkarm.

Since taking control of the Jenin camp late on Tuesday, Israeli soldiers have gone from house to house, arresting about 2,500 men and youths for questioning, Palestinians said. About 1,000 were released yesterday.

The Israeli military would say only that soldiers arrested Tarek Izzedine, 28, a local leader of the Islamic Jihad group. After a two-day sweep, Israeli forces pulled out of Qalqiliya.

Load-Date: June 21, 2002

DEATH TOLL SOARS IN MID-EAST

Daily Star

March 6, 2002

Copyright 2002 Express Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 312 words

Byline: by JOHN McJANNET

Body

FIVE Israelis were killed by Palestinians yesterday in two bloody suicide attacks and a drive-by shooting.

One maniac slaughtered three people and injured 31 in a gun and grenade assault on two packed restaurants.

His rampage was only stopped by a diner who shot him with his own pistol.

Another suicide attacker blew himself up on a packed bus, killing one.

Other militant Palestinians ambushed Israeli motorists in the West Bank.

The attacks came a day after 16 Palestinians were killed by Israeli defence forces. Victims included the wife and three children of Hussein Abu Kweik - a leader of the feared Hamas group.

Abu Kweik vowed revenge and within hours the killings escalated further. The latest began when a man opened fire in an all-night restaurant in Tel Aviv.

He let rip with a M16 rifle at a group of women on a hen night and threw in a grenade which failed to explode.

The gunman, Ibrahim Hassouna, 20, then barged into another diner.

Shoe salesman William Hazan, who was with his wife, drew his gun and shot Hassouna.

He said: "I crawled under a table but he stuck a knife in my back. I saw he was the terrorist and immediately started shooting him."

A policeman then burst in and pumped him with bullets.

Hours later, a maniac bomber blew himself up in a bus station in Afula, killing one and wounding 11.

Palestinians also killed a female motorist in the West Bank. In the past four days of fighting, 32 Palestinians and 27 Israelis have been killed.

Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of trying to "plunge our country into bloodbath".

He added: "We'll wage a war against terrorism, because for us its a question of survival."

DEATH TOLL SOARS IN MID-EAST

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon kept to his promise of hitting back against the attacks.

More than 1200 people, 944 of them Palestinians, have died since the present troubles erupted 17 months ago.

Load-Date: March 6, 2002

End of Document

**Suicide bomb kills Israelis;
100 injured in shopping area blast**

Morning Star

January 28, 2002

Copyright 2002 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 303 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

AT least 100 people were injured and two killed in central Jerusalem yesterday after a suicide bomber attacked a busy shopping area.

Police spokesman Kobi Zerayahu said that the latest attack was carried out by a suicide bomber blowing himself up next to a shoe shop.

The explosion took place near the Sbarro pizzeria on the junction of Jaffa Street and King George Street, where 15 people were killed by a Hamas suicide bomber in August last year.

A Palestinian gunman went on a shooting spree on Jaffa Street last week, killing two women and injuring more than a dozen people before he was shot dead by police.

According to an eyewitness on the scene of the latest blast, body parts of the suicide bomber were scattered in front of the Freimann and Bein shoe shop.

Israel was quick to pin the blame for the attack on the Palestinian Authority - despite its condemnation of the killings.

Dore Gold, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said: "The military will bring its recommendations for the approval of the political echelon."

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Mr Sharon, said: "Arafat is responsible since he encourages terrorists to commit suicide acts."

A statement from the Palestinian Authority said: "The Palestinian leadership strongly condemns the suicide attack against Israeli civilians in Jerusalem."

It called for US President George W Bush, who said that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was not doing enough to stop terrorism, to send envoy Anthony Zinni to the region "to resume the trilateral security co-ordination and negotiations without delay.

"The leadership calls on the Israeli government to immediately lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian people and its leadership in order to enable the Palestinian leadership to carry out its national and security duties, " the statement said.

Suicide bomb kills Israelis; 100 injured in shopping area blast

Graphic

RAGE: Palestinians at the UN office in Gaza yesterday, demanding an end to the Israeli siege of Palestine.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

Suicide bomber kills Israeli teen: Attack at eatery caps day of civilian death and injury on both sides

Ottawa Citizen

June 12, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A12; News

Length: 761 words

Byline: Megan K. Stack

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- The man with the beard and the big green shirt sauntered into a steak restaurant in the coastal town of Herzliya yesterday, asked for a bottle of water and blew himself up. Ten wounded diners were hurried to the hospital as the sun set into the sea. A teenage girl survived for a few hours, then died of her wounds.

"It's horrible when innocent civilians -- men, women and children -- just out to get a bite to eat are hurt," said Yael German, mayor of the coastal town near Tel Aviv. The dinner-time suicide attack capped a day of scattered civilian death and injury among both Israelis and Palestinians as low-level warfare simmered throughout Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Los Angeles Times

Earlier, three 15-year-old Israeli boys were injured when a bomb exploded near the gate of a Jewish orchard in the West Bank. The high school boys spent the morning picking cherries and were waiting for a bus home when they stumbled across the bomb, apparently planted by Palestinian militants. Many Palestinian radicals object passionately to the growth of Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands west of the Jordan River.

"We should remember that the Palestinians are trying to kill us everywhere," local councillor Zvi Bar-Hai told Israeli radio. "We should understand that this is war, and fight back."

The Palestinian government immediately condemned the Herzliya bombing. And Palestinians were grappling with deaths of their own. In the tiny Gaza village of Al Mograka, eight-year-old Hussein al Matwi died when gunfire struck his family's home from the direction of a neighbouring settlement. A second boy, 13, was also badly injured in the shooting, Palestinian security officials said.

In a hospital in Egypt, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy died of wounds he suffered when he was shot last week near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. The boy's family lived near the settlement, and he was walking home when he was gunned down, Palestinians said.

In the morning, a 23-year-old man was blown up in a botched attempt to plant a bomb near an Israeli border fence southeast of Gaza City. The radical Hamas claimed the accidental suicide bomber was a member of its military wing. He died just hours after another Hamas member was shot to death in the Gaza Strip after he opened fire on a passing convoy of Jewish settlers. Israeli soldiers guarding the procession of cars shot back, killing the 22-year-old militant.

Suicide bomber kills Israeli teen: Attack at eatery caps day of civilian death and injury on both sides

On the main drag of predominantly Arab East Jerusalem, an Israeli border police officer was seriously wounded yesterday when a man charged up from behind, slit his throat and disappeared into the crowd.

Amid the flurry of attacks, Israeli soldiers kept up a relentless siege on Ramallah, where yesterday they arrested Abdel Rahim Mallouh, deputy secretary of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Mr. Mallouh is an assistant to Ahmed Saadat, who is in a Palestinian jail for allegedly plotting the October assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi. The militant Mr. Saadat has been locked up for months even though he was never charged or tried. Last week, a Palestinian court found that no evidence links Mr. Saadat to the crime and ordered him freed. But Israeli officials immediately threatened to "bring justice to him" if he walked free, and Palestinians kept Mr. Saadat behind bars for his own protection.

Sixty other Ramallah activists were taken into custody in the two-day siege, and soldiers seized caches of bombs. The raid kept Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat locked down in the remains of his battered compound for a second day. Israeli soldiers also clamped a curfew on Tulkarm and moved briefly into a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, the bodies of two Palestinians suspected of giving information to Israel were discovered by Palestinian police. They found the corpses in a field where an al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade leader, Marwan Zalloum, was gunned down by an Israeli helicopter earlier this spring.

The militant group, which is associated with Mr. Arafat's Fatah, claimed responsibility.

As the unrest continued, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appeared yesterday on Capitol Hill, which has been a source of support for Israel.

Mr. Sharon thanked Congress for its "solidarity and backing" after a meeting with members of the Senate foreign relations committee.

The committee's chairman, Democratic Sen. Joseph R. Biden, said: "There is no disagreement in this country on support for Israel. We support Israel, period."

Load-Date: June 12, 2002

HEROISM?

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)
February 26, 2002 Tuesday City Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A-8; WAR ON TERRORISM

Length: 318 words

Body

On February 6 a Palestinian terrorist killed three Israelis and wounded several more. The dead included a mother and her 11-year-old daughter.

The radio station known as the "Voice of Palestine" - which broadcasts the Palestinian Authority's official line - described the deed as an "act of heroic martyrdom." Stirring songs called on others to follow his example - i.e., to kill Jews.

Wafa Idris, identified as the ***female*** suicide bomber responsible for bloodletting in central Jerusalem, also has been called, in a PA paper, a heroine and a martyr. There is considerable doubt whether she intended to carry out the attack herself or planned to deliver the device to a male who was supposed to be the bomber. A premature explosion may have taken her life - as well as the life of an innocent Israeli. Palestinian propaganda hails her as something of a feminist trailblazer, nonetheless.

The bombs employed by terrorists reportedly have included nails and shrapnel coated with rat poison. The toxins make it more difficult for doctors to stop wounds from bleeding. The purpose is to maximize suffering and pain.

Not long ago Yasser Arafat wrote a column for the op/ed page of The New York Times in which he professed his love of peace and his opposition to violence. He has yet to explain why a ship under the command of one of his minions was filled with tons of Iranian weapons. The Israelis intercepted the vessel before it delivered its deadly cargo. And despite Arafat's weepy protestations, broadcasts and publications under his umbrella laud terrorists as heroic martyrs.

Heroes do not murder mothers and daughters; they do not blow up bombs in civilian neighborhoods. True heroes do not contribute to evil but resist it. They are not found in Arafat's ambit or among the various groups - Hezbollah, ***Hamas*** - that revel in dark work but among the security forces whose courage prevents even greater atrocities.

Load-Date: February 27, 2002

Israel put on alert as spy chief predicts worsening onslaught

The Times (London)

January 24, 2002, Thursday

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Section: Overseas news

Length: 301 words

Byline: Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI cities were on maximum alert for terrorist reprisals yesterday after the Army's intelligence chief warned parliament to expect attacks "the likes of which we have not seen before".

In Jerusalem, two women died from their wounds overnight after a Palestinian terrorist opened fire in the main commercial thoroughfare, wounding 14 others.

Hundreds of heavily armed soldiers and police on patrol later often outnumbered ordinary pedestrians on the streets.

One of the women, cut down during the height of the Tuesday afternoon rush hour, was identified as Sarah Hamberger, 78. The other, whose name was not released, was 56. "Security officials are preparing for an all-out escalation by terrorists, and all arms of the security forces have been placed on heightened alert," Israel Radio reported. Violence spread to Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters fired at Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa Farms region for the first time since October. Israel retaliated with shellfire and attacks by jet aircraft in which at least six air-to-surface missiles were fired on suspected Hezbollah positions. Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem's right-wing Mayor, said: "This is a war. It is a painful war. We are going to win this war, but it will not be easy and it will not be in a short time."

The Israeli prediction of growing violence came from Major-General Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, after a Hamas declaration of "all-out war" on Tuesday. He told Knesset deputies: "The coming period will see more serious terror attacks than we have been used to up to now in cities throughout Israel."

General Zeevi-Farkash, the new chief of military Intelligence, who has been in his role for less than a month, refused to go into more detail about the type of terror attacks being planned.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002