

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:06:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445330

Documents (100)

1. IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

2. Aging Palestinian radicals offer defiance, regrets

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

3. International: Gaza's falling wall changes Middle East map for ever: The tide of humans pouring over the frontier from Gaza into Egypt for days has now become a vast convoy of carts, cars and lorries. Peter Beaumont watched the jubilant throng sweep across borders that have penned in generations of Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

4. Gaza hospital forced to stop surgeries; Short of Anaesthetic Gas. Israel denies it blocks medical supplies

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

5. As goest Israel ...; If the Jewish state can't survive the onslaught of militant Islam, neither can the rest of the civilized world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

6. Abbas suspends talks with Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

7. Peace talks to restart this week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

8. Suddenly home offers children no protection CIVILIANS - MIDDLE EAST CARNAGE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

9. Border breach shows myth of Arab unity

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

10. Islamic militants in Gaza have fired over 4,000 rockets at communities in Israel MIDEAST: Can't Play, It Might Rain Rockets

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

11. Fighting continues in Chad as Irish Rangers wait to hear the all-clear

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

12. Gazans smuggle animals into zoo

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

13. Fuel delivery lights up Gaza Power plant online after Israel relents

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

14. Al-Jazeera, Gaza and a message to Qatar

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

15. A disturbing diagnosis



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

16. Suicide, the path to national salvation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

17. Aging terrorists rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that

hindered goal: statehood.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

18. Gaza blitz ends as rage rises

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

19. I leave Israel with the sinking feeling that hopes of a final settlement are receding

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

20. They were like locusts'; Palestinians eager to stock up on staples strip shelves of Egyptian stores

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

21. Gaza attacks kill nine; Israel cites rocket fire for strikes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

22. Darkness falls on Gaza as Israel takes revenge for rocket attacks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

23. Our once-respected news sources are so dishonest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

24. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

25. Baby dies as Gaza violence explodes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

26. 'Terror' blasts rock Istanbul

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

27. Israeli killed as suicide bomber crosses border

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

28. World - Gaza carnage leads Abbas to halt talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

29. Patience urged in Mideast Israeli foreign minister insists talks still on track, but not on schedule, for accord

with Palestinians
Client/Matter: -NoneSearch Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

30. Nine children among 60 killed as Israeli army returns to Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

31. Border protests over Gaza blockade

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

32. Mother and her four children killed during Israeli incursion

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

33. Mother and her four children killed during Israeli raid

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

34. NEWS IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

35. Barbarism in Jerusalem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

36. Tibetan protesters turn themselves in

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

37. Bush heads to Middle East to shore up peace talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

38. Ramadan, 1429

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

39. Cameras record gruesome reality as Palestinians turn on each other

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

40. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

41. 'Control creates responsibility'



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

42. Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

43. Israel accused of barring ill Gaza civilians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

44. Poll: Israel isn't top priority for US voters, including Jews. McCain backers are more likely to support Israel than their Democratic counterparts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

45. 'He is still our family member'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

46._THE END OF JIHAD

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

47. Chasing dreams of a new era in the Mideast

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

48. In short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

49. Children victims of gaza fighting; Israeli air strikes and ground raids have killed and injured dozens of Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

50. Two sides of the story to be told on gaza blockade

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

51. In Lawless Nablus, the Law Changes at Sundown

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

52. Pro- Israeli professor speaks out at Hillel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

53. Israeli minister speaks to IOP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

54. News in brief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

55. Israeli ground forces leave northern Gaza town

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

56. 60,000 defy gun barrier Gazans blow up border

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

57. 60,000 storm into Egypt; Palestinians snap up supplies denied to them by Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

58. MAJOR QUAKE STRIKES CHILE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

59. Israel strikes back, threatens more

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

60. Letters - How can today's Israelis behave like Nazis?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

61. Graying rebels rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that

<u>hindered goal: statehood.</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

62. <u>Mideast peace talks jeopardized as firefights continue</u>; <u>Several more die in battles throughout region</u> yesterday

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

63. It took this call for a boycott to make Israeli government take notice The Irish Congress of Trade Unions sparked controversy recently by calling for a boycott of Israeli goods. Belfast-based Brendan Mackin - past President of the ICTU - explains the background to the boycott call

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

64. Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

65. LETTERS FROM READERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

66. 'For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart' Palestinian plight is flip side of Israel 's independence joy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by



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

Sep 30, 2008

67. Palestinian gunmen kill 2 Israeli settlers Two of the attackers die in the assault

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

68. International briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

69. <u>Standing at crossroads We can't expect miracles from one meeting in Annapolis, but it's a pivotal step</u> toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

70. NOTED Strange looks and funny lines from the past week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

71. There'll be no let-up, says Israel as 100 die

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

72. Doom & gloom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

Sep 30, 2008

73. Collective punishment is never an answer

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

74. Human rights petitioners ask court to lift crossing closure at Gaza border. Area is on the brink of a major humanitarian crisis, claims Israeli Arab organization Adalah

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

75. Desperate Gazans stock up in Egypt

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

76. <u>Palestinian protesters spark riot at border; Disturbance disrupts aid trucks from reaching embattled Gaza</u> residents; fuel tankers manage to top up hospitals

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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

77. Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

78. International: Boost for Middle East summit as Syria joins in: Annapolis summit hopes to kickstart

negotiations: Broad Arab support, but expectations are low

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

79. Salifism - the worrying process of self-radicalization

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

80. Where lingerie is money and death is always near

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

81. IN OTHER WORDS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

82. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

83. Feature - A Right to Exist? John Wight argues that Israel must answer a simple question on its actions

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

84. Existence of Israel a miracle let alone that it's a democracy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

85. Border buying spree exposes the plight of Gaza 1.5m left without basics of life

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

86. Irish woman refused exit from Gaza to Egypt

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

87. Breaking a new hole in the wall of media coverage of Palestine

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

88. Boy stole dad's dollars

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

89. 2 Israeli Settlers and 2 Palestinians Killed in Drive-By Shooting During Hiking Trip

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

90. 5 The Five Big Issues

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

91. The unholy return of the Palestinian pilgrims

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

92. Our moderate British mosques threatened by 'modernisation'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

93. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

94. Hidden voices, different options

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

95. International: Tutu enters Gaza to start investigation into deaths

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

96. Israeli Forces in Gaza Kill 9 and Destroy Homes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

97. Jordan, Fearing Islamists, Tightens Grip on Elections

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

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

Sep 30, 2008

98. Misplaced praise for a misbegotten peace The Belfast accord

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

99. Israel needs a national unity government

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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

Sep 30, 2008

100. BUSH IN MIDEAST TO PUSH FREEDOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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



IN BRIEF

The Australian

June 16, 2008 Monday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 358 words

Body

No release in truce

JERUSALEM: A possible truce between Israel and the Islamist <u>Hamas</u> movement in the besieged Gaza Strip will not include the release of captured soldier Gilad Shalit, a top Israeli official said yesterday. Shalit, 21, was captured nearly two years ago in a cross-border raid by three militant groups, including the armed wing of <u>Hamas</u>, and has been held at a secret location in the densely populated territory since then. The Israeli official said the Gaza truce being mediated by Egypt would be carried out in two stages. The first stage would include an end to the violence and the reopening of the Israeli crossings. Corporal Shalit's release would be discussed in the second stage, he said. The talks are taking place a year after <u>Hamas</u>'s bloody takeover of the Gaza Strip, even as Israel is considering a major offensive to halt the near-daily rocket fire.

Soccer crowd blast

BAGHDAD: A <u>female</u> suicide bomber targeted a crowd of soccer fans celebrating Iraq's win in a World Cup qualifier, wounding at least 34 people near a cafe north of Baghdad. The young burka-clad woman was dropped off by a car shortly before the attack on Saturday as dozens of cheering young men poured out on to the streets after watching Iraq beat China 2-1 in a cafe in the town of Qara Tappah. The woman told suspicious police she was waiting for her husband but blew herself up after an officer spotted the detonator and began screaming at the crowd to disperse, officials said. Seven police and 27 civilians were among the wounded but the officer's warning averted higher casualties.

Man burnt alive

JOHANNESBURG: A 300-strong mob burned a Mozambican man alive yesterday near Pretoria after accusing him of setting fire to a shack, following a recent wave of xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Police arrested three suspects for murder and robbery, as about 2000 rand (\$263) was stolen from the man, police captain Thomas Mufamadi said. He added that officers did not consider the incident linked to the recent wave of xenophobic violence that killed 62 people and displaced tens of thousands, since it occurred after the accusations involving the shack.

Load-Date: June 15, 2008

IN BRIEF

End of Document



Aging Palestinian radicals offer defiance, regrets

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

March 16, 2008 Sunday

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Length: 1126 words

Byline: Hamza Hendawi Associated Press

Body

DAMASCUS, Syria -- Looking back to the U.N. partition plan of 1947, which envisaged Jewish and Palestinian states living side by side in peace, Nayef Hawatmeh comes to the painful acknowledgment of an opportunity missed.

"After 60 years, we are struggling for what we could have had in 1947," laments the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. "We have missed many historic opportunities."

In a year when Israel is celebrating its 60th birthday, Hawatmeh and his generation of leaders are still in exile and fading from the scene.

Visited by The Associated Press in Damascus, the Syrian capital, these graying grandfathers radiate nostalgia and bitterness. They speak of wasted opportunities, perceived successes, failures and divisions. In monologues that can last 90 minutes and brook no interruption, they voice anger at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for negotiating with Israel, but also at *Hamas* for taking their struggle down the path of radical Islam.

Hawatmeh and others of his generation -- Ahmed Jibril, George Habash, the shadowy Black September movement, woman hijacker Leila Khaled -- exploded onto the world stage in the 1960s and 1970s with deadly raids into Israel, the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics and a string of airline hijackings and assaults on passenger lines at foreign airports.

Branded as terrorists in Israel and the West, they saw themselves more in the Che Guevara mold, inspired by Cuba and Algeria and the Viet Cong. They say their goal, steeped in Marxist and Arab nationalist ideology, was to liberate Palestine from an "imperialist" Israel and draw attention to the Palestinians' plight.

"The whole world now says the Palestinians must have their state," says Ahmed Jibril, whose part of the alphabet soup of factions is the PFLP-General Command. He rejects any suggestion that his years of struggle came to nothing. "I am sure that if I don't see it in my lifetime, my son will. If not, then my grandchildren will."

But today the face of the Palestinian struggle is the suicide bomber, acting in the name of Islam, not nationalism.

The borders envisaged in the U.N. plan have been thoroughly scrambled. The war that followed the Arab rejection of partition left Israel ruling even more land, and the territory left to the Palestinians is split, in conditions close to civil war, between the West Bank where Abbas is headquartered, and the Gaza Strip under *Hamas*.

Aging Palestinian radicals offer defiance, regrets

Some of the old-timers have paid a personal price. Jibril lost one of his sons, 38-year-old Jihad, in a car-bombing in Lebanon in 2002. Jibril, 70, tells a visitor whose voice is soft, "I realize you are being polite, but you must raise your voice because all the bombings and gunfire I have been through made me hard of hearing."

Time is thinning their ranks too. George Habash, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine specialized in hijackings, died in a Damascus hospital in January at 81. According to close aide Maher al-Taher, his dying words, upon hearing of renewed unrest in the Gaza Strip, were: "There's still hope."

While the leaders interviewed say they have no regrets and insist they will ultimately prevail over Israel, some of them wonder aloud whether things might have been different.

"Would you believe me if I tell you that if I had to do it all over, I would?" said Mohammed Oudeh, architect of Black September's 1972 Olympics attack that left 11 Israeli athletes dead.

"But maybe, just maybe, we should have shown some flexibility. Back in our days, it was 'the whole of Palestine or nothing,' but we should have accepted a Palestinian state next to Israel."

However, Oudeh is quick to add that conditions were different then, and the two-state solution might not have ended the conflict.

Though some sympathize with *Hamas*' continuation of the fight, they dislike its ideology.

"Muslim extremism can fascinate people for some time, but it will lead to nothing," said Oudeh, 71. "Resorting to religion is born out of the frustration that comes after a series of defeats."

And as for Abbas, "I am disgusted every time I see him hug and kiss Ehud Olmert," the Israeli prime minister.

Leila Khaled, the Palestinians' best known <u>female</u> hijacker, says the Palestinian leadership has "committed a lot of blunders, which delayed Palestinian statehood."

They jumped too quickly into negotiations with Israel, thus "defused" the Palestinian uprising and "blocked the golden path that I and other comrades paved for the Palestinians," she said at her home in Amman, in neighboring Jordan.

But <u>Hamas</u> is not an option, she said, denouncing its takeover of the Gaza Strip last year as an "act of treason that divided the land and people."

Moussa Abu Marzouk, the deputy head of <u>Hamas</u>, counters that the old guard's methods were autocratic and produced repeated failures. "It is clear that the prestige of these organizations in the eyes of the Palestinian people has regressed," he said.

They were once locked in mortal combat with Israeli undercover agencies, and neither side would talk to the other. Even now, the veterans in Damascus keep a low profile, ever fearful of assassination, under armed guard, their addresses known only to a trusted few.

But Israel apparently no longer regards them as an imminent threat. Israeli defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss policy with the media, said none of them is a target for Israel. Indeed, Hawatmeh's case is a measure of how much the contours of the conflict have changed.

Hawatmeh's group was especially hated in Israel after a 1974 raid in which 24 Israelis, most of them teenage schoolkids, were killed.

Yet last year, Israel agreed to let him enter the West Bank for two weeks and take part in a top-level Palestinian meeting as a way of broadening Abbas' political base. In his 70s and ever defiant, Hawatmeh refused the offer, even though it would have meant setting foot in his homeland for the first time in 49 years.

Aging Palestinian radicals offer defiance, regrets

"He rejected that because he cannot accept conditions on his return to Palestine," aide Rashid Quweider told the AP.

Among Israelis too there is a recognition that the Palestinian leadership they cold-shouldered in the 1970s has been supplanted by a much more formidable foe, Islamic militancy.

"Of course it's better to deal with secular nationalists than religious extremists," Yossi Melman, a veteran Israeli intelligence analyst, said in an interview. "It was better back then because along with the violence there was hope for talks, and negotiations did happen and agreements were made.

"But with <u>Hamas</u> there is nobody to talk to. After <u>Hamas</u>, Israel will face al-Qaida." Contributing: Ian Deitch in Jerusalem, Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, and Jamal Halaby in Amman, Jordan.

Load-Date: March 16, 2008

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International: Gaza's falling wall changes Middle East map for ever: The tide of humans pouring over the frontier from Gaza into Egypt for days has now become a vast convoy of carts, cars and lorries. Peter Beaumont watched the jubilant throng sweep across borders that have penned in generations of Palestinians

The Observer (London)
January 27, 2008

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The Observer

Section: OBSERVER FOREIGN PAGES; Pg. 42

Length: 1964 words

Byline: Peter Beaumont

Body

They came and went in lorries and gas tankers, in flatbed trucks loaded with cattle and sheep, in coaches and minibuses, loaded by the dozen in the backs of trucks, all shuttling across Gaza's southern border. Four days ago they went on foot like refugees, but yesterday for the first time the trucks drove through and it felt like an unstoppable momentum had been reached.

They carried generators and goats, diesel and huge piles of carrots and cabbages. But most of all they carried the message that Israel's long blockade of Gaza is over. 'I want to get some cheese,' says Ameera Ahmad, after crossing the border from Gaza into Egypt yesterday. 'And honey. Look, crisps! I haven't seen a bag of crisps for months.'

The teenager in the car's front sticks his head out of the window into the crush of vehicles and people. 'Jibna!' he shouts, meaning cheese. It is not a request, although there are people selling it nearby. It is an affirmation of the possibilities outside Gaza.

Ameera, 24, texts her husband to ask if there is anything he wants brought back from Egypt. 'Oh!', she says suddenly in a quiet, happy voice, surveying a pretty vista of open fields, without walls or boundaries that cannot be crossed without risk. 'This is my first time out of Gaza.'

So walls fall down. Not only physically, blasted down on Gaza's border with Egypt last week with dynamite and cutting torches, but in the mind as well.

On the fourth day of Gaza's explosive relief from seven months of tight economic blockade by Israel, and seven longer years of economic isolation since the beginning of the second intifada, it was not only people who were crossing yesterday.

International: Gaza's falling wall changes Middle East map for ever: The tide of humans pouring over the frontier from Gaza into Egypt for days has now become a....

After bulldozers of the militant group <u>Hamas</u>, which controls Gaza since seizing power last June, opened new routes through the border area on the Philadelphia Road on Friday night a new kind of traffic was streaming over.

By mid-afternoon, as the news had spread through Gaza that Egypt was accessible by car, and not just by foot, the cars, buses and lorries snaked from the border, through Rafah and Khan Younis and up to Gaza City in a column in perpetual motion. The men of *Hamas*'s Executive Force stood with their weapons by the road and watched the passing traffic.

Beyond the border, out of the clogging traffic jams, the vehicles fanned out, little convoys of Palestinian cars setting off along the sandy roads to avoid Egypt's police on the main highway, traversing fields of flowering trees and tiny farms, all heading for the city of Al-Arish, 60 kilometres distant.

What seemed on Wednesday to be a huge, but perhaps brief, phenomenon dampened by the attempt by Egyptian riot police who moved later in the week to try to reseal the border, by this weekend was taking on the impression of a seismic and unstoppable reordering of the facts of the Middle East.

The four short days since <u>Hamas</u> blew down the six-metre metal border wall built by Israeli soldiers before the withdrawal of Israeli settlers and troops has forged a confusing new reality on the ground. What first was being treated as a holiday from the oppressive conditions of Gaza under Israeli siege, by yesterday was taking on the attributes of an entitlement - one for long refused.

But its uncertainties - in particular what it means in the long run for Gaza - do not change a simple fundamental fact. For the first time in years Gazans feel free. And when Gazans remember the last week it will be in two halves.

What will separate it in people's memories will be the cold and overwhelming notion of Israel's blockade that is lifted - at least for now. What they will remember will not simply be the condition of unemployment and deprivation that have gathered pace but the slow, corrosive degradation of a society that has accelerated since the beginning of the second intifada in September 2000, with the closing of Israel's labour markets to Palestinian workers.

It is something that a few brief days of 'festival' - as many Gazans described the extraordinary scenes last week as they poured into Egypt to shop and visit relatives - cannot solve overnight. And which they cannot fix alone.

It is exam day at al-Azhar University. In the <u>women</u>'s campus, a hundred or so girls sit in the chill winter morning, some still cramming from notebooks for exams that mean little in a place where a degree does not mean a future. In his office, Mkhaimar Abu Sada, a political scientist, talks about the years of the blockade. He believes Gaza's problems cannot simply be traced to the recent tightening of the closure on Gaza by Israel two weeks ago to complete closure - ostensibly in response to an increase of attacks from home-made Qassam missiles - aimed at the nearby Israeli town of Sderot.

He believes Gaza's problems are the consequence of a longer-lasting pattern of behaviour whose wounds and deformities are beyond transformation overnight. 'Since September 2000 and the beginning of the second intifada the Israelis stopped using Palestinian labour. Those going to the "other side" could earn between three and five times as much as labourers in Gaza. It was hugely important to Gaza.

'It had a huge economic impact. The figures now show that we now have unemployment running at in excess of 55 per cent, and 80 per cent of the population lives below the World Bank's poverty level.'

But it is only part of a history of Gaza's decline. In truth that began with the al-Nakba - 'the Catastrophe' - as Palestinians call the Arab-Jewish war of 1948 that saw the establishment of the state of Israel. Then, Gaza's population of 80,000 was swollen by the influx of 200,000 refugees, whose descendants occupy Gaza's UN-run string of camps.

Occupied by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967, which seized it from Egyptian rule, the long years of direct Israeli rule ended with the Oslo peace accords that failed to see the end of Israeli settlement within the Gaza Strip. That only ended with Israeli's unilateral 'withdrawal' in September 2005 that left Israel still largely in charge of

International: Gaza's falling wall changes Middle East map for ever: The tide of humans pouring over the frontier from Gaza into Egypt for days has now become a....

access to Gaza, its airspace and access to the sea. Israel provided two-thirds of Gaza's electricity, policed the land routes into which fuel, medicines and raw materials must pass, and controlled access of Palestinians to labour markets - Gaza's population was in effect imprisoned.

Never wealthy, Gaza's economic collapse was rapidly accelerated following the election in 2006 of the militant <u>Hamas</u> in the Palestinian elections in Gaza and the West Bank. Amid factional fighting between <u>Hamas</u> and the previously dominant Fatah, and a widespread breakdown in law and order, <u>Hamas</u> finally assumed power from Fatah in a few days of violence seven months ago. Israel's response was to declare a <u>Hamas</u>-led Gaza a 'hostile entity', further strangling a sealed off Gaza Strip and leading to severe shortages of cement, cigarettes and other basic goods, in a move that further deepened poverty.

That noose was tightened even harder this month after a rise in rocket attacks led Israel to impose a complete closure on the Gaza Strip - relenting later to allow in some fuel and humanitarian supplies amid international horror at what was being done to Gaza as a whole. But deep and lasting damage had been inflicted, long before the events of the last week.

For the consequence of the longer-term blockade of the Gaza Strip - measuring just 40 kilometres by 10 - has been a far-reaching social fragmentation going deeper even than the political and clan violence that plagued Gaza before <u>Hamas</u> took power. For as the economic screw has been turned by Israel on Gaza, domestic violence, divorce and child abuse have increased to levels previously unheard of in a society where the family is a basic building block.

'One of the main problems,' says Sumya Habeeb, who works in marriage counselling in Gaza, 'is that wives do not understand why their husbands are sitting around not earning any money. It is one of the major causes we are seeing both of domestic violence and wives returning to their parents. There is tremendous stress in marriages, not least for those men who worked in the Palestinian security forces before the <u>Hamas</u> takeover and who lost their jobs.'

Gaza's great migration shows no signs of solving its longer-term problems. Instead, in the short term it may exacerbate its already deep economic woes if a more equitable solution to the Gaza question is not worked out.

For even as tens of thousands headed south, other merchants, already on the edge of ruin, were left watching money that would, in normal circumstances, be spent inside Gaza pouring out into Egypt.

Among them, in the Saha market in Gaza City, was Jaweed Ashour, the 42-year-old owner of Ashour Watches, who gloomily surveyed the sudden influx of both Gazan and Egyptian street sellers into the market-place outside his shop hawking cheap clothes and cigarettes brought from across the border.

'I have seen no one come in today,' he says standing in his small shop. 'This month I haven't sold a single watch. This is the hardest time I have ever known. There is no money. I no longer buy what we used to eat. I used to buy my son new clothes at every Eid. Now I can't. If I buy a bag of sugar it is only a kilo bag.'

If many businesses faced being damaged, others will be saved by the opening of the Egyptian border after the months of hardship. Among them is the Lotus Flower hairdressing salon of Fatin Kehail. 'Before the tightening of the blockade, after the <u>Hamas</u> takeover, <u>women</u> still used to go to restaurants and hotels a lot,' she explained. 'Now the only customers I tend to see are brides preparing for their weddings. Even then people will say: "Three hundred shekels? That is too much now." I understand and do my best when I can.

'There are less weddings that I hear of, too. People have been putting it off. And because of the blockade I am running out of the stuff I need for work, like hairsprays and shampoos. I'm down to my last gallon of shampoo. I hope to go to Egypt to replace it.'

They are contradictions that are reflected in the wider questions posed for the future of Gaza. For while the propaganda coup by *Hamas*, under intense Israeli pressure, of bringing down the wall may well have temporarily

International: Gaza's falling wall changes Middle East map for ever: The tide of humans pouring over the frontier from Gaza into Egypt for days has now become a....

humiliated and wrong-footed Israel, the issue of where in fact Gaza's future lies may have been made more complicated still.

There is little likelihood that Egypt can replace the valuable jobs lost in Israel for Gazan workers, even if President Hosni Mubarak has the will to do so, in a country where day rates for labouring are tiny in comparison.

While Mubarak may have acquiesced - under pressure from an outraged Arab street - into allowing the Palestinians of Gaza to cross the breached border en masse, a President who routinely locks up members of the Muslim Brotherhood is unlikely to view dealings with its off-shoot, *Hamas*, with very much enthusiasm.

Israel also finds itself in a similar bind. While some politicians suggested last week that the fall of the Rafah wall was an opportunity to hand responsibility for Gaza to Egypt, that, too, shows signs of a deep naivety.

Although there are those in Israel who might wish that Gaza looked to Egypt, <u>Hamas</u> - Gaza's key player - is unlikely to trade easier access to the outside world in exchange for abandoning the struggle against Israel to end the wider occupation.

Which leaves Gaza where it was before the Rafah border crumbled: an economic disaster zone, with more cigarettes and meat and fuel for now, but no more certainty about its future than before last Wednesday morning.

But for now at least one sentiment remains. 'It feels today,' Ameera says on the return journey home to Beit Hanoun after her first journey out after buying her cheese: 'that Gaza is not quite the same big prison any more.'

Not yesterday at least.

Load-Date: January 28, 2008

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Gaza hospital forced to stop surgeries; Short of Anaesthetic Gas. Israel denies it blocks medical supplies

The Gazette (Montreal)
October 22, 2007 Monday
Final Edition

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Byline: Reuters

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

A Palestinian health official says Gaza's main hospital would be forced to stop surgery because Israel had banned imports of anaesthetic gas, but Israel said it had not blocked medical supplies.

Khaled Radi, a spokesperson of the <u>Hamas</u>-run ministry of health in the Gaza Strip, said yesterday Israel had told the company that imports hospital supplies into Gaza it would not supply the gas, which is needed to conduct surgery.

He said the hospital had barely two canisters of gas left and would have to halt surgery soon.

"This is a crime against humanity. Israel is killing patients, including women and children," Radi said.

Gaza's Shifa Hospital is the main medical facility in the impoverished coastal enclave, home to 1.5 million people, and is used for major operations. Radi said supplies of anaesthetic gas also were running out at Gaza's four smaller hospitals.

But Israel, which has shut the Gaza border to everything but humanitarian supplies since <u>Hamas</u> seized the coastal territory in June, said it had not stopped the flow of medical supplies and that anaesthetic gas would be allowed in.

"I don't know if there has been a request for this gas, but if there has there should be no problem," said Shlomo Dror, a spokesperson for the Israeli co-ordinator for the Palestinian territories. "They get all the medical supplies they ask for."

Israel has tightened border restrictions around Gaza since the violent takeover in June. Israel last month branded Gaza an "enemy entity" in response to regular rocket attacks from militants inside the territory.

Graphic

Gaza hospital forced to stop surgeries; Short of Anaesthetic Gas. Israel denies it blocks medical supplies

Photo: ABID KATIB GETTY IMAGES; Palestinian doctors conduct surgery on the hand of Omar Hamada, 13, without anaesthesia yesterday in Shifa Hospital, the main hospital in Gaza City. Khaled Radi, a Palestinian spokesperson of the <u>Hamas</u>-run ministry of health, said Israel banned the import of the anesthetic gas. "This is a crime against humanity," he said.;

Load-Date: October 22, 2007

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As goest Israel ...; If the Jewish state can't survive the onslaught of militant Islam, neither can the rest of the civilized world

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

May 5, 2008 Monday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A14; Lorne Gunter

Length: 691 words

Byline: Lorne Gunter, National Post

Series: Israel At 60

Body

Israel is Western civilization's canary in the coal mine. If Israel cannot survive, perhaps Western civilization -- pluralistic, democratic, individualistic, secular, free-trading and devoted to the rule of law -- will be unable to last, either.

On the eve of Israel's 60th anniversary, those of us who cherish our own fundamental freedoms had better hope the Jewish state makes it through its second 60 years; or else our own right to think, say or worship as we please (unless, of course, we come under the scrutiny of a so-called human rights commission) is in jeopardy.

To many Canadians, that may seem a farfetched warning.

What has Israel's survival got to do with us? Israel is far away. It has different enemies than we do. Even among Islamic extremists, they are battling <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, the PLO and Islamic Jihad, while the West is confronting the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

Besides, if we're nice and accommodating of diversity, the terrorists will respect our attempts to honour their culture and faith and leave us alone.

Nice theory. Too bad jihadis of every label view Israel and the West as conjoined and inseparable. Even though we may not see our destiny as inextricably linked with Israel's, they do. If we give up on Israel, they will simply take that as a sign they might be able to pressure us next to give up on Quebec, Mississauga, Michigan, Birmingham and the Paris suburbs.

This week, Riyad Na'san Al-Agha, Syria's culture minister and a man long touted in the West as an intellectual moderate, told Al Hiwar TV, an Arab-language channel based in London, that he longs for the destruction of Israel (so much for his moderation) and that he is "optimistic that within 10 years, Israel will come to its end."

What then? Arabs can concentrate on driving the infidels from their neighbourhood and, who knows, perhaps even take the fight to the infidels' homelands.

Remember, this is from a government official, not from a terrorist.

As goest Israel ...; If the Jewish state can't survive the onslaught of militant Islam, neither can the rest of the civilized world

<u>Hamas</u>, despite occasionally insisting it can live peacefully with Israel, has never given up its dream of destroying "the Zionist entity," and never will. But what would <u>Hamas</u> do if it ever managed to dismantle Israel: pat itself on the back and close up?

Not at all. <u>Hamas</u> co-founder Mahmud az-Zahar has long said that should that happy day (for him) ever come, his organization would merely turn its efforts to the spread of Islam in the rest of the West, by force if necessary. To this end, *Hamas* has set up training camps in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

And Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Hezbollah, has frequently urged Palestinians to fight not only Israel but the whole of the Western world, which he has described as satanic.

Aaron Klein, an American journalist who now lives in Israel, last year released a fascinating book, Schmoozing with Terrorists: From Hollywood to the Holy Land, Jihadists Reveal Their Global Plans -- To a Jew!. In it, he recounts how in hundreds of hours of interviews with dozens of terrorists their declared hatred of the West was nearly as great as their hatred of Israel. They were not motivated by poverty or political oppression as much as by faith and ideology, and nearly all spoke of establishing a worldwide caliphate once they had dispatched the Jewish state. They were especially enraged by our equal treatment of **women** and our tolerance of gays and lesbians.

Most of the Palestinian attacks on Israelis of late have been centred around the small industrial-agricultural city of Sderot. Since 2001, there have been more than 6,000 rockets and mortars launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel, an average of nearly three per day, most of them aimed at Sderot. The pace has quickened since the beginning of the year.

Seldom has a day gone by since January when Sderot's schools and markets have not been emptied by the blare of air-raid sirens that sometimes provide only 15 seconds notice of an incoming Katyusha or Qassam rocket.

If we permit Israel to lose the battle for Sderot, if we in the West wag our finger at Israel's efforts to defend herself, it may not be long before we find Sderot's plight repeated in Markham, Newark or Leeds.

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Graphic

Color Photo: Amir Cohen, Reuters; An Israeli explosives expert examines the remains of a rocket fired into Sderot.;

Load-Date: May 5, 2008

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Abbas suspends talks with Israel

Gulf Daily News May 1, 2008

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Length: 964 words

Body

GAZA CITY: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas suspended peace negotiations with Israel yesterday, demanding it end a Gaza offensive that has killed more than 100 Palestinians, many of them civilians.

Abbas had ordered "the suspension of negotiations ... until (Israeli) aggression is stopped", a senior aide said in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

But the Palestinian leader stopped short of declaring dead the US-brokered statehood talks opposed by *Hamas*.

Israel said it was acting in self-defence in the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza Strip to curb constant cross-border rocket attacks by militants and threatened to intensify its ground and air campaign despite allegations it was using excessive force.

New Israeli strikes yesterday killed seven Palestinians in the north of the Gaza Strip as the military continued a massive blitz against militants, medics said.

Three people, including one civilian and one <u>Hamas</u> fighter, were killed in two separate strikes early in the day in the north, where Israeli ground and air troops were operating for a second day.

Another two people were killed by gunfire near the northern town of Jabaliya.

Two Palestinians were killed when an Israeli tank shell crashed into a house in Jabaliya, which has borne the brunt of the fighting.

Two bodies of women were pulled out from beneath the rubble of houses destroyed in Jabaliya.

A 21-month-old Palestinian girl, two other civilians and three militants were also killed yesterday, raising the Palestinian death toll in five days of bloodshed to more than 100, including 60 civilians, medical officials said.

Israeli warplanes attacked the offices of <u>Hamas</u> chief Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza City, destroying the empty offices and wounding several people in neighbouring buildings, witnesses said.

Abbas suspends talks with Israel

"Israel has no intention of stopping the fight against the terrorist organisations even for a minute," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said.

Israel has sent tanks and other armoured vehicles as well as special forces and front-line infantry units into the Gaza Strip, but has released no precise troop figures.

Consequences

Defence Minister Ehud Barak said Israel needed to prepare for a possible escalation of military action in the Gaza Strip.

"We will continue our action with all our strength and we need to prepare for escalation, because a broad ground operation is real and tangible," Barak said. He said <u>Hamas</u> "bears the responsibility for the worsening situation, it will pay the price for it and (take) the consequences."

The US yesterday called for an end to the violence and a resumption of negotiations. "The violence needs to stop and the talks need to resume," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is due to meet Abbas and Olmert this week.

Thousands of Palestinians swarmed into streets across the West Bank yesterday in protest against Israel's assault.

A 13-year-old boy was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in the southern town of Hebron. At least 70 other people were wounded by rubber bullets in and around the flashpoint town when protesters began throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers, medics said.

One demonstrator was shot in the head and severely wounded, they added.

Another five protesters were wounded by gunshots to the legs in clashes in Ramallah.

Hundreds of Hizbollah supporters gathered at a border fence separating Lebanon and Israel to protest Israeli attacks.

More than 1,000 supporters carrying Lebanese and Palestinian flags took part in the demonstration at the Fatima Gate border point in the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Kila across from Israeli outposts on the other side.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon accused Israel of using "disproportionate and excessive" force in the Gaza Strip and demanded a halt to air and ground attacks.

Meeting in an emergency session, the UN Security Council said it was deeply concerned about civilian deaths in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip and urged a cessation of violence.

European Union president Slovenia condemned Israel's attacks as disproportionate and violating international law.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad repeated his assertion that "the real Holocaust was in Palestine", while a Saudi Arabian official compared Israel's actions to Nazi war crimes.

"Saudi Arabia calls on the international community to... work to stop the Israeli war machine and prevent it from carrying out mass killings and destroying the rights and property of the Palestinian people," an unidentified official was quoted by the official SPA news agency.

Turkey said "it was not possible for us to approve the recent inhumane practice in Gaza" in which civilians were being killed with "disproportionate use of force".

"There is no humane or legal justification for the attacks in Gaza," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

Abbas suspends talks with Israel

Jordan said Israel was violating international law, while the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, described Israel's actions as a "heinous war crime".

Rocket attacks from <u>Hamas</u>-held territory in the Gaza Strip into Israel show a "callous disregard" for civilian life but the Jewish state's retaliation is disproportionate, Amnesty International said yesterday.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband condemned the attacks on Gaza and called on Israelis and Palestinians to "back from the brink" and keep the region's fragile peace process alive.

Pope Benedict XVI appealed to Israeli and Palestinian authorities to "unconditionally" end the fighting.

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said she was "horrified" by the mounting civilian death toll in Gaza.

Karen Abu Zayd, the commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees also condemned rocket attacks on Israel launched out of Gaza.

Load-Date: June 30, 2008

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Peace talks to restart this week

Ottawa Citizen

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Final Edition

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Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will resume next week after being temporarily halted by a fierce Israeli military campaign against the <u>Hamas</u>-run Gaza Strip in response to rockets attacks, officials on both sides said yesterday.

The negotiations "are set to resume during the course of next week," said a senior Israeli official.

"We have always said these negotiations should continue, because we distinguish between the terrorists of *Hamas* and the moderate Palestinians of the (Palestinian) Authority," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

For his part, a representative of Mahmoud Abbas said a "resumption of negotiations is expected on Wednesday."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Abbas had said that despite the Israeli campaign, which has left scores of Palestinians dead in the past two weeks, peace is the only way forward.

"Despite all the Israeli attacks we call for peace and we are keen on peace built on international legitimacy," Mr. Abbas said in a speech at his Ramallah headquarters to mark International *Women*'s Day.

"There is no other way but peace."

But Mr. Abbas said several issues must first be resolved.

"We want a just and comprehensive peace agreement," he said.

Load-Date: March 9, 2008



Suddenly home offers children no protection; CIVILIANS - MIDDLE EAST CARNAGE

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

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First Edition

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Length: 887 words

Byline: ED O'LOUGHLIN in Gaza

Body

SAFA ABU SEIF, 12, was fatally wounded as she stood in an upstairs room of her home in the Gaza City district of Jabaliya 10 days ago.

She was one of 27 children identified by United Nations staff among the 107 Palestinians who were killed in five days last week. Another 25 dead, including five <u>women</u>, were identified as unarmed non-combatants. The status of 13 more dead victims could not be determined. At least three of the children were reportedly shot in their homes by Israeli small arms or sniper fire.

A Palestinian gunman killed eight Israeli students on Thursday before he was killed himself. An Israeli soldier was also killed that day. Two Israeli soldiers died in action in the early stages of a three-day incursion into Jabaliya, and an Israeli civilian was killed by Palestinian rocket fire on the first day of the surge in violence.

Asked by the Herald to comment on allegations that its troops had killed children in the area, the Israeli Defence Force blamed the violence on terrorist groups who exploited Palestinian civilians as human shields while firing rockets intended to harm Israeli civilians.

"IDF operations in the Gaza Strip are aimed solely at the <u>Hamas</u> terror infrastructure, armed terrorists and rocket launchers," its statement said.

A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Civil Administration - Israel's military government for the occupied territories - had received no complaints about shootings of civilians, and no investigation was underway.

Yet the family of the Palestinian television journalist Mahmoud Al Adjrami said that when Safa was struck Israeli troops were occupying their house, 90 metres across a stretch of open space from the window she was struck through.

They say the invading soldiers smashed up their tile floor to get sand to fill sand-bags for firing positions in first-floor windows facing the Abu Seif house. The discarded sand, together with the smashed door and tiles, spent bullet cases and heaps of Israeli ration boxes and discarded snack wrappers, were still in the house a day after the troops withdrew.

Suddenly home offers children no protection CIVILIANS - MIDDLE EAST CARNAGE

It is standard Israeli military procedure during tank raids to take over civilian homes as snipers' nests and hideouts, holding the occupants at gunpoint. According to the testimonies of victims and from Israeli soldiers themselves, this process can frequently involve theft, vandalism and violence against unarmed civilians.

The 15 <u>women</u> and children of the extended al Adjrami family were herded together into a single room for 19 hours, while the two adult men had their wrists tightly bound with plastic cable ties. Mahmoud's sister Naima, 33, said the soldiers gave them water but no food.

According to Mahmoud's brother, Mamdoeh, the soldiers ransacked the wardrobes and cupboards, stealing two gold bracelets, four mobile phones and the equivalent of \$8600.

Next door Jabr Zidane, 52, a taxi driver, said troops had taken over his house for 24 hours, looting jewellery and four mobile phones. He shows visitors the remains of a smashed television and stereo, a broken floor, discarded sand and Hebrew-labelled army rations.

In another home soldiers allegedly stole two large gold bracelets and \$500 from Jumaa Abed Rabbo, 40, and his wife and eight children.

"I was sitting with my hands tied with plastic ties for 24 hours. I asked if my family could use the kitchen to get water and food. They refused and so we didn't eat for 24 hours," Abed Rabbo said.

The professed purpose of last weekend's raid into Gaza was to kill or capture Palestinian terrorists involved in firing rockets into Israel, to capture or destroy equipment and to gather intelligence.

Yet all four of the families mentioned in this article are linked to Fatah, the Palestinian faction favoured by Israel and the United States over *Hamas*.

Abed Rabbo and al Adjrami are members of the Presidential Guard of the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas - the key weapon in what the US magazine Vanity Fair said last week was a failed attempt by the Bush Administration last year to overthrow the Palestinian Authority's elected *Hamas* government.

According to documents and testimony unearthed by the magazine, the administration coerced Mr Abbas into reneging on a power sharing agreement that paved the way for possible *Hamas*-backed peace talks with Israel.

Instead, new Presidential Guard factions trained by US soldiers were to be used to mount a coup against <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza with US-sponsored weapons shipped through Israel and Egypt.

Israel's foot soldiers seem to be unaware of this relationship.

"They were punching me, saying, 'You are a member of <u>Hamas</u>. You are a member of Fatah. Where do you work?" Mamdoeh al Adjrami said. "I said, 'I work in the Presidential Guard' ... They kept hitting me whenever they liked."

Jabr Zidane's son Mohammed, 21, was hardly able to speak on Monday, drugged with painkillers to ease the pain from beatings and from shoulders, elbows and hands swollen from more than a day in tight plastic restraints.

He said he was beaten, questioned, used as a human shield by Israeli troops, taken to Israeli territory, and released on the border.

Mr Zidane said he did not know why Mohammed, an unemployed stonemason, was singled out for interrogation and abduction.

"It makes no sense to us. Maybe it's because he's the only one with a beard."

Load-Date: March 9, 2008



Border breach shows myth of Arab unity

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

February 12, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A9

Length: 696 words

Byline: JONATHAN GURWITZ, New York Times News Service

Body

When <u>Hamas</u> militants blew up that wall on Jan. 23 to end the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, did you notice whose wall it was they destroyed?

It wasn't Israel's wall. It was Egypt's wall.

Funny, then, that the term "Israeli blockade" should have become so widely and so conventionally accepted with regard to Gaza. To blockade means to impede passage on all sides. The United States blockaded Cuba during the missile crisis of 1962. The Soviets blockaded Berlin in 1948. Santa Ana blockaded the Alamo in 1836.

There's an apocryphal story, credited to Texas iconoclast Maury Maverick Jr., about a visit John F. Kennedy made to the Alamo during the 1960 presidential campaign. In a rush to leave and wanting to avoid a gathering crowd, Kennedy reportedly asked if they could leave through the back door.

"There is no back door to the Alamo," Maverick is said to have told the future president. "That's why they were all heroes."

It turns out that there is a back door to the Gaza Strip. More than a back door, actually. Gaza shares a seven-mile border with Egypt. And the <u>Hamas</u> terrorists who have created the deplorable situation in Gaza and their Arab brethren in Egypt who herded Palestinians back across the breached border are anything but heroes.

In 2005, Israel ended its occupation of the Gaza Strip, forcibly removing settlers who had lived there for more than a generation. And what happened?

The myth that Israeli occupation is the source of the Arab-Israeli conflict was convincingly and forever shattered. No sooner had Israel departed the Gaza Strip than <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad militants began raining down rockets on southern Israel.

In two-and-a-half years, they have fired more than 4,000 rockets at Israeli civilian targets. Daily life in the southern Israeli city of Sderot consists of wailing sirens and 15-second dashes for cover. No nation in the world would withstand this daily barrage on its citizens and not take decisive action. No nation would sit passively as an enemy committed to its destruction grows menacingly on its border.

Border breach shows myth of Arab unity

But the international community expects Israel to supply the goods and electricity that power the rocket makers in Hamastan while no one ever notices, let alone criticizes, the wall that seals Gaza's border with Egypt.

When that wall came down last month, so did another myth -- the myth of Arab solidarity. The kleptocrats and dictators of the Arab world maintain their domestic credibility by flogging Israel as a bloodthirsty enemy and claiming solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

But when Palestinians went pouring over the border into an Arab nation, they were greeted not with open arms but rather with the truncheons and water cannon of Egyptian police and the guns of the Egyptian army.

Egyptian security forces created a firewall at the Suez Canal and clamped down on supplies headed into the Sinai Peninsula, gradually starving its markets. This, and an iron fist, herded the Palestinians back into Gaza.

The Palestinians have seen this kind of brotherly love before. After the first Gulf War, Kuwait expelled more than 400,000 Palestinians because Yasser Arafat sided with Saddam Hussein. In Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Palestinians are forced to remain in refugee camps, still unable to integrate after 60 years.

Now the gunmen, bomb makers and rocketeers from Gaza pose a potent threat to the Egyptian government. <u>Hamas</u> is the Palestinian franchise of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian wellspring of the modern Islamist movement and the chief political opposition to the Mubarak dynasty. The usual suspects at the United Nations, needless to say, aren't concerned when Egypt uses razor wire and brute force to deal with a security threat.

"Egypt has made it clear that it does not want to be responsible for providing the Gaza Strip with fuel and electricity," a senior <u>Hamas</u> official in Gaza told the Jerusalem Post. "They have informed us that the Gaza Strip must remain Israel's problem."

That is the Palestinian tragedy -- having leaders and purported patrons willing to make a limitless investment in Israel's problems at the Palestinian people's expense.

Jonathon Gurwitz writes for the San Antonio News-Express.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS, Palestinian <u>women</u> from Gaza are driven back by Egyptian security forces after the wall separating Gaza from Egypt was breached.

Load-Date: February 12, 2008



Islamic militants in Gaza have fired over 4,000 rockets at communities in Israel; MIDEAST: Can't Play, It Might Rain Rockets

IPS (Latin America)
May 22, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 1168 words

Byline: Peter Hirschberg

Body

Ruti Edri refers wryly to the upstairs floor of her home as 'The Museum'. It is an undisturbed and uninhabited space, seemingly frozen in time: the rooms are empty, the beds have no linen, the bathroom is unused, and there are no clothes in the cupboards. 'We live downstairs,' she says. 'My children aren't prepared to come up here. They're too scared.'

The downstairs living room, where several mattresses are piled against a sofa, has become a makeshift bedroom for the 38-year-old Edri's three children. 'They can't go outside and play because of the rockets, and they won't go upstairs, so they are stuck in here,' she says. 'My children have been stuck in this room for three years. My seven-year-old daughter doesn't know what a playground is.'

What has transformed half of the 38-year-old Edri's home into a no-go zone, and her living room into a bedroom, are the rockets that Palestinian militants in Gaza fire into Israel on an almost daily basis, many of them aimed at the southern town of Sderot where she has lived her whole life.

Islamic militants in Gaza have fired over 4,000 rockets at communities in southern Israel since former prime minister Ariel Sharon pulled the army and the settlers out of the coastal strip in August 2005. Fifteen people have been killed by the rockets. The relatively low death toll has to do with the makeshift nature of the rockets fired from Gaza, although in recent months militants have begun using more sophisticated Grad rockets which have a longer range and a heavier payload.

But the damage wreaked by the rockets is not just physical. The wailing sound of the siren that gives the residents a short warning when a rocket is incoming has become an integral part of daily life. Bus stops have been transformed into reinforced concrete structures where residents, caught outside when the siren sounds, can take shelter.

Parents in Sderot talk about how their children, traumatised by the rockets, wet their beds at night. How a door slamming shut makes them jump. Some talk of family members who are too scared to come and visit. Hundreds of people have been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder.

An Egyptian-mediated ceasefire proposal now on the table between Israel and <u>Hamas</u> includes an end to the rocket fire. But few residents in Sderot, largely disillusioned with the country's political leadership who they say have failed to protect them, believe any respite from the rockets will endure. Many talk about leaving and rebuilding their lives in an area where the rockets cannot reach them and their children.

Islamic militants in Gaza have fired over 4,000 rockets at communities in Israel MIDEAST: Can't Play, It Might Rain Rockets

Close to a third -- 7,000 out of an original population of 25,000 -- already have. Many of those who remain do not have the means to leave. 'There is no way that I would be able to sell my house,' says Edri. 'Who would buy here now? It wouldn't even be worth half of what I paid for it.'

The rockets have all but destroyed local business. '<u>Hamas</u> has succeeded in disrupting our lives,' says Haim Ohana, sitting behind his desk in the travel agency he runs in the town. 'Who in Sderot is able to think about travelling abroad and leaving their children back home? No one.'

Tzipi Edri's shop is empty. 'We make on average 50 shekels (15 dollars) a day,' says the 50-year-old Edri (no relation of Ruti), who helps her daughter-in-law run a <u>women</u>'s clothing store in the town's small commercial centre called Excite.

Two months ago, a rocket landed a few metres from the entrance to the shop, causing extensive damage. There are still grey pockmarks on the white walls of the shop where the shrapnel gouged out pieces of plaster. The Excite sign above the shop entrance is riddled with holes from the blast. 'If I had been in the shop when the rocket struck,' says Edri, 'I wouldn't be standing here now. I'd either be in intensive care or in the cemetery.'

Like many residents, Edri is furious with the government for not taking harsher retaliatory measures in a bid to halt the rocket attacks. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military incursions into Gaza aimed at stopping the rocket fire, but the government has so far baulked at launching a prolonged, wide-scale offensive deep inside the strip.

'For every Qassam (rocket) that is fired, we should blow up the house of those who gave the terrorists cover,' says Edri. 'I don't care who is inside. Then they'll learn not to give them cover. We're expected to be restrained when they fire rockets. The world only sees the Palestinian side. What about our children, who don't sleep at night, who wet their beds, who need psychological treatment.

'The Jewish people are too compassionate,' she adds. 'How would the U.S. react if its citizens were being fired on? I'll tell you how: They'd go in and wipe out those who were doing the firing.

'I believe <u>Hamas</u> more than I believe my own government. Our government talks tough, but when it comes to acting they do nothing. <u>Hamas</u> says it is going to fire rockets and they fire rockets. They are true to their word. Our government isn't.'

Sasson Sara, who runs a small kiosk on the town's main street, wants the government to give the order to target the <u>Hamas</u> leadership for assassination, in the way it did several years ago when the Islamic movement's spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, as well as several other senior leaders, were targeted and killed by the Israeli military.

'Haniyeh says we Jews are here temporarily,' growls Sara, referring to Ismail Haniyeh, who heads the <u>Hamas</u> government in Gaza. 'If he's right, then we should cut a deal with (U.S. President) George Bush, pack up and go and live in the Nevada desert. But if we think this is our home, then the Prime Minister has to give a very clear order: 'I want the head of Haniyeh.' If he does, I can assure you it will happen. But our leaders are weak.'

Not everyone in Sderot believes there is a military solution to the rocket fire. A few blocks from Ruti Edri's home, a crowd is still milling around a house that was hit an hour earlier by a rocket. No one was home when the rocket struck, but it has drilled a hole in the roof, causing extensive damage to the interior of the house.

Haim, who teaches at the local high school, is inspecting the damage. Ultimately, he says, Israelis and Palestinians will have to sit down and negotiate an end to the conflict. 'There are two nations here and each has a right to a state,' he says. 'But the extremists on both sides don't want this dream of two states for two peoples. Our extremists believe that Greater Israel belongs to the Jewish people. But they are playing into the hands of <u>Hamas</u> who also want one state here -- but run by them.'

Islamic militants in Gaza have fired over 4,000 rockets at communities in Israel MIDEAST: Can't Play, It Might Rain Rockets

Haim is not in favour of a large-scale incursion into Gaza, because he believes many Israeli soldiers will lose their lives. But, he says, the thinking in the military is that this is the only way to curb *Hamas*. 'In the end there will be a massive operation in Gaza. I don't want it. It will be very costly. But it will happen.' © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: May 22, 2008



Fighting continues in Chad as Irish Rangers wait to hear the all-clear

Sunday Independent (Ireland) February 3, 2008

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Independent.ie

Section: WORLD NEWS; World News

Length: 723 words

Body

Chadian government forces are pushing rebels away from the presidential palace but the outcome of the fighting vesterday remains unclear, a French military spokesman said.

"They are pushing the rebel forces outside the city of N'Djamena," Col Thierry Burkhard said in a telephone interview. However, he noted that the long-term situation is still uncertain and that the Chadian capital is vast and sprawling. "There is not a very precise front line," he said.

There are currently eight Irish army personnel in Chad -- five members of an Army Ranger advance party and three as part of the United Nations Enfor mission. A further 54 Irish Rangers are waiting to depart but are held up by the fighting. Their mission is to pave the way for a 500-strong Irish Army peacekeeping force.

Four killed in Chicago shooting

FIVE people were shot at a <u>women</u>'s clothing store south of Chicago yesterday. Tinley Park police reported four deaths in the shooting at a Lane Bryant outlet in a shopping precinct.

Authorities at the scene cordoned off the mall, waving would-be shoppers away as they approached entrances.

Female guerrilla wanted by US is held

A Colombian <u>female</u> guerrilla wanted in the United States for the kidnapping of three Americans and trafficking cocaine has been captured by the army near Venezuela's border, authorities said yesterday.

The army said the capture of Luz Dari Conde Rubio, known as 'Doris Adriana', was a blow to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) which has had three top leaders seized or killed in the last year.

Egypt decides to close Gaza border

Egypt has decided to close its breached border with Gaza today, and <u>Hamas</u> will not stand in the way, a <u>Hamas</u> leader said yesterday, after talks with Egyptians officials.

Cairo has agreed to co-ordinate with <u>Hamas</u> on some border issues and to enable thousands of Palestinians stuck in Egypt to head to third countries for which they have visas or residency permits.

Fighting continues in Chad as Irish Rangers wait to hear the all-clear

It was unclear whether the border would be sealed hermetically, as it was before <u>Hamas</u> blew up sections of the border wall on January 23, ending a seven-month blockade by Israel and Egypt.

It also wasn't clear to what extent, if at all, <u>Hamas</u>'s demand to be given a say in running the Egypt-Gaza border was being considered.

Turks protest over headscarf move

Thousands of secular Turks rallied yesterday against a plan by the government to allow <u>women</u> students to wear the Muslim headscarf at university, a move they say will usher in a stricter form of Islam in Turkey.

Parliament is expected to approve a constitutional amendment next week sponsored by the ruling AK Party, which has Islamist roots, and a nationalist opposition party, that is aimed at easing a 1989 headscarf ban for students in higher education.

Secularists fear lifting the ban would lead to pressure on uncovered women to wear the Muslim garment.

Muslim extremists threaten bishop

The Bishop of Rochester has been placed under police protection following death threats made in the wake of his claims that Islamic extremists are creating "no-go areas" for non-Muslims in Britain.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali revealed that calls had been made to his home in Kent, threatening both him and his family. Kent police have given the bishop an emergency number and are treating the threats seriously.

Baywatch star in Crazy Horse strip

Pamela Anderson will launch her first stage performance in Europe this month with a striptease. She will perform at the renowned Crazy Horse cabaret in Paris.

Asked whether Anderson will bare all in the show, Crazy Horse managing director Andree Deissenberg said: "We're going to have to talk to Pamela about that. The Crazy Horse has always been about, 'you think you see everything, but you see nothing,'" she added. "It's going to be a sexy, beautiful, creative performance."

Groundhog predicts a longer winter

A groundhog called Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow yesterday -- a sign in the US that there are six more weeks of winter.

Each February 2, thousands of people descend on Punxsutawney, a town of about 6,100 people some 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

The tradition is that if the hibernating animal emerging from its burrow on February 2 sees a shadow, then winter will last another six weeks.

If no shadow is seen by the groundhog, legend says spring will come early.

Load-Date: February 3, 2008



Gazans smuggle animals into zoo

The Bismarck Tribune
August 9, 2008 Saturday

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Section: WIRE; Pg. 2A

Length: 399 words

Byline: DIAA HADID, Associated Press Writer

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - The monkeys and lions were drugged, tossed into cloth sacks and dragged through smuggling tunnels under the border between Egypt and the besieged Gaza Strip before ending up in a dusty Gaza zoo.

Stocked almost entirely with smuggled animals, the "Heaven of Birds and Animals Zoo" is a sign of Gaza's everexpanding tunnel industry. Dozens of passages are believed to snake under the border, serving as a mainstay of the local economy and a way to smuggle in everything from cigarettes to lingerie to automatic weapons.

And smugglers say a new effort by Egypt to blow up the passages will have little effect on the flow of goods.

Gaza's commercial trade was literally forced underground after the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> seized the coastal territory last summer, prompting neighboring Israel and Egypt to restrict movement through commercial crossings.

While Israel has allowed more goods in since a June truce with <u>Hamas</u>, it is not enough to meet Gaza's needs. Tunnel smugglers fill the gaps, bringing in contraband drugs and guns and more mundane items like frilly underwear and laptop computers, as well as exotic animals like the lion and lioness that pace in a cage at the Rafah zoo.

They were purchased as cubs from Egypt for \$3,000 each, drugged and dragged through a tunnel in sacks. Zoo manager Shadi Fayiz said he went through a middleman to put in his order.

At the small zoo, where umbrellas shade battered couches, there is a parrot who was slipped through a tunnel in a cage. He can ask for a kiss in Arabic, startling veiled Gazan <u>women</u> walking by, Fayiz said.

Two monkeys were bought together as babies. So were three spindly legged gazelles, one of whom bit several tunnel smugglers when they forgot to sedate it, Fayiz said.

All told, his animals cost over \$40,000. Fayiz opened shop in June.

"Without the tunnels, I couldn't have done this," the 23-year-old said.

Egypt, under Israeli pressure, has ratcheted up its efforts in recent weeks to destroy the passages, blasting tunnel entrances on its side. But smugglers say they can easily build new ones.

Gazans smuggle animals into zoo

"You can't kill a snake," said a middleman who goes by Abu Mohammed, referring to the passages by their Gazan slang name, "hayyeh," the Arabic word snake.

Like other traders interviewed by The Associated Press, he declined to give his full name, fearing retribution from Egypt and tax demands from Gaza's *Hamas* rulers.

Load-Date: August 11, 2008



Fuel delivery lights up Gaza; Power plant online after Israel relents

The International Herald Tribune
January 23, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 908 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: GAZA

Body

After widespread criticism of its decision to deny Gaza all supplies of industrial diesel oil required to run a power station that serves Gaza City and its hospitals, Israel on Tuesday resumed fuel supplies on what it said would be a temporary basis.

The European Union, which pays for the fuel, called the closure "collective punishment," while Israeli officials said they were trying to bring home to the people of Gaza the need to stop militants from firing rockets into Israeli towns and farms.

On Tuesday, Israel pumped in about 750,000 liters, or 195,000 gallons, of industrial diesel, part of the 2.2 million liters it said it would provide for one week only to Gaza's main power station, which had shut down when its tanks ran dry. The plant started one of its three turbines Tuesday, bringing power to parts of Gaza City that had been dark or running on generators.

Rafiq Maliha, the project manager for the station, said that 2.2 million liters would be enough to provide up to 55 megawatts of electricity.

"But what do I do next week?" Maliha asked. "I have no reserves, so how can I plan? This power plant has nothing to do with the conflict and should be outside it."

He and Suheil Sheik, manager of Gaza Electrical Distribution, also criticized Israel for not allowing the regular importation of spare parts for a system that is rapidly wearing down.

Sheik said that it was impossible for his company to separate electrical power to hospitals from the surrounding neighborhoods. Even before the fuel halt, there were rolling power cuts in Gaza of six hours or more.

Israel provides more than 60 percent of Gaza's power directly, and the Israeli Supreme Court has prevented the state from cutting that supply. But the court did not prevent Israel from halting fuel supplies, including gasoline. Egypt provides 7 percent of Gaza's power, but only to the south. The power station, which is one-third owned by an American company, was bombed by Israel in the summer of 2006 after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by *Hamas*.

Israel also allowed in 200,000 liters of regular diesel, with 250,000 more liters expected to be delivered Wednesday; the diesel will be used for generators, especially at water pumping plants, sewage treatment facilities and hospitals

Fuel delivery lights up Gaza Power plant online after Israel relents

like Al Shifa, the largest in Gaza, which functioned Tuesday on diesel provided to it Monday by the World Bank, Red Cross and the United Nations.

Dr. Raed al-Arini said that Al Shifa used 5,000 liters a day to run two generators to power dialysis machines, incubators with 30 children, the intensive-care unit of 15 patients and operating rooms. "It was a miracle when we got 10,000 liters yesterday," he said. "Otherwise we would have had to shut down at noon."

But Gaza's oil companies on Tuesday refused to deliver the diesel provided by Israel, saying that there was no fuel for them to operate their stations, which are empty. Mahmoud Khozendar, who helps to run a family company and heads the dealers' association, said that there was also little gasoline in Gaza.

Israel has refused to supply gasoline, with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert telling his Kadima party on Monday: "As far as I'm concerned, the residents of Gaza can walk if they don't have gasoline for their cars, because they have a murderous terrorist regime that won't let people in the south of Israel live in safety."

Israeli officials have made it clear, as one senior official said, that so long as rockets are hitting Israel, "The people of Gaza will be uncomfortable and know that life is not normal." But Olmert has said that Israel will not allow a "humanitarian crisis." About 13 Qassam rockets landed in Israel on Tuesday, the Israeli Army said, but did no damage.

Israeli officials said they were also worried about pressure on them to reopen the goods crossings into Gaza, especially because of U.S. support for a plan by the appointed non-<u>Hamas</u> prime minister in the West Bank, Salam Fayyad, for his government to run the crossings. Israel says that <u>Hamas</u> would control the crossings regardless.

To drive home their desire to open the Rafah crossing into Egypt, which has also been shut since <u>Hamas</u> took over Gaza in a short war with Fatah last June, <u>Hamas</u> supporters organized a protest Tuesday in Rafah. Dozens of protesters, many of them <u>women</u>, tried to push through the crossing into Egypt in two waves and were forced back by Egyptian police officers and soldiers, sometimes using water cannons and shooting into the air.

<u>Hamas</u> has demanded that Egypt open Rafah for both people and goods, but the Egyptians have largely refused. Israel and the United States have urged Cairo not to open Rafah, and both countries have criticized Cairo for not doing enough to stop the smuggling of arms, munitions and trade goods through tunnels into Gaza.

John Ging, Gaza director of operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which helps the 70 percent of the population who are registered as refugees, called the Israeli cutoff of goods and fuel "collective punishment" and "counterproductive."

Israelis in border towns deserve security and protection, Ging said.

"But the Israeli response is a retaliation, which is equally illegal, against the civilian population of Gaza," he said. "It engenders animosity and a sense of injustice that allows those bent on violence to dictate the agenda."

"We need to create stability on the ground and help people, not sanction them," he added.

Load-Date: January 30, 2008



Al-Jazeera, Gaza and a message to Qatar

The Jerusalem Post March 7, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 1249 words

Byline: CALEV BEN-DAVID

Highlight: Al-Jazeera has a very selective interpretation of press freedom: one that allows it to brazenly broadcast exaggerated and outright false reports about Israel, but not give proper critical coverage to either its own sponsors

in the Qatari regime or the Muslim Brotherhood- linked *Hamas* rulers of Gaza. BETWEEN THE LINES

Body

'I thank God, the praised and the almighty, I thank the people of the media... specifically the Al-Aksa and Al-Jazeera stations, and all the stations that showed pictures of the pulse of the Palestinian majority. Thank you to all those who gave support in presenting the pulse of the Palestinian majority, which says we will resist until the Day of Judgment."

That was <u>Hamas</u> leader Mahmoud Zahar this week, speaking on the movement's own Al-Aksa station and praising the Qatari-funded satellite news channel whose defamatory and inflammatory coverage of the Israeli military operations in Gaza raised tensions and sparked unrest across the region.

Al-Jazeera's coverage of Israel has been problematic since its inception a little more than a decade ago, including accusations by Israeli officials that it directly colluded with <u>Hamas</u> two months ago in exaggerating the fuel shortage situation in Gaza during a staged "black-out" there.

Despite this, Jerusalem has cooperated with Al-Jazeera and allowed it to operate freely here, because of the rare platform it has given to Israeli officials and personalities to speak directly to the Arab world.

But this week, the government had enough of the station's demagogic coverage of the Gaza situation, in particular the fact that it continued to refer to "Israeli officials threatening the people of Gaza with another Holocaust" even days after former Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i had clarified that Reuters had misquoted his use of the word "shoah" (disaster) in remarks he made on Army Radio last Friday.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni blasted the station in a briefing to foreign ambassadors, and one Israeli communications official told The Jerusalem Post this week that the station's coverage was largely responsible for sparking the attack by an Arab crowd on two municipal workers in east Jerusalem on Monday.

As a result, the Foreign Ministry and Government Press Office said this week that for the time being they would maintain an unofficial ban on handling requests by the station's local bureau, although Aviv Shir-On, head of the ministry's Media and Public Affairs Department, said that earlier press reports according to which the government would "boycott" the station were exaggerated. No press credentials of Al-Jazeera personnel have been suspended, and several Israeli spokespeople said they would continue to appear on the station's English-language channel, while shunning the main Arabic station for the time being.

"There are some real professionals in the English side of the operation," said one hasbara official, "and we hope they can have an influence on their Arabic colleagues in helping them understand to what degree that pressure from the station's management in Doha [Qatar's capital] is making them distort their coverage here."

THERE'S A background to Al-Jazeera's coverage of Gaza - and specifically its relationship with <u>Hamas</u> - that should be noted, as well as recent developments in the regional media industry landscape that may well affect the station's future here and elsewhere.

The connection between Al-Jazeera and <u>Hamas</u> is the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian fundamentalist Islamic movement with which <u>Hamas</u> is closely linked, both ideologically and organizationally. Over the decades, Qatar has taken in many senior Muslim Brotherhood figures who have been forced to flee Egypt, and have allowed them to set up their own network there.

Last year, MEMRI published a report citing links between Al-Jazeera and the Islamic movement, pointing to a piece by noted columnist Mamoun Fandy published in the London-based Arabic daily, Asharq al-Awsat, in which he complained that "the Muslim Brotherhood has at its disposal media that transcend borders, from newspapers to satellite channels, which have taken over the minds of million throughout the entire Arab world. If you watch a debate program presented on Al-Jazeera, you will be amazed at the supreme effort to defend the Muslim Brotherhood."

A typical example of that can be found in a laudatory puff piece posted last month on the Al-Jazeera Web site which stresses the Brotherhood's "rejection of all manner of violence," its commitment to "human rights," and notes that "on the <u>women</u>'s rights issue they have shown a great deal of openness." (Gloria Steinem would no doubt approve.)

Yet funnily enough, in 1999, the ruling emirs of Qatar came to an agreement with the Muslim Brotherhood that it could no longer operate openly as political movement in that kingdom - perhaps because, in return, the organization was given a television platform to preach its brand of radical Islam to the rest of the Arab world.

The rest of the Arab world, though, isn't taking this situation lying down. To start with, in 2003, the Saudi- owned Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC) started its own international Arabic news channel, the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya, which in recent years has begun to overtake the popularity of Al-Jazeera. Part of the reason is that four years ago the Iraqi government, incensed by what it saw as Al-Jazeera's pro-insurgent coverage, indefinitely closed its Baghdad bureau, limiting its coverage from that country.

Though Al-Arabiya is no less critical of Israel, it is perceived as relatively more moderate and less sympathetic to radical Islamic groups and ideology than Al-Jazeera. Not surprisingly, this has caused it some problems in Gaza; last January a bomb exploded outside its bureau there, after it had run a report critical of some *Hamas* officials.

Al-Jazeera is also set to face more competition in the Middle East TV market, with the scheduled start next week of the BBC's new highly-touted Arabic news channel. Being caught in a ratings war with serious rivals is perhaps another reason the Qatari station has ramped up its attacks on Israeli policy in recent weeks.

The most serious challenge Al-Jazeera now faces, though, is not from another station, but a decision taken last month by Arab League states to create a new "satellite broadcasting charter" that would allow it to more easily censor programs that "negatively affect social peace, national unity, public order and public morals."

The charter was initiated by Saudi Arabia and Egypt - and supported by every country except Qatar and Lebanon, because it is seen as primarily directed against Al-Jazeera and the Hizbullah-operated Al-Manar station.

"Media institutions should be watching [the conduct of] governments, not the other way around," Al-Jazeera news editor Ahmad Shaikh told Reuters. "These are politicians who want to set the style in which we operate through a wide-ranging document that can have a million interpretations."

While censorship of this sort is yet another indication of the Arab regimes' resistance to democratic reforms, Al-Jazeera itself has a very selective interpretation of press freedom: one that allows it to brazenly broadcast

Al-Jazeera, Gaza and a message to Qatar

exaggerated and outright false reports about Israel, but not give proper critical coverage to either its own sponsors in the Qatari regime or the Muslim Brotherhood-linked *Hamas* rulers of Gaza.

Al-Jazeera is already banned in Algeria, Tunisia and Iraq, and that list may well grow thanks to the impact of the Arabic satellite broadcasting charter. Ironically, it is here in the Jewish state and the region's only genuine democracy that the station is probably given its greatest latitude to freely report - and, at the end of the day, this may be one of the few remaining places it can be seen.

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Graphic

Photo: FREE REIGN. Despite its problematic coverage of Israel, Jerusalem has cooperated with Al-Jazeera, because of the rare platform it has given to Israeli officials and personalities to speak directly to the Arab world.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



A disturbing diagnosis

The Jerusalem Post May 1, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 1017 words **Byline:** DANIEL FINK

Highlight: Where's the outrage when sick Palestinians are used as fodder by terrorist groups? The writer is the

coordinator of government affairs of NGO Monitor.

Body

Amidst the clangor of NGO criticisms that target Israel for its behavior it is difficult to know which ones to take seriously. Whether they allege "collective punishment" based on a simplistic calculus divorced from context, or claim that Israel is obligated to provide Gaza with the entirety of its fuel and foodstuffs, which has no basis in international law, various human rights NGOs discredit themselves with relative ease.

Despite the "halo affect" these NGOs enjoy and the credibility they are afforded in international forums, many Israelis are beginning to take these claims less seriously. But there is still one community of NGOs that the general public has a hard time expressing skepticism towards.

The community of medical humanitarians is perhaps the most trusted of all NGO actors. Organizations like Medicins Sans Frontiers, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-I), Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP UK) and others are presumed to be the most credible sources in this conflict zone. Indeed, their mandate is to "come for the benefit of the sick, remaining free of all intentional injustice" as stipulated by the Hippocratic oath. Impartiality is their modus operandi. However, evidence demonstrates that even these groups are succumbing to partisanship and the facile oppressor-victim paradigm of the Arab-Israeli conflict. And most disturbing is their lack of moral outrage when sick Palestinians are used as fodder by terrorist groups.

IN NOVEMBER 2007, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-I) issued an appeal for medical supplies for Gaza, citing "the prolonged siege imposed by the Israeli government," as the sole cause for such shortages. This assertion quickly made it up the information chain and was force-multiplied when it was repeated by major international NGOs and news publications, bolstering its credibility. With no mention of the 120 Kassams launched from Gaza that same month, the international community was led to believe Israel was simply perpetrating crimes against Gazans rather than being forced into making excruciating decisions in which security interests must be weighed against humanitarian ones.

Other issues were ignored as well. Firstly, not only was Israel continuing to transfer medical supplies to Gaza, albeit in fewer quantities then before the daily barrages, but Palestinian doctors were waiting until the last minute to order supplies "so they can create the image of a crisis," according to IDF Col. Nir Press. <u>Hamas</u> was endangering its own people for the purpose of "spin." In March 2008, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that <u>Hamas</u> was diverting medical supplies to its own clients. In April, the Palestinian Petroleum Authority reported that <u>Hamas</u> was attacking fuel trucks bound for the Nahal Oz crossing and hospitals and clinics. Fuel that did not reach these destinations was taken to **Hamas**-controlled security installations. And yesterday **Hamas** gunmen stole around

A disturbing diagnosis

60,000 liters of fuel meant for a Gaza fuel station, where hospitals receive some of their power. None of these incidents have been reported by medical humanitarian NGOs.

PHR-I went on the offensive again this month, claiming that Israel was denying entry permits for Palestinian patients seeking medical attention in Israel. (A now familiar mantra also voiced by NGO superpowers including, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch). Israel stood accused of denying entry to sick Palestinians for "arbitrary" and malevolent reasons, though this too was a distortion.

Last week, it was reported by The Jerusalem Post that Palestinians from Gaza have been bribing local doctors to declare they need urgent medical treatment in Israel. According to the Shin Bet, "there has been an increase in the exploitation of Israel's humanitarian policy by way of fraudulent medical permits in return for bribes to doctors in the Gaza Strip."

Cases in which law-abiding Palestinians are denied access to Israeli medical facilities do exist, but rarely do medical humanitarians provide nuanced analyses which consider the issues' complexity.

Take the case of Nael al-Kurdi, a Gazan who was diagnosed with cancer last spring. Despite the treatments he received in Egypt and Gaza, his conditioned worsened and he sought treatment in Israel. Israeli Security Services denied his request and al-Kurdi died in waiting.

The medical NGOs, which took up his case and others, blamed only Israel. Human Rights Watch, which often quotes PHR-I, said in November that "Israel is punishing sick civilians as a way to hurt <u>Hamas</u>, and that's legally and morally wrong." This ignores the real "moral wrong" when Palestinians that require genuine medical treatment in Israel are recruited by terrorist organizations after they receive entry permits (as reported by the Israeli Security Agency in January), or when Palestinian doctors' requests for supplies are deliberately delayed for political capital.

Allowing entry to all Palestinians requesting medical treatment and hoping for the best is a game of Russian roulette. In May 2007, two <u>female</u> suicide bombers were caught using false medical information to gain authentic entry permits into Israel in order to carry out a double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv and Netanya. This is precisely the type of behavior which forces Israel to weigh security and humanitarian concerns - a calculus fraught with moral complexity.

The medical human rights NGOs that are responsible for issuing these reports should return to their medical books and recognize these facts. Properly diagnosing a patient requires thorough consideration of "diagnostic criteria" - signs, symptoms and tests. This entails investigations, interviewing all relevant actors, and making sound conclusions based on previous behavior. Reports based on a rigorous analysis of the real factors affecting access to healthcare would be a welcome addition to the defense of Palestinian human rights. But simply repeating half-truths and partisan claims will in no way result in improved medical services for the beneficiaries whom these organization's mandates are intended to serve.

Graphic

Photo: CONVOY OF Palestinian ambulances. Doctors deliberately delayed supply requests for the sake of political capital. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Suicide, the path to national salvation

The Jerusalem Post May 22, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 16

Length: 745 words

Byline: AMNON RUBINSTEIN

Highlight: The shahid is not only the individual, but the regime itself. The writer is a professor of law at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, a former minister of education and MK as well as the recipient of the 2006

Israel Prize.

Body

Gaza is becoming a symbol. We rightly emphasize Israel's need to put an end to the daily, ever-widening, shelling of our civilians; indeed, it is obvious that Israel will eventually have to take military action - no country could act otherwise - to silence the guns and missile-launchers.

Another aspect is equally significant and concerns the attitude of <u>Hamas</u>'s rulers to the mounting tension: On the one hand, they are negotiating - with Egypt, not with the illegitimate Zionist entity - on a temporary cessation of hostilities. On the other hand, they authorize extending the range of their missile attacks, knowing full well that this will hasten the day in which Israel, under any government, will have to order its army to march into Gaza and strip <u>Hamas</u> of its power.

Such is the <u>Hamas</u> policy: not only an endless blood- letting war against the Zionist entity, but also a readiness to lose their hold over Gaza as part of this war. This signifies a readiness not only to sacrifice the lives of men, <u>women</u> and children, but also a readiness to sacrifice the very regime they established not long ago through a violent coup. In other words, it is a process of political suicide writ large: The shahid is not only the individual, but the regime itself.

THIS MAY sound like an extreme conclusion but, as Ari Bar Yossef, retired lieutenant-colonel and administrator of the Knesset's Security Committee, writes in the army journal Ma'arachot, such cases of Islamist national suicide are not uncommon. He cites three such examples of Arab- Muslim regimes irrationally sacrificing their very existence, overriding their instinct of self-preservation, to fight the perceived enemy to the bitter end.

- * The first case is that of Saddam Hussein, who in 2003 could have avoided war and conquest by allowing UN inspectors to search for (the apparently non-existent) weapons of mass destruction wherever they wanted. Yet Iraq's ruler opted for war, knowing full well that he would have to face the might of the US.
- * The second case is that of Yasser Arafat in 2000, who after the failure of the Camp David and Taba talks had two options: continue talking to Israel under the leadership of Ehud Barak, this country's most moderate and flexible government ever or resort to violence. He chose the latter, with the result that all progress toward Palestinian independence was blocked. The ensuing loss of life, on both sides, testified to Arafat's preference for suicide over compromise.

Suicide, the path to national salvation

* The third case is that of the Taliban. Post-9/11, their leadership had two options: to enter into negotiations with the US, with a view to extraditing Osama bin Laden, or to risk war and destruction. The choice they made was obvious: Better to die fighting than to give up an inch.

IN ALL three cases, the conclusion is plain: prolonged war, death, destruction and national suicide are preferable to peaceful solutions of conflicts: Dying is preferable to negotiating with infidels. The same conclusion, of course, is applicable to the Palestinians voting for <u>Hamas</u> and its suicidal path, and to Iran's decision to confront the Security Council in its insistence on acquiring nuclear weapons.

These cases, while unprecedented in the annals of history, should not be that surprising. If you glorify individual suicide, if death is the key to a happy afterlife, if war itself is sanctified, why not extend these ideas from the individual to the collective? To the regime itself? Suicide is the path to both individual and national salvation.

Luckily, not all Arab or Muslim regimes are like that. The vast majority of Arabs seek life, liberty and happiness. But when it comes to the hated Israel, madness rules, and not only the Iranians. It is a fact that Iran's explicit aim "to wipe Israel off the map" and its implicit threat to use nuclear weapons for this purpose are supported by many Palestinians - even though they too would be "wiped off" in the process.

Suicide in the struggle against Israel has acquired a degree of legitimacy the West cannot even fathom.

This unpalatable conclusion must be confronted. On the one hand, it should drive us to increase our efforts to reach some sort of modus vivendi with the PLO to decrease the impact of the fanatics (despite the fact that any such compromise will be rejected by Iran and its cohorts); while on the other hand, Israel, as well as the West, should be prepared for a long, irrational and costly war, unlike any other fought in the past.

Graphic

Photo: <u>HAMAS</u> LEADER Ismail Haniyeh would rather lose Gaza than give up the fight against Israel. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Aging terrorists rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 16, 2008 Sunday

FIRST EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 747 words

Byline: By Hamza Hendawi THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Body

Looking back to the U.N. partition plan of 1947, which envisaged Jewish and Palestinian states living side by side in peace, Nayef Hawatmeh comes to the painful acknowledgment of an opportunity missed.

"After 60 years, we are struggling for what we could have had in 1947," Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, laments. "We have missed many historic opportunities."

In a year when Israel is celebrating its 60th birthday, Hawatmeh and his generation of leaders are still in exile and fading from the scene.

Visited by The Associated Press in Damascus, the Syrian capital, these graying grandfathers radiate nostalgia and bitterness. They speak of wasted opportunities, perceived successes, failures and divisions. In monologues that can last 90 minutes and brook no interruption, they voice anger at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for negotiating with Israel, but also at *Hamas* for taking their struggle down the path of radical Islam.

Hawatmeh and others of his generation - Ahmed Jibril, George Habash, the shadowy Black September movement, hijacker Leila Khaled - exploded onto the world stage in the 1960s and 1970s with deadly raids into Israel, the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics, and a string of airline hijackings and assaults on passenger lines at foreign airports.

Branded as terrorists in Israel and the West, they saw themselves more in the Che Guevara mold, inspired by Cuba and Algeria and the Viet Cong. They say their goal, steeped in Marxist and Arab nationalist ideology, was to liberate Palestine from an "imperialist" Israel and draw attention to the Palestinians' plight.

But today the face of the Palestinian struggle is the suicide bomber, acting in the name of Islam, not nationalism.

The borders envisaged in the U.N. plan have been thoroughly scrambled. The war that followed the Arab rejection of partition left Israel ruling even more land, and the territory left to the Palestinians is split, in conditions close to civil war, between the West Bank where Abbas is based, and the Gaza Strip under <u>Hamas</u>.

Aging terrorists rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

Time is thinning the old-timers' ranks. Habash, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine specialized in hijackings, died in a hospital in Damascus in January at 81. According to close aide Maher al-Taher, his dying words, upon hearing of renewed unrest in the Gaza Strip, were: "There's still hope."

Although the leaders interviewed say they have no regrets, and insist they will ultimately prevail over Israel, some of them wonder aloud whether things might have been different.

"Would you believe me if I tell you that if I had to do it all over, I would?" said Mohammed Oudeh, architect of Black September's 1972 Olympics attack that left 11 Israeli athletes dead. "But maybe, just maybe, we should have shown some flexibility. Back in our days, it was, 'The whole of Palestine or nothing,' but we should have accepted a Palestinian state next to Israel."

Khaled, the Palestinians' best known <u>female</u> hijacker, says the Palestinian leadership has "committed a lot of blunders, which delayed Palestinian statehood."

They jumped too quickly into negotiations with Israel, thus "defused" the Palestinian uprising and "blocked the golden path that I and other comrades paved for the Palestinians," she said at her home in Amman, in neighboring Jordan.

But <u>Hamas</u> is not an option, she said, denouncing its takeover of the Gaza Strip last year as an "act of treason that divided the land and people."

The old militants were once locked in mortal combat with Israeli undercover agencies, and neither side would talk to the other. Even now, the veterans in Damascus keep a low profile, ever fearful of assassination.

But Israel apparently no longer regards them as an imminent threat. Israeli defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss policy with the media, said none of them was a target for Israel.

Among Israelis too there is a recognition that the Palestinian leadership they cold-shouldered in the 1970s has been supplanted by a much more formidable foe, Islamic militancy.

"Of course it's better to deal with secular nationalists than religious extremists," Yossi Melman, a veteran Israeli intelligence analyst, said in an interview. "It was better back then because along with the violence there was hope for talks, and negotiations did happen and agreements were made.

"But with *Hamas* there is nobody to talk to. After *Hamas*, Israel will face al-Qaida."

Notes World Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTOS - Laila Khaled (Leila Khaled), a Palestinian hijacker, in Lebanon in 1969 (above) and (below) in an interview with The Associated Press in Amman, Jordan, last month. The Associated Press

Aging terrorists rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

Load-Date: March 16, 2008



Gaza blitz ends as rage rises

The Courier Mail (Australia) March 4, 2008 Tuesday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 206 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Israel's massive military operation in the Gaza Strip was reported to be winding down last night amid outrage over Palestinian civilian casualties.

Witnesses said Israeli armoured vehicles were withdrawing from the Jabaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City.

Earlier, Israel had continued to hammer Gaza in a bid to stop rockets being fired at southern Israel. The operation has claimed more than 100 Palestinian lives, including <u>women</u> and children, and prompted the moderate Palestinian leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas to cut off all peace talks with the Jewish state.

Israel says it has been targeting sites where <u>Hamas</u> and its allies make, store and fire the rockets that have disrupted life in Israeli border towns over the past year or so. The killing of an Israeli by a rocket on Wednesday was the first since May.

Some 107 people have died since Wednesday. Among these have been up to 60 civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, provoking an outcry from Palestinians and fellow Arabs.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Israel was using "excessive force" and demanded <u>Hamas</u> stop firing rockets.

US President George W. Bush has pledged to try to forge a deal on Palestinian statehood before he steps down in January.

Load-Date: March 3, 2008



I leave Israel with the sinking feeling that hopes of a final settlement are receding

The Independent (London)

May 9, 2008 Friday

First Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 28

Length: 1102 words

Byline: DOMINIC LAWSON

Body

The tiny Palestinian baby, just a few weeks old, is surrounded by the best medical technology the state of Israel can provide. She is one of three Palestinian children in the eight-bed paediatric intensive care unit at the Hadassah University Hospital, funded by the *Women*'s Zionist Organisation of America.

Unlike the other children in the ward, this baby is alone, with no parent comforting her. Dr Ido Yatsiv explains: "Her parents find it very hard to get through the IDF [Israeli Defence Force] roadblocks." I wonder, if the little girl survives, what her parents will one day tell her. That her life was saved by the generosity of the Zionists? Or that their soldiers cruelly made it so difficult for them to comfort her when she was at her most vulnerable?

The Hadassah hospital, Jeru-salem's biggest, is at the heart of the horror and the hope in the Middle East's most intractable dispute. Dr David Gillis, who emigrated to Israel from Sunderland, told me how his brother Shmuel, who also worked at the Hadassah, was shot dead by a Palestinian gunman as he came back home from the hospital late one night: "He had just been helping a Palestinian mother with a difficult childbirth," said Dr Gillis in a voice barely above a whisper.

Hence, the IDF argues, the need for the roadblocks. They are fully aware that these "fixed ambushes" cause unbearable frustration and humiliation for law-abiding Palestinians; but they also point out that such checkpoints are a vital non-violent weapon in their campaign to limit the mobility of the sort of people who murdered Dr Shmuel Gillis.

These arguments do not impress the very senior official from the Palestinian Authority whom I met in the PA's compound in Ramallah: "We thought, after Annapolis, that Israel would change their attitude on the ground; but they aren't - and it's just helping the jihadists." By this, the official meant <u>Hamas</u>, of course: the Islamist group which has increasingly displaced his own secular Fatah organisation as the voice of Palestinians, especially among the young.

Angry as this Fatah official is with what he sees as the unwillingness of Israel to relax its military grip on the day-to-day lives of Palestinians, it is as nothing to his feelings about *Hamas*. "These people are crazy, deviant, horrible -

I leave Israel with the sinking feeling that hopes of a final settlement are receding

and they are serious." The official's tirade is hardly surprising: <u>Hamas</u> seized control of the Gaza strip from Fatah with a murderous coup - and promises more of the same.

The next day I went down south to Sderot, the part of Israel which suffers most from <u>Hamas</u>'s growing ascendancy. It is a city of about 20,000, no more than a kilometre from the Gaza strip. Every day Sderot is hit, mostly by <u>Hamas</u>'s home-made Qassam missiles, which take a mere 30 seconds to make their brief journey. Even the efficient Israeli early warning system gives the inhabitants of Sderot no more than 15 seconds to find cover.

Geut Aragon is a 34-year-old Israeli nurse whose home was hit in January by a Qassam while she was playing indoors with her four- year-old son - the mothers of Sderot no longer dare let their children play outdoors. They both survived the attack, although Geut still has shrapnel lodged very near to her brain. When I asked her what she thought of the people who had done this she described them as "animals - I hate them" but went on to say that, "I tell my son that there are so many good people in Gaza who are not trying to kill us. We have good Arab friends in Gaza. They were so nice-they used to stay with us. We still talk on the phone. We tell each other to stay strong."

Geut is more critical of her own government: "The day Israel withdrew from Gaza, I knew it was a terrible idea, I knew we would be a target. And I know my Arab friends will suffer when the IDF goes back into Gaza." At that point the early warning system sounded and I caught a glimpse of pure terror on Geut's face before she turned and rushed for cover. Only then did I grasp what was happening, and followed her.

Many Israelis who are not as immediately at risk as Geut Aragon would share her view. Just as <u>Hamas</u>'s immediate response to the IDF's retreat from Gaza was to use the territory to rain missiles on Sderot, so Iran-sponsored Hizbollah filled the vacuum left by the IDF's departure from south Lebanon and used it as a base to fire missiles into northern Israel.

In other words, they argue, every time Israel concedes territory, it makes life more dangerous - fatally so - for its own citizens. This makes it politically extremely difficult - impossible, in fact - for the already unpopular government of Ehud Olmert to meet the Palestinian demands for a complete withdrawal from the West Bank: to do so would guarantee that Tel Aviv itself would soon be within range of Iranian-supplied missiles.

Next week, nonetheless, President Bush arrives in Jerusalem, as part of his push for a final peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. It's what American presidents do at the very end of their second term, in an effort to turn a political dying fall into something glorious for posterity. But, as the most respected Palestinian pollster, Jamil Rabak, points out, this is not the way to help things along: "Every time Abu Mazen [the President of the Palestinian Authority] is seen greeting Condoleezza Rice, then *Hamas*'s popularity shoots up."

The leader of the opposition on Jerusalem's City council, Nir Barkat, put it to me most bluntly: "Our Prime Minister is weak. The Palestinian Authority is weak. George Bush is weak. How can these people have the authority or the credibility to succeed?" It's fair to say that Mr Barkat does not want them to succeed, if "success" involves any division of Jerusalem - one of the most complex of all the problems confronting the negotiators.

So the Palestinians are forced to endure this week's celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, still with no tangible prospect of a state of their own. If in 1948 the Arab world had accepted the UN-mandated partition between Israel and Palestine - rather than send in their armies to try to destroy the new Zionist state on the very day after its creation - then Palestinians too might this week have been able to celebrate 60 years of independence.

Perhaps their salvation will not have to wait another 60 years - that would be dreadful; yet I left Israel with the sinking sensation that the prospects of a final settlement are, if anything, receding. It would be wonderful to be proved wrong - but that would require a change of government not in Washington DC, but in Tehran.

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Load-Date: May 9, 2008



'They were like locusts'; Palestinians eager to stock up on staples strip shelves of Egyptian stores

Ottawa Citizen

January 24, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 539 words

Byline: James Hider, The Times, London

Dateline: RAFAH

Body

RAFAH - It may have been the biggest shopping spree in history. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, running out of the bare necessities, swarmed out of Gaza into Egypt yesterday to buy everything they could lay their hands on after *Hamas* militants blew up a huge metal border wall.

Herding goats, sheep, heifers and camels, riding on donkey carts laden with sacks of cement, or festooned with cans of fuel strapped to their bodies, the people of Gaza spilt across the border after militants brought Israel's siege of the coastal territory to a halt, dismantling the 12-metre high barrier like a broken concertina.

Old <u>women</u> lugged heavy cans of olive oil and children stumbled under the weight of packs of powdered milk as the besieged masses rushed through the gaping breaches to stock up on the basics.

"This is a key victory for <u>Hamas</u>," crowed Abu Ayman, a grey-bearded Gaza farmer, as he and his son wrestled two calves across the border. He had just paid \$ 1,000 for the livestock on the Egyptian side of the border. "Before, we couldn't even find coffins to bury our dead," he said.

The tidal wave of humanity stampeded towards the border from across the Gaza Strip, almost emptying the northern cities of taxis, as news of the breach spread by radio, television and word of mouth. The United Nations estimated that 350,000 people, a quarter of Gaza's population, had crossed the border by mid-afternoon, with a steady tide still bustling across as night fell. They scrambled across the vast sheets of rusted, corrugated metal that had abruptly turned from imposing wall to giant bridge.

By the end of the day many Palestinians were returning empty-handed after their fellow countrymen had stripped Egyptian stores of goods. Some Egyptians even hopped into Gaza to avoid their own inundated shops or to sell motorbikes -- much sought after in fuel-starved Gaza.

"I need to buy bread for my children," said Ashraf el-Sayyid, an Egyptian biking into Gaza. "The Palestinians left us with nothing. It's true, they are dear to us, but today they were like locusts."

As the shops in the Egyptian side of Rafah ran out of goods, Palestinians commandeered taxis to take them deeper into Sinai to shop, many clambering on to the roofs of overcrowded cabs to make the trip to al-Arish, 40 kilometres

'They were like locusts'; Palestinians eager to stock up on staples strip shelves of Egyptian stores

away. Egyptian policemen allowed the endless cavalcade to pass by unmolested, and leaving the work of marshalling the vast crowds to *Hamas* men with guns who operated openly a few steps away.

Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, said that he had ordered his border guards to let the Palestinians cross because they were starving under the Israeli blockade, imposed as a means of pressuring <u>Hamas</u> into ending its daily rocket attacks on southern Israel. "I told them to let them come in and eat and buy food and then return them later as long as they were not carrying weapons," Mr Mubarak said.

The vast majority of Palestinians were returning after their shopping. But a few younger men were unwilling to end their short burst of freedom.

"I've been stuck in Gaza for a year and half, now the border is open," said one man in his early 20s.

"Now I'm getting some fresh air, I don't want to go back to Gaza. I'm seriously thinking about staying."

Graphic

Colour Photo: Suhaib Salem, Reuters; Palestinians celebrate as they make their way to Egypt after Palestinian gunmen blew up a section of the border wall between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday.;

Load-Date: January 24, 2008



Gaza attacks kill nine; Israel cites rocket fire for strikes

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

January 4, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A20

Length: 354 words

Byline: Adel Zaanoun, Agence France-Presse

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

Nine Palestinians, including two <u>women</u>, were killed in Israeli bombardments in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, medical sources said, in the latest blitz against the *Hamas*-ruled territory.

Israeli troops and tanks backed by combat helicopters were operating in the village of Bani Suheila, near the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Israeli warplanes also carried out a series of four air strikes across Gaza in response to the firing for the first time in months of a rocket at the Israeli city of Ashkelon, the army said.

Nine people, including a mother and daughter and at least four militants, were killed in the Israeli attacks, while

48 people were wounded and several houses destroyed, witnesses and medics said.

Israel has carried out near-daily military strikes and incursions across what it considers a "hostile entity" in a bid to halt rocket fire since *Hamas* seized control of Gaza in June.

The renewed violence comes shortly before U.S. President George W. Bush is due in the region in a bid to rally recently revived peace talks.

In Gaza, two brothers, both members of the radical Islamic Jihad terror group, were killed in a raid on a house that also killed their mother and sister.

One member of the armed wing of *Hamas* was killed during gunbattles with Israeli troops.

Aircraft also destroyed two houses where militants were suspected to have been hiding and a third house was blown up by troops, witnesses added.

Two unidentified bodies were found in the rubble of one of the buildings, medics said, having previously put the number at three.

An army spokeswoman said ground forces were engaged in heavy exchanges of fire with Palestinian fighters, who were hiding in houses, saying civilian casualties were caused because "they were letting militants into their homes."

Gaza attacks kill nine; Israel cites rocket fire for strikes

The army said the air raids came in response to rocket fire against southern Israel, shortly after someone fired a Grad-type 122mm rocket that struck the outskirts of Ashkelon, without causing casualties.

At least 25 rockets were fired from Gaza at southern Israel on Thursday, including one that struck the back yard of a house in the hard-hit town of Sderot.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Jaafar Ashtiyeh, AFP-Getty Images; A Palestinian youth throws stones at Israeli soldiers who entered Nablus, West Bank, on Thursday to arrest militants.;

Load-Date: January 4, 2008



Darkness falls on Gaza as Israel takes revenge for rocket attacks

The Times (London)

January 21, 2008, Monday

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 31

Length: 827 words

Byline: James Hider, Ramallah and Azmi Keshawi in Gaza City

Body

- * Fuel blockage forces only power plant to shut
- * Mobile phones fall silent as reception fails

The lights went out on the Gaza Strip last night when the only electricity plant in the seaside territory closed down after Israel severed fuel supplies.

As the power failed 1,000 men, <u>women</u> and children held a candlelit procession in Gaza City to protest at the breakdown of their basic services. Some carried posters calling on the international community to come to their aid, others condemned the state of siege that they are living under.

"I appeal to Egypt to break the siege because our children and sick people are dying," Umm Raed, a 52-year-old housewife, said. Egypt has a border with Gaza but has mainly shown solidarity with Israel in enforcing an embargo on the *Hamas*-run territory.

As mobile phone repeaters ran out of power, mobile phones started to lose reception, plunging many areas into silence as well as blackness.

Unable to end the ceaseless volleys of rockets fired by Gaza hardliners into its southern towns and farms, Israel cut off diesel supplies to the strip, where 1.5 million Palestinians live, in an attempt to force its Islamist rulers to end the attacks.

The moderate Palestinian Prime Minister of the West Bank administration cautioned that Israel was doing nothing to fulfil its pledges to freeze Jewish settlement expansion and ease restrictions that have strangled the economy there too.

Officials in <u>Hamas</u>-run Gaza said that the cut in power threatened basic services and posed a health threat because councils were unlikely to be able to pump water, treat sewage, dispose of rubbish or cater for hospital laundry services. The hospitals in Gaza have emergency generators, but would have to curb other services.

Israel said that the <u>Hamas</u> rulers of Gaza - who are hostile to the existence of the Jewish state, and fought a bitter, brief war with the more moderate Fatah movement last year - should concentrate on ending the rocket fire and providing services.

Darkness falls on Gaza as Israel takes revenge for rocket attacks

As darkness fell last night, reports broke of the latest Israeli airstrike against militants firing rockets into Israel. <u>Hamas</u> officials said that at least one person was killed and one critically injured in the attack.

Aid groups denounced the blockade, which they said punishes civilians for the actions of militant groups. "The logic of this defies basic humanitarian standards," Christopher Gunness, a spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency, said.

Avi Dichter, the Israeli Public Security Minister, said that the town of Sderot, which is close to the Gaza border and has been hit by hundreds of rockets in recent weeks, was close to collapse.

"The Government must instruct the (Israeli army) to eliminate the rocket fire from Gaza entirely. These attacks need not be minimised or managed, but stopped completely, irrespective of the cost to the Palestinians," he told the Cabinet yesterday.

With the prospects in Gaza looking bleaker than ever, Salaam Fayyad, the moderate Prime Minister of the West Bank administration, said that Israel was failing in its pledge to freeze settlement expansion in the West Bank.

"The one thing that really matters the most to us is settlement expansion," he said. Mr Fayyad added that Israel had also failed to do anything to relax its system of security checkpoints and road closures in the West Bank and that it was threatening the recovery prospects offered by international donors who pledged more than \$7 billion (£ 3.6 billion) in aid.

Mr Fayyad, who leaves for London tonight to meet Gordon Brown, also admitted that he had feared the West Bank administration was about to fall to <u>Hamas</u> hardliners last summer, just as Gaza had. He said that the Palestinian Authority had made significant progress in rebuilding its security forces since the Gaza debacle, but more needed to be done.

In Jerusalem, Israeli ministers called for the assassination of Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the head of the Lebanese Shia militia Hezbollah, after he boasted yesterday that his forces possessed the body parts of Israeli soldiers left on the battlefield in the 2006 war, which he planned to exchange for prisoners. Yitzhak Cohen, of the Shas party, said: "Nasrallah is a madman and I don't understand why he's still breathing."

PRESSURE POINTS

- * Gaza uses 200 megawatts of electricity
- * The local power plant produces 65 megawatts
- * Israel supplies 60 per cent of this, and Egypt 8 per cent
- * Israel supplies the fuel oil for the Gaza power station
- * 2,300 people were allowed to leave Gaza into Egypt to attend the haj in 2007
- * Last November 1,813 truckloads of commercial and humanitarian supplies entered the Strip
- * Ninety-one out of 416 essential drugs have run out in Gaza, as well as a third of essential medical supplies and most children's antibiotics
- * There are 99 checkpoints monitoring and restricting Palestinian movement to, from and within the West Bank
- * Sixty-three control movements

within the territory

Sources: WHO;B'Tselem;Ochaopt.org;agencies

Load-Date: January 21, 2008



Our once-respected news sources are so dishonest

Irish Independent

November 5, 2007 Monday

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Independent.ie

Section: FEATURES
Length: 815 words

Body

It's always hard to see something you used to respect and believe slipping into a mire of mediocrity and dishonesty. But it's something that cannot be ignored.

This has certainly been the case with the BBC, where the recent phone-in scam has shocked only those who haven't noticed the bias and dishonesty of their newsroom.

It's a newsroom where someone like Orla Guerin who has been exposed as lying about the total destruction of the Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil by the Israelis during the war last year, among other things, can still keep her job.

And now that other bastion of self-regarding liberalism, The Guardian, has been exposed as playing equally fast and loose with the facts when it comes to Israel.

In last Thursday's edition, The Guardian's Seamus Milne wrote about Gaza and the suffering of the people there.

That the citizens of Gaza are suffering is not under any doubt -- the deprivations brought about by the civil war between *Hamas* and Fatah have wrought terrible consequences on the locals.

But according to Milne: "This week the collective punishment of the people of Gaza reached a new level, as Israel began to choke off essential fuel supplies to its one and a half million people in retaliation for rockets fired by Palestinian resistance groups."

Milne then went on to incorrectly state that: "Israel continues to control all access to the Gaza Strip," conveniently forgetting the Egyptian side of the border.

But while The Guardian has form on this issue (blithely anti-Israeli and utterly myopic when it comes to the issue of Islamic terrorism), to describe the constant rocketing of Israeli towns like Sderot, which is currently the most regularly bombed town in the world, as being carried out by "Palestinian resistance groups" is the kind of fatuous rubbish which we have come to expect from professional liberals.

Referring to the homophobic, misogynistic, murderous savages of <u>Hamas</u> as "resistance fighters" is particularly nauseating. As is the suggestion that Israel should simply accept the rocket attacks on their towns and the mortar attacks on their roads and the shooting of their border patrols.

Our once-respected news sources are so dishonest

What other country in the world would be expected to tolerate such hostile acts and not retaliate?

The reason why enough humanitarian aid is not getting through to the locals is because their masters, *Hamas*, keep attacking the access routes into Gaza. And yet this is all meant to be Israel's fault.

Milne even goes so far as to say: "Unless <u>Hamas</u> recognised Israel, renounced violence and signed up to agreements it had always opposed, the western powers insisted, the Palestinian electorate would be ignored. No such demands, needless to say, have been made of Israel."

This is the kind of moral equivalence and weasel words observers in the region have come to expect.

The Israelis have not been asked to renounce violence or embrace democracy because it is already a democracy which only uses violence to defend itself.

To liken a group like <u>Hamas</u>, with their pavement executions and battering of <u>women</u> who don't wear sufficiently "modest" clothing, to the only democracy in the region is not just reckless it is positively wicked.

It has always been a genuine mystery to me how liberals, and particularly feminists, can embrace a culture that treats <u>women</u> and minorities with murderous contempt while condemning the one country within hundreds of miles where <u>women</u> and minorities are treated equally.

This bizarre double-think and reflexive hatred of Israel and America can be seen in the words of kidnapped reporter Alan Johnston.

Talking about his ordeal, Johnston claimed that: "Whatever else it was, my Gazan incarceration was not what Iraqi prisoners had been forced to endure at Abu Ghraib jail."

That may or may not be the case, but surely a more appropriate comparison would have been to the murdered kidnap victims Daniel Pearl, Ken Bigley et al?

But on Planet BBC, a reporter like Johnston can openly claim to be "a friend of the Palestinian people" and still be considered unbiased.

Having an opinion is not the problem.

Many of my friends have completely opposite views on the issue of Israel and we manage to get along anyway. No, the problem is the wilful misrepresentation of the facts.

The likes of Guerin and Johnston are reporters, and are meant to keep their private views private. That's the difference between them and someone like, for instance, the appalling Robert Fisk who, to his credit, at least makes no pretence of non-bias.

With Fisk, and others on the opposite side of the debate, you know what you are getting and you can choose to either accept or deny it.

But with the BBC we have been conditioned to accept what they say as unbiased gospel, even when someone like Johnston has openly declared his affiliation in the region.

It seems that deceiving children who phone Blue Peter is the least of their sins.

Load-Date: November 5, 2007



Letters

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 24, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 14

Length: 1117 words

Body

Australia can do without Wal-Mart's ways

How does the Assistant Treasurer, Chris Bowen, think Wal-Mart is going to lower food prices ("Labor's deal to cut food prices", April 23)? By importing food from China, of course. Last year, Wal-Mart imported \$US15 billion worth of food from China. Where will it leave Australian farmers? Wal-Mart executives claim they scour the globe for low-cost suppliers to benefit the American consumer. Is that how we want to go about lowering food prices?

And by opposing food safety regulations and port inspections for imported foods, which it has been doing in the US for many years. By any standards, Wal-Mart is bad news for local economies and local agriculture.

John Newton president, Sydney Farming Network, Glebe

Liquor licence losers

Pubs and clubs accused of breaching liquor laws would be "named and shamed" under a new plan ("Pubs face shame file as crime rate surges", April 23). What would that achieve? Clubs and pubs that breach their liquor licences should lose their licences. I think that would ensure compliance.

Mike Phillips Wollstonecraft

No more laser hype

I admit to being a little sceptical on fears laser pointers shone from underneath a Boeing 747 could cause it to roll over and plummet into the suburbs as the blinded pilots struggle with their controls. Surely if these were such effective anti-aircraft weapons the US military and terrorist organisations would have been using them regularly. Please stop this media hype - the pointers are an unacceptable nuisance to pilots and nothing more.

Tony Snellgrove Uki

Another act to follow

Congratulations to the NSW Ombudsman for doing what state Labor has failed to do for 13 years, review the Freedom of Information Act (April 23). The citizen's defender might also review the joke called the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act. Among other things this farcical legislation dehumanises dead children by removing their names and faces in media reporting when the intent is not privacy protection but to diminish public

Letters

outrage at innocents murdered and/or abused while their risk of harm was known to government agencies. Such a review would dovetail nicely with Justice James Wood's special commission into child protection in NSW.

Mary Lou Carter Drummoyne

Blinker-free transport

Unfortunately Eric Roozendaal (Letters, April 23) is the Minister for Roads, not transport. Moving traffic is his business, not people. With the Government's commitment to improve Victoria Road by 2010, he says "doing nothing is not an option". But his Government's 10-year-old transport plan shows doing nothing has been common. Commitments to high-speed rail to Wollongong and Newcastle - evaporated; a train/metro to the north-west due in nine years - not the planned two; bike plans unfinished; extending light rail to Lilyfield - seven years overdue. The list goes on. But over the same period, every single road planned for Sydney has been built.

Unless the minister removes his blinkers and has a vision not built around bigger roads and more tunnels, the future is a much more congested version of the present.

Sam McGuinness Bronte

What is the use of providing dedicated bus lanes on Victoria Road when a metro is to be built along that route?

David Bennetts Bowral

As a retired road designer with the former Department of Main Roads and the Roads and Traffic Authority for more than 42 years, lane width reduction is nothing new ("Squeezed Victoria Road will breach safety guidelines", April 22).

This penny pinching has been going on for at least 30 years. The proposed lane widths for Victoria Road are common around Sydney, but are really suited only for Minis and Ford Anglias, and then only on the straight stretches.

Lane widths on most curves on rural roads used to widen by up to 300 millimetres to accommodate trucks and large vehicles. The desirable lane width is 3.5 metres, but is often narrower for budget and other reasons.

Kerbside lanes, which include the gutter width, should be 450 millimetres. Buses and trucks will not travel with one wheel in the gutter as the gutter also includes drainage grates. I hope the State Transit Authority includes spare side mirrors on each bus, and trains bus drivers to quickly replace those lost to side swipes before the passengers get restless.

Gordon Chivers Epping

China's multitude of wrongs

The arrival of the Olympic torch in Australia is an embarrassment to every Australian. How can we celebrate a country that has forced abortions, a one-child policy causing an incredible gender imbalance, has children and young <u>women</u> stolen and sold to the highest bidder and no religious freedom? Those who complain only about the harsh treatment of Tibetans are as blind as our China-centric PM. We should all turn our backs on the flame, not celebrate it.

Peter Stokes Forest Hill (Vic)

I reckon they should get that swimmer Nick D'Arcy to carry the torch. Nobody would go near him.

Scott Brunsdon Marrickville

Equality is the issue

Letters

It's not about the money, Louise Firbank (Letters, April 23), it's about having the same rights accorded to people with children. Try to get time off to look after an elderly parent, and see what the reaction is. Good on you childless people out there, stand up for your rights and refuse to do the overtime. Maybe you will get parity with the people who are overpopulating the world. While we all respect the right of people to have children, why do the people who choose not to have them have to cover for the people who do?

Carmel Woods Hurstville

Peace off the table

Ed O'Loughlin has either misunderstood <u>Hamas</u>'s so-called offer of peace, or has failed to explain its ramifications ("Silence in Israel on <u>Hamas</u> proposal", April 23). <u>Hamas</u>'s proposal is a calculated ploy, designed to buy world approval and shake off its terrorist image. It purports to be willing to accept a Palestinian state - yet it remains committed to Israel's destruction, and it completely rejects a two-state solution. <u>Hamas</u>'s intent remains the same. It has merely presented it in a more sophisticated way. Yet O'Loughlin presents this as "an apparent offer ... of peace".

Vic Alhadeff chief executive officer,

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Darlinghurst

Of course Israel is ignoring <u>Hamas</u>'s peace offer, the same offer <u>Hamas</u> has been offering since it was elected, and only suspended after Israeli attacks. Israel is only interested in peace if it can dictate the terms down the barrel of the guns provided by its ally the US, or at peace talks refereed by America. A peace based on international law, requiring it to retreat from the land it stole and letting people forced from their land and homes return to them, doesn't suit it.

Gordon Drennan Burton (SA)

Graphic

CARTOON: by REG GRUNDY

Load-Date: April 23, 2008



Baby dies as Gaza violence explodes

Sunday Mail (South Australia)

March 2, 2008 Sunday

2 - Final Edition

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 34

Length: 423 words

Byline: IBRAHIM BARZAK IN GAZA

Body

TWENTY-ONE Palestinians, including at least eight civilians, were killed late on Friday and early Saturday in escalating Israeli-Palestinian fighting that renewed threats of an Israeli invasion of Gaza and clouded peace efforts.

A six-month-old boy and two teenagers were among the dead, and dozens of people were wounded.

In all, 54 people have died since clashes between Israel and extremists affiliated with Gaza's ruling *Hamas* movement spiked on Wednesday.

At least 23 were civilians, the youngest the baby boy. An Israeli man was also killed by Palestinian rocket fire that grew more ominous earlier this week when it struck closer to Israel's heartland.

<u>Hamas</u> said the baby, Malak Karfaneh, died just before midnight on Friday in an Israeli strike on Beit Hanoun, a northern town where Palestinian militants often launch rockets at nearby Israel. But local residents said one of the rockets fell short and landed in the area of the baby's house.

The Israeli military, which sent troops, tanks and aircraft after Gaza rocket squads, said it only attacked rocket-launching operations but noted that militants sometimes operated within civilian areas.

Yesterday, it said troops identified 15 hits in its operations against rocket squads and militants laying explosive devices against Israeli targets.

Fierce fighting erupted near the northern town of Jebaliya, pitting Israeli troops backed by tanks and aircraft against Palestinian militants launching crude rockets and mortars.

Among those killed were at least six militants but also at least four civilians - a 17-year-old girl and her brother, 16, and a 45-year-old man and his son, 20 - medical officials said. They said two <u>women</u> and a man were killed after a tank shell struck a house. The military said it would investigate.

One of the dead militants was identified as the commander of a rocket unit in Gaza City.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice plans to visit the region this week to try to prod Israel and moderate Palestinians forward in their bid to reach a peace accord by the end of the year.

Baby dies as Gaza violence explodes

However, efforts by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (pictured) are compromised by the fact he only rules the West Bank, while Gaza is controlled by the violently anti-Israel <u>Hamas</u>. And Israel's fragile governing coalition would be hard pressed to make concessions to the Palestinians while Gaza militants pummel southern Israel with rockets.

A statement from Mr Abbas said it was ``in the interest of the Palestinian people not to give Israel any pretext to continue aggression".

Load-Date: March 2, 2008



'Terror' blasts rock Istanbul

The Star (South Africa)
July 28, 2008 Monday
e2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 **Length:** 679 words

Body

Istanbul - Two bombs exploded in a "terror attack" in Istanbul yesterday, leaving 13 dead,and 72 others wounded, Turkish police said. The first bomb created a small blast in a phone booth on the western European bank of the Turkish city. A second stronger explosion took place several minutes later a few metres away while a crowd gathered at the site of the first blast.

Lagos - As Anglican bishops from across the world meet in their spiritual home in England amid a row over gay and *female* clergy, the Nigerian church, which accounts for more than a fifth of the world's Anglicans, is keeping a sullen distance. "The crux of it is the revisionist agenda, which is that some people are out to rewrite the Bible," said the Archbishop of Lagos, Adebola Ademowo.

Zurich - Alphorn players on the final day of the 7th International Alphorn Festival in Nendaz, southern Switzerland, yesterday. The 3,65m-long traditional brass instrument has been used for centuries by mountain folk to communicate.

Washington - Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama said yesterday he would pick a

vice-presidential running mate who will "help me govern" and not just somebody "who I send off to go to funerals". The Illinois senator declined to name any possible running mates, but repeated that his rival for the nomination, former first lady Hillary Clinton, would be on his shortlist.

Crystal Lake, Illinois - Jeff Hornagold loved being a United Parcel Service driver. So when he died of lung cancer last week, longtime co-worker Michael McGowan agreed to take him on one last delivery. He transported Hornagold's body from the funeral home to Saturday's funeral service in his UPS truck. McGowan plans to keep a picture of Hornagold in his truck so that they can keep riding together.

Baghdad - The US military has admitted its soldiers killed civilians in a shooting on the heavily secured Baghdad airport road last month. Yesterday's statement reverses earlier military claims that the three killed were suspected militants believed to have opened fire on a parked American convoy. Iraqi officials have said the two <u>women</u> and one man killed were bank employees.

Beijing - Four giant panda cubs have been born within 14 hours at a breeding centre in south-west China, a mini baby boom for the rare animals. The births began on Saturday morning at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Centre when 9-year-old Qiyuan, or Magic Luck, gave birth to <u>female</u> twins. Then 8-Chenggong, or Success, gave birth to a cub followed by 8-year-old Zhuzhu, or Pearl, yesterday.

'Terror' blasts rock Istanbul

Cairo - The owner of a ferry that sank two years ago in the Red Sea, killing 1 000 people amid botched rescue efforts, was acquitted by an Egyptian court yesterday, reigniting outrage among victims' families. The owner, a former MP, and his son were tried in absentia, having fled the country. The captain of another ferry was jailed for six months for failing to help the sinking ferry.

London - Leading members of the ruling Labour Party are mulling a possible revolt against Prime Minister Gordon Brown in the wake of the latest setback when the party suffered a stinging defeat in a by-election in Labour stronghold Glasgow. The BBC reported yesterday that, among others, former Labour ministers were pushing for Brown to declare his resignation after the summer holiday break.

London - Bosnia is said to be closer to breaking up than at any time since its 1992-95 war, and the EU has been urged do more to prevent its division. Former international peace overseer Paddy Ashdown yesterday said the Serb Republic, which with the Muslim-Croat federation makes up the Bosnian state, had set up parallel institutions and was working towards secession.

Jenin, West Bank - <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah carried out tit-for-tat arrests of each other's followers yesterday after deadly Gaza bomb attacks fuelled tension between the Palestinian factions. In the West Bank, Fatah security forces detained 35 <u>Hamas</u> activists, claiming <u>Hamas</u> had rounded up nearly 200 Fatah men after one of three bomb blasts killed five <u>Hamas</u> militants and a girl on Friday.

Load-Date: July 28, 2008



Israeli killed as suicide bomber crosses border

The Evening Standard (London)
February 4, 2008 Monday

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Section: C; Pg. 26 Length: 446 words Byline: SAM LYON

Body

A PALESTINIAN carried out the first suicide bombing in Israel in a year today, killing a woman in a desert town where a secret nuclear reactor is located.

Police prevented a second blast in Dimona's shopping centre by shooting dead an accomplice before he could detonate an explosives belt. President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction said the Army of Palestine wing of Fatah's al-Agsa Martyrs Brigades was responsible.

Two other militant groups, <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, praised the bombing as a blow against "Israeli occupation" and retaliation for Israeli attacks. Young Fatah supporters handed out flowers and sweets to passing cars in the southern Gaza city of Rafah to celebrate.

Mr Abbas condemned the Dimona bombing but criticised an earlier raid by Israel on the occupied West Bank, which killed one of the most wanted militants in Gaza.

The Popular Resistance Committees said Abu Said Qarmout, its leader in northern Gaza, was killed in the strike on Beit Lahiye. The PRC has fired hundreds of rockets, many from Beit Lahiye, into southern Israel, causing retaliatory Israeli airstrikes.

The group, which has close ties to the ruling Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u>, said Qarmout had previously escaped four other Israeli attempts to kill him. The Israeli army confirmed it had attacked a "PRC activist".

Police said the suicide bomber blew himself up in Dimona's busy commercial centre, killing himself and the Israeli woman. "The second terrorist was shot in the head as he tried to set off his bomb belt," said Yossi Porianta, the local police chief. The Magen David Adom ambulance service said another 10 people were wounded.

Israel's secret Dimona nuclear reactor, widely believed to have produced atomic bombs, is in a heavily guarded compound on the outskirts of town.

Israeli killed as suicide bomber crosses border

The two suicide bombers entered Israel from Egypt after <u>Hamas</u> fighters blew up the Gaza-Egypt border wall, a Palestinian militant said.

Abu Fouad, of the Al Aqsa Martyrs, said the operation had been planned for a month but became possible after the border was opened on 23 January.

Israel went on to high alert after the breach, fearing Gaza militants would sneak into Israel through Egypt.

While the border was open, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians moved freely between Gaza and Egypt's Sinai desert. It was only resealed yesterday.

The US military said today that it accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians during an air strike targeting al Qaeda. Iraqi police said the victims, including two <u>women</u>, were in houses in the village of Tal al-Samar, 30 miles south of Baghdad, which was bombed on Saturday. A US spokesman said: "We offer our condolences and we mourn the loss of innocent civilian life."

Load-Date: February 4, 2008



World - Gaza carnage leads Abbas to halt talks

Morning Star
March 3, 2008 Monday

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Length: 469 words **Byline:** Dave Williams

Body

The Palestinian Authority suspended peace talks with Israel on Sunday in protest at an Israeli offensive against Gaza guerillas that has now killed more than 100 Palestinians, including many civilians.

Fifty-four Palestinians, roughly half of them non-combatants, were killed in fighting on Saturday.

It was the highest single-day death toll in more than seven years of violence. Two Israeli soldiers were also killed.

In total, Israeli attacks have killed 102 Palestinians since the latest offensive begin last Wednesday after guerillas in Gaza fired rockets into the city of Ashkelon. Up to half of the Palestinian victims have been non-combatants.

About 200 people have been wounded, 14 critically.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's administration, which controls only the West Bank, called Saturday's deadly Israeli assault a "holocaust" and "genocide" and announced that it was suspending peace talks that were relaunched last November at a US-hosted summit.

The bloodshed finally drew international condemnation at the weekend.

United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki Moon accused Israel of "disproportionate and excessive use of force."

The European Union also condemned the "disproportionate use of force" by the Israeli military on Sunday and urged Israel to halt activities that endanger civilians, noting that they violate international law.

It also demanded an immediate end to rocket attacks on Israel and insisted that the peace process should not be interrupted.

But Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said: "With all due respect, nothing will prevent us from continuing operations to protect our citizens."

Aircraft sent missiles slamming into *Hamas* Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh's office before dawn.

Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak warned that an even broader Gaza operation was on the cards that would aim not only to crush rocket-launching squads but also to "weaken <u>Hamas</u> rule and, in the right circumstances, even to bring it down."

Mr Haniyeh's office was just one of about a dozen targets that Israeli aircraft and ground troops struck before dawn.

World - Gaza carnage leads Abbas to halt talks

Overnight, a 14-year-old Palestinian girl and five militants died of their wounds and six Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids, including a 21-month-old baby girl who died from shrapnel wounds.

The bodies of two women were also unearthed from the rubble of an earlier Israeli air strike.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops shot dead a 14-year-old Palestinian boy during a demonstration.

Mr Haniyeh spoke to the leaders of Arab countries, asking them "to stop this aggression," said Gaza government spokesman Taher Nunu.

He also called for reconciliation talks with the rival Fatah party of President Abbas, which <u>Hamas</u> ousted from Gaza last June.

The Israeli onslaught failed to stop nine rockets being fired into southern Israel by noon on Sunday.

Load-Date: March 3, 2008



Patience urged in Mideast; Israeli foreign minister insists talks still on track, but not on schedule, for accord with Palestinians

The Toronto Star August 22, 2008 Friday

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Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA01

Length: 916 words

Byline: Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The content of an eventual peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is more important than the timing, says Israeli foreign minister - and leadership front-runner - Tzipi Livni.

"We need to create new realities on the ground, and this takes time," the 50-year-old politician told foreign journalists here yesterday. "Until everything is agreed, nothing is agreed."

But, she warned, the clock also imposes its own special urgency in a region where moderate Muslim regimes are locked in a sometimes violent and potentially disastrous struggle for power against Islamist extremists, led by an ascendant Iran, still widely thought to be developing nuclear weapons.

"The extremists are getting stronger," Livni said. "Time works against the moderates."

The woman many regard as the favourite to become Israel's 13th prime minister - replacing an embattled and scandal-prone Ehud Olmert, who has agreed to step down - barely paused for breath during an hour-long media conference at a Jerusalem hotel.

If successful, Livni would be the first *female* prime minister in Israel since Golda Meir, who resigned in 1974.

Dressed in a sleek black pantsuit, the one-time Mossad agent who rose to political prominence under the mentorship of former prime minister Ariel Sharon, seemed poised and confident as she provided a brief but detailed tour d'horizon of domestic, regional, and international politics. She spoke without notes in serviceable but sometimes convoluted English, one of three languages she speaks, in addition to Hebrew and French.

At times, Livni expressed herself as though she were prime minister already, possibly a sign of confidence that she has what it takes to hold down what must surely rank among the world's most difficult jobs - running a notoriously fractious land in a region dominated by hostile states.

Married with two sons, Livni is accustomed to living life at a frenetic pace. In addition to serving as foreign minister, she is also Israel's deputy prime minister and, for the past nine months, has spearheaded her country's participation in tortuous, closed-door peace negotiations with Palestinian moderates, led by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Patience urged in Mideast Israeli foreign minister insists talks still on track, but not on schedule, for accord with Palestinians

Launched under U.S. tutelage at a conference in Annapolis, Md., last November, the latest in a long succession of Middle East peace initiatives was intended to produce a comprehensive accord by this year's end, leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

But progress has been painfully slow, and the scope of the anticipated agreement has been whittled back, so that it is now difficult to know what to expect, if anything.

Yesterday, Livni insisted negotiations remain on track - although apparently not on schedule - to produce an accord capable of being implemented eventually.

The main obstacle to a Palestinian state, she said, is the role now played by <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Islamist group that seized power last year in the Gaza Strip, leaving the more moderate Fatah faction in charge of the West Bank.

"<u>Hamas</u> doesn't represent the aspiration of the Palestinians for a state of their own," Livni said. "<u>Hamas</u> is a problem for Palestinians even more than it is a problem for Israel."

She said she'd continue Israel's current policy of promoting Palestinian moderates while taking measures to ostracize or delegitimize *Hamas*, which does not formally acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

<u>Hamas</u> espouses violent struggle against the Jewish state, although an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire has lately brought hostilities between the two sides to a near halt.

Livni also spoke out yesterday on a range of other issues that involve Israel or Israeli interests.

She said the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, both to Israel and to the world, but insisted tougher international sanctions can still force Tehran to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

"Unfortunately, the need for consensus (among world leaders) led to some compromises," she said. "This is the reason more sanctions are needed."

She blamed Iran and Syria for continuing to support violent Muslim organizations in other countries and said international peacekeepers have failed to block the supply of arms from Syria to Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

"They are getting stronger," she said, warning a possible outbreak of renewed hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah would follow a very different course from the month-long conflict two years ago that ended in a standoff and a United Nations-brokered truce.

Since then, Hezbollah has wrested a decisive role for itself in the Lebanese government, she said, and so a future war would be waged between states rather than between Israel and a guerrilla organization.

Livni predicted Israel would prevail in such a conflict "in days."

Next month, Livni will seek the leadership of the Kadima party, which currently dominates a fragile coalition government. Kadima is expected to choose a leader as early as Sept. 17.

It's a race that pits Livni against several male adversaries, two of whom boast the top-level military or security credentials that typically accompany political success here.

If triumphant, Livni said she would try to salvage the present coalition and continue to govern. But her partners may have other ideas, possibly causing the coalition to collapse.

In that case, new general elections would have to be held.

"This is not my choice," Livni said, once again speaking a little as though she were prime minister already. "It is theirs."

Patience urged in Mideast Israeli foreign minister insists talks still on track, but not on schedule, for accord with Palestinians

Graphic

Israeli Foreign Minster Tzipi Livni expected to replace Ehud Olmert.

Load-Date: August 22, 2008



Nine children among 60 killed as Israeli army returns to Gaza

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

March 2, 2008 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 31

Length: 690 words

Byline: CAROLYNNE WHEELER in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI FORCES launched a devastating onslaught in northern Gaza, yesterday, killing at least 60 Palestinians, among them nine children, as pressure mounts on the government for a full-scale invasion.

Two Israeli soldiers died and seven were injured in the incursion, which involves a regiment of about 2,000 troops and is the biggest since Israel withdrew all its forces from the territory in 2005.

The attack was an attempt to stop the hail of rockets fired by <u>Hamas</u> militants at Israeli cities. About 140 rockets have been fired since fighting flared up on Wednesday, including more than 50 yesterday.

Israeli troops targeted the crowded Jabaliya refugee camp in the hunt for militants. Tanks, supported by helicopters, moved into the area

just after midnight and by noon, troops had pushed nearly two miles into Gaza. At least three <u>women</u> and nine children, ranging in age from 13 months to 17 years, were reported to be among the dead.

In Gaza's main Shifa hospital, a toddler screamed as doctors tried to treat her for burns. "Uncle, I don't want to die. I want my dad," she cried. The girl was injured after Israel attacked a house alleged to have been used to store and make weapons.

A mother preparing breakfast for her children was killed when she was hit by gunfire, relatives and medical workers said. Four more civilians died when a missile struck a crowd of Palestinians. Hospital officials said that two dead children remain unidentified in hospital.

Among those killed were a 16-year-old girl and her 14-year-old brother, who died after artillery attacks on Jabaliya camp. Another 16-year-old girl was killed and her baby brother was seriously injured while watching television, and two sisters died when their kitchen roof collapsed.

Abu Alaa, 40, a resident of Jabaliya, said: "We are in the middle of a total war. We hear the rockets and the explosions everywhere. We cannot leave our homes. They're shooting at everything that moves." Sami Ali Oush, 25, a student who lives in Jabaliya, said: "We have many injured, but the ambulances cannot reach them."

In Ramallah, on the West Bank, about 300 Palestinians from the main political factions marched through the streets, carrying pictures of children killed by the Israeli attacks. Senior Palestinian negotiators said peace talks with Israel could not continue. Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, who is from the Fatah party, called for

Nine children among 60 killed as Israeli army returns to Gaza

"international protection for the Palestinian people". He said: "It is unthinkable that Israel's reaction to Palestinian rocket attacks, which we condemn, can be so terrible and frightening."

The Israeli army said the raid was a "routine incursion" that did not represent a change in policy. The possibility of a bigger invasion is to be discussed at an Israeli cabinet meeting today, but the vice-premier, Haim Ramon, said that it did not plan to retake Gaza. "We need to act with all our might, but without taking steps that will hurt us more than help us, by which I mean re-occupying Gaza."

However, pressure is also growing inside Israel to negotiate with <u>Hamas</u> for a ceasefire, a tactic so far shunned by Israeli leaders. Indeed, late last night the office building of Ismail Haniyeh, the <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, was reported to have been destroyed by missiles from an Israeli helicopter. The building, in Gaza City, was empty and no casualties were reported

John Ging, a senior United Nations official in Gaza, appealed to world leaders to try to stop the fighting. He said: "Killing Palestinian <u>women</u> and children will not bring security to the people of Israel."

Washington urged Israel to "consider the consequences" of the military action. Both Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, and Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, are to visit the region this week to try to push peace talks forward, though yesterday's violence cast doubt over the talks.

The latest round of fighting has claimed more than 80 lives, including at least 30 civilians. The violence escalated with an Israeli air strike on Wednesday that killed five senior <u>Hamas</u> militants. This was followed by a barrage of rockets from Gaza.

Load-Date: March 2, 2008



Border protests over Gaza blockade

Guardian.com January 22, 2008

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theguardian

Length: 708 words

Highlight: Guns fired at the Gaza-Egypt border during protests against Israel's blockade of the coastal strip

Body

Guns were fired today at the Gaza-Egypt border during protests against Israel's blockade of the coastal strip.

Dozens of Palestinian protesters stormed the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, pushing past Egyptian riot police, live footage from the al-Jazeera TV network showed.

Earlier, hundreds of Palestinian <u>women</u> had surged toward the border, prompting Egyptian guards to fire into the air and use water cannon to push them back. About 60 people were hurt, most of them from falling or fainting during the scuffles, health officials said.

Since <u>Hamas</u> militants seized control of Gaza last June, Egypt has joined Israel in severely restricting access to Gaza, largely keeping its border terminal closed.

The border disturbances came as Israel eased its blockade of Gaza by allowing the temporary resumption of fuel and food shipments to the beleaguered territory amid warnings of a humanitarian crisis.

Five tankers pumped fuel for Gaza's power plant through the Nahal Oz crossing, enough to provide electricity to Gaza City for two days. Three other tankers pumped cooking oil.

Israel was expected to allow a single shipment of food and medicine through the Kerem Shalom crossing later today.

The US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, said the administration spoke to Israeli officials "about the importance of not allowing a humanitarian crisis to unfold". Israeli officials were receptive, she said, adding that she blamed *Hamas* for the situation.

Israel closed its border crossings with Gaza on Friday to put pressure on Palestinian militants to stop firing rockets into southern Israel.

Large areas of Gaza, where about 1.5 million people live, have been without power in the past few days, with hospitals cancelling non-essential surgery and local residents stockpiling food.

The lack of power mainly affected Gaza City, which receives its electricity from the closed plant. Other areas of Gaza are supplied directly by Israel and Egypt, neither of which cut off power.

Border protests over Gaza blockade

Kanan Obied, the head of Gaza's energy authority, said Israel would today supply the power plant with 700,000 litres of the 2.2m it had pledged. The rest would be supplied in the next two days.

Israeli defence officials emphasised to the Ha'aretz newspaper that only minimal fuel supplies and medicine would be allowed into Gaza under this one-off easing of the blockade, saying it should not be interpreted as a change in Israel's policy.

"The message we wanted to send was received in Gaza," an official told the paper. "On Thursday, some 40 rockets were fired against Israel from the strip, and today ... just a few.

"The military and economic pressure seems to be having an effect and, if the shooting of Qassam rockets picks up again, we will not hesitate to reimpose a full blockade."

The EU and international agencies have condemned the Israeli blockade as "collective punishment", which is banned under the Geneva conventions.

Israel said conditions in Gaza had not reached crisis levels, accusing <u>Hamas</u> of exaggerating the impact of the border closures.

Moments before Israel began its first shipments, militants fired four Qassam rockets. One hit a Negev kibbutz, two landed at the entrance to the town of Sderot and the fourth hit an open area. No one was wounded, and no damage was reported.

Amid the worsening crisis in Gaza, the foreign secretary, David Miliband, held talks with the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad, in London.

Miliband said the international community had a role to play in calming tensions in the region, and that political negotiations must go hand in hand with practical change on the ground, including improved border security and economic development for the Palestinian people.

Regular clashes have broken out between Israeli troops and <u>Hamas</u> Islamists since they seized power in Gaza after routing forces loyal to the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas said he would not pull out of peace talks with Israel despite the situation in Gaza. He has been under growing pressure at home to suspend the US-backed negotiations, which are supposed to lead to a peace deal this year 2008.

"Halting contacts with Israel is useless," he said. "On the contrary, we should intensify our contacts and our meetings to stop the suffering of our people."

Load-Date: January 22, 2008



Mother and her four children killed during Israeli incursion

The Guardian - Final Edition April 29, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 18

Length: 473 words

Byline: Rory McCarthy, Jerusalem

Body

A Palestinian mother and her four children were killed yesterday as they ate breakfast at home during an Israeli military attack in the Gaza Strip.

The violence came despite efforts led by the Egyptians to arrange a ceasefire between Israel and the militant groups in *Hamas*-controlled Gaza.

Shortly after 8am yesterday, Meyasar Abu Me'tiq was in her home in the eastern town of Beit Hanoun with her six children. Israeli military vehicles had crossed into Gaza on one of their now frequent incursions and there were reports of heavy gunfire in the area. The Israeli military said it launched an air strike against two men who it said were gunmen approaching the Israeli soldiers.

Shrapnel from the attack appears to have severely damaged the Abu Me'tiq house, and particularly the front door. Four of the children were killed immediately, according to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights: Saleh, five, Rudeina, four, Hana, three and one-year-old Mes'id. The children's mother, Meyasar, 40, was severely injured and died later. The two other children and 10 others who were nearby were also injured.

"They have wiped out my family," Ahmed Abu Me'tiq told Reuters as his children's bodies were prepared for burial. One armed Palestinian who was outside the house was also killed, another was severely injured. Militants, including those from *Hamas*, said they fired rockets from Gaza into Israel yesterday.

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, which produces detailed reports on each incident in the conflict in Gaza, said that the death toll this year was worse so far than the previous three years. It said 312 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza this year, including 197 unarmed civilians of whom 44 were children and another 14 were <u>women</u>. On the Israeli side, at least four civilians and five soldiers have been killed near or in Gaza this year.

"This aggression does not serve efforts being exerted to achieve calm, and it obstructs the peace process," said the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, who is based in the West Bank and is engaged in peace talks with the Israelis.

Mother and her four children killed during Israeli incursion

The Israeli military said it believed the two Palestinian gunmen hit by the air strike were carrying bags on their backs which contained "bombs and explosives". It said there was a large explosion. "As a result . . . extensive damage was caused to a house that was near the gunmen and uninvolved civilians were hit," the military said in a statement, placing the blame with *Hamas* which it said used the civilian population as "human shields".

Tony Blair, the Middle East envoy, yesterday presented Israel with a list of checkpoints and trade restrictions he wants lifted in the West Bank. Blair met Ehud Barak, Israel's defence minister, and after the meeting one checkpoint was reportedly removed. Israel operates more than 500 barriers in the West Bank.

Load-Date: April 29, 2008



Mother and her four children killed during Israeli raid

Guardian.com April 28, 2008

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Length: 470 words

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Load-Date: April 28, 2008



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia) November 2, 2007 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 248 words

Body

Baghdad blast

A ROADSIDE bomb killed five people yesterday near a shelter used as a police recruiting centre in northeast Baghdad, police said.

Shocking toll

AT least 554 Iraqis were killed in the month of October in insurgent and sectarian attacks, according to the latest figures from Iraq's three ministries yesterday.

Hamas man arrested

ISRAELI troops arrested a major West Bank leader of the armed wing of radical Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> who had been wanted for three years, a Palestinian security official said.

Suharto's gift

FORMER Indonesian president Suharto has said he will donate to the poor the bulk of \$117.95 million in damages he has been awarded in a libel suit against Time magazine, a magazine reported.

Pioneering chimp dies

WASHOE, a <u>female</u> chimpanzee believed to be the first non-human to acquire human language, has died of natural causes at the Washington state research institute where she was kept.

Volcano may blow

HUNDREDS of minor tremors shook a deadly volcano on Indonesia's Java island yesterday, a scientist said, reinforcing fears of an eruption after 130,000 people were evacuated last month.

Outrage over joke

THE parents of missing British toddler Madeline McCann have criticised a satirical magazine joke about the child, branding it sick. German magazine Titanic published a mock supermarket advertisement in which the four-year-old's picture is shown on a kitchen cleaning product, saying "removes all traces at home and against which DNA tests have no chance".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Load-Date: November 2, 2007



Barbarism in Jerusalem

The Gazette (Montreal)
March 8, 2008 Saturday
Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. B6

Length: 270 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

"Talk to them," a global chorus has been telling Israel for months now. "Negotiate. Work it out with the Palestinians. <u>Hamas</u> was freely elected; reach a deal with them."

But how can you negotiate when people are slaughtering your sons in cold blood? The deadliest Palestinian attack in Israel in two years killed eight students in a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem on Thursday.

There was confusion about "credit" for the attack but the armed movement <u>Hamas</u> was denying nothing and such events do not happen without approval from the Palestinian leadership, such as it is.

Some try to justify such barbarity by citing the recent deaths in Gaza of 120 Palestinians - half non-combatants - in Israeli military operations aimed at stopping rocket attacks into Israel. There is no real parallel: Only the willfully blind see moral equivalence between the slaughter of students and accidental civilian deaths incurred after gunmen purposefully hide themselves among **women** and children.

Palestinian "fighters" do not limit themselves to attacks on Israel's armed forces, or even the controversial settlements on Palestinian land. They prefer to dump rockets on towns at random, and kill teenagers on purpose.

For decades, Palestinian leaders have held power by fanning the flame of hatred and blaming everything on Israel. Whenever there's a hint of progress, Palestinian thugs strike, forestalling hope. This is not coincidence.

This new attack will surely lead to still more deaths, as the endless spiral of bloodshed continues. Until the Palestinians find leaders who will renounce violence, the whole region will continue to suffer.

Load-Date: March 10, 2008



Tibetan protesters turn themselves in

Cape Times (South Africa)

April 04, 2008 Friday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2 Length: 257 words

Body

More than 1 000 people have either been caught by police or have turned themselves in after unrest in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, last month. Police have seized over 800 "criminals" since the violent unrest in the city began.

Lebanon's army commander Michel Suleiman warned political factions yesterday that he would bow out of the presidential race and leave his post by midsummer, if the two sides continue wrangling and his election as compromise candidate is not secured.

A French medical team arrived in Colombia yesterday to try to treat rebel hostage Ingrid Betancourt, a French-Colombian politician held by guerrillas for six years.

US soldiers kill Iraqi woman

US soldiers shot and killed an Iraqi woman while aiming targeting a man planting a roadside bomb in Baghdad, the military said yesterday. The soldiers fired three rounds at the suspect, killing him. They then opened fire on another man trying to remove the bomb, wounding him along with one of two <u>women</u> he was using as shield. The woman later died.

Afghan civilian killed by Nato patrol

A Nato patrol shot at a vehicle and killed one civilian in southern Afghanistan, while an air strike in the same region left three armed militants dead. The Nato patrol shot at the fast approaching vehicle in Kandahar province, after its driver did not stop.

Legislators say *Hamas* preacher was tortured

Four Palestinian legislators who investigated the death of a <u>Hamas</u> preacher in Palestinian custody say he was tortured. Preacher Majed Barghouti died in February in an intelligence service jail.

Load-Date: April 3, 2008



Bush heads to Middle East to shore up peace talks

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

January 9, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 461 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

For years, President George W. Bush has eagerly waved a flag for democracy in the Mideast from afar. This week, he steps gingerly into the troubled region where his so-called freedom agenda is stalled.

Bush proclaimed in his second inaugural address that the U.S. would work for democratic reform in every country and culture "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Now, in the final months of his presidency, he is off to sell his ideals to wary Middle Eastern leaders who have turned their focus to who will succeed Bush and how political turmoil will play out in Pakistan.

The assassination of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27 has cast a shadow over Bush's trip to Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"It is very much on the minds of everyone in the region and particularly on the minds of the authoritarian Arab rulers in Riyadh, Cairo, Amman and the Gulf States," said Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution analyst who advised Bush on the Middle East.

They see embattled Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf as one of them, Riedel said. "They see his political problems as evocative of what happens when the word democracy is uttered in a Muslim state and they fear very much that this strong ally of theirs is going to be deposed in 2008."

During his trip, Bush will try to nudge the Israelis and Palestinians toward a peace pact, get an update on Iraq and work to counter Iran's quest for greater influence in the region. But Bush's freedom agenda in the region -- an initiative he holds close to his heart -- will be an overarching theme.

In a speech Sunday in the United Arab Emirates, Bush will highlight political change that has occurred in places like Bahrain and how regional security is important not only for democracy, but economic growth.

On Saturday he'll host a round table session about democracy with Kuwaiti <u>women</u>, who were excluded from political life until recently.

Bush has said repeatedly that he never expected "Jeffersonian democracy to break out instantly" across the Middle East.

Bush heads to Middle East to shore up peace talks

That's a reality readily acknowledged by National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

"I think it is fair to say that this rate of progress has not continued in the way we would have hoped," Hadley said, adding that the democracy agenda suffered a setback when the Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> swept Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006.

<u>Hamas</u> later took over the Gaza strip after defeating the Fatah-allied forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a military confrontation, essentially splitting Palestinian governance. <u>Hamas</u>, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, now runs Gaza, while Abbas and his secular Fatah party, backed by the United States, run the West Bank.

Load-Date: January 9, 2008



Ramadan, 1429

The Jerusalem Post September 2, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 13

Length: 725 words Highlight: Editorial

Body

From Granada in Spain and Aubervilliers in France, to Cairo and Jakarta, more than a billion Muslims are this month marking the "handing down" of the Koran. Through daytime fasting, Ramadan, which this year falls September 1-30, is a time to subjugate the body to the spirit.

The advent of Ramadan, which most Westerners would hardly have noticed a decade ago, now merits coverage in such disparate media as the Dallas News and London's Times.

In a passage that Jews who observe communal and personal fast days can identify with, a Muslim contributor to the Times explained that "The late afternoon is always the hardest part of the fast." The Los Angeles Daily News tells its readers that the fast is over only when the "crescent of the moon has been sighted," while The Iowa City Press Citizen empathizes with how difficult it must be to keep the holiday in a place where Muslims are a small minority.

This is also the period when the faithful try to resolve their differences peaceably.

The Pakistani military said it would suspend offensive operations against the Taliban.

As a Ramadan goodwill gesture, Egypt opened the Rafah crossing between Sinai and Gaza.

And Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement announced it is committed to negotiating with <u>Hamas</u> rather than fighting even though the two sides can't even agree on the time of day. Daylight Savings Time in Gaza ended Saturday, but will last for several more days in the West Bank. Also in Gaza, thousands of government employees, among them teachers and medical workers associated with Fatah, are on strike against the **Hamas** government.

Curiously, this is also a time when some non-Muslims are prone to blame anyone but Muslims for the violence and frustration so prevalent in Islamic civilization.

For instance, an Agence France-Presse dispatch begins: "As most of the rest of the Islamic world welcomes Ramadan... Palestinians in the Gaza Strip warily brace for another holiday under a crippling [Israeli] blockade."

No mention is made of <u>Hamas</u>'s adamant refusal to recognize previous Palestinian agreements, end violence against non-combatants, or even accept the right of the Jewish state to exist. There's nothing about Gilad Schalit; or about tons of humanitarian aid Israel has allowed in; or about the 200 <u>Hamas</u>-authorized (and revenue-producing) tunnels between Sinai and Gaza which funnel, among other commodities, arms, missiles and explosives; or about concerted preparations for further aggression. AFP notes only that "Israel has kept the

Ramadan, 1429

sanctions in place despite a two-month-old truce with Palestinian militants which has mostly halted rocket fire on southern Israel."

DESPITE the fact that the second intifada was launched from the Temple Mount in September 2000, Israel is going to great lengths to accommodate Muslims from Judea and Samaria who wish to attend Friday prayers on the Mount. Married men between 45 and 50 and married <u>women</u> 30-45 can request entry permission, with the expectation that it will be granted. Men over 50 and <u>women</u> over 45 can enter freely.

In addition, for this month the opening hours of checkpoints between the West Bank and Israel proper are being extended. Palestinian inmates in Israeli prisons will be allowed to receive special Ramadan packages from their loved ones. And Arab citizens of Israel will be permitted to enter PA-controlled Area A, from where all Israeli citizens are normally barred.

To sensitize Israeli soldiers who come into contact with Palestinian Arab civilians during the holiday, the Civil Administration has distributed leaflets explaining the times, dates and customs of Ramadan: "Soldiers [are] directed to show consideration for the population and instructed to avoid eating, drinking and smoking in populated areas, with an emphasis on the crossing points."

RAMADAN may be an appropriate time for Muslims to reflect on the challenges of faith and modernity. Much of the bloodletting in the Mideast and other Muslim population centers takes place among believers themselves - between those who appear ascendant, who want to return Islam to its most bellicose and imperialistic path, and those who seek coexistence with the "other."

Only when Muslims who aspire to live in harmony with those who do not share their faith are able to triumph over the fanatics will peace between civilizations become a reality.

For this, we too pray.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Cameras record gruesome reality as Palestinians turn on each other

The Australian

May 19, 2008 Monday

2 - All-round First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 947 words

Byline: MARTIN CHULOV

Body

ANALYSIS

Limbs were shot to pieces, and men were bound and gagged and thrown from high-rise buildings

A POPULAR pastime in Gaza is swapping gruesome footage of dead or dying victims of the Strip's incessant violence.

The images used to be almost exclusive legacies of clashes with Israeli forces but last year that changed. Now being far more keenly traded are snapshots of Palestinian fratricide, gruesome images taken by ``militia-cams' that record scenes for posterity.

Spend any time near the emergency ward of Gaza's Shifa Hospital and security staff or ward workers will offer a look at their mobile phones, which they'll quickly switch to video mode to show images of victims of intra-Palestinian clashes being wheeled in agony from ambulances.

Sit in a town square for more than five minutes and you'll be quickly encircled by youths clamouring to outdo each other with images of death and mayhem.

A veritable library of the ``intrafada'' now exists in Gaza among militias and clans. Most were added during 2007, when the numbers of intra-Palestinian deaths jumped by 800 per cent -- from 55 to 439 -- almost all of the deaths in Gaza.

Last year was, by any measure, a revolutionary year in Palestinian politics. More than at any time in the previous two decades, the two most dominant political blocs were willing to bid for influence through the barrels of their Kalashnikovs.

Another factor that contributed to the violence, however, was a creeping radical Islamicisation -- a small but growing number of youths in Gaza hitching themselves to an al-Qa'ida world view that pitches them against the rest of the Strip and renders, as fair game to be killed, anyone seen as acting ``un-Islamicly'.

A spate of so-called honour-killings of <u>women</u> accounted for about 25 per cent of the body count -- far higher than any of the years before.

Cameras record gruesome reality as Palestinians turn on each other

Political tensions had steadily risen in Gaza since March 2006, when <u>Hamas</u> was sworn in as the elected Government of the Palestinian territories, including the West Bank. The poll win three months earlier terminated 40 years of the rule of the Fatah movement and its predecessors, and ended the patronage of many Palestine Liberation Organisation chieftains and warlords. Violence didn't erupt immediately but, by late December that year, it was in full swing.

By then, the US and Israel had hammered home their determination never to deal with <u>Hamas</u>, which remained committed to Israel's destruction, and to bolster the opposition forces which were struggling to regroup after the election loss.

By early last year, both countries, together with the UN were openly training a new security force, the Presidential Guard, which was to be deployed inside the territories, ostensibly as a buffer between Israel and the Palestinians wherever either side had contact. They were to be of particular use at the passenger and goods crossings inside Gaza, the lifeblood of about 1.4 million people there, which had stayed largely closed because of militant threats and Israeli fears of attack.

When The Australian visited the Karni goods crossing in April last year, about 30 young Gazans were struggling through a training drill of chin-ups and shuttle-sprints being run by a former British soldier and a one-time Australian Federal Police agent, Phil McInerney. They were scrawny, unarmed and wide-eyed, yet they had no links to existing militia groups. They were to be the vanguard of the Presidential Guard, the new band of brothers that saved Gaza from the abyss.

Around the same time, Fatah was invited by <u>Hamas</u> to form a power-sharing government that it hoped would provide legitimacy in the eyes of outsiders and ease the suffering of Palestinians -- but particularly Gazans.

Three months later, however, violence in Gaza reached an apex when <u>Hamas</u>, sensing the Presidential Guard was a Trojan horse for a US and Israeli-backed coup, deployed its fighters throughout Gaza to oust them. The training post that The Australian had visited was quickly overrun and 19 of the trainees were killed.

Writing last month in The Jerusalem Post, Bassam Eid from the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group said the events of last year had a precedent in the territories.

"Palestinians are at times encouraged and even advised byoutside forces to engage in internal violence and fighting," he said.

"The American government, for example, repeatedly praised Arafat when he cracked down on his own people. As a result, Palestinians opposed to or critical of America and its policies are likely to turn away from the (Palestine National Authority) and join those groups who contest US actions."

The three days of fighting in Gaza showed a level of brutality almost without precedent there.

Limbs of Fatah men were shot to pieces, young Fatah militia conscripts were taken out on street corners by sniper rifles and men from each side were bound and gagged and thrown from the top floors of high-rise buildings.

There to record the intrafada were the militia cams. Images of men being tossed from the towers trade particularly well, as does a sequence of a Fatah youth leaping from behind a corner to shoot a rifle at entrenched *Hamas* men nearby. He hadn't levelled his weapon before being shot through the chest.

"Subject, oppressed, or embattled peoples throughout history have commonly turned on themselves," wrote Eid.

"Because Palestinians are accustomed to seeing weapons and are also exposed to verbal and physical abuse of the military occupation, verbal disagreements easily turn into fist fights and sometimes even escalate into gang or family feuds. Growing up in a spiral of violence means that individuals find it harder to determine the limits of aggression."

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World datelines

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Body

Brazil: Picasso prints stolen

SAO PAULO -- Three armed robbers stole two Pablo Picasso prints from an art museum in downtown Sao Paulo on Thursday, the city's second high-profile art theft in less than a year.

The bandits also took two oil paintings by well-known Brazilian artists Emiliano Di Cavalcanti and Lasar Segall, said Carla Regina, a spokeswoman for the Pinacoteca do Estado museum.

The Picasso prints stolen were "The Painter and the Model" from 1963 and "Minotaur, Drinker and <u>Women</u>" from 1933, according to a statement from the Sao Paulo secretary of state for culture, which oversees the museum.

The prints and paintings have a combined value of \$612,000, the statement and a museum official said.

China: Accord with Taiwan

BEIJING -- Taiwan and China formally agreed to expand charter flights and tourism today, a day after announcing plans to set up permanent offices in each other's territory for the first time in decades of hostility.

There were few details, and no time frame was given for establishing the offices, which could perform consular functions such as issuing travel documents.

Ecuador: Assassination plot

QUITO -- Ecuadorean police on Thursday arrested four men, including at least three Colombians, in what officials said may have been plot to attack leftist President Rafael Correa.

Chief Prosecutor Washington Pesantez said a preliminary police investigation uncovered a plot to kill Correa and the four suspects were arrested in Ecuador's capital, Quito.

"We don't know the particular details (of the plot), we only know that there were foreigners with contracts to attack the president," Pesantez told reporters.

Gaza Strip: House blast kills 7

BEIT LAHIYA -- An Israeli envoy engaging in Gaza cease-fire talks returned without a deal late Thursday after another day of bloodshed in the coastal territory that included seven Palestinians being killed in a house explosion that *Hamas* blamed on an accident.

World datelines

When an explosion flattened a house in the Gaza Strip and killed seven, <u>Hamas</u> blamed Israel and unleashed rockets and mortar shells at southern Israel. But the militant group, which has controlled Gaza the past year, later suggested the blast was accidental.

By then Israel had carried out an airstrike aimed at a Gaza rocket squad, killing a Palestinian. Two other Israeli military operations in Gaza killed five more militants.

Clashes in and around Gaza are putting a strain on Egypt's effort to arrange a truce by acting as a go-between because Israel has no contacts with *Hamas*.

Mexico: Migrant bus hijacked

MEXICO CITY -- Armed men hijacked a bus carrying 34 detained Cuban migrants in southern Mexico after forcing immigration agents away at gunpoint, officials said on Thursday.

Eight assailants blocked a road in southern Chiapas state late Wednesday, stopping the bus carrying the Cubans and forcing the unarmed immigration agents to get off, said an official of Mexico's National Immigration Institute. None of the agents were harmed.

The bus was later found empty near the jungle city of Ocosingo.

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The Jerusalem Post February 7, 2008 Thursday

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Byline: RUTHIE BLUM

Highlight: One on One. Gisha director attorney Sari Bashi says the state's policy of severing the supply of fuel and

electricity to Gaza is 'illegal, dangerous and stupid.' The High Court of Justice says different. Interview

Body

'What Israel cannot do is prevent everyone in the world from trading with Gaza, and then cut the amount of supplies that enter through its border," asserts attorney Sari Bashi, protesting the government's policy of withholding fuel and electricity from the *Hamas*-ruled Strip as a "punitive measure."

The director of Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, Bashi is the epitome of a person who speaks softly yet carries a big stick. Indeed, her easy eloquence belies the ardency of her human rights activism and legal advocacy - the kind more associated with anger than affability. And her youthful good looks and gentle manner contrast with the content of her scathing critique of the military's method of combating Kassam fire on Sderot. She even goes as far as to accuse the IDF of deliberately targeting innocent civilians.

"We are not talking about closing a border to prevent militants from entering Israel," says the 32-year-old Yale Law School graduate, who teaches a course in international law at Tel Aviv University and translated former Supreme Court president Aharon Barak's book, Purposive Interpretation in Law, into English. "We are talking about applying pressure on a civilian population... because the army doesn't have a better response."

In protest, a group of 10 Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations, among them Gisha, petitioned the High Court of Justice to put a stop to such "illegal collective punishment." Last week, the petition was rejected.

During the interim between the last court hearing and final decision, Bashi met with The Jerusalem Post at Gisha headquarters in Tel Aviv to articulate her organization's legal and ideological position vis-a-vis the treatment of a population most of whom, she claims, oppose <u>Hamas</u> and favor finding a peaceful solution with Israel.

As for her personal view, Bashi (the daughter of an Iraqi-born Israeli father and an American mother) - who moved to Israel from New Jersey 10 years ago - says: "As a lawyer, I would say [the fuel and electricity slash] is illegal. As an Israeli, I would say that I expect something better from my elected representatives."

What was the content and purpose of the January 27 High Court hearing?

It was a hearing in the context of a petition [Albassiouni v. Prime Minister], that 10 Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups filed together, challenging the punitive measures taken against Gaza's civilian population. On September 19, the security cabinet decided to cut the sale of fuel and electricity supplies to Gaza. We argue that this is illegal collective punishment. Under international law, one is allowed to target militants, but not to intentionally

harm civilians. This is why the Kassam fire on Sderot is illegal. And though Israel has a right to defend itself against the rockets, it may not respond by deliberately harming innocent civilians in Gaza.

One could argue that those "innocent civilians" elected <u>Hamas</u>, and support the ideology behind the Kassam fire. Under such circumstances, can Israel's measures really be categorized as collective punishment? Could they not be seen as directed against a militant society?

No. Most Gaza residents are not <u>Hamas</u> supporters. Most support a peaceful solution with Israel. Gaza residents elected <u>Hamas</u> in January 2006 to the same extent that West Bank residents elected <u>Hamas</u> in January 2006. That's not when the punitive measures began. The punitive measures began in June 2007, following a military takeover of the Gaza Strip by <u>Hamas</u>. Practically speaking, however, the power and fuel cuts are not harming the militants. Hospitals have been paralyzed. Forty percent of Gaza City residents have been deprived of access to clean water. Children are living in the cold and dark. In addition, Gaza is pumping 40 million liters of untreated sewage into the sea every day, because of a lack of electricity to run the treatment plant. That's the same sea that we share with them. This policy is illegal, dangerous and stupid.

The High Court subsequently rejected your petition [on January 30], on the grounds that "the Gaza Strip is controlled by a murderous terror group that operates incessantly to strike the State of Israel and its citizens, and violates every precept of international law with its violent actions," adding that Israel was "required to act against terrorist organizations in accordance with the norms of international law and abstain from deliberately harming the civilian population located in the Gaza Strip." Why is this not satisfactory to you?

The High Court's decision is an embarrassment to Israeli democracy and jurisprudence. Contrary to the rhetoric you quote, the decision authorizes Israel to punish civilians for the acts of militants - in violation of international law. The decision fails to address the central argument at issue - whether the fuel and electricity cuts constitute collective punishment, as the petitioners claimed, or economic sanctions, as the state claimed - but rather adopts, without explanation, the state's claim that it may cut fuel and electricity supplies, so long as it does not push Gaza residents below an undefined "humanitarian minimum," a minimum not recognized in international law. The court was unable to articulate a legally coherent justification for what the state is doing to civilians in Gaza, yet was unwilling to intervene in the state's actions, so it remained silent on the law, restricting itself to asking whether the fuel and electricity cuts have pushed Gaza residents below an undefined humanitarian "minimum," and then ignoring well-documented evidence of severe harm to humanitarian needs.

Are economic sanctions legal?

Economic sanctions against a party you don't control could be legal, but Israel controls Gaza's borders. In any case, sanctions don't allow you to prevent the passage of humanitarian goods.

What about the Egyptian side of the border?

The arrangement governing the Rafah crossing gives Israel veto power over the opening of the passage. The recent breach of the Gaza-Egypt border may involve coming to a new arrangement. I can't comment on how that arrangement would affect Israel's legal obligation, because we're not there yet. But it would never change Israel's obligation to allow the passage of humanitarian goods. International law says that there are some goods that must always be allowed to reach the civilian population, no matter who they are, no matter what their leaders are doing. On this point of law there's no argument, which why the court doesn't want to talk about the law.

If Israel did not curb Gaza's fuel and electricity supply, and instead undertook a massive military operation to stop the Kassam fire, would that be acceptable under international law?

Any military action is legal or illegal depending on how it is conducted.

One of the legal terms bandied around during the Second Lebanon War was "proportionality." Does it apply here?

No. Because this is not a combat maneuver in which the question is whether, in the process of trying to harm militants, you may accidentally hurt civilians. And if you do, the issue of proportionality arises. In this case, the target is civilians.

Is this not aimed at causing the civilian population to pressure the militants to stop their activities?

You are not allowed to make civilians suffer to pressure militants.

In the case of Iran, for example, there is an argument about imposing a strict blockade, a move which would harm the civilian population, many of whom do not support the regime. Still, the hope is that if hindered enough, the populace will overthrow their leaders.

This isn't analogous. Even in the case of economic sanctions, there are legal tests that look at proportionality - at the extent to which civilians are hurt. An economic sanction is the withholding of something that is your sovereign right, such as your choice to trade or not to trade with another country. States are allowed to do that, subject to certain restrictions. Israel is not choosing whether or not to trade with Gaza. Israel is saying that Gaza may not receive fuel and electricity from anywhere else in the world, and restricting what is received through its borders.

The European Union is buying 100% of the industrial diesel fuel for Gaza's power plant. This is a humanitarian donation project. But, if the EU were to bring canisters of industrial diesel on a ship and try to dock it in Gaza, Israel's navy would sink the ship. If the EU were to fly it in by plane, the Israeli air force would shoot down the plane. Israel requires the EU to bring the industrial diesel through the Nahal Oz border crossing. This is not trade. This is a blockade in which Israel decides the terms under which people may bring humanitarian goods through the blockade. This is unprecedented.

Furthermore, between Israel and Gaza there are specific obligations. Gaza is occupied territory under international law. This means that Israel owes positive obligations to actively facilitate the provision of humanitarian services and the functioning of normal life in Gaza. The reason for this is control. Israel controls the funding of public services in Gaza, through its control of the tax moneys collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. These are the tax moneys that pay public servants in Gaza. Israel also controls the Palestinian population registry, determining who is a resident of Gaza, who may live there, who may enter. And Israel controls Gaza's borders: land, air and sea. That control creates responsibility.

What about Israel's responsibility to its own civilians? You describe its total control of Gaza's borders, yet it has a total lack of control when it comes to preventing or stopping Kassam fire. In a situation like this, how could Israel deal a blow without harming the civilian population?

But that's not the issue here. It's not that Israel is firing on militants. We're talking about fuel and electricity.

Does curbing fuel and electricity not harm the militants as well?

Explain to me how, because I don't understand. We asked the army to articulate a rational relationship between the legitimate goal of stopping the Kassam fire and the measures taken of cutting fuel and electricity across the board, mostly harming hospitals and water wells. We got no answer. This is because there is no rational relationship. This is about anger. This is about a military that doesn't have a solution to the Kassam fire, but wants to show the Israeli public that it is being tough and making civilians in Gaza suffer, too. Indeed, the politicians have been saying, "If it's not quiet in Sderot, it won't be quiet in Gaza."

If the policy were really one of "an eye for an eye," why wouldn't the IDF be returning missile fire on civilians? Aren't the current measures a milder way of getting the Gaza residents to combat their own militants? <u>Hamas</u> is their government, after all.

Most people view this as a military takeover, with an armed group in control of Gaza right now.

Are you saying that the Gazans are victims of the *Hamas* takeover?

I'm saying that it is absurd to think that if a mother suffers enough because her child doesn't have heat or light, she is somehow going to overthrow *Hamas*.

In a recent paper, "The Assault on Israel's Right to Self-Defense," Abraham Bell, the director of the International Law Forum at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, writes: "Israel's imposition of economic sanctions on the Gaza Strip, such as withholding fuel supplies and electricity, does not involve the use of military force and is therefore a perfectly legal means of responding to Palestinian attacks, despite the effects on Palestinian citizens... Since Israel is under no legal obligation to engage in trade of fuel or anything else with the Gaza Strip, or to maintain open borders with the Gaza Strip, it may withhold commercial items and seal its borders at its discretion, even if intended as 'punishment' for Palestinian terrorism." Can you respond to this?

What Israel cannot do is prevent everyone in the world from trading with Gaza, and then cut the amount of supplies that enter through its border.

About your specific petition, Bell writes: "...the Israeli Supreme Court implied that it interpreted domestic Israeli administrative law to require the Israeli government to maintain a minimum flow of Israeli-supplied necessary humanitarian goods when engaging in retorsional acts such as cutting off the Israeli supply of electricity to Gaza. Thus, even if there were a legal basis for considering Gaza Israeli-occupied territory, Israel would be fulfilling its duties under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"However, there is no legal basis for maintaining that Gaza is occupied territory. The Fourth Geneva Convention refers to territory as occupied where the territory is of another 'High Contracting Party' (i.e. a state party to the convention) and the occupier 'exercises the functions of government' in the occupied territory. The Gaza Strip is not territory of another state party to the convention and Israel does not exercise the functions of government - or, indeed, any significant functions - in the territory. It is clear to all that the elected <u>Hamas</u> government is the de facto sovereign of the Gaza Strip and does not take direction from Israel, or from any other state."

Here the author is reverting to an argument according to which the West Bank and Gaza Strip were never sovereign territory of a high contracting party, a state party to the Geneva Convention, and therefore they weren't occupied and the Geneva Convention didn't apply to them. This argument was abandoned by the state as far back as the 1980s, after which it acknowledged that the West Bank and Gaza were territories under a belligerent occupation.

In 2005, the state began to claim that Gaza was no longer occupied, pointing to the fact that the military government there had been canceled. But that's not the test of occupation under international law. The test is Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Convention, which says that "territory is occupied when it has actually been placed under the authority of a hostile army." That test is generally known as "effective control."

Since the 1990s, Israel's responsibilities in Gaza and the West Bank were reduced in areas where the PA was genuinely exercising control and Israel was allowing that control to be exercised. This still applies. Israeli law recognizes that there is no legal vacuum - that no administrative body can exercise control without its being bounded by law. Today, Gaza residents are at the mercy of the Israeli military for how much fuel and electricity they will have, and whether they get food and medicine. Over the last seven months - and more dramatically over the last few weeks - that control has been choking the ability of Gaza residents to lead normal, healthy lives.

Beforehand, were Gazans able to lead "normal, healthy lives"?

Unfortunately not. Israel has imposed a closure regime on Gaza since the early 1990s. With disengagement in 2005, Israel closed Gaza's borders in ways that have been detrimental. For example, between September and November of 2005, Gaza was completely sealed. In the winter of 2005- 2006, the Karni Crossing - the main commercial crossing allowing goods to enter Gaza - was closed most of the time. Beginning in June 2006, when Gilad Schalit was captured, Israel closed the Rafah crossing 75% of the time. Israel also blocked access between Gaza and the West Bank. In June 2007, following the *Hamas* takeover, Israel closed all Gaza's borders.

This has paralyzed the Gazan economy. People are becoming poorer and poorer, and they are trapped.

But disengagement was a response to the suicide bombing war waged by the Palestinians against Israel, and each closure was done as a result of terrorism. Furthermore, any time a crossing is reopened, another terrorist activity or kidnapping is executed; and in the last seven months, the residents of Sderot have been under continuous missile fire.

Israel has a right to take security measures to ensure that militants or weapons don't enter Israel through its border with Gaza. But I don't understand how preventing medicine, food, fuel and electricity from reaching hospitals, schools and homes in Gaza is responsive to Israeli security needs. We are not talking about closing a border to prevent militants from entering Israel; we are talking about applying pressure on a civilian population deliberately, as a punitive response, because the army doesn't have a better response. As a lawyer, I would say this is illegal. As an Israeli, I would say that I expect something better from my elected representatives.

This policy of pushing Gaza residents to the edge is bad for them, but it's bad for us, as well. Whether we like it or not, these are our neighbors. And we can choose whether to allow our neighbors to access the skills, the physical well-being and the resources they need to build a pragmatic and prosperous society, or whether to reduce them to charity dependence and desperation. I'm sorry to say that our leadership is choosing the latter.

But isn't this the same leadership that has desperately been trying to come up with some formula for peace with PA President Mahmoud Abbas, whom it recognizes as the legitimate representative of those Palestinians who purportedly want an agreement with Israel? Isn't this the same leadership that is willing to make serious territorial concessions, including on Jerusalem?

I'm talking about the civilian population.

Can the civilian population build what you call a "pragmatic and prosperous society" while under such an extremist regime?

The peace process is based on recognizing Gaza and the West Bank as a single territorial entity - legally, politically and geographically. A peace negotiation based on driving Gaza residents to desperation and destroying their ability to be partners for peace is one that serves neither Israel nor the Palestinians.

We need to be realistic about where we're going to be in the long term. The polls clearly show that most Gaza residents support a negotiated agreement with Israel. But there are certain preconditions for a peaceful relationship, one of which is enabling your neighbors to lead normal lives. The first thing we can do as part of the peace process is to stop punishing and undermining the pragmatists in Gaza.

Yet Abbas tried to form a national unity government with Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and failed. <u>Hamas</u>'s declared goal is jihad against Israel and the West. How can any "peaceful relationship" emerge under such conditions?

You're talking about Israeli policy toward <u>Hamas</u>. I'm talking about Israeli policy toward the Palestinian people. I'm talking about Gaza residents who are there to stay, regardless of who their leadership is today, and regardless of who their leadership will be in a year.

You say Israel has to enable its neighbors to lead normal lives with a flourishing economy, and cultivate the pragmatists. Aren't you leaving out the radical Islamic ideology that makes such an endeavor impossible?

No. Whatever policy Israel wants to have toward *Hamas* has to be a policy toward *Hamas* and not toward civilians.

Can the two really be separated?

Absolutely. It would be smart of us to separate them. It would be smart of us to make it clear that we're not fighting civilians. This would help us effectively fight more militants.

Are you suggesting we join forces with the civilians to fight *Hamas* and overthrow its rule?

I am not suggesting what we do; I am saying what we shouldn't do. And what we shouldn't do is push civilians to desperation and extremism.

Do you really believe that desperation leads to extremism? Haven't we seen extremism flourish in the radical Islamic world, regardless of economic conditions? Take Osama bin Laden, for example - a rich boy-turned-terrorism czar.

Let's look at the particular kind of desperation in Gaza, and the particular kind of extremism it has led to. The Israeli closure of Gaza since June 2007 has prevented merchants and ordinary people from working and making money through a legal economy. As an "emergency" measure, <u>Hamas</u> began running tunnels with a lucrative trade of cigarettes, cash, cheese, weapons, militants, medicine - and making a lot of black-market money from that.

At least 70,000 people have lost their jobs in Gaza since then. Those people are being given aid money by <u>Hamas</u> and other Islamic charities. I would rather those people have the ability and the right to work and make their own money and not be dependent on charity. That kind of charity dependence does not strengthen moderation. And I can tell you from conversations with people in Gaza that they're begging us to stop. They're saying, "You're killing the moderates."

People in Gaza are just like people anywhere else. They want the same basic things. They want to be healthy and happy and earn a little money. The more we prevent them from doing that, the more we drive them to desperation. I don't want my neighbors to be desperate. I want them to be self-sufficient and pragmatic.

But, since 1967 - up until the height of the second intifada - the Palestinians made their livelihood in Israel. That began to slow, and eventually stopped from Gaza, as a result of their own belligerent behavior.

It's more complicated than that. It was part of a broad system of intifada, collapse of peace process and measures taken by both sides. Workers from Gaza were entering Israel until March 2006. Israel didn't decide to stop letting them in because they were doing something wrong in Israel. It was a political decision that had nothing to do with the workers. And the effect was further isolating Gaza and hurting its economy.

But some of the many terrorist attacks committed against Israelis were carried out by Palestinians employed by them. Jihadist ideology seems to be as strong a draw, if not stronger, than health and pragmatism among many Palestinians, as it is in the rest of the radical Islamic world.

I don't share your analysis. Certainly we should be worried by the spread of militant behavior that targets civilians. We live in the Middle East, after all. But I think that what we're doing now is shortsighted. Ours is a weak leadership that doesn't want to come up with a real solution, and so instead is just lashing out against people who are not part of the problem, but could be part of the solution. The residents of Sderot need for rockets to stop falling on their children. They don't need for children in Gaza to suffer, too.

If the state were to reopen the borders for the free passage of fuel and electricity into Gaza, what then? Are you saying the rocket fire will cease?

We are a human rights organization. It's the military's job to protect the security of the Israeli people. It is also their job to make sure that in doing so they don't violate the law. But they are violating the law, which is why we're asking them to stop. I do not minimize the difficulty of their task. But they are responding in a way that is completely unresponsive to the very real needs of Sderot residents for safety and security, and that is causing massive suffering to a million and a half innocent civilians who don't have a way of protecting themselves.

How has your organization helped those Palestinians who "don't have a way of protecting themselves"? Give an example of what you would consider a victory on your part.

Gisha is an organization [funded by foundations, mostly in Europe, some in the US and a bit in Israel] that advocates for the kind of freedom of movement necessary to allow human and economic development in Palestinian society. We do that in the belief that it's good not only for Palestinian society, but for Israeli society, as well.

Up until October 2006, there was a total ban on Palestinian students from the West Bank studying at Israeli universities. We brought a court petition on behalf of a very talented doctoral student from Anata, who wanted to fulfill her dream of being the first *female* professor of chemistry in the West Bank. She received a full scholarship to study at the Hebrew University, but was not allowed to enter, because of this total ban. As a result of our petitioning the court, she was allowed to study - she's currently in her second year - and the army now has to allow Palestinian students to study in Israel, though we're still arguing with the army about the details of the new policy.

Do you also help Palestinians combat human rights violations on the part of the PA?

We have Palestinian partner organizations that do that. We feel that each organization is best suited to talk to its own government.

How would you rate your successes against theirs? Do you come up against the same problems as your Palestinian counterparts or different ones?

As an Israeli human rights activist, I have a lot more freedom of speech than my Palestinian colleagues have. I can be tremendously critical of the military's behavior and of the court's response. I can pretty much say what I want to say.

Israel is a 60-year-old democracy. In the Palestinian territories, there's a fledgling authority struggling to govern, so they're also busy dealing with basic institution-building, constitution-building and injecting human rights values into a traditional society. I don't know if you can compare success rates. Both sides are working on the challenges that each faces.

Graphic

2 photos: SARI BASHI. 'It is absurd to think that if a mother suffers enough because her child doesn't have heat or light, she is somehow going to overthrow <u>Hamas</u>.' BASHI ON Kassams. 'The residents of Sderot need for rockets to stop falling on their children. They don't need for children in Gaza to suffer, too.' (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

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Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem

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Body

The shooting attack in which at least eight religious students were killed yesterday in the heart of Jerusalem is reminiscent of past major campaigns of terror in Israeli cities - leading some Israelis to conclude that the Palestinian Arabs are launching a "third intifada."

The shooting rampage that left the religious scholars at the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva dead, and that ended only after a student who was also an Israeli army officer shot and killed a gunman, was seen as a major escalation in Israel, a country that had been under constant rocket attacks in its southern regions. The massacre took place mere blocks away from government offices where, a day earlier, Secretary of State Rice conducted her efforts to revive peace talks between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs.

World leaders, presidential candidates, and New York's major Jewish organizations expressed their outrage, and President Bush said America "stands firmly with Israel."

Terrorist organizations backed by Al Qaeda, Iran, and Syria, have used the 2006 Lebanon war as a model for conducting a campaign of missile attacks from the *Hamas*-controlled Gaza Strip on Israeli towns. After Israel conducted a two-day ground incursion into Gaza earlier this week, the rocket barrage only intensified, and leaders in Gaza and southern Lebanon declared a "victory" over Israel akin to the Lebanon war.

Although it was unclear late last night what organization was behind the Jerusalem terror shooting, officials in Jerusalem linked its timing to several key regional developments. Those included Ms. Rice's two-day visit; the 40-day anniversary of the assassination in Damascus of the Hezbollah terror master, Imad Mughnieh, and <u>Hamas</u>'s desire to avenge the killing of some of its own terror leaders in Gaza.

"I also would not exclude" the Security Council resolution earlier this week that imposed sanctions on Iran for its nuclear weapons program as a possible cause of the recent escalation, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, Daniel Ayalon, told The New York Sun.

As of late last night, responsibility for the evening terror attack in Jerusalem had been claimed on the Hezbollah-financed television station, al-Manar, by an organization calling itself The Liberators of Galilee-Mughnieh Brigades. Israeli intelligence sources said they were unsure who - if anyone - was behind the name, which had been used in the past for claiming responsibility for terror attacks.

Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem

Yesterday morning, several hours before the attack, Israeli press reports quoted the chief of the internal intelligence agency, Shabak, Yuval Diskin, as warning that as part of <u>Hamas</u>'s efforts to extend its control beyond Gaza into the West Bank, it will attempt to carry a major - or "quality" - terror attack, conducted by West Bank- or Jerusalembased operatives of its terrorist arm. The gunmen yesterday were unlikely to have come from Gaza.

There were celebratory gunshots in the air on the street of Gaza, nevertheless, and <u>Hamas</u> spokesmen expressed satisfaction. "The Israelis reap in Jerusalem what they have sown in Gaza," a <u>Hamas</u> military wing spokesman, Abu Ahmed, told Y-net. He said the shooting in Jerusalem was "only the first" of several planned attacks, but stopped short of declaring responsibility.

A day earlier, Ms. Rice secured a promise from the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to return to negotiations with Prime Minister Olmert, which he had suspended at the start of the Israeli attack on Gaza. No date for resuming negotiations has been determined however.

Mr. Abbas quickly condemned the Jerusalem shooting rampage, saying he deplores killing of civilians "be they Israelis or Palestinians." Mr. Olmert, who indicated the violence would not end the peace talks, spoke with several world leaders yesterday, starting with President Bush, but he spent most of the hours after the attack consulting with Israeli security officials, planning a response that might include a military assault.

Yesterday's attack at the Jewish seminary was only the culmination of a bloody day in which an Israeli soldier was killed and another one suffered severe injuries earlier in an ambush near the Gaza border, and a house in Sderot was directly hit by a Kassam rocket.

President Bush strongly condemned the "barbaric and vicious attack on innocent civilians" and Ms. Rice added, "There is no cause that could ever justify this action." Western world leaders, including the British and French foreign ministers and the U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, also used strong language of condemnation.

In a rare move, Jerusalem initiated a late night meeting of the Security Council, where it is more accustomed to fending off denunciations of Israeli actions than hoping for sympathy after its citizens are attacked. But the Arab representative on the Council, Libya, demanded to make an American-proposed statement about the Jerusalem attacks "balanced" by also mentioning Israel's attacks in Gaza, preventing a unified council statement. The terrorist attack in Jerusalem "stands out," said Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, who serves as the council president.

"What would it take for the council" to condemn one attack "specifically, without going through the entore history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?" Mr. Churkin asked.

The attack struck a special chord with Orthodox Jews in the way that an earlier attack on a Tel Aviv disco resonated with more secular or youthful observers. "Just as there is a special place in hell for perpetrators of attacks on men **women** and children doing nothing but going about their daily lives, there is a special section there reserved for attackers of young men who were sitting and studying Torah," said the director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, Rabbi Avi Shafran. "Those who were killed, not the murderers for whom Palestinians use the word, are true martyrs, holy innocent souls killed only because they are Jews."

Load-Date: March 8, 2008



Israel accused of barring ill Gaza civilians

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 22, 2007 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 12

Length: 493 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI agents are arbitrarily citing security concerns to prevent seriously ill Gaza civilians from obtaining medical treatment in Israel, rights groups charge.

An Israeli newspaper also reported that some were denied passage after they refused to become collaborators.

Human Rights Watch says that since June at least three seriously ill Palestinians have died after they were turned back at Erez, the sole crossing between Gaza and Israel, for unspecified security reasons.

The three were all refused permission to leave Gaza at the last minute, despite having cleared their passage with the security forces in advance and having appointments for life-saving treatment in Israel.

The Israeli branch of Physicians for Human Rights says that since June it has intervened in the cases of 138 seriously ill men, **women** and children who were turned back at Erez for unspecified security reasons.

In 52 of these cases the security objections were subsequently withdrawn, sometimes after the physicians' group had threatened court proceedings against the security services.

Human Rights Watch sets the interrogation and blocking of gravely ill Palestinians in the context of Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, which intensified after the militant group <u>Hamas</u> took control in June. "Israel is punishing sick civilians as a way to hurt <u>Hamas</u>, and that's legally and morally wrong," said Sarah Leah Whitson, of Human Rights Watch's Middle East division.

She said Israel had legitimate security concerns but - referring to one of six such cases it identified this week - "denying medical treatment to a 16-year-old girl with a congenital heart defect doesn't make Israel any safer".

A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the fault was with <u>Hamas</u> which, he said, was preventing Israel from opening its crossings with Gaza. He said Israel was going "out of its way" to allow people seeking treatment to get through.

"With due respect to Human Rights Watch, it isn't privy to the same information that the security agencies have."

Gaza is home to 1.4 million people but its ramshackle hospitals cannot offer many advanced treatments. Traditionally, seriously ill Gazans have travelled to hospitals in Israel, Egypt or further afield, through crossings controlled by the Israeli Army and Shin Bet security agency.

Israel accused of barring ill Gaza civilians

Human Rights Watch said that because Israeli still retained almost complete control over the movement of people and goods in and out of the Gaza Strip it was therefore still the occupying power, responsible for the welfare of its inhabitants. The Israeli Government disputes this.

This month the newspaper Ma'ariv published interviews with six Palestinians who were stopped at the Erez crossing en route for urgent medical treatment. They said they were interrogated by Shin Bet agents who asked them to become collaborators.

The six said they refused, and were either sent back to Gaza or were refused passage for further scheduled treatment.

Load-Date: October 21, 2007



Poll: Israel isn't top priority for US voters, including Jews. McCain backers are more likely to support Israel than their Democratic counterparts

The Jerusalem Post April 1, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 775 words

Byline: GREER FAY CASHMAN

Body

Israel figures low on the totem pole for likely American voters, who are chiefly concerned with the economy and jobs followed by the situation in Iraq, affordable health care, terrorism and national security.

These are the findings of a poll conducted among 800 respondents representing America's broad demographic range in terms of age, affluence, gender, ethnic background and religion.

The telephone poll, conducted between March 18-20, was commissioned by The Israel Project, a nonpartisan Washington, DC, organization that works to strengthen Israel's image in the American media.

Project founder and president Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi told a news conference in Jerusalem on Monday that even in the Jewish community, the majority of likely voters do not give priority to Israel.

"Three quarters of the American Jewish community say that there are other issues more important than Israel," she said, saying only 23 percent of the Jewish population listed Israel as a top issue. The poll had a 3.5% margin of error.

While 51% of the respondents acknowledged that the economy and jobs were their major concern, only 7% cited the Middle East conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and the threat of Iran.

Despite the potential threat of Iran, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians was a slightly more popular issue.

While the majority of likely voters viewed Israel as a moderate among the Middle East players, there was a dramatic difference in their perceptions of Iran, *Hamas*, Hizbullah, and the Palestinian Authority.

Iran was generally regarded as the most extreme, with 84% of respondents categorizing it as extreme, and <u>Hamas</u> was seen as extreme by 72%. Hizbullah was seen as extreme by 64% while 68% thought the Palestinian Authority was an extremist organization.

On the other hand, 40% of respondents said that Israel is extreme, and, even when compared to the others listed above, only 54% said Israel was the most moderate, followed by the Palestinian Authority, 21%, Iran 12% and Hamas and Hizbullah 10% each.

Nonetheless, she noted, Americans are far more supportive of Israel than Europeans.

Poll: Israel isn't top priority for US voters, including Jews. McCain backers are more likely to support Israel than their Democratic counterparts

Questioned as to how much of a chance they thought that diplomacy and sanctions by the US government, or alternatively the United Nations or the European Union, could stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons, 54% replied that there was a good chance or at least some chance (46% for UN/EU), while 43% (52% for UN/EU) doubted that there was any chance.

Democrats were significantly more hopeful than Republicans or Independents, with 65% taking a positive approach to diplomacy and sanctions by the US compared to 47% of Republicans and 48% of independents.

Asked whether America would be less safe than it is now in the event that Iran succeeds in developing a nuclear bomb, 65% thought that they would be less safe while 34% assumed that there would be no change.

"Support for Israel has significantly increased" said Laszlo Mizrahi, noting a figure of 60% who declared themselves to be Israel supporters, 27% strong Israel supporters, 31% Palestinian supporters and only 8% neither or undecided.

The poll revealed that McCain voters are more likely to support Israel than their Democratic counterparts, but support for Israel is across the board, and 71% of Americans think that America should support Israel in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Although Israelis often complain that the international media is biased against them, the poll indicates that 38% believe media reporting is favorable to Israel, while 15% thought it was favorable to the Palestinians.

The percentage point differences were even more overwhelmingly in Israel's favor in response to questions as to whether or not Israel is a vital ally to the US; whether or not Israel is a country that respects freedom of religion, speech and press, and whether or not Israel respects the rights of **women** and minorities.

In general, Americans also believe that Israel is committed to reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians, but are not convinced that the Palestinian Authority and <u>Hamas</u> are interested in reaching a peace accord with Israel.

Yet, despite these doubts, nearly two-thirds of likely voters believe that Israel should continue to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority, even in the face of terrorist attacks.

Support for a two-state solution to the conflict is extremely high - above 80%. The majority believes an independent Palestinian state will improve the economic future of the Palestinian people; 67% think it will make Israel more secure as a nation and 59% are convinced it will reduce Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



<u>'He is still our family member'</u>

The Jerusalem Post March 14, 2008 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 1023 words

Byline: KSENIA SVETLOVA

Highlight: On the surface, everything is normal in Jebl Mukaber. But to the more perceptive observer, the

neighborhood bears the mark of last week's attack

Body

An IDF jeep stands at the entrance to Jebl Mukaber, a neighborhood in east Jerusalem. It's been parked here for almost seven days - since last Thursday when sounds of shootings exploded inside Mercaz Harav Yeshiva.

A few reporters wander around the block with cameras and microphones, looking for an unusual picture or a bold statement. But Jebl Mukaber disappoints them - when you drive along its quiet streets there is nothing to attest to the horror that shook Jerusalem a week earlier.

There is not a single picture of Ala a-Din Abu Dhaim, a 25-year-old terrorist who shot to death eight young Israelis and wounded many others, no green <u>Hamas</u> flags or yellow Hizbullah cloths. A few <u>women</u> run errands and children hurry home from school. On the surface everything is normal, just like Abu Dhaim was, according to his family.

Only an Arabic reader would notice one or two <u>Hamas</u> writings on the walls (most of the writings were erased and freshly painted) and Koranic verses that call for vengeance. And only after making a few rounds does one feel that life in Jebl Mukaber is anything but ordinary or normal.

Bearded men with rosary beads enter the house of the Abu Dhaim family - the stream of mourners still hasn't dried up. A large mourning tent with dozens of pictures of the terrorist is situated in the backyard of his father's house. The family elders sit on the mats, while younger men read newspapers - Hebrew and Arabic - in another corner.

Almost 90 percent of Jebl Mukaber residents hold Israeli residency cards, and many speak Hebrew well. Dozens of journalists have been here during the last few days, and everybody in the tent knows the procedure. The reporter is offered coffee and then immediately taken to the mukhtar - the family elder - who was designated by the clan to talk to the press.

He is eager to read the statement that says that "Shaheed Ala a-Din didn't show any suspicious behavior. He was engaged and about to be married this summer and everything that happened was a complete surprise for the family."

The old man repeats that he, just like everyone else, was surprised about what happened, but of course, everything is in God's hands. He denies that Ala a-Din or any member of the Abu Dhaim family belongs to or supports *Hamas*.

'He is still our family member'

As for the <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah flags that were hanging in the neighborhood immediately after the terrorist attack, he claims these were brought by other people "who came from outside."

He neither denounces the killing, nor does he praise it, but argues that the family is entitled to hold a mourning tent for Ala a-Din. "He is still our family member. Where do you want us to sit for him - on the sun?" he asks.

Well-phrased, smooth sentences leave the mukhtar's mouth while the rosary beads slide in his hands. The rest of the family is instructed not to talk to the press, although many would like to. One of the members of the clan approaches me on my way out.

"We never had any problems with our neighbors here, and we don't want to have any problems now. We just want to bury him and forget about everything," explains Nader (not his real name) who says that he learned about the shootings while watching Channel 2 news.

While answering a question about the significance of what happened, Nader will neither condemn nor praise the attack - like the mukhtar, he says he doesn't understand much about politics.

I ask him why Abu Dhaim did what he did - opened fire on innocent school boys. "Who knows, maybe it's Allah's will that he will die like this," says Nader reluctantly and disappears inside the house.

Muhammad, the owner of a small supermarket on the edge of the neighborhood also says that he was very surprised and scared by what happened, especially since he also works in Bikur Holim Hospital in the center of Jerusalem. "Abu Dhaim was just one person and I'm afraid that now all of us here will pay the price for what happened," he says.

On Tuesday, Tali Fahima, who was in prison for helping the head of the Aksa Martyrs Brigade in Jenin, visited the tent.

"I was with the family, and I have no doubt that the Israeli security forces are mainly just exacerbating [the situation] and causing civilians to be killed, like the yeshiva students, because of the years-long policy of occupation," Fahima told Israel Radio.

While some in Jebl Mukaber wish to forget about everything and move on, just a two-minute drive away some high school students stand holding handwritten signs. "Don't give a tent to terrorism" and "You, who killed - inherited," the signs read.

The protesters, most of them the same age as the Mercaz Harav students who were killed in the terrorist attack, knew some of the victims. They can't and won't forget what happened to their friends and peers.

One of the organizers, Moshe Jacobs, 16, says that originally they wanted to build a tent of their own where they could study Torah as a form of protest against the mourning tent in Jebl Mukaber; however their request was denied by the police.

"We got permission to stand here with the signs and this is what we will do," he says. He adds that he is appalled by the fact that while Jordanian authorities didn't allow Abu Dhaim's family to establish a mourning tent in Amman, they were allowed to erect one in Jerusalem.

"We demand that this mourning tent be destroyed because it will boost the growth of Islamic fundamentalism here, in the heart of Israel. This is a complete disgrace," a teenager says.

An old woman passes by the small demonstration. "Good for you guys," she says with tears in her eyes.

Livna Kohen has lived in nearby Armon Hanatziv for more than 15 years and says she was completely shocked by the attack. "I could never believe that just around the corner live hundreds of *Hamas* sympathizers. Come on, it's not Gaza or Jenin, it's Jerusalem we are talking about!" she says. "I guess Gaza is closer to home than we thought... no one there denounces this horrible killing! I'm afraid things will never go back to normal now."

Back in Jebl Mukaber things go on as usual. The relatives of Abu Dhaim sip strong, black coffee and wait for the news indifferently. Their tent is still standing.

Graphic

2 photos: The mukhtar of the Abu Dhaim family. 'Everything that happened was a complete surprise for the family.' <u>Hamas</u> graffiti in Jebl Mukaber. Jordan didn't allow a mourning tent for Ala a-Din Abu Dhaim in Amman, but there is one in Jerusalem. (Credit: KSENIA SVETLOVA)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



THE END OF JIHAD

The New York Times

March 2, 2008 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section BR; Column 0; Book Review Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1205 words

Byline: By PATRICK COCKBURN

PATRICK COCKBURN, A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FOR THE INDEPENDENT OF LONDON, IS THE

AUTHOR OF "THE OCCUPATION: WAR AND RESISTANCE IN IRAQ."

Body

DREAMS AND SHADOWS

The Future of the Middle East.

By Robin Wright.

464 pp. The Penguin Press. \$26.95.

When the United States invaded Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussein in 2003 it destabilized the whole Middle East. The American military had taken over the one Arab state with plenty of oil and a large population. Washington threatened to overthrow the governments of Iran and Syria. The first Shiite government to hold power in the Arab world in 800 years was soon installed in Baghdad. The entire region was engulfed by a tidal wave of anti-Americanism.

The reaction to the invasion in the wider Middle East should have led to a greater focus on what Egyptians, Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and Iranians were thinking. Long established autocratic regimes were discredited, less by any shining example of democracy being established in Baghdad than by their own inability to cope with the crisis. "Arab Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, We Spit on You" read a banner carried by protesters during a demonstration in Cairo in 2006.

Though the Middle East may be shaking under the impact of the war in Iraq, most countries have been getting less rather than more attention from Western news media and governments. Almost all the focus has been on Iraq. Newspapers and television companies strained their budgets to maintain large bureaus in Baghdad. Extraordinary events, like the victory of <u>Hamas</u> over Fatah in the Palestinian elections of 2006, were dutifully covered, but were overshadowed by America's ever deeper troubles in Iraq. Countries like Egypt and Morocco largely disappeared off the media map.

It is one of the chief values of "Dreams and Shadows," Robin Wright's fluent and intelligent book about the future of the Middle East, that it is not solely concerned with the war in Iraq and its consequences. In describing the

THE END OF JIHAD

struggles of people from Morocco to Iran to reform or replace existing regimes she draws on three decades of experience in covering the region for The Washington Post and other newspapers.

Opening on an optimistic note, Wright describes how in 1983 she stood across the street from the ruins of the United States Embassy in Beirut after more than 60 Americans had been killed by a suicide bomber. At that time, she recalls, it seemed that Islamic fundamentalists had the initiative and were shaping the future of the region. "Yet a generation later," she writes, "Islamic extremism is no longer the most important, interesting or dynamic force in the Middle East."

It would be good if this were true, but in general the stories Wright relates of brave reformers battling for human and civil rights show them as having had depressingly small influence. She claims there is "a budding culture of change" represented by "defiant judges in Cairo, rebel clerics in Tehran, satellite television station owners in Dubai, imaginative feminists in Rabat and the first <u>female</u> candidates in Kuwait, young techies in Jeddah, daring journalists in Beirut and Casablanca, and brave writers and businessmen in Damascus." Sadly, her own research largely contradicts this thesis. Of the many opponents of the status quo she writes about, the only ones to have achieved a measure of success are religious movements: <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza and the West Bank and Hezbollah in Lebanon. She does not cover Pakistan, but the assassination of Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi in December shows that suicide bombers retain their deadly ability to shape events.

Why have moderate reformers failed so uniformly across the Middle East? Not because of lack of courage. Wright describes how in Syria, Riad al Turk, first arrested for opposing a military government in 1952, spent almost 18 years in solitary confinement in an underground cell the length of his body. He kept himself sane by making pictures on the floor out of thousands of hard and inedible grains he had taken out of the prison soup during his years of confinement. Wright also writes of heroes and heroines in a more minor, but still impressive, key, like Noha al Zeiny, a leading official in the prosecutor's office of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, who was so disgusted by blatant official ballot rigging in an election she was supervising that she publicly denounced it in one of the few Cairo newspapers that dared to print her testimony.

Autocratic regimes in the Middle East may be sclerotic, corrupt and detested by their own people, but they are very difficult to remove. Governments in Egypt, Syria and Libya that came to power by military coups in the distant past have learned how to protect themselves against their own armies and security forces. In each of those countries the Mubarak, Assad and Qaddafi families are establishing new political dynasties. President Hosni Mubarak, jokingly known to Egyptians as the last pharaoh, has, according to Wright, now held power longer than all but two other leaders in Egypt's 6,000-year history, and is grooming his son Gamal to replace him. Political reforms have been purely cosmetic. Osama Harb, the editor of a moderate foreign policy journal, International Affairs, denounced Egypt's supposed reform efforts as a sham but found he could not withdraw from the government's inner circle without endangering himself. "It should be easy to resign, to say no," he observed. "But not here. This is Egypt."

Just one long-established regime in the Arab world has been kicked out by voters in a closely monitored election. It happened on Jan. 25, 2006, when <u>Hamas</u> won a victory over Fatah, Yasir Arafat's very corrupt nationalist movement. It was the first time, Wright says, that an Arab electorate ousted an autocratic leadership in a free and fair election -- a message that resonated throughout the region. The immediate response of the international community was to boycott <u>Hamas</u>. "The United States is like the prince in search of Cinderella," the <u>Hamas</u> leader Osama Hamdan told Wright. "The Americans have the shoe, and they want to find the kind of people who fit the shoe. If the people who are elected don't fit into the American shoe, then the Americans will reject them for democracy." Fatah was encouraged by the United States, Israel and the Western Europeans to ignore the results of the election and build up its military strength. An armed clash became inevitable, leading to the takeover of Gaza by **Hamas** gunmen in June 2007.

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THE END OF JIHAD

She is particularly good on the moribund nature of the regimes that now hold power and know they are too unpopular to allow any open expression of popular will (though some innovations, like satellite television and the Internet, have prized open their control of information). Both the Algerian election in 1992 and the Palestinian poll in 2006 showed that the West will not accept an election won by its enemies. But since the invasion of Iraq it is difficult to imagine a fair poll having any other result.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTO: EGYPTIAN RIOT POLICE CLOSED OFF VOTING STATIONS IN DISTRICTS CONTESTED BY THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER 2005. (PHOTOGRAPH BY SHAWN BALDWIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)(pg. BR8)

DRAWING (DRAWING BY JOHN GALL AND NED DREW)(pg. BR1)

Load-Date: March 2, 2008



Chasing dreams of a new era in the Mideast

The International Herald Tribune

March 1, 2008 Saturday

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Section: FEATURE; Pg. 8

Length: 1224 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn - The New York Times Media Group

Body

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Reviewed by Patrick Cockburn

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Chasing dreams of a new era in the Mideast

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*

Patrick Cockburn, a foreign correspondent for The Independent of London, is the author of "The Occupation: War and Resistance in Iraq."

Load-Date: March 2, 2008



In short

The Irish Times

July 11, 2008 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 550 words

Body

Today's other stories in brief

Witness fails to turn up at Mosley case

LONDON- A star defence witness failed to turn up in a privacy case involving sado-masochistic sex and motor racing boss Max Mosley in London's High Court yesterday.

The witness, a prostitute who secretly filmed a basement orgy of Mr Mosley and four other <u>women</u>, some dressed in German military uniforms, gave no reason for her failure to appear.

Mosley (68), president of Formula One's governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), brought the case against the News of the World, which last year published photos taken at the orgy. The case was adjourned and will resume on Monday. - (Reuters)

Indian PM seeks confidence vote

NEW DELHI - Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh sought a vote of confidence in his government after his communist allies withdrew their support in protest against a nuclear deal with the United States.

The date of the parliamentary vote will be announced today. - (Reuters)

Hamas arrests rocket attackers

GAZA - <u>Hamas</u> arrested three Palestinians who fired rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip yesterday, a militant faction said, in the first such detentions since the Islamist group and Israel agreed a truce last month.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah group, said <u>Hamas</u> men pursued its members after the attack and "abducted them" in Jabalya refugee camp.

No one was hurt in the two-rocket strike on southern Israel. - (Reuters)

Villagers kill Taliban militants

KABUL - A group of villagers in north-western Afghanistan used a machine-gun, sticks and stones to kill two Taliban militants and chase 10 others away yesterday.

In short

The confrontation between the Taliban and villagers in the north-western province of Faryab happened after militants tried to abduct aid workers building a well in Qayar district on Wednesday, said Khalil Andarabi. - (AP)

Massacre case cannot be heard

THE HAGUE - A Dutch court ruled it had no jurisdiction to hear a case brought by relatives of those massacred in Srebrenica in 1995 against the UN for failing to protect them.

But it said a civil case will proceed in September against the Dutch state for failing to prevent the murder by Bosnian Serb forces of at least 8,000 Muslim men and boys that Dutch UN peacekeepers had been charged to protect.

The UN invoked its legal immunity after relatives of some 6,000 victims filed a suit last year against the Dutch state and the UN in the Netherlands. - (Reuters)

Worshipper sues church after fall

NASHVILLE - A man claims he was so consumed by the spirit of God that he fell and hit his head while worshipping.

Now he wants a Tennessee church to pay \$2.5 million dollars for medical bills, lost income and pain and suffering. Matt Lincoln (57) said he was suing after the church's insurance company denied his claim. - **(AP)**

Man tried to sell stolen paintings

MIAMI - A Frenchman pleaded guilty in a US court to charges of conspiring to transport artwork stolen at gunpoint from a museum in Nice, including a painting by Impressionist Claude Monet.

Bernard Jean Ternus admitted he tried to broker the sale of the stolen paintings to undercover agents from the FBI and French national police.

Armed robbers stole the works from the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Nice in August 2007. - (Reuters)

Load-Date: July 11, 2008



<u>Children victims of gaza fighting; Israeli air strikes and ground raids have</u> killed and injured dozens of Palestinians

Alberni Valley Times (British Columbia)
February 15, 2008 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 672 words

Byline: Rebecca Harrison, Reuters

Body

Child victims of the same war, the two young boys lie just metres apart in hospital, bruised, bandaged and fighting for their lives.

One is Israeli, the other Palestinian. They were wounded on opposite sides of a conflict fought out daily between the Jewish state and the *Hamas* Islamists who control the Gaza Strip.

Osher Twitto, eight, had his leg blown off last week when a rocket attack fired by Palestinian militants slammed into a street near his home in the southern Israeli town of Sderot.

A few weeks earlier, six-year-old Yakuub Natil was dancing at an uncle's wedding in Gaza City when debris from an Israeli air strike crushed his legs and chest.

Now the two boys, both breathing by ventilators, lie in the emergency ward of Israel's Safra children's hospital near Tel Aviv. It is not in itself unusual for Israeli hospitals, better equipped than their Palestinian counterparts, to treat patients from the occupied West Bank and even from Gaza, whose borders Israel all but sealed when *Hamas* seized control there last year.

Many on both sides of the conflict hold up the quiet decency of Jewish and Arab doctors and patients, working and recovering alongside each other in Israeli hospitals, as a model of how the communities could be. But even doctors used to such co-operation have been struck by the poignancy of the two boys' stories.

"What's so unusual is that they are pretty much the same age with similar injuries," said hospital director Gidi Paret.

"It's the real story of life here."

Yet for all the symmetry, people on either side highlight differences. Gazans point out that they have suffered far higher casualties and hardship than Israelis.

The Twitto family and other Israelis say <u>Hamas</u> rocket fire is indiscriminately hitting civilian streets while Israeli forces try to hit only fighters.

Children victims of gaza fighting; Israeli air strikes and ground raids have killed and injured dozens of Palestinians

Israeli air strikes and ground raids into the Gaza Strip in recent months have killed and wounded dozens of Palestinians, many of them guerrilla fighters but also including civilians.

Militant rocket fire killed two Israeli civilians last year and has traumatised Sderot and nearby towns.

The injury to young Osher -- the name means Happiness -- grabbed front pages and has increased public pressure on the Israeli government to hit back.

Yakuub's grandmother Amira, her head covered in the manner of Gazan <u>women</u>, whispers soothing Arabic into his ear.

Across the ward, a bearded rabbi in a black hat prays over Osher.

Many sick Gazans and their families have been denied entry to Israel for treatment due to the Israeli blockade on the territory that tightened after <u>Hamas</u> seized control in June. Yakuub's mother is still awaiting approval to visit her son.

It is in unclear who will pay for his treatment, although the hospital is hoping a medical charity will step in.

So far, the proximity of the two boys has not brought much open sign of conciliation between the families.

Nonetheless, Yakuub's grandmother seems outraged to hear that the boy across the room was hurt by a Palestinian rocket.

"These are little kids. They shouldn't be targets," she says, shaking her head and breathing out a deep sigh. "God should strike down the people who fired those rockets."

But Osher's parents, weary and drawn after days at their son's bedside, refuse to talk to reporters or have their son photographed alongside the Palestinian. They have expressed their anger at efforts to draw parallels between the two cases.

"Such a photograph tries to show equality between the two cases and there is no truth in that," they said in a written statement provided by the hospital.

"Palestinians aim to attack our children. They are happy when we are hit."

Amira Natil, 52, says the story of the two boys illustrates the need for both sides to lay down their weapons.

Of course, she says, her family is angry at suffering they feel is inflicted by Israel, but for now, she is just happy her grandson is getting treatment across the border:

"First they strike us," she said, before adding with a laugh: "But at least they are putting as back together again."

Graphic

Photo: Reuters; Palestinian casualties seek help at an Israeli hospital. Israeli facilities are better equipped than those in Gaza.:

Load-Date: February 15, 2008

Children victims of gaza fighting; Israeli air strikes and ground raids have killed and injured dozens of Palestinians



Two sides of the story to be told on gaza blockade

Herald Express (Torquay) August 2, 2008 Saturday

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Section: Pg. 8

Length: 318 words

Body

Your story in Thursday's Herald Express (July 30), of 'brave' Jenny Linnel who, under the auspices of the 'Free Gaza' movement and the International Solidarity Movement, is proposing to break what the Israeli government see as a perfectly legitimate naval blockade of Gaza

The blockade was set there to prevent the smuggling of arms, military supplies and rockets, supplied by either Syria or Iran, for use by the *Hamas* regime against the Israeli population.

Any attempt to break the blockade will be seen as an unwarranted intrusion that may end, at best by Ms Linnel and her party being simply turned away, or at worst a tragic end to the attempt. Not unnaturally the Israeli naval military authorities will be highly suspicious of an attempt to break the blockade, and their forces will be on high alert

The Free Gaza movement and their supporters are being either disingenuous, or are simply unaware of the consequences of sending volunteers untrained in military matters into such situations.

It is my view, are once again the Free Gaza movement is being disingenuous in making no reference to the suffering of the civilian population, men, <u>women</u> and children of the southern Israeli towns of Sderot and Ashkelon, in not showing the other side of the coin.

Under constant bombardment of some 500 Kassam rockets daily, which can often end in death or severe injury, along with the destruction of homes, schools and hospitals, despite the so-called 'cease fire' between the <u>Hamas</u> regime and the Israeli government, some families are having to live full time in air raid bunkers, in order to survive.

Some of your more mature readers may recall living under the bombardment of the German V1 and V2 rockets in WW2, will have some sympathy with this.

I would therefore like to give some balance to the issue, and show that suffering does occur on both sides of the border.

BARRY KAYE

Counterpoint

Newton Abbot

Load-Date: August 21, 2009



In Lawless Nablus, the Law Changes at Sundown

The Forward November 16, 2007

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Section: News; Pg. A1 **Length:** 1196 words

Body

Tawfiq Kalboni fidgets with some wayward bills. A moneylender in this central West Bank city, Kalboni, 42, owed another moneylender about \$150,000. When he failed to pay, he said, the creditor collected on the debt, Nablus style. Five weeks ago, masked gunmen kidnapped his 14-year-old son from the doorstep of his house.

Hat in hand, Kalboni canvassed his extended family for most of the \$100,000 ransom. The rest he planned to pay in installments. Eight days later, his son was brought home, pale, weak and terrified. Kalboni said he's barely slept since.

When asked why he didn't just call the police, Kalboni snorted, What police?

Lawlessness like that is over, insisted Ahmed Sharkawi, police chief in a town ruled over the past six years not by the Palestinian Authority but by armed militiamen who often moonlight as hired guns.

Sharkawi's Nablus police force is the spearhead of a sweeping Palestinian security overhaul, partly funded by Washington. The new West Bank security plan, beginning with a crackdown on militants in Nablus and the unification of about a dozen disparate security forces, is the keystone of the American-sponsored road map peace plan. The plan requires the Palestinians to crack down on militants before peace talks can progress.

In a November 11 speech marking the third anniversary of the death of Yasser Arafat the man who made the Palestinians an international cause célèbre Palestine's current president, Mahmoud Abbas, called next week's Annapolis, Md., peace conference an historic opportunity to make a new page in the Middle East.

But to turn that new page, Abbas cautioned, the *Hamas* military wing must be crushed.

Nablus is the model for the West Bank, Sharkawi said in his crowded office, stubbing out a Marlboro for emphasis. It's the most important West Bank city, and it has also been one of the most problematic. If we can make Nablus safe, we will be deployed in other cities. At different times, Nablus has been the West Bank

hub of <u>Hamas</u> and of the renegade, Fatah-linked al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. More than any other city, Nablus has been the target of the Israeli military's feared nightly raids.

In an interview last week, senior Palestinian negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo said that the main issue for our government now is security, and by security I don't mean only technical security. I also mean political security, in which we will guarantee a safe atmosphere for our democracy to develop.

Sharkawi said the crucial factor is the nascent coordination between the security branches, which eventually, it is hoped, will absolve Israel of security responsibility in Nablus.

Sitting beside him during the interview was the chief of preventive security in Nablus, Akram Rajoub, a gruff intelligence veteran. In the past few weeks, Rajoub said, his agents have confiscated more than 70 assault rifles and have arrested unspecified numbers of <u>Hamas</u> members. While the relatively meager haul falls short of inspiring, Rajoub vowed that no **Hamas** Executive Force will rise in the West Bank, that is for sure.

Rajoub referred to the Executive Force in Gaza, a <u>Hamas</u> militia that has more than 7,000 well-trained and equipped men. Last Monday, Gaza force members opened fire on a crowd of tens of thousands of rival Fatah activists, gathered to commemorate Arafat's death. Six died, and dozens were wounded.

Rajoub concedes there's still much work to be done. On November 1, a battalion of 300 Palestinian National Security troops was dispatched to Nablus, the first detachment under an agreement with Israel for the city to be patrolled by Palestinian officers by day and by Israeli troops at night. The next day, some 200 of those soldiers, joined by Sharkawi's cops, staged the first Palestinian raid in years on militant hideouts. They encircled the Balata refugee camp, hunting al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades members. At day's end, after hundreds of rounds of fire were exchanged, most of the battle's eight wounded were National Security troops and civilians.

Kalboni, looking like a caged ani- mal in the back of his sooty moneylending shop, acknowledged that recently, the streets seem safer. More than a dozen Palestinian police checkpoints have slashed the rate of theft. Traffic cops are out in force. Most important, militants no longer dare to parade armed in the streets. But I still don't trust the police, Kalboni said. Where were they when my son was kidnapped? I had the names of the men responsible, I gave them to the police, but they did nothing.

It's a feeling shared by the Israeli security establishment over the past six years. A tenuous coordination characterized relations after the first Palestinian security agencies formed in 1994, but it snapped when the second intifada erupted in 2000.

Yoni Fighel, senior researcher at the International Policy Institute for Counter Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, warns that the security regime in Nablus could easily collapse. You can't rely on an experiment of dual sovereignty, whereby Israel controls the city at night and the Palestinians by day, said Fighel, a former West Bank military governor. It's a recipe for failure, because it requires extremely tight coordination between Israel and the Palestinians.

If the daylong Annapolis conference ends in failure, Fighel reckons militants will again prowl Nablus streets, and the city will quickly revert to the rule of the gun.

An American official here described the Nablus experiment as a rolling start. He said that a core of professional Palestinian officers is being trained theat will eventually outmuscle and outmaneuver the <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah militants who still control local refugee camps. It could be weeks, he added, before P.A. security forces begin to patrol at night, but that's the goal.

Last July, President Bush pledged \$86 million to jumpstart the training. So far, only \$6 million has gone to training Palestinian officials. Not a penny of that money, officials say, was spent on the sparkling new Jericho facility known as the Palestinian Security Sciences Academy the most expensive part of the security overhaul.

Opened in late September, the first-ever Palestinian military college boasts the only Palestinian DNA lab, a digital library and even a mirrored weight room. During morning drills under the merciless desert sun, its first 140 cadets practice marching, saluting and something uncommon among Palestinian security agencies: discipline.

The men, and two <u>women</u>, hustle with brimming briefcases among courses on military sciences, business management, conflict resolution and a must for a future security force Hebrew.

Yasser Zidan, the institution's dean, said he had feared that the cadets wouldn't show up after the first week. In a recent interview at the college, he said that every one of them returned earlier than required. The motivation here

is high, Zidan said, because they know this academy is the factory that will produce the Palestinian men who will form the foundation of the Palestinian state.

Graphic

IMAGE: gety imagesIn Training:Recruits for a new Palestinian police force are trained inthe West Bank town of Nablus.

Load-Date: November 16, 2007



Pro-Israeli professor speaks out at Hillel

The Daily Cougar: University of Houston

March 28, 2008 Friday

University Wire

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 543 words Byline: Bayan Raji

Body

There wont be an easy answer for a long-lasting peace in Israel as long as Palestinians continue to actively promote violence in the region, Harvard visiting professor and former Deputy National Security Advisor in Israel Chuck Freilich said.

"I think the amazing thing is that Israel has tolerated this as long as it has," Freilich said.

The Houston Hillel, a branch of the national organization for Jewish campus life, invited Freilich to speak Thursday at the A.D. Bruce Religion Center.

Freilich believes that Israel has attempted a number of times to offer a fair agreement to the Palestinians, but terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> want all or nothing when it comes to land concessions.

The country has offered land concessions to the Palestinians as recently as 2006, the New York Times reported. Israel, in an attempt for peace, withdrew from the Gaza Strip in September 2005.

"Seventy seven percent of Israelis favor major land concessions," he said.

Freilich said he would be in favor of Israel having discussions with <u>Hamas</u> if it meant that the discussions would result in peace.

"Im tired of morality and ideology-Ill talk to anyone," Freilich said. "Anything more than a temporary ceasefire. Its got to be long-term to be worthwhile."

Since September 2000 approximately 1,033 Israelis and more than 4,000 Palestinians have been killed by in the conflict, according to www.ifamericansknew.org.

Despite the violence in the region, Israel is prospering. The cultural life in the country is endlessly amazing and it is an up and coming silicon valley when it comes to technology, Freilich said.

Freilich did concede that Palestinians are not in an easy situation right now.

"Palestinians are in a really unenviable condition," Freilich said.

Pro- Israeli professor speaks out at Hillel

He said the Iranians have not helped the situation by contributing to organizations like <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, but that support could be stemmed if sanctions were involved.

"Iran is very vulnerable to international sanctions if the international community ever gets its act together," Freilich said.

As a world leader, the United States has an obligation to help promote peace in the region, Freilich said.

"Theres a price to being a superpower," he said.

The West Bank isnt the only region in the Arab world with its share of problems. Saudi Arabia severely restricts the rights of *women*, and Iraq is in turmoil with no end in sight.

"If the Arab world wants to live in dictatorships and autocratic regimes, it is their problem," Freilich said. "The Mideast isnt just dealing with its own problems, its exporting them to the rest of the world."

Eventually the Palestinians must stop depending on Israel and the rest of the world for economic support and build their own economy, he said.

Freilich also wondered how to strengthen somebody who is himself a good person, but who represents an organization that launches rockets at civilians and wages an onslaught of daily terror, including suicide bombings.

Israel is in a difficult situation because it wants peace, but it has the responsibility of defending its citizens from suicide bombers and rocket attacks.

"The Israeli governments responsibility is to Israeli people to provide security for Israelis, its not to take care of the Palestinians," Freilich said.

Load-Date: January 17, 2018



Israeli minister speaks to IOP

University Wire

March 13, 2008 Thursday

Copyright 2008 Harvard Crimson via U-Wire

Length: 576 words

Byline: By Roy Cohen, Harvard Crimson; SOURCE: Harvard

Dateline: CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

Body

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni called last night for the establishment of a Palestinian state to include refugees who currently reside outside of Palestinian territories in an address in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at the Institute of Politics.

"A Palestinian state is the answer for the national aspirations of Palestinians wherever they are," Livni said, emphasizing her support for a two state solution.

Livni, Israel's second *female* foreign minister, 40 years after Golda Meir, spoke last night about Israel's regional conflicts as well as the attention it garners from the international community.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the sexiest conflict in the world, and everybody wants to be involved," Livni said.

Livni said that she expects the international community to support Israel's refusal to negotiate with <u>Hamas</u>, the party that effectively controls the Gaza Strip, because "it's not only about Israeli security, but also about the stability of the entire region."

Livni, who labeled <u>Hamas</u> "extremists," said that Israel's policy is to talk with the Fatah, the Palestinian party that controls most of the West Bank.

"The idea now is to negotiate with the more pragmatic leaders," she said.

A group of protesters stood outside the Kennedy School, carrying signs objecting the Israeli government and calling for "Victory for *Hamas*" and "End the Apartheid in Gaza," but Livni also received some support from the packed Forum.

"I'm very happy that Foreign Minister Livni managed to show the audience the true face of Israel and explained the dilemmas it is facing," said Eliahu Nowersztern, an Israeli student at the Kennedy school.

When asked about the Israeli government's policy of founding new settlements, Livni expressed some unease.

"It doesn't help [the peace process]," she said, "but it doesn't make it impossible for the future."

Abigail E. Schiff '11, a board member of the Progressive Jewish Alliance, said that Livni did not provide a satisfactory response to explain the expansion of settlements.

Israeli minister speaks to IOP

Echoing the voices of many left wing activists in Israel and outside of it, Schiff said "at a time when the peace process is in a shaky place, it doesn't seem like a good time to expand the settlements."

Livni also addressed the recent casualties among Palestinian civilians caused by Israeli soldiers. She asserted a "distinction between a terrorist who is looking for a child to kill and a soldier who defends his own people and does it by mistake. This is according to the values of the international community."

Among the factors that contributed to the recent escalation between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza, Livni mentioned the weapon smuggling that makes way through Egypt to supply militants there. The control over the Philadelphi corridor, a buffer zone between Egypt and Gaza, was handed over to the Egyptian government by Israel in 2005. Livni expressed hope that Egypt will do "a better job" in preventing the weapon smuggling, and added that "maybe we did make a mistake in leaving the Philadelphi corridor and maybe we will have to change it."

When asked about whether she could think of a potential role for American Jews in the conflict, Livni answered simply "no."

"I didn't find it offensive," said Jacob M. Victor '09, president of Harvard Students for Israel and a Crimson editorial writer, "because she didn't comment one way or the other. I attributed that to her being tired."

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Load-Date: March 13, 2008



News in brief

The Jerusalem Post February 22, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 520 words

Byline: Jerusalem Post staff, Rebecca Anna Stoil, Sheera Claire Frenkel, Yaakov Lappin

Body

Woman killed, son injured in fire

A woman was killed and her four-year-old son critically injured in a blaze in their apartment in Be'er Ya'acov on Thursday. Neighbors said the woman, 30-year-old Mami Gatia, an Ethiopian immigrant who worked in an old age home, was screaming that she couldn't get out of her apartment as they tried to rescue her from the flames and thick smoke.

Her husband, an ironsmith, arrived at the scene while the inferno was still raging, and desperately tried to call for help until the firemen and paramedics arrived. * Jerusalem Post staff

'Israeli materials used in Kassams'

Israeli-made materials have been discovered in Kassam rocket factories in the Gaza Strip, Channel 2 reported Thursday.

The materials include Israeli fertilizer that Palestinian terrorists use for explosives, and metal tubing used for rocket casings. Israeli authorities were quoted as saying that they were becoming increasingly aware of the phenomenon of bringing "dual-use" materials into the Strip. * Jerusalem Post staff

Givati troops abandon post in protest

Five soldiers from the forward unit of the Givati Brigade's Shaked Battalion abandoned their posts Wednesday in protest of what they said was degrading treatment by their new platoon commander.

The soldiers, who were each sentenced Thursday to eight days in prison, abandoned their weapons at their Gaza border post and boarded the first public bus that passed by. They returned to their base that evening, after the battalion commander agreed to meet with them and hear their complaints.

The soldiers said that their new officer had caused them undue suffering, including preventing them from going to medical checks. Last week, they said, one of the soldiers had brought sofas from his house for their tent, and the officer took them outside and publicly burned them. * Rebecca Anna Stoil

MK 'knew in advance' of border breach

News in brief

MK Michael Melchior (Labor-Meimad) knew of the <u>Hamas</u> plan to breach the Gaza-Egypt border more than 48 hours before it occurred, but did not notify any security authorities, according to an Army Radio report Thursday.

Melchior refused to comment on the report, which said that a religious leader in the Gaza Strip notified Melchior of *Hamas*'s plans.

<u>Hamas</u> blew open the sealed border with Egypt on January 23, letting hundreds of thousands of Palestinians break out of the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Former National Security Council chief Giora Eiland said that Melchior should have reported any information at his disposal to the relevant intelligence officials.

Ya'akov Perry, former Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) chief, said the "question of whether Israel knew about the breach is of little importance since the Egyptians allowed the fence to be torn down."

* Sheera Claire Frenkel

Foreign worker held over beating

A foreign worker from Moldova has been arrested on suspicion of attacking a 95 year-old **women** in her care in Kfar Saba.

The accused denied the charges.

The arrest was made after three passers-by called the police after witnessing the caretaker beating the elderly woman while she was sitting in her wheelchair. * Yaakov Lappin

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Israeli ground forces leave northern Gaza town

The Daily Gleaner (New Brunswick)

March 4, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 300 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Israeli troops withdrew from northern Gaza on Monday, but Israel's leaders warned that a broad offensive against Islamic militants would continue as Israeli air strikes and Palestinian rocket attacks persisted into the night.

<u>Hamas</u> proclaimed the Israeli pullback a victory for its fighters. Yet, while defiant in public, the movement's leaders signalled they were trying to work out a truce after nearly a week of escalating combat.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said peace talks with moderate Palestinians should go on despite the latest violence in the Gaza Strip. The West Bank-based administration of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said talks would stay suspended during fighting.

On the eve of a visit by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. officials called for a quick resumption of negotiations.

Israel's army withdrew its infantry and tanks from the Gaza town of Jebaliya early Monday after more than two days of fighting, leaving a swath of destruction. Roads had been plowed up, cars crushed by tanks and electric poles toppled.

"There's no word to describe this horrible scene. I can say nothing but that God is greater than the aggressors, and God is going to avenge us," said Sami Asliyeh, who lost two *female* teenage cousins when a shell struck the family home Saturday.

Israeli troops moved into Jebaliya late Friday as part of a major offensive in response to rocket fire by the Islamic militants of *Hamas*, which seized control in Gaza last June after five days of fighting with Abbas' supporters.

Recent rocket fire has reached as far as Ashkelon, 18 kilometres north of Gaza, suddenly putting the city of 120,000 people under daily attack.

Olmert stressed that the offensive would continue.

"We are acting and we will continue to act in a way that is painful and effective."

Load-Date: March 4, 2008



60,000 defy gun barrier Gazans blow up border

Townsville Bulletin (Australia)

January 25, 2008 Friday

1 - Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 308 words

Body

ABOUT 60,000 Gazans poured into Egypt yesterday to stock up on goods in defiance of an Israeli blockade, after militants blew up the barrier on the border.

Empty cars and donkey carts streamed into Egypt before returning to Gaza weighed down with goods.

Two thousand Egyptian border security personnel looked on as Palestinian crowds walked the streets of Rafah.

Shops opened early to serve them.

Parts of the barrier were knocked down by at least 15 explosions and a bulldozer, allowing people to leave the impoverished territory, which Israel locked down last Thursday.

The Rafah breakout came hours after a tense stand-off at the closed border crossing, where gunfire erupted after a group of *Hamas* demonstrators, mostly *women*, forced their way across.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he had authorised the crossing of the Palestinians as long as they were unarmed.

"I told (the security forces) to allow them to buy their basic needs and go back to Gaza as long as they are not carrying arms or anything illegal," President Mubarak said.

All side roads in Rafah were closed.

In Berlin, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad called on Israel to lift the blockade, saying the rush of Gazans to Egypt was proof of the `difficulties Palestinians face and the need to reopen border posts'.

King Abdullah II of Jordan also called for an end to the blockade, warning Israel not to expect `serious' peace talks with the Palestinians if it pursued its punitive action in Gaza.

In Israel, however, officials voiced fears that Gazan militants would have used the shopping trip as an opportunity to rearm.

"We are worried, as these breaches not only permit Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip, but also permit *Hamas* to easily infiltrate arms and terrorists from Egypt," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The US agreed and formally expressed concern to Egypt.

Load-Date: January 25, 2008



60,000 storm into Egypt; Palestinians snap up supplies denied to them by Israel

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

January 24, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A29

Length: 285 words

Byline: Agence France-Presse

Dateline: RAFAH, Egypt

Body

Tens of thousands of Gazans poured into Egypt yesterday to stock up on goods in defiance of an Israeli blockade, after militants blew up parts of the barrier that marks the border.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he had authorized the crossing of the Palestinians as long as they were unarmed.

"I told [the security forces] to allow them to buy their basic needs and go back to Gaza as long as they are not carrying arms or anything illegal," Mubarak told reporters in Cairo.

Up to 60,000 Gazans crossed the border, Egyptian officials said.

Parts of the barrier were knocked down by at least 15 explosions and a bulldozer, allowing people to leave the impoverished territory, which Israel completely locked down last week.

Some 2,000 Egyptian border security personnel did not intervene as crowds of Palestinians walked the streets of Rafah and shops opened early to serve them.

Empty cars and donkey carts streamed into Egypt before returning to Gaza weighed down with goods.

"I brought all the money that I had, around \$100. I am going to buy cigarettes here and then resell them in Gaza," said Ahmed Halaweh.

All side roads in Rafah were closed in a bid to control the flow of people.

The Rafah breakout came just hours after a tense standoff at the closed border crossing, where gunfire erupted after a group of *Hamas* demonstrators, mostly *women*, forced their way across.

Israeli officials voiced fears that Egypt's decision to allow Gazans to cross the border unhindered would allow the militants to rearm.

60,000 storm into Egypt; Palestinians snap up supplies denied to them by Israel

"We are worried, as these breaches not only permit Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip, but also permit <u>Hamas</u> to easily infiltrate arms and terrorists from Egypt," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Agence France-Presse; Palestinian kids play on destroyed concrete walls that used to separate Egyptian Rafah and southern Gaza Strip.;

Load-Date: January 24, 2008



MAJOR QUAKE STRIKES CHILE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 15, 2007 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-6

Length: 561 words

Body

CALAMA, Chile -- A major earthquake crushed cars, damaged thousands of houses and terrified people for hundreds of miles around yesterday. Authorities reported at least two deaths and more than 100 injuries.

The quake, which struck at 12:40 p.m., shook the Chilean capital Santiago, 780 miles to the south of the epicenter, and was felt as far away as the other side of the continent -- in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1,400 miles to the east.

The U.S. Geological Survey calculated the magnitude at 7.7. It was followed by several aftershocks, including three larger than magnitude 5. The University of Chile's Seismological Institute put the epicenter near Quillagua, a tiny desert village in the foothills of the Andes. Two <u>women</u> were killed in the town of Tocopilla, 25 miles from the epicenter, when their houses collapsed, authorities said. Hospital director Juan Urrutia said at least 100 people were treated there for injuries or panic. Tocopilla Mayor Luis Moyano said 1,200 houses were badly damaged there.

Hamas widens crackdown

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> rulers issued an edict yesterday banning journalists from working in the coastal strip unless they submit to sweeping press restrictions, and it said it would soon impose new restraints on public gatherings.

The moves, which follow the arrests of hundreds of opposition activists, appeared to be part of an intensifying clampdown after the Islamic militant group was confronted with a mass demonstration called by the rival Fatah movement that led to violence.

Monday's march by 250,000 Gazans was the biggest challenge to <u>Hamas</u> since its fighters seized control of the territory in June. Discontent is growing, in part because Israel's closure of Gaza's borders after the takeover has shut factories, cost thousands of jobs and driven up prices.

Iranian power struggle?

TEHRAN, Iran -- Iran's government announced yesterday it charged a former senior nuclear negotiator with passing classified information to the West in a move apparently aimed at silencing domestic opponents of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The hard-line leader has sought to take closer control of Iran's nuclear negotiations with the U.N. But he has faced a backlash from critics, including top conservatives in the regime, who say his tough stance rejecting compromise has deepened the country's troubles.

MAJOR QUAKE STRIKES CHILE

The charges appear to be Mr. Ahmadinejad's attempt to push back against pressure for a softer nuclear policy and to discredit his growing political opposition.

If so, his top target is likely his most powerful rival, ex-president Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is believed to seek a more moderate stance. The former nuclear negotiator who has been charged, Hossein Mousavian, is close to Mr. Rafsanjani.

Strikes cripple France

PARIS -- Transport workers shut down most trains yesterday, testing the patience of Parisians forced to walk, bike or skate to work with a strike aimed at derailing President Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to strip away labor protections he says hurt France's competitiveness.

Faced with a new day of strikes today and the first major challenge to his crusade to modernize France via wide reforms, Mr. Sarkozy called on unions to enter talks.

Mr. Sarkozy is known as a leader in a rush to accomplish his goals -- and to sweep aside obstacles. But it appears Mr. Sarkozy does not want to take a chance on his reforms unraveling.

Load-Date: November 15, 2007



Israel strikes back, threatens more

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 3, 2008 Monday

Fourth Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 735 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin in Gaza With agencies

Body

THE United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, has condemned Israel's "disproportionate and excessive use of force" in a bloody raid into Gaza that has killed more than 60 Palestinians, as Israel vowed to press on with the offensive, threatening even stronger action.

"Israel has no intention of stopping the fight against the terrorist organisations even for a minute," the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, told his cabinet yesterday, facing the new challenge of long-range rockets hitting the major southern Israeli city of Ashkelon.

In the most recent Israeli strikes, five Palestinians were killed in the north of the <u>Hamas</u>-run Gaza Strip early yesterday as the military continued the blitz against militants, medics said.

Three people, including one civilian and one <u>Hamas</u> militant, were killed in two separate strikes in the north, where Israeli ground and air troops were operating for a second day, they said.

Another two people, whose identities were not immediately available, were killed near Jabalya, medics said.

Mr Ban told Saturday's emergency UN Security Council meeting: "While recognising Israel's right to defend itself, I condemn the disproportionate and excessive use of force that has killed or injured so many civilians, including children".

The number of fatalities from Saturday's invasion and air strikes is thought to be the highest one-day death toll in more than seven years of conflict. Together with the deaths of two Israeli soldiers in action on Saturday and the killing of an Israeli civilian by Palestinian rocket fire last Wednesday, the weekend tank and air assault brings to about 100 the number killed since Israel assassinated five <u>Hamas</u> leaders on Wednesday.

Most of Saturday's violence occurred in and around the sprawling Jabalya refugee camp in the northern part of Gaza City. Yesterday heavy machine-gun fire still sounded from the Israeli tanks occupying the eastern fringe of the area, while in the west many roads and backstreets were choked by funeral processions and mourning services for the previous day's victims.

In central Jabalya yesterday morning members and neighbours of the Attallah family had just finished searching the ruins of a house where six members of the family were killed and another eight wounded by an Israeli air strike on Saturday afternoon.

Israel strikes back, threatens more

"They fired three missiles at the house and two of them exploded and one didn't explode and was taken away by the Civil Defence," said a cousin of the stricken family who called himself Abu Mustafa.

"There were no militants here, no weapons and no fighting. We don't know why they picked this building for attack."

The missiles pancaked the two-storey building killing six adult members of the family and orphaning five children, who were also seriously injured.

Many people were reportedly having trouble getting the injured to hospital because it was too dangerous to leave the house, and no ambulance would come near for fear of being fired on. Saturday's dead included several <u>women</u> and children killed when Israeli heavy ordnance struck the homes where they were hiding.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that the ferocity of the onslaught on the Jabalya refugee camp stemmed from an Israeli army doctrine of using huge firepower to extract troops killed or injured in combat - a rare occurrence in Gaza in recent years.

Despite the scale of the bloodshed, the Israeli Defence Force has stressed that its continuing operation in the Jabalya district is not to be confused with the ground offensive that Israel says may be necessary to wipe out *Hamas* and end missile fire from Gaza at Israeli border communities.

The rockets fired included one that killed a 47-year-old Israeli civilian in the border town of Sderot and several longer-range missiles, which for the first time struck the centre of the coastal city of Ashkelon, greatly increasing the number of Israeli civilians now at risk from Gaza-based militants.

The killings have cast a familiar pall over the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority chairman, Mahmoud Abbas.

Mr Abbas formally suspended all contacts with Israel yesterday in protest at the blitz on Gaza, his spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeina, said. "The negotiations are suspended, as are all contacts on all levels, because in light of the Israeli aggression such communication has no meaning," he said, adding the suspension would continue "until the aggression stops".

Graphic

TWO PHOTOS: Rockets in, rockets out ... a Palestinian man cries out after his Gaza house was hit by an Israeli missile. Photo: Reuters/Suhaib Salem Casualty ... an Israeli woman is treated for shock after a Palestinian rocket attack on the border town of Sderot. Photo: AP/Tara Todras-Whitehill

Load-Date: March 2, 2008



Letters - How can today's Israelis behave like Nazis?

Irish News

February 8, 2008 Friday

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Section: Pg. 23

Length: 321 words

Body

Israel's siege of the Gaza is "designed as a form of collective punishment on the residents of Gaza to get *Hamas* to stop the rockets" (Alex Benjamin, January 26).

Heaven help us, for that logic is straight from the catechism of the Nazi propaganda king Joseph Goebbels.

That noted, 'collective punishment' of an innocent civilian population is banned by international law.

But Mr Benjamin's unapologetic guilty plea is sadly typical of the mindset of the 'terrorist' state he supports.

Did their 'defence forces' not fire a million cluster bombs into fields, schools and hospitals during the recent Lebanon conflict?

The Israeli government is a coalition strongly influenced by its extreme parties who would like to see all non-Jews expelled from Israel as the 'integrity' of the Zionist state is in danger.

In the meantime, Arab citizens do not have the same rights as Jews but we are told that Israel is a 'western democracy'.

The particularly vicious treatment which Mr Benjamin admits has been reserved for the people of Gaza is usually justified because those people democratically elected <u>Hamas</u> as their leaders - and the Israelis will not deal with 'terrorists'.

Most Israel prime ministers were designated as terrorists by the British.

And the state itself has been associated with some of the worst 'terrorist' atrocities.

The so-called South Lebanon Army was armed and backed by Israel.

It's notorious leader, Major Haddad, invaded the Palestinian refugee camps at Sabra and Chatila and massacred thousands of innocents including **women** and children.

He was not tried by his Israeli masters.

They are now scouring the world for art stolen by Nazis - and seeking compensation.

But they refuse to compensate Arabs forced to flee from their 'terrorist' state and continue to 'legally' steal Arab east Jerusalem etc.

Letters - How can today's Israelis behave like Nazis?

Perhaps we are indebted to Alex Benjamin for letting the 'truth' out of the bag for once.

ALI-AL, Andersonstown, Belfast.

Load-Date: February 8, 2008



Graying rebels rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 16, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 741 words

Byline: By Hamza Hendawi THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Body

Looking back to the U.N. partition plan of 1947, which envisaged Jewish and Palestinian states living side by side in peace, Nayef Hawatmeh comes to the painful acknowledgment of an opportunity missed.

"After 60 years, we are struggling for what we could have had in 1947," Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, laments. "We have missed many historic opportunities."

In a year when Israel is celebrating its 60th birthday, Hawatmeh and his generation of leaders are still in exile and fading from the scene.

Visited by The Associated Press in Damascus, the Syrian capital, these graying grandfathers radiate nostalgia and bitterness. They speak of wasted opportunities, perceived successes, failures and divisions. In monologues that can last 90 minutes and brook no interruption, they voice anger at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for negotiating with Israel, but also at *Hamas* for taking their struggle down the path of radical Islam.

Hawatmeh and others of his generation - Ahmed Jibril, George Habash, the shadowy Black September movement, hijacker Leila Khaled - exploded onto the world stage in the 1960s and 1970s with deadly raids into Israel, the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics, and a string of airline hijackings and assaults on passenger lines at foreign airports.

Branded as terrorists in Israel and the West, they saw themselves more in the Che Guevara mold, inspired by Cuba and Algeria and the Viet Cong. They say their goal, steeped in Marxist and Arab nationalist ideology, was to liberate Palestine from an "imperialist" Israel and draw attention to the Palestinians' plight.

"The whole world now says the Palestinians must have their state," says Jibril, whose part of the alphabet soup of factions is the PFLP-General Command. He rejects any suggestion that his years of struggle came to nothing. "I am sure that if I don't see it in my lifetime, my son will. If not, then my grandchildren will."

But today the face of the Palestinian struggle is the suicide bomber, acting in the name of Islam, not nationalism.

Graying rebels rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

The borders envisaged in the U.N. plan have been thoroughly scrambled. The war that followed the Arab rejection of partition left Israel ruling even more land, and the territory left to the Palestinians is split, in conditions close to civil war, between the West Bank where Abbas is based, and the Gaza Strip under *Hamas*.

Some of the old-timers have paid a personal price. Jibril, 70, lost one of his sons, 38-year-old Jihad, in a car bombing in Lebanon in 2002.

And time is thinning their ranks. Habash, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine specialized in hijackings, died in a hospital in Damascus in January at 81. According to close aide Maher al-Taher, his dying words, upon hearing of renewed unrest in the Gaza Strip, were: "There's still hope."

Although the leaders interviewed say they have no regrets, and insist they ultimately will prevail over Israel, some of them wonder aloud whether things might have been different.

"Would you believe me if I tell you that if I had to do it all over, I would?" said Mohammed Oudeh, architect of Black September's 1972 Olympics attack that left 11 Israeli athletes dead. "But maybe, just maybe, we should have shown some flexibility.

"Back in our days, it was, 'The whole of Palestine or nothing,' but we should have accepted a Palestinian state next to Israel."

However, Oudeh is quick to add that conditions were different then, and the two-state solution might not have ended the conflict.

Though some sympathize with *Hamas*' continuation of the fight, they dislike its ideology.

"Muslim extremism can fascinate people for some time, but it will lead to nothing," said Oudeh, 71. "Resorting to religion is born out of the frustration that comes after a series of defeats."

And as for Abbas, "I am disgusted every time I see him hug and kiss Ehud Olmert," the Israeli prime minister.

Khaled, the Palestinians' best known <u>female</u> hijacker, says the Palestinian leadership has "committed a lot of blunders, which delayed Palestinian statehood."

They jumped too quickly into negotiations with Israel, thus "defused" the Palestinian uprising and "blocked the golden path that I and other comrades paved for the Palestinians," she said at her home in Amman, in neighboring Jordan.

But <u>Hamas</u> is not an option, she said, denouncing its takeover of the Gaza Strip last year as an "act of treason that divided the land and people."

Notes	
World	
Graphic	

PHOTO

Graying rebels rue missed chances Deadly Palestinian militants of the 1960s and '70s cite blunders that hindered goal: statehood.

PHOTOS - Leila Khaled, a Palestinian hijacker, in Lebanon in 1969 (right) and (left) in an interview with The Associated Press in Amman, Jordan, last month. The Associated Press

Load-Date: March 16, 2008



Mideast peace talks jeopardized as firefights continue; Several more die in battles throughout region yesterday

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick)

January 18, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C3

Length: 301 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Israel pummelled Gaza yesterday with air and ground fire as Palestinian rockets slammed into southern Israel, endangering recently restarted peace negotiations.

The Israeli attacks killed a militant leader and one of his *female* relatives along with five others in Gaza.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert vowed to strike Palestinian militants "without compromise, without concessions and without mercy." His forces carried out stepped-up attacks, but Olmert gave no hint that a large-scale offensive was near.

The widening violence has clouded Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, resumed after a Mideast conference in November sponsored by U.S. President George W. Bush. The spike in violence has drawn condemnations from moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Israel's partner in the peace negotiations.

Yesterday, Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeineh told The Associated Press that the violence is calling into question further talks.

"No one can proceed with negotiations when the situation is like this," he said.

Gaza militants, led by <u>Hamas</u>, fired dozens of rockets and mortars at Israeli towns, causing no serious injuries but further traumatizing residents who have been putting up with daily barrages for many months.

One rocket slammed into the side of a house, slightly injuring two people, police said.

Israeli struck back at northern Gaza, targeting rocket squads and areas militants frequently use. A leader of the small <u>Hamas</u>-allied Popular Resistance Committees, Raad Abu al-Ful, and a woman relative were killed when a missile hit their vehicle, the faction said. Earlier, Palestinian officials said the relative was al-Ful's wife.

The PRC pledged retaliation.

"Sooner or later, (we) will, by God, avenge every drop of bloodshed, and the response will be equal to the crime," the group said in a statement.

Load-Date: January 18, 2008



It took this call for a boycott to make Israeli government take notice; The Irish Congress of Trade Unions sparked controversy recently by calling for a boycott of Israeli goods. Belfast-based Brendan Mackin - past President of the ICTU - explains the background to the boycott call

Sunday Life September 30, 2007

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Length: 1045 words

Body

Since then the Middle East in particular has had a sharp increase in violent conflict with Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon experiencing invasion and war.

In addition, there is a growing fear of nuclear threats from Israel and potentially Iran.

However, it is the conflict between Israel and Palestine that began in 1947 which, internationally, many people believe is the source of Middle East estrangement from Western society.

Backed unconditionally by the US, and more covertly by the EU, Israel's policies have almost destroyed the potential viability of Palestine as an economic and geographical entity.

A recent British Government report that highlighted the woeful state of the Palestinian economy called on Israel to strike a balance between short-term security needs and Palestinian economic development.

The report "Economic Aspects of Peace in the Middle East" confirms the crisis in the Palestinian economy.

It also reports that although International Aid of £5bn was donated since 1993, Palestinians are getting poorer, with 65pc living below the poverty line.

In 2005, the Palestinian population was more than half that of Israel, yet Palestinian GDP was only 3pc of Israel's. Since the start of the second intifada in 2000, per capital GDP has fallen a third from 1612 dollars in 1999 to 1129 dollars in 2006.

The election of a <u>Hamas</u> government in January 2006 also led to increased sanctions and blockades as Israel stepped up its programme of annexation and refused to deal with a <u>Hamas</u>-led government.

The exclusion of <u>Hamas</u> is viewed by many as a contributory factor towards the breaking up of Palestine into the Fatah-led West Bank and **Hamas**-controlled Gaza.

It took this call for a boycott to make Israeli government take notice The Irish Congress of Trade Unions sparked controversy recently by calling for a boycott

It was also the pretext for tightening the stranglehold on Gaza. Israel, with US and EU support, imposed conditions for Palestinian participation in any negotiations. This included *Hamas*.

The three conditions are:

- 1. Recognise Israel and its right to exist;
- 2. Renounce violence;
- 3. Accept past agreement, in particular, the Road Map as agreed between the US, Europe, UN and Russia.

In what he called the hypocrisy of power, Noam Chomsky has spoken and written that no such conditions are imposed on Israel.

Measured against the three conditions imposed on the Palestinians:

- 1. Israel does not recognise Palestine;
- Israel does not renounce violence;
- 3. Israel rejects past agreements and its support for the Road Map which it formally accepted, has been effectively neutered by 14 amendments.

It is within the context of the above situation that in July 2007 the biennial delegate conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) passed a motion in response to mounting public concern about the policies of the government of Israel.

The motion from Belfast Trades Council called for the ICTU to "support and promote a boycott campaign of Israeli goods and services similar to the boycott of South African goods during the Apartheid regime".

The ICTU has received both criticism and support for this motion from many quarters. We have been criticised by some politicians and individuals who are supportive of Israel, just as we have been praised by people who support the human rights of the Palestinian people.

We have also been directly contacted by diplomatic representatives of the Israeli government.

The Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU met with Israel's Ambassador to the UK last month in Belfast, and his equivalent in Dublin met with the ICTU's Executive Council. Both meetings were cordial and respectful. Both Ambassadors made clear their disappointment with the ICTU position, and it was made clear in turn by the ICTU representatives that our concerns were genuine and serious.

We made it clear that this was not a sudden shift in our thinking, that we had been vocal supporters for human rights at home and abroad.

For many years, ICTU conferences had passed motions critical of oppression in many countries, including Israel. However, as admitted by the Ambassadors, it took this call for a boycott of Israeli goods to make the Israeli government take notice.

The Israeli representatives were also told about ICTU's consistent opposition to violence and oppression in Northern Ireland, regardless of its origins. We have opposed paramilitary violence as well as working for the full re-integration of ex-prisoners in to our economy and society.

We have denounced state abuses such as strip-searching and we have lobbied for accountability in the security forces.

Our activists have been arrested, assaulted, and denounced by so-called 'respectable' politicians.

It took this call for a boycott to make Israeli government take notice The Irish Congress of Trade Unions sparked controversy recently by calling for a boycott

We have also worked to head the divisions in our society, through initiatives such as Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, Counteract and TradeMark.

We are assisting and advising migrant workers for the same reasons that we struggled to make the workplace as harmonious as possible between nationalists and unionists, Protestants and Catholics. A united workforce is a stronger workplace.

It has to be said that the ICTU policy is more than a call for a simple boycott.

It also calls for us to "strengthen solidarity links between the Irish, Palestinian and Israeli labour movements through exchange visits".

We are at present organising a visit to both Israel and Palestine in which senior trade union leaders from both parts of the island will be meeting workers, trade unionists, politicians, and NGO's from Israel and Palestine.

When we are in Ramallah and Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, we will make clear our continued firm opposition to violence. We abhor all acts of war aimed at civilians, those carried by missiles from Israeli jets and tanks or by Palestinian suicide bombers and rockets.

We believe that a two-state solution is the most viable solution. We favour independent states for Israelis and Palestinians which are viable, secure, secular and democratic, and where the rights of minorities and <u>women</u> are protected.

We will support our sisters and brothers in the trade unions of both states towards mutual respect and cooperation, just as we support them now in their mutual quest for a just peace.

Load-Date: February 4, 2008



Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 7, 2008, Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. P7A

Length: 1302 words

Byline: Aron Heller and Steven Gutkin, The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - A gunman entered the library of a rabbinical seminary and opened fire on a crowded nighttime study session Thursday, killing eight people and wounding nine before he was slain, police and rescue workers said. It was the first major militant attack in Jerusalem in more than four years.

<u>Hamas</u> militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

The day's violence, which also included a deadly ambush of an army patrol near Israel's border with Gaza, was likely to complicate attempts by Egypt to arrange a truce between Israel and Palestinian militants. The United States is backing the Egyptian effort.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev and moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the shooting, but Regev said the Palestinian government must take steps against the extremists - not just denounce their attacks.

"Tonight's massacre in Jerusalem is a defining moment," he told The Associated Press. "It is clear that those people celebrating this bloodshed have shown themselves to be not only the enemies of Israel but of all of humanity."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who only on Wednesday persuaded Abbas to return to peace talks with Israel, called the attack an "act of terror and depravity."

Israeli defense officials said the attacker came from east Jerusalem, the predominantly Palestinian section of the city. Jerusalem's Palestinians have Israeli ID cards that give them freedom of movement in Israel, unlike Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the attacker walked through the seminary's main gate and entered the library, where witnesses said about 80 people were gathered. He carried an assault rifle and pistol and used both weapons in the attack. Rosenfeld said at least six empty bullet clips were found on the floor.

Two hours after the shooting, police found the body of the eighth victim. Rescue workers said nine people were wounded, three seriously.

Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

David Simchon, head of the seminary, said the students had been preparing a celebration for the new month on the Jewish calendar, which includes the holiday of Purim. "We were planning to have a Purim party here tonight and instead we had a massacre," he told Channel 2 TV.

Yehuda Meshi Zahav, head of the Zaka rescue service, entered the library after the attack. "The whole building looked like a slaughterhouse. The floor was covered in blood. The students were in class at the time of the attack," he said. "The floors are littered with holy books covered in blood."

Witnesses described a terrifying scene during the shooting, with students jumping out windows to escape.

One of the students, Yitzhak Dadon, said he shot the attacker twice in the head. "I laid on the roof of the study hall, cocked my gun and waited for him. He came out of the library spraying automatic fire," he said.

Police said an Israeli soldier in the area then shot the man dead. After the shooting, hundreds of seminary students demonstrated outside the building, screaming for revenge and chanting, "Death to Arabs."

The seminary is the Mercaz Harav yeshiva in the Kiryat Moshe quarter at the entrance to Jerusalem, a prestigious center of Jewish studies identified with the leadership of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank.

It was founded by the late Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Hacohen Kook, the movement's spiritual founder, and serves about 400 high school students and young Israeli soldiers, and many of them carry arms.

"It's very sad tonight in Jerusalem," Mayor Uri Lupolianski told Channel 2 TV. "Many people were killed in the heart of Jerusalem."

Rabbi Shlomo Amar, one of Israel's two chief rabbis, led a prayer session at the seminary after the shooting. Students huddled together, and many sobbed uncontrollably.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah's Al-Manar satellite TV station said a previously unknown group called the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh and Gaza was responsible for the attack. The claim could not immediately be verified. Mughniyeh, a Hezbollah commander, was killed in a car bomb in Syria last month. Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the assassination.

<u>Hamas</u> stopped just short of claiming responsibility for the Jerusalem shootings. "We bless the operation. It will not be the last," <u>Hamas</u> said in a statement sent to reporters by text message.

At mosques in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip, many residents performed prayers of thanksgiving - only performed in cases of great victory to thank God.

About 7,000 Gazans marched in the streets of Jebaliya, firing in the air in celebration, and visited homes of those killed and wounded in the latest Israeli incursion. In the southern town of Rafah, residents distributed sweets to moving cars, and militants fired mortars in celebration.

Rice said she spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to express U.S. condolences to the people of Israel and the families of the victims.

"This barbarous act has no place among civilized peoples and shocks the conscience of all peace-loving nations. There is no cause that could ever justify this action," she said.

Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the "abominable" attack and urged the world to rally with it against terrorism.

"Israel expects the nations of the world to support it in its war against those who murder students, <u>women</u> and children, by any means and with respect for neither place nor target," it said.

At his West Bank headquarters, Abbas condemned the attack. "The president condemned all attacks that target civilians, whether they are Palestinian or Israeli," a statement said.

Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

Abbas had briefly suspended talks to protest an Israeli offensive in Gaza that killed more than 120 Palestinians.

The attack came on the same day Egyptian officials were trying to mediate a truce between Palestinian militants and Israel. The proposal, backed by the United States, would stop rocket fire on Israel in exchange for an end to Israeli attacks on militants and the resumption of trade and travel from Gaza.

An Israeli official confirmed that Israel is open to the idea of letting guards from Abbas' moderate Fatah movement oversee Gaza's borders - one of the main tenets of the truce idea, but the Israeli spoke before the shooting, and it was not immediately known whether his country's position would change.

The Egyptian proposal reflected a growing realization that Israel's current policy of blockade and military action has failed to weaken <u>Hamas</u>, which has proven its ability to disrupt a U.S.-sponsored drive to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal by the end of the year.

Still, a deal between <u>Hamas</u> and Israel was far from certain, with Israel fearing the militants will use any lull to rearm and <u>Hamas</u> raising tough conditions, such as a demand for Israel to stop targeting militants in the West Bank as well as Gaza.

Other militant groups are also likely to disrupt any attempts to restore calm. Early Thursday, Palestinian militants set off a bomb on the Gaza border, blowing up an Israeli army jeep and killing a soldier. Late Thursday, Israel said it shot a group of militants trying to plant a bomb in the same area. Palestinian officials said three militants were killed.

The seminary shooting was the first major attack by Palestinian militants in Jerusalem since a suicide bomber killed eight people on Feb. 22, 2004. There have been several attacks since then, and police and the military say they have foiled many other attempts. Militants have also hit other targets in Israel. Thursday's shooting was the deadliest incident in Israel since a suicide bomber killed 11 people in Tel Aviv on April 17, 2006.

Between 2001 and 2004, at the height of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Jerusalem was a frequent target of Palestinian attacks, including suicide bombings on buses.

Load-Date: March 8, 2008



St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 2, 2008 Friday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. C10

Length: 1350 words

Body

Right to choose should include right to information

Regarding "Abortion bill faces a fight" (April 22): I don't know where the idea came from that this bill would have a negative effect on rape victims. Anyone who has read the bill knows that is false. This bill does not take away anyone's rights; it strengthens and maintains them. Laws would be enacted that would make it illegal for someone to force a woman into having an abortion and require that she be provided with more adequate information for making her choice.

Choosing whether or not to have an abortion is a big decision, one that can affect a woman for the rest of her life. Would it be a burden and "undue requirement" for the physician to give a woman all of the facts? Would you receive any type of surgery without first learning about the procedure and the state of your condition? It should be no different for surgical abortions.

If <u>women</u> really had the "right to choose" then they would have the full, necessary information to do so and would be protected from being forced or pressured into a particular decision.

Erin Gray | Oakville

Please do get over it

I couldn't agree with Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia more. He told people to "get over" the 2000 election ("'Get over it'," April 29). I am sick of reading and hearing liberal publications, including the Post-Dispatch, whine about the outcome of the election in 2000. Every liberal publication out there, including The New York Times, Washington Post, Time and Newsweek, conducted full recounts after the 2000 election. Guess what? George W. Bush still won!

Justice Scalia absolutely was correct in stating that Mr. Bush ultimately would have prevailed. If the election went to the House of Representatives, the Republicans had the majority by more than 25 seats. Who do you think they would have voted for? So "get over it" already!

Also, Why is it OK to ask for a photo identification when you board an airplane, cash a check at a bank or rent a video and not require one when you vote? If this hurt the Democrats so badly, why did they pick up three House seats in the 2006 congressional election in Indiana?

Martin W. Gallagher | St. Louis County

Wright is wrong argument

The Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., ex-Marine and longtime pastor of Democratic Party presidential front-runner Sen. Barack Obama, D-III., is an African-American who is irate at what he believes to be unsatisfactory progress in the sphere of race relations in the United States.

Having said that, I do not take Mr. Wright's use of the phrase "God damn America!" to be unpatriotic. The original Jeremiah, a prophet of ancient Israel, is noted for not having sugar-coated his opinions as to what he thought was wrong with Israel vis-à-vis her compliance with God's will. In fact, the word jeremiad - derived from his name - denotes such righteous tirades. I regard Mr. Wright's cited speech, appropriately enough, as a jeremiad: a warning speech, a speech that vigorously complains about an existing situation and which threatens to "sic" God - approximately the meaning of "God damn" - upon the nation if the situation is not rectified.

The chief theoretician of the nation's rightists, the Very Rev. Pat Robertson, indulges in such verbal pyrotechnics each time some catastrophe befalls us. Hurricanes hitting Florida were blamed by this holy man on Florida's tolerance of homosexuals; and similarly the catastrophe of Sept. 11, 2001.

Rightist talk radio won't convince me that I should not vote for Mr. Obama, should it be that he is given the nod to be the opponent of U.S. Sen. John McCain.

Donn S. Miller | Tamms, III.

Journalistic balderdash

Charles Krauthammer's "Let's nuke Iran!" rant ("How to deal with nuclear rogue states", April 20) should have been printed in the "Comics" section. The more Mr. Krauthammer writes on Iran, the more fanciful and unbelievable he becomes. His solution for dealing with Iran is nothing short of a large pot of neoconservative stew seasoned with a dash of "we must protect Israel;" a homemade spice from his own kitchen. The article's content and tone are worthy of the Rush Limbaugh award for journalistic balderdash.

But Mr. Krauthammer isn't resting on his Iranian laurels! He warns his faithful readers about U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's unholy alliances with those to whom Mr. Krauthammer refers as "the three amigos: Tony Rezko, the indicted fixer; Jeremiah Wright, the racist reverend; William Ayers, the unrepentant terrorist."

Another piece of political balderdash prepared in and issued from the Washington Bubble. Be afraid! Be very afraid! A black man might be running our country! Mr. Obama must be scaring the heck out of the neocons.

Michael K. Broughton | Green Park

Hamas isn't interested in peaceful coexistence

People are "up in arms" about former President Jimmy Carter meeting with <u>Hamas</u> because it is a terrorist organization, to answer a question posed in a recent letter. <u>Hamas</u> was founded to overthrow the state of Israel and will not recognize any rights of religious groups other than radical Islamists.

The only thing this group wants to negotiate is the destruction of Israel, not peaceful coexistence.

It is unlikely that peace will result from any "dialogue" with a group dedicated to the obliteration of its opponent. We are more likely to see a rerun of Neville Chamberlain proclaiming "Peace in our time" before Nazi Germany invaded other states. Now, we would see *Hamas* invading Israel after Mr. Carter declares peace.

During an interview, Mr. Carter was asked if he would meet with al-Qaida. His response was negative, since he believes that al-Qaida has no redeeming qualities. It is sad that Mr. Carter cannot see the same evil at work in *Hamas*.

The worst part of this meeting was that a former U.S. president conferred legitimacy on a group of terrorists by proclaiming them interested in a peace process. The world needs to recognize that negotiation and dialogue cannot succeed with groups that preach hatred and annihilation of others. Conferences with al-Qaida or <u>Hamas</u> may result in a temporary cease fire, but not in peace.

Laura Goldmeier | Creve Coeur

Too poor for mini-windfall

I'm trying to figure out the logic of this economic stimulus thing. After completing my tax forms, I was sent a message that said that I do not qualify for the much-ballyhooed rebate because my income "does not meet the minimum to be eligible."

I am nearing "senior citizen" status, unemployed, in debt, struggling to meet expenses and trying to sell a house, yet I do not qualify for the administration's little gift.

Why does the government ignore those of us who obviously could put this mini-windfall to very good use?

Oh, sorry. I forgot. The purpose of this rebate is for those who already make enough money to get by to go out and purchase something frivolous to stimulate the economy. Never mind.

M.A. Moore | Eureka

Stimulating profits

Does it seem coincidental that after the government announced the plan to send economic stimulus checks to the American public that oil prices began rising to now-historic highs, matched by historic highs at American gas pumps? Paying higher gas prices isn't stimulating the American economy; it is sending money to overseas oil suppliers.

Isn't it time for our government to allow American oil companies to produce oil right here and reduce our dependence on foreign sources?

Tom Trog | Ballwin

Free market at its best

Today's gasoline prices reflect a free market in operation. That is, a market that is perfectly free to inflict whatever outrageous gouge it jolly well pleases upon its consumers.

Earl F. Birkicht | St. Louis

Gefilte fish and matzo

Regarding "Inmate with SS tattoo wins federal suit to get kosher prison food" (April 26): It is difficult to accept the sincerity of a professed Jew who sports white-supremacist tattoos and reads that kind of literature.

Still, since Norman Lee Toler has won his suit to get kosher food while in prison, here's a suggestion: Give him a steady diet of gefilte fish and dry matzos. In two weeks, he'll be begging for a bologna sandwich.

Rise Schnurman | St. Louis County

Notes

Load-Date: May 2, 2008



'For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart' Palestinian plight is flip side of Israel's independence joy

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 27, 2008, Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. P8B

Length: 1580 words

Byline: Karin Laub, The Associated Press

Body

Last week The Associated Press profiled Israel as the 60th anniversary of its independence approaches. Here is a report from the Palestinian side.

JALAZOUN REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank - Mohammed Shaikha was 9 when the carefree rhythm of his village childhood - going to third grade, picking olives, playing hide-and-seek - was abruptly cut short.

Uprooted during the 1948 war over Israel's creation, he's now a wrinkled old man. He has spent a lifetime in this cramped refugee camp, and Israel's 60th independence day, to be celebrated with fanfare May 8, fills him with pain.

"For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart," he said. "It kicked me out of my home, my nation, and deprived me of many things."

Each Israeli birthday makes it harder for 70-year-old Shaikha and his elderly gin rummy partners in the camp's coffeehouse to cling to dreams of going back to Beit Nabala, one village among hundreds leveled to make way for the influx of Jewish immigrants into the newborn Jewish state.

Israel's joy over independence after two millennia of Jewish exile has been the Palestinians' "naqba" - their catastrophe. The state they were to have in a partitioned Holy Land was made stillborn by the 1948 war. The 1967 war that brought the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli rule doubled the catastrophe. The negotiations that are meant to bring about a Palestinian state are bedeviled by constant violence and distrust.

Perhaps even more dispiriting for the Palestinians is the acrimonious ideological battle between <u>Hamas</u>' Islamist radicalism and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' embrace of Western ideas.

This year, the two sides couldn't even agree on joint naqba commemorations. Instead, on May 15, the date Palestinians mark the naqba, Abbas' Fatah movement will sound sirens in public squares and hold large rallies, while *Hamas* plans a separate event.

A poll finds one-third of the young would emigrate if they could, weakening the social bonds that have held Palestinian society together.

The dreamed-of Palestinian state was always an unwieldy notion, uniting the West Bank and Gaza with Israel in between. Now the divide is more stark.

'For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart' Palestinian plight is flip side of Israel 's independence joy

After last year's civil war, <u>Hamas</u> militants run Gaza, while Fatah moderates control the West Bank, separated by an Israeli travel ban and a Western boycott of <u>Hamas</u>.

As Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert pursue a peace deal, negotiations move at glacial pace and the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel looks ever more distant.

Gaza's 1.4 million people are getting poorer and more militant, three-quarters living on \$2 a day and scrambling for such basics as cement, winter shoes and painkillers. So acute is an Israeli-induced fuel shortage that donkey carts are back.

The West has placed its hopes for peace in the West Bank, where Abbas rules, and is injecting massive foreign aid that has restored a limited sense of stability after eight years of fighting with Israel.

Israeli troops still carry out nightly raids in the West Bank in search of wanted militants and enforce stifling travel restrictions, but civil servants - the largest group in the labor force - get paid regularly, West Bank cafes are crowded on weekends, a hunger for education is packing universities, and there's a small building boom.

It all testifies to a determination, by a generation raised under Israeli occupation, to keep going.

This perseverance takes many shapes.

Iyad Hmeidan, a former Fatah supporter, has turned to religion and <u>Hamas</u> in his disappointment over the broken promise of statehood. "In this period, I rely on God," said Hmeidan, a 36-year-old accountant and grandson of a refugee from Jaffa near Tel Aviv. "<u>Hamas</u> relies on religion, the words of God."

In the West Bank, another Fatah activist disillusioned with peace efforts has started a microcredit bank, making grants and loans to small businesses, including 12 village **women** who produce olive oil soap.

"This is the only way to try and create some changes for the people ... and some hope," said the 52-year-old banker, Sami Saidi.

As Israel celebrates its achievements - robust economy, democracy and army - Palestinians look back on a history of failures. "We were the losers over the years ... and we will keep losing," said Luay Shabaneh, head of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

The refugees and their descendants number 4.5 million today, or nearly half the world's 9.3 million Palestinians. Few refugees can realistically expect to go home again, because Israelis fear being swamped by a mass repatriation.

That makes the Palestinian predicament especially harsh, said Karen Abu Zayd, commissioner of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which helps the Palestinian refugees.

Refugees can usually expect to go home once the crisis dies down, but here, she said, "we don't know when they'll go home. ... there is a lot more hopelessness."

About one-third of the refugees and their offspring live in 58 camps, some of them sprawling shantytowns, in the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Mohammed Shaikha, his parents and five siblings settled in Jalazoun north of the West Bank town of Ramallah in the early 1950s, living first in a tent, then a two-room shack. He married, had eight children and worked in the laundry of a U.N. teachers' college. In 1980, he built a bigger house.

While he clings to the mantra of return to Beit Nabala, his native village, his son Wajih, 42, has put down deep roots in Jalazoun, now home to 13,000 people squeezed into 65 acres of drab box-shaped houses.

'For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart' Palestinian plight is flip side of Israel 's independence joy

He bought a supermarket and is building two large houses with money earned in 11 years as a supermarket clerk and limousine driver in Paterson, N.J. He says he returned to Jalazoun for a sense of community that was lacking in Paterson.

Wajih's daughter Mais, 18, misses Paterson, but considers Jalazoun home, and said she failed to establish an emotional connection to Beit Nabala during a roots trip with her dad a few years ago.

The 1948 war had largely separated Israelis and Palestinians, except for about 150,000 Palestinians who stayed put and became Israeli citizens. With Israel's capture of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast War, the two peoples became painfully entangled again.

While the Palestinians under Yasser Arafat took to bombings and hijackings to make the world notice their existence, Israeli Jews poured into the West Bank as settlers, claiming the land as their biblical birthright. A six-year Palestinian uprising ended when Arafat negotiated an interim peace deal with Israel, but it fell apart when negotiations for a final treaty reached critical mass and a fresh Palestinian uprising broke out, this time using guns and suicide bombers. More than 4,000 Palestinians and more than 1,000 Israelis have been killed in the past eight years.

Today, Arafat's portrait is the centerpiece of the public square in Jalazoun, but Israeli control of Palestinian lives is ubiquitous.

Israel's separation barrier and roadblocks, built to stop suicide bombers, now carve up the territory into separate regions for Palestinians and protects the Jewish settlers.

Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, but controls access from land, air and sea, and, along with Egypt, imposed a near-total blockade after the violent *Hamas* takeover last June.

The symbols of occupation - settlements, army bases, roadblocks - are visible across the West Bank. Jalazoun's immediate neighbors are a large army base and the settlement of Beit El, whose red-roofed houses tower above the camp. In all, about 450,000 Israelis have settled in war-won east Jerusalem and the West Bank in the past four decades.

Today, many of those who fought Israel in the two uprisings are dead, in prison or building new lives.

Ex-gunman Emad al-Shani, 39, accepted Israel's offer of amnesty for members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a Fatah offshoot. The father of five now sells bread in the West Bank city of Nablus, and after years on the run enjoys sleeping in his own bed. "I finished my role and returned to my normal life," he said.

Like al-Shani, many focus on their private life.

Natalie Zananiri, a 21-year-old information technology student at Bethlehem University and a part-time beautician, hopes to land a job abroad with a large corporation after graduation. She dismisses the peace talks as "nonsense" and doubts she'll see a state in her lifetime.

Others say Israelis and Palestinians can no longer be untangled and are doomed to share one state. Such a view is especially common among disappointed Palestinian peace activists, such as Firas Husseini, scion of a prominent Palestinian family whose uncle was among the first PLO officials to meet with Israelis.

Yet after years of fighting, the current lull and influx of foreign aid have given the West Bank's middle class and business community a sense of opportunity.

Abbas' government plans to build 30,000 apartments in several new suburbs, and the road leading into Ramallah, the West Bank business hub, is lined with high-rise construction. Rich Palestinian exiles have been invited to an investors' conference in Bethlehem next month.

'For 60 years, Israel has been sitting on my heart' Palestinian plight is flip side of Israel 's independence joy

Patriotism means setting up new businesses, said Monib al-Masri, one of the West Bank's richest men whose castlelike home rises above the Nablus skyline.

Amid the division and hopelessness, anthropologist Sharif Kaananeh urges his fellow Palestinians to take the long view and learn from Jewish history: "If they waited 2,000 years to claim this country, we can wait 200 years."

Load-Date: April 28, 2008



Palestinian gunmen kill 2 Israeli settlers; Two of the attackers die in the assault

The International Herald Tribune December 29, 2007 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 833 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Rina Castelnuovo contributed reporting.

*

Two Israeli settlers out hiking with a <u>female</u> friend near Hebron were shot and killed Friday by Palestinians driving by in a car, according to the Israeli police.

The dead Israelis, David Rubin, 21, and Ahikam Amihai, 20, were on leave from military duty and returned fire, killing two Palestinians. Two Palestinians, whom the Israeli police say may have been lightly wounded, escaped.

The two dead Israelis had served with elite units - Rubin as a sergeant in the naval commandos and Amihai as a corporal in the air force commandos.

Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the attack on the Israelis, who were hiking to a stream west of Hebron and the Israeli settlement of Telem. The Israeli Army has been attacking Islamic Jihad in Gaza for the last few weeks, trying to suppress rocket fire into Israel. Late last night, the Israelis killed another senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, Muhammad Abdullah, 43, whom the Israelis said was in charge of weapons manufacturing, including rockets and mortars.

The Israeli woman hid from the gunmen behind a rock in the riverbed, reported the incident and was treated later for shock. The Israelis were said to be sons of rabbis from the Hebron area, according to David Wilder, a spokesman for Israeli settlers there, and lived in Kiryat Arba, an Israeli settlement established in 1971 and adjoining Hebron. The Israelis' rifles were missing from the scene and believed to have been taken by the Palestinians.

Micky Rosenfeld, the Israeli police spokesman, called the shooting a terrorist attack.

"A small group of Israelis who were out hiking near Telem were attacked by terrorists who opened fire," he said.

The police set up roadblocks and were searching the area, Rosenfeld said. One Palestinian gunman was killed at the scene, and the other died on the way to a Palestinian hospital.

Uri Ariel, a legislator from the National Religious Party, said that the murder is "further proof of intensified terrorist attacks by Arabs, who take advantage of Israel's weakness and leniency," citing the recent release of Palestinian prisoners.

In Gaza City on Friday, the <u>Hamas</u> police arrested more than 40 members of Fatah inside the Fatah-affiliated Al Azhar University, including the deputy president, Jabir Daour and the head of student affairs, Ali Najar, and confiscated hundreds of yellow Fatah flags. Fatah, the dominant Palestinian faction, has been preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the movement, and <u>Hamas</u>, which runs Gaza, is concerned that a rally will spark political unrest. In the West Bank, Fatah prevented <u>Hamas</u> from celebrating its own anniversary earlier this month.

Separately, late Thursday night Israeli forces shot and killed a bodyguard for Ahmed Qurei, the former Palestinian prime minister and chief negotiator in current peace talks. The bodyguard, Mutassem Sharif, 23, was a member of the Palestinian security forces, but Israel said he was suspected of supplying weapons to other armed Palestinian groups.

He was killed fleeing his house in a Ramallah suburb when Israelis arrived to arrest him. The Israelis said he died in an exchange of gunfire, but Palestinian security officials denied that the dead man had fired at the Israelis.

In a statement, Qurei condemned the arrest operation and the killing. Israel, he said, is trying to hinder peace talks "by doing the opposite of its commitments and pledges to the international community, the most dangerous of which is the continuous assassinations of Palestinian fighters."

Israeli officials said Friday they have made no commitments to stop military operations intended to protect Israeli citizens from attacks, whether from the West Bank or Gaza.

Earlier on Thursday, Qurei and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, were at the official residence of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel for talks, and Qurei said that both sides were committed to moving ahead, intending to set up negotiating committees in the next few days.

On Friday, Riad al-Malki, a Palestinian minister on the West Bank, said that Israel had agreed to deliver 25 armored vehicles to Abbas's forces within a month, but without mounted guns. Also Israeli officials said that Olmert had ordered the Housing Ministry not to issue any additional building permits on occupied land in the West Bank without his approval.

Olmert wants to avoid surprises that disrupt the talks, but he has also said that construction will continue inside settlements that Israel intends to keep in a future peace deal. Palestinians say that Israel must stop all settlement activity beyond its 1967 boundaries.

A settlers' council, Yesha, condemned Olmert for "another surrender to the Palestinians and Americans," while in Jerusalem, hundreds of Jewish and Arab <u>women</u> protested continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

In Gaza on Thursday, Israel killed at least seven Palestinian gunmen in four separate episodes. Five of the dead were from Islamic Jihad and two from *Hamas*.

Load-Date: January 10, 2008



International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 4, 2008 Monday

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Section: B; Pg. 6

Length: 583 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Al-Qaida: Al-Masri, 3 others killed CAIRO, Egypt - Al-Qaida confirmed in a Web statement Sunday the death of a senior commander known as a top explosives and poisons expert, who is believed to have been killed in a U.S. airstrike in Pakistan last week. The statement said Abu Khabab al-Masri and three other commanders were killed. It did not give details on when or how they were killed, but Pakistani authorities have said they believe al-Masri died in an American airstrike last Monday on a compound near the Afghan border. Pakistani officials have said six people were killed in that strike, in the country's lawless South Waziristan tribal region.

Al-Masri, an Egyptian militant whose real name is Midhat Mursi, had a \$5 million bounty on his head from the United States. He is accused of training terrorists to use poisons and explosives, and is believed to have trained suicide bombers who killed 17 American sailors on the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. At least 9 climbers feared dead on K-2 ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - At least nine climbers were feared dead on K-2, the world's second-highest mountain, after an avalanche cut ropes used to cross a treacherous wall of ice, officials and other climbers said Sunday. Several other mountaineers were missing, prompting a desperate rescue effort on the peak in northern Pakistan, which is regarded as more dangerous to climb than Mount Everest. Report: 16 police killed in China border attack BEIJING - China's official Xinhua News Agency says an attack on a border patrol station on the country's frontier with Central Asia has killed 16 police officers. The report said the assailants used a dump truck to ram their way into the paramilitary police station in Kashi and then tossed two hand grenades. Besides the dead, Xinhua says 16 officers were injured. Xinhua, citing police, said two attackers were arrested. It did not identify them. Meanwhile, about two dozen protesters clashed with police today near Tiananmen Square in China's capital, saying they were evicted from their homes to make way for reconstruction ahead of the Olympic Games. Bomb hidden in trash pile kills 20 Somalis MOGADISHU, Somalia - A bomb hidden under a pile of garbage killed at least 20 people, half of them women who were sweeping the street in Somalia's capital, witnesses and doctors said Sunday. 1 coalition member dies in bomb attack KABUL, Afghanistan - A roadside bomb struck a U.S.-led coalition vehicle on Sunday, killing one service member and wounding another on the outskirts of the Afghan capital, a coalition spokesman said. Abbas orders fighters to return to Gaza RAMALLAH, West Bank - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday refused to grant West Bank asylum to forces who fled weekend faction fighting in *Hamas*-ruled Gaza, despite fears for their safety. Abbas ordered nearly 200 fighters back to Gaza from Israel, insisting a Fatah presence must be retained in the territory, which has been controlled by **Hamas** since a violent takeover in June 2007. Fatah is not prepared to write off Gaza, and Abbas also fears that an entrenched *Hamas* there could export rebellion to the West Bank, where he rules. Pope sends greetings to China before Olympics BRESSANONE, Italy -Pope Benedict XVI sent greetings to China on Sunday before the Olympics and said he hoped the Games would offer an example of coexistence among people from different countries. The pope said that he will follow the Olympics, which open Friday, with a sense of "deep friendship."

International briefs

Load-Date: August 4, 2008



<u>Standing at crossroads; We can't expect miracles from one meeting in</u> Annapolis, but it's a pivotal step toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

November 26, 2007 Monday

Main Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 11A

Length: 926 words

Byline: MELVIN KONNER

For the Journal-Constitution

Body

The Israelis and Palestinians are at a historic crossroads, and it will be tragic for both peoples if they do not leave it walking side by side.

This one, like several before, is in the United States---at Annapolis, where this week Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will meet not just bilaterally, as they often have recently, nor even through the increasingly active diplomacy of Tony Blair and Condi Rice, but under the umbrella of international concern. Egypt, Jordan and now even Saudi Arabia will attend.

All members of the "Quartet" --- the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia --- have a stake in the outcome, but nothing like that of the people who must share a piece of land not much bigger than New Jersey between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Neither people really wants to do this. Each must give up dreams held for centuries. Israelis must leave land the Bible says (and archeology confirms) Jews were formed in. Palestinians must give up places their grandparents owned and the hope of universal return. But if they do not make these sacrifices, they may not have as good a chance for many years.

History makes strange bedfellows. Olmert and Abbas were pushed together by <u>Hamas</u>, whose violence threatened them both. <u>Hamas</u> came to partial power through an election that should not have been held. As we have learned to our sorrow there and elsewhere, democracy means more than voting booths and ink-stained fingers. It means the rule of law, for which <u>Hamas</u> has no respect. So it attacked and destroyed in Gaza the people it was supposed to be sharing power with, Palestinians all.

Standing at crossroads We can't expect miracles from one meeting in Annapolis, but it's a pivotal step toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

That civil war last spring showed what <u>Hamas</u> really was --- in case its medieval abuse of <u>women</u> and thorough embrace of terrorism hadn't convinced us --- and the world turned to the flawed but reasonable West Bank Palestinian Authority. Peacemaking and nation-building have proceeded apace. Tony Blair, retiring as Britain's prime minister, set up shop in Jerusalem; his quiet, aggressive, balanced and professional diplomacy on behalf of the Quartet --- essentially the world --- has brought the parties closer than they have been in years. For the first time, over many Jewish objections, Israel has put the division of Jerusalem on the table --- a huge concession and a major step toward peace.

Neither Abbas nor Olmert is popular with his people. Neither controls the elements on his side that are implacable enemies of peace. Both have been incompetent and corrupt. But for now, these flawed men are the best hope.

Olmert released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners weeks ago, and is releasing another 400 this week. True, Israel is holding thousands more --- nothing like the proportion of African-Americans held in our own prisons, but still too many. More will be released. Olmert also has transferred hundreds of millions of dollars to Abbas's government. True, they were owed it, but Israel could not dole it out to terrorists sworn to destroy her.

Those terrorists are now largely confined to Gaza, and the world at large --- not just Israel --- will leave them there for now. When the West Bank begins to look like a viable Palestinian state, the Gazans will join it.

American and European leftists snipe wildly from afar. Ignoring reality, they say there have been no efforts toward peace. Believing Iranian propaganda, they see Israel as the Goliath, while on the map it's a tiny David in a vast Islamic world. Twisting U.N. resolutions, they claim that Israel must first withdraw to its 1967 borders --- something U.N. votes have always left to later negotiations.

Israel will give up many settlements. Jewish soldiers will drag Jewish settlers out of the West Bank as they did in Sinai in the 1980s and in Gaza two years ago. Some densely settled territory adjacent to Israel that was once part of Jordan will stay in Israel, and the Palestinians will be offered parts of Israel densely settled by Israeli Arabs.

Today, Israeli Arabs --- though second-class citizens at least as disadvantaged as African-Americans --- would rather remain Israeli. (Think about that undisputed fact and what it says about Israel.) But if enough hope can be generated in the new Palestinian state, they may come to feel differently.

Meanwhile Israel's other Arab neighbors have joined with her to build Palestine and energize the region. Jordan, the PA and Israel, with Germany and Japan as investment partners, are jointly planning to build Jericho into a vibrant Palestinian city, and to expand agriculture and industry in Jenin and other Palestinian areas. The Left has not explained why, if Israel is so evil, not just the United States but the EU, the United Nations, Russia and a number of Arab nations support the ongoing, slow but real path to peace.

Over decades, violence can become a bad memory. The hated fence can come down, and it will matter less who is on which side of the border. Sites all over the Middle East sacred to Muslims, Christians and Jews can be accessible to all. And the hope for the future generated by growing prosperity can turn even young men's troubled souls toward lasting peace.

Current events are just first steps; we can't expect too much from one meeting, however important it may be. There are always countless obstacles to peace. But discouraging talk can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. The first steps must be taken now. It all begins very soon at Annapolis.

* Melvin Konner, author of "Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews," teaches at Emory University.

Graphic

Standing at crossroads We can't expect miracles from one meeting in Annapolis, but it's a pivotal step toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

Photo: Melvin Konner, author of "Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews," teaches at Emory University./ImageData* ImageData*

Photo: History has made strange bedfellows of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (left) and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. The two have been brought together by <u>Hamas</u>, whose violence threatened them both, the guest columnist explains./ImageData* ImageData*

Photo: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas/ImageData* ImageData*

Photo: EMILIO MORENATTI / Associated PressAn elderly Palestinian man looks out from his house as an Israeli soldier patrols Friday in the divided West Bank city of Hebron. Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and world leaders are set to meet Tuesday in Annapolis, Md./ImageData*

Load-Date: November 26, 2007



NOTED; Strange looks and funny lines from the past week

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
April 20, 2008 Sunday
Main Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: @ISSUE; Pg. 1B

Length: 329 words

Byline: From Staff and News Services

Body

Thinspiration. One house of the French parliament has passed a bill that would punish media for promoting eating disorders. Web sites known as "pro ani and mia" (for anorexia and bulimia) are among the targets, since they offer starvation tips and post photo galleries of incredibly thin <u>women</u> called "thinspiration." A fashion industry leader grumped to The New York Times: "Never will we accept in our profession that a judge decides if a young girl is skinny or not skinny."

Debate debate. A group of journalists has found a spot on the trash-ABC bandwagon, sending a blistergram to the network to "deplore the conduct of ABC's George Stephanopoulos and Charles Gibson at the Democratic presidential debate." The complainants say the debate was "a revolting descent into tabloid journalism" and note, "For 53 minutes, we heard no question about public policy from either moderator. ABC seemed less interested in provoking serious discussion than in trying to generate cheap-shot sound-bites for later rebroadcast. The questions asked by Mr. Stephanopoulos and Mr. Gibson were a disgrace."

Globetrotter no more? A North Carolina congresswoman, steamed because Jimmy Carter met last week with <u>Hamas</u> officials, on Friday urged the State Department to pull Carter's passport. U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick (R-N.C.) said, "Frankly, I wanted to send a strong message, because we have a policy in this country about <u>Hamas</u>. And he is just deliberately undermining the policy, and it's wrong."

Whiff of scandal. School officials in Westminster, Colo., last week suspended an 8-year-old for three days, asserting that he was trying to get high by sniffing a Sharpie marker. "It smelled good," said Eathan Harris. "They told me that was wrong." Principal Chris Benisch told a Denver TV station that sniffing markers is "really, really, seriously dangerous." But KUSA quoted a toxicologist as saying that Sharpies may be pungent, but they're not particularly dangerous and not at all hallucinogenic.

Load-Date: April 20, 2008



There'll be no let-up, says Israel as 100 die

Daily Mail (London)

March 3, 2008 Monday

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Section: 1ST; Pg. 4 Length: 591 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Body

ISRAEL defied international condemnation yesterday and threatened to step up the Gaza offensive that has so far claimed 100 lives.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his cabinet: 'Let it be clear that Israel has no intention to stop the fighting for a single moment.' He spoke as the unrest spread from Gaza to the West Bank and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas suspended contact with Israel.

Yesterday a 21-month-old girl was among at least ten Palestinians killed. It followed more than 60 deaths on Saturday, one of the bloodiest days in Gaza since the 1980s.

Although many of the dead were <u>Hamas</u> fighters, at least three <u>women</u> and nine children died in Gaza on Saturday.

Israel said it was acting in selfdefence to curb daily rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. It threatened to intensify its ground and air campaign, despite a UN charge it was using excessive force.

Referring to the rockets, Mr Olmert warned: 'If anyone is under the illusion that extending their range will cause us to limit our oper- 'This is a state of war' ations, that's a serious mistake.' However, Palestinian Abu Mujahed, a spokesman for the militants, said an invasion of Gaza would not halt the rockets.

More than 25 were fired at southern Israel yesterday, scoring direct hits on houses in Ashkelon and the town of Sderot. Nine Israelis were slightly wounded.

'The tough Israeli attacks will only make the militants stronger and increase their determination not to stop rocket attacks,' Mr Mujahed said in Gaza City. Across the border Ashkelon's mayor Roni Mahatzri said he was willing to sacrifice his residents' sense of security for the short term, but would not accept the rockets becoming a normal reality.

'This is a state of war, I know no other definition for it,' said Roni Mahatzri, from his makeshift office in an underground bunker. 'We have no intention of allowing this to become part of our daily routine.'

The areas used by the militants to fire rockets have seen fierce battles between Israeli troops backed by tanks and Palestinian gunmen who have laid ambushes for them. Two Israeli soldiers died in the fighting on Saturday.

There'll be no let-up, says Israel as 100 die

Many of the Palestinian civilian casualties have occurred when Israeli missiles fired by helicopters, jets and unmanned drones have hit buildings and homes that the army said were used by militants.

Israeli leaders said they did not want to stage a full-scale invasion of the Gaza Strip, but defence minister Ehud Barak said a broad ground operation was 'real and tangible'.

He warned: 'We won't shy from it.' Other officials said another option was a major strike on the leadership of *Hamas*, which took control of Gaza last summer from the more moderate Fatah faction. Violent protests against Israel's action spread to the West Bank and East Jerusalem. A boy of 13 was shot dead as he tried to cut down a security fence in Hebron.

Earlier yesterday UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon denounced the Israelis for using excessive force but called the rocket attacks 'acts of terrorism'. The EU and the Pope also called for an end to the fighting.

Though Palestinian president Mr Abbas called off peace talks with Israel, he stopped short of declaring dead the U.S.-brokered talks which are opposed by hardliners <u>Hamas</u>.

He later spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and urged her to put pressure on Israel. A spokesman for Miss Rice confirmed she would go ahead with a visit this week when she will meet Mr Abbas and Mr Olmert.

In Britain, Foreign Secretary David Miliband called on both sides to 'step back from the brink'.

Graphic

1.Caught in the crossfire: A Palestinian girl wounded after missile strike 2.Taking aim: A militant prepares to fire a rocket propelled grenade

Load-Date: March 3, 2008



Doom & gloom

MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

March 5, 2008 Wednesday

1 - BRIS Edition

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Section: MX; Pg. 9 Length: 336 words

Body

* MURDER MYSTERY IN MEMPHIS

POLICE in Tennessee are trying to reconstruct what happened inside a house in Memphis in which six people were found brutally murdered.

The bodies of two men, two **women** and two children were found at the small brick home when police forced their way inside last night.

Three more children, including a 10-month-old baby, were critically injured and taken to hospital.

Authorities believe the killer or killers fled, but have no suspects, few clues and no apparent motive.

* FOURTH SUICIDE BOMBING

A SUICIDE bomber has killed at least six people and wounded 19 in an attack on a Pakistan naval college in the eastern city of Lahore.

The bomber killed himself and four others in the initial attack, but two more people died in secondary explosions.

It was the fourth suicide attack by Islamic militants in Pakistan in five days.

* CHOPPER WRECKAGE FOUND

THE wreckage of an Iraqi air force helicopter missing in the north of the country has been found with all eight personnel on board killed, the US military said today.

One US service member was among those on board and military officials are now investigating the cause of the crash.

The Russian-made Mi-17 aircraft had gone missing in a dust storm.

* GAZA STRIP CLASHES CONTINUE

ISRAELI ground forces and <u>Hamas</u> militants have clashed inside the Gaza Strip in the first raid since a five-day Israeli incursion that killed more than 120 Palestinians ended on Monday.

Doom & gloom

Palestinian witnesses and <u>Hamas</u> officials said a column of Israeli armoured vehicles crossed the border in central Gaza and came under mortar and machinegun fire as Israeli helicopters circled overhead.

* AFRICAN PROTESTS TURN UGLY

AUTHORITIES have arrested 184 people after violent protests in Burkina Faso cities over increasing prices of basic commodities.

The government of the landlocked West African nation said Thibault Nana, the leader of a small opposition party, was among those arrested.

The protesters say the government has added taxes to basic goods, raising the cost of living.

Load-Date: March 5, 2008



Collective punishment is never an answer

University Wire

January 28, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 Daily Trojan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 624 words

Byline: By Deanna Maxfield, Daily Trojan; SOURCE: USC

Dateline: LOS ANGELES

Body

Think back to fifth grade. It's Friday, and some classmates, excited about the impending weekend, write a profanity on the blackboard while the teacher is out of the classroom. When she returns, she demands to know who wrote it.

Of course, no one confesses.

So, the teacher makes everyone in the class stay after school until the guilty student admits to it.

As an innocent bystander, one finds this disciplinary strategy to be ridiculously unfair. Other students didn't do anything, so why should they be punished for someone else's transgressions?

Israel is now learning the hard way that collective punishment is unjust.

On the night of Jan. 17, The New York Times reported, the Israeli defense minister ordered an end to all border crossings into Gaza in response to militant rocket attacks originating from the area.

Gaza's only power station was forced to shut down three days later because it lacked the diesel fuel needed to keep it operational, leaving about one-third of the Gaza Strip's 1.5 million people without electricity. Electricity shortages have crippled the area's hospitals, threatened the supply of fresh drinking water and stymied sewage treatment.

The cut off has also hindered humanitarian groups like Oxfam, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the World Health Organization. These groups, of course, have condemned Israel's response.

According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, humanitarian groups should not blame Israel, but should direct their criticism toward *Hamas* -- the militant/political group that controls Gaza -- and other militant groups.

If the rockets stop, says the Foreign Ministry, then so will the restrictions on border crossings.

But this is bad logic, and a terrible attempt to justify the inhumane treatment of thousands of Palestinian civilians who are unaffiliated with the groups responsible for the attacks.

Of course, militant attacks against Israeli civilians are intolerable; Israel can and should take action to end the violence from Gaza.

Collective punishment is never an answer

Restricting access to electricity, safe drinking water and medical care does not target militants, rather innocent men, **women** and children with no way to improve their situations.

The Israeli defense ministry made the right decision in partially lifting the restrictions Jan. 22. The new policy allowed the delivery of a week's supply of fuel to the power station and the distribution of 50 trucks of food and medical supplies.

These minimal provisions, however, have not been sufficient to create a tolerable quality of life in Gaza, as civilians are still desperate to find the supplies they needed.

Israel's attempt to isolate Gaza has backfired as it has increased the tensions between Israel and Egypt. Because <u>Hamas</u> breached the wall at the border between Gaza and Egypt Wednesday, tens of thousands of Palestinians have poured into Egypt in search of necessities.

In response, Israel has completely closed its border with Gaza again.

Now Egypt faces a dilemma: The government would like to reseal the border in the interest of security, but is reluctant to use force because as Arabs, Egyptians tend to sympathize with the Palestinians' situation.

The cutoff has put the Egyptians in a difficult position, and has created a political crisis between the involved countries.

Israel's attempt at pressuring *Hamas* by punishing the entire Gaza Strip is an astounding failure.

Certainly, Israel must protect its people by working to end the militant rocket attacks. But cutting off food, water and medical care to hundreds of thousands of people is not the way to achieve this goal.

Collective punishment is neither effective nor just, a fact history has shown. Israel is now beginning to understand this -- better late than never.

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Load-Date: January 28, 2008



Human rights petitioners ask court to lift crossing closure at Gaza border. Area is on the brink of a major humanitarian crisis, claims Israeli Arab organization Adalah

The Jerusalem Post January 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 825 words

Byline: DAN IZENBERG, JUDY SIEGEL and JONNY PAUL

Body

The Israeli Arab human rights organization Adalah on Monday called on the government to immediately allow food, medicines and humanitarian commodities into the Gaza Strip, after Israel sealed all the border crossings on Friday.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian residents and 10 human rights groups asked the High Court of Justice to issue a temporary injunction prohibiting the government from preventing the export of industrial diesel fuel to Gaza. The fuel is needed to run the Gaza power station. It also asked the court to hold an immediate hearing on the matter instead of waiting for the hearing which has already been scheduled for February 3.

The government ordered all the border crossings to and from the Gaza Strip sealed as of Friday as a retaliation to dozens of Kassam rockets and mortar shells fired by <u>Hamas</u> against Sderot and the rural communities in the Gaza periphery beginning two days earlier.

"As we learn from many reports, including those of international aid agencies, the Gaza Strip is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis," Adalah attorney Fatma Alajou wrote to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj.-Gen. Yosef Mishlav.

Alajou added that UNRWA, which feeds 850,000 of the total population of 1.5 million in the Gaza Strip, had enough flour to last only a few days more. The same holds true for the World Food Organization, which feeds 370,000 Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the petitioners maintained that as a result of the halt in industrial diesel exports to the Gaza Strip, the electricity supply had fallen by 43 percent overall and 70% in Gaza City.

The petitioners blasted the government for making allegedly unfulfilled promises that it would not cause a humanitarian crisis.

"This commitment does not correctly reflect its obligations in accordance with international law, which completely prohibits harm to the supply of humanitarian supplies such as fuel and electricity," Alajou wrote. Quoting World Health Organization figures, the petitioners added that the hospitals in Gaza were suffering from the lack of diesel fuel to power the generators which operate during electricity blackouts, in addition to the lack of electricity due to the halt in industrial diesel.

Human rights petitioners ask court to lift crossing closure at Gaza border. Area is on the brink of a major humanitarian crisis, claims Israeli Arab organizatio....

The European Hospital in Khan Yunis has declared an emergency situation and stopped treating non-emergency patients, the petitioners quoted from the WHO report. The Al-Aksa Hospital will operate only four hours a day. The Children's Hospital in Gaza has declared an emergency and is considering moving the children to other hospitals which still have diesel reserves to operate their generators. Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis has declared an emergency situation. The operating theater has ceased functioning except for the intensive care unit, the WHO report stated.

<u>Hamas</u> has claimed that five people have died at hospitals because of the power outage. But according to AP, Palestinian health officials who insisted on remaining anonymous denied the <u>Hamas</u> claim.

Palestinian health ministry official Moaiya Hassanain told AP that the fuel cutoff would cause a health catastrophe. "We have the choice to either cut electricity on babies in the maternity ward or heart surgery patients, or close operating rooms," he said.

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel added its voice on Monday to those calling for a resumption of the full supply of fuel to Gaza, as withholding petrol "will not stop Kassam rocket attacks" on Israel. Amnesty International also called on Israel to remove the restrictions.

"Palestinian patients are in the middle and should not be punished" for the attacks on Sderot and nearby villages and towns, said Miri Weingarten, coordinator of the "Occupied Territories Project" at PHR-Israel.

Weingarten said she could not prove whether <u>Hamas</u> was intentionally diverting available fuel from the hospitals, reaping world sympathy from TV images of dark hospitals whose intensive care unit respirators are not working. Regardless, she declared, "no one can deny that Gaza has less than half the fuel for vital uses than it needs."

Weingarten said there was an increase in the number of Palestinian patients whose application for treatment outside Gaza was rejected due to "security reasons." She said her organization knew of nearly 100 cases waiting to be handled for this official reason, even though "some are obviously not security problems because they are blind or very ill with cancer; one is in a coma."

London-based Malcolm Smart of Amnesty International issued a statement saying: "This action appears calculated to make an already dire humanitarian situation worse, one in which the most vulnerable - the sick, the elderly, **women** and children - will bear the brunt, not the men of violence who carry out attacks against Israel.

"The rocket attacks should cease, and immediately, but the entire population of Gaza should not be put at risk to bring this about."

Graphic

Photo: PALESTINIANS FILL water in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in Gaza, Monday. Human rights groups are warning of a major humanitarian disaster as Israeli sanctions continue. (Credit: Eyad Baba/AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Desperate Gazans stock up in Egypt

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 24, 2008 Thursday

Fourth Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 13

Length: 533 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Rafah and agencies

Body

PALESTINIAN gunmen blew up a section of the border wall between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, allowing thousands of Palestinians to cross into Egypt.

In doing so they presented Egypt, Israel and the West with new facts that could be difficult to erase. With tens of thousands of desperate Palestinians thronging across the Egyptian border to stock up on essential supplies, Egypt risks portraying itself as a full partner in Israel's blockade should it try to close the border.

The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, indicated yesterday that he gave the breakout his blessing, ordering his security forces to let the Palestinians into Egypt to buy food.

"I told them: 'Let them come in to eat and buy food', then they go back, as long as they are not carrying weapons," Mr Mubarak told reporters.

The goods carried back by the day trippers were testament to the effectiveness of Israel's economic war against <u>Hamas</u> and the 1.5 million people of Gaza. Israel has imposed a months-long blockade of Gaza that was tightened on Thursday to a full-scale lockdown aimed at halting rocket fire into Israel. It was eased on Tuesday to allow urgent deliveries of fuel for Gaza's shuttered power plant and for near-empty back-up generators at hospitals.

Short of money, Gazans yesterday brought back only small quantities of the things they most desperately needed: cooking oil, baby milk and washing powder, soap, medicine, petrol, cooking gas and food. There was also a run on cheap Egyptian motorbikes as a fuel-efficient alternative to cars and trucks.

Others herded livestock over the border or loaded donkey carts with cement and other building materials blocked by Israel since last year from entry into the *Hamas*-run territory.

Mariam Asfour, 28, returned from the Egyptian side of Rafah clutching a small bag of medicine to treat her sister's bone disorder. "We need many things since the borders have been closed. We can't get anything we need in Gaza anymore," Ms Asfour said.

While most of those who left planned only to shop and return, some embarked upon longer journeys. A number of seriously ill patients, trapped in Gaza by the border closures, were transferred to Egypt in ambulances - the only motorised vehicles allowed to cross into Egypt.

Desperate Gazans stock up in Egypt

By forcing the border open, <u>Hamas</u> militants scored a propaganda and a practical victory. Although the Islamic group has officially avoided claiming responsibility, a guerilla commander at the border yesterday confirmed that his men had caused the explosions at several points along the border fence.

Fuad al-Arafat said that the bombs had been planted at 2am yesterday in a concerted operation. He said Egyptian authorities had become increasingly embarrassed by their obligations under agreements with Israel and the US to participate in the siege of Gaza and had tacitly accepted the move.

"It is good for both sides that it happened like this," he said.

Egyptian police in riot gear stood by the various breaches in the wall but made no attempts to interfere with people crossing.

The forced entry came the day after a tense stand-off at the border crossing, where gunfire erupted when a group, mainly **women**, forced their way across.

Editorial - Page 14

Graphic

TWO PHOTOS: Protests turn violent ... Egyptian police use water cannons at the border on Tuesday. Photo: AP Escape route ... thousands of Palestinians pour through what remains of the border into Egyptian territory yesterday. Photo: Getty Images/Abid Katib

Load-Date: January 23, 2008



Palestinian protesters spark riot at border; Disturbance disrupts aid trucks from reaching embattled Gaza residents; fuel tankers manage to top up hospitals

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

January 23, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 608 words

Byline: Rushdi abu Alouf and Richard Boudreaux, Los Angeles Times

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Hundreds of Palestinian <u>women</u> crashed a border gate Tuesday to protest Egypt's cooperation with Israeli sanctions against the Gaza Strip, setting off a riot that injured 35 people and curtailed a resumption of food aid to the impoverished territory.

Gaza came under total blockade last Thursday after a sharp increase in Palestinian rocket attacks against Israel. The attacks continued Tuesday, although at a reduced rate, with more than 20 rockets landing harmlessly in or near Israeli border communities.

Israel nonetheless eased the blockade Tuesday by delivering 317,000 gallons of diesel fuel for Gaza's shuttered power plant and for near-empty backup generators at hospitals. By evening, lights were back on in much of this capital after a two-day blackout.

But the UN Relief Works Agency and the World Food Program said the border disturbance prevented 14 of the 24 truckloads of food aid they had dispatched to Gaza on Tuesday from entering.

The two agencies supply food donations to about three-fourths of Gaza's 1.5 million people.

The trouble started at the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt during a protest rally organized by the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>. About 400 <u>women</u> chanted insults against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, calling him a coward for sticking to an agreement with the United States and Israel to keep the border closed most of the time and Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> government isolated.

Suddenly the crowd surged against a tall metal gate and broke through, spilling into a no man's land between Gaza and Egyptian territory. Demonstrators hurled rocks at Egyptian police, who drove them back with clubs, tear gas and water cannons.

<u>Hamas</u> border guards, who had passively watched the gate crashing, waded into the crowd to help restore calm. But their warning shots appeared to inflame the situation, prompting Egyptian police to start shooting too.

Palestinian protesters spark riot at border; Disturbance disrupts aid trucks from reaching embattled Gaza residents; fuel tankers manage to top up hospitals

An Egyptian policeman and a Palestinian demonstrator were wounded by gunfire, medical authorities said. The Egyptian was reported in serious condition. Nine other Egyptian police officers and 24 other protesters were injured in the hour-long melee.

For a few hours Tuesday, Israel had allowed truckloads of food aid to pass through its Kerem Shalom crossing into Egypt en route to Gaza through the Rafah crossing. But the disorders prompted Israel to close the Kerem Shalom terminal early.

Goods that got though were distributed quickly to Gazans standing in long lines. A shipment of cooking gas from Israel sold out in an hour. But gasoline stations and most bakeries remained closed. Hospitals were pooling scarce fuel to maintain surgery and intensive-care units while coping with dwindling medical supplies and a lack of central heating.

Israeli officials said the food shipments would resume today, along with deliveries of enough diesel to keep the power plant operating for a week. The plant supplies electricity to most of Gaza City and about one-third of the Gaza Strip.

European Union officials, who handle the diesel deliveries, said Israel had authorized them to continue indefinitely.

But Shlomo Dror, an Israeli Defence Ministry spokesman, said he knew of no such open-ended deal. He said Israel would reassess the situation each week, depending on humanitarian needs in Gaza and security threats against Israel.

Israel agreed Monday to ease the blockade after intense criticism from the UN, and European and Arab governments.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, en route from Washington, D.C., to Berlin, said Tuesday that U.S. officials also had voiced concern "about the importance of not allowing a humanitarian crisis to unfold" in Gaza.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Getty Images; A Palestinian woman shouts slogans during a protest at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt on Tuesday in the Gaza Strip.;

Load-Date: January 23, 2008



Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference

Guardian.com

November 26, 2007

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theguardian

Length: 846 words

Highlight: George Bush today expressed optimism about peace in the Middle East as he sought to persuade Ehud

Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas to agree a joint statement of principles before the Annapolis conference

Body

George Bush today expressed optimism about peace in the Middle East as he sought to persuade Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas to agree a joint statement of principles before the Annapolis conference.

The president held separate talks at the White House with the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian president, 24 hours before they were due to convene at the US naval academy in Maryland - an ambitious but risky attempt to relaunch negotiations after seven years of bloodshed and stalemate.

"I'm looking forward to continuing our serious dialogue with you and the president of the Palestinian Authority to see whether or not peace is possible," Bush said after meeting with Olmert in the oval office.

He had a similar meeting scheduled with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas later in the day. "I'm optimistic," Bush said.

Yasser Abed-Rabbo, a senior aide to Abbas, said: "There is a persistent American effort to have this statement."

Agreement has been bedevilled so far by conflicting needs: the Palestinians want a detailed text on specific issues with a timetable; the Israelis prefer something more vague and general.

Attendance by heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Syria is giving the summit a strong Arab presence, including the first ever involvement in peace talks with Israel by the entire 22-member Arab League. Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, told Time Magazine he was impressed by the "the determination of the United States to see this through".

After opening speeches by Bush, Olmert and Abbas, the conference will go into closed session. One of them will see Tony Blair briefing on his efforts to boost Palestinian economic development and governance on behalf of the Quartet of Middle East peacemakers.

Syria is to attend the US-brokered conference tomorrow, guaranteeing broad Arab support for the event. Confirmation that President Bashar al-Assad is sending his deputy foreign minister means that the Maryland meeting will be the best-attended Middle Eastern conference since the Madrid conference in 1991 - although the stakes are higher and expectations far lower.

Bush 'optimistic' about Middle East conference

Israeli and Palestinian officials worked against the clock to try to agree an elusive joint declaration on principles for peace amid near-universal gloom about the long-term prospects of reaching a workable solution.

Abbas and Olmert arrived in Washington yesterday and declared their determination to make progress, but acknowledged the difficulties. "I have come in order to fulfil the desire of the Palestinian people for their own state," said Abbas.

Olmert told reporters he hoped the summit would launch negotiations on "all the core issues that will result in a solution of two states for two peoples".

But in Gaza and sealed off from Israel, the leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Abbas's bitter enemy, Ismail Haniyeh, said: "Any decisions that emerge from this conference ... will not be binding on the Palestinian people, only on those who signed them."

Thousands of <u>women</u> demonstrated against Annapolis, waving banners that read: "The enemy knows only the language of force." Iran condemned the conference as "supporting the Zionist occupiers".

In Gaza's latest violence, a <u>Hamas</u> militant was killed and four others were wounded by an Israeli missile strike in northern Gaza.

Diplomats said Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, was trying last night to bridge the gaps. Negotiations have been deadlocked for weeks over whether the document should address the final borders between Israel and a Palestinian state, Jerusalem, and refugees. Israel wants to keep it vague; the Palestinians want detail and a timetable.

The idea is to jumpstart talks aimed at creating a Palestinian state before Bush leaves office in January 2009. These will be the first substantive negotiations since the collapse of talks in the dying days of the Clinton administration. That was followed by the second intifada, which claimed 4,000 Palestinian and 1,000 Israeli lives.

The question is, what can happen beyond tomorrow's ritual speeches? Both leaders face powerful opposition - Abbas from *Hamas* and Olmert from coalition partners and opposition parties against concessions on settlements, Jerusalem and easing restrictions in the West Bank.

Arab attendance provides one glimmer of hope. Syria had insisted it would only come if there was discussion of the Golan Heights, still occupied 40 years after the 1967 Middle East war. The country's official news agency said Syria had been told there would be a session on reviving peace talks with Israel.

Faysal Mekdad, Syria's deputy foreign minister, is a senior enough figure to avoid a snub, but not so high-level as to constitute a ringing endorsement of the event.

Dialogue with Syria was one of the recommendations of the Hamilton-Baker commission for the aftermath of the Iraq war. Damascus backs *Hamas* and Hizbullah in Lebanon, both enemies of the US and Israel.

Under US pressure, Saudi Arabia is sending its foreign minister, the veteran Prince Saud al-Faisal, although he made clear there would be no "normalisation" or handshakes with Israeli leaders.

Load-Date: November 26, 2007



International: Boost for Middle East summit as Syria joins in: Annapolis summit hopes to kickstart negotiations: Broad Arab support, but expectations are low

The Guardian - Final Edition November 26, 2007 Monday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 15

Length: 596 words

Byline: Ian Black, Washington

Body

Syria is to attend the US-brokered Annapolis conference tomorrow, guaranteeing broad Arab support for an ambitious but risky attempt to relaunch peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians after years of violence and deadlock.

Confirmation that President Bashar al-Assad is sending his deputy foreign minister means that the Maryland meeting will be the best-attended Middle Eastern summit since the Madrid conference in 1991 - although the stakes are higher and expectations far lower.

President Bush said last night that the broad attendance "demonstrates the international resolve to seize this important opportunity to advance freedom and peace in the Middle East".

The news came as Israeli and Palestinian officials worked against the clock to try to agree an elusive joint declaration on principles for peace amid near-universal gloom about the long-term prospects of reaching a workable solution.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, and Ehud Olmert, the Israeli prime minister, arrived in Washington yesterday declaring their determination to make progress, but acknowledged the difficulties. "I have come in order to fulfil the desire of the Palestinian people for their own state." said Abbas.

Both leaders are meeting Bush separately at the White House today and again on Wednesday. Olmert told reporters he hoped the summit would launch negotiations on "all the core issues that will result in a solution of two states for two peoples".

But in the Gaza Strip, sealed off from Israel and controlled by Abbas's bitter enemy, <u>Hamas</u>, thousands of <u>women</u> demonstrated against Annapolis, waving banners that read: "The enemy knows only the language of force." Iran condemned the summit as "supporting the Zionist occupiers".

Diplomats said Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, was trying last night to bridge the gaps. Negotiations have been deadlocked for weeks over whether the document should address the final borders between Israel and a Palestinian state, Jerusalem, and refugees. Israel wants to keep it vague; the Palestinians want detail and a timetable.

International: Boost for Middle East summit as Syria joins in: Annapolis summit hopes to kickstart negotiations:

Broad Arab support, but expectations are low

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Dialogue with Syria was one of the recommendations of the Hamilton-Baker commission for the aftermath of the Iraq war. Damascus backs <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah in Lebanon, both enemies of the US and Israel. Under US pressure, Saudi Arabia is sending its foreign minister, the veteran Prince Saud al-Faisal, although he made clear there would be no "normalisation" or handshakes with Israeli leaders.

Karma Nabulsi, page 27

Load-Date: November 26, 2007



Salifism - the worrying process of self-radicalization

The Jerusalem Post July 24, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 920 words

Byline: JONATHAN SPYER

Highlight: ANALYSIS

Body

Over the last two months, Israeli security forces have arrested six young Arab men suspected of seeking to form an extreme Islamist cell for the purpose of carrying out high- profile terror attacks in the capital. Two of the six held Israeli citizenship, while the other four were residents of east Jerusalem. It appears that they were radicalized through involvement in an Islamic study circle and via the Internet. Two Arab Israeli citizens from the town of Rahat were arrested in recent weeks on similar suspicions.

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, these events reflect strange, unfamiliar patterns. Place them on a broader canvas, however, and the novelty sharply decreases. The latest events appear to reflect the arrival of global jihad methods and codes of practice to our shores.

They are the most visible part of a broader and little-remarked-upon process taking place in Jerusalem, the West Bank and (particularly) in Gaza. This is the growing presence of preachers, organizations and individuals committed to the extreme Sunni Islamist current known as "Salafiyya." This is the ideology associated with al-Qaida. However, it is important to stress that what is happening is the penetration of ideas and models of activity, rather than the establishment of a new, centralized movement.

The process whereby young men become radicalized through contact with Islamist ideas via preachers or the Internet and then go on to form ad hoc terror cells has been observed in Muslim communities in Europe and further afield. So how is Salafism gaining its foothold west of the Jordan River? Through the relatively simple formula of preaching, education, the creation of groups of devotees, and the subsequent self-organization of those devotees.

In the West Bank, the removal of <u>Hamas</u>-affiliated imams in over 1,000 mosques has paradoxically opened the door for the rising prominence of Salafi-oriented preachers.

Some of the radical preachers are associated with the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HT) party. This veteran Islamist group was long regarded as a curiosity because of its failure to maintain an armed wing and its refusal to engage in active politics. However, HT has enjoyed an unprecedented rise in popularity in the West Bank over the last 18 months. Many of its imams are known to be in contact with the broader, amorphous Salafi subculture. HT itself is not a Salafi grouping. But its role as a radicalizing force and then a conduit for young men to violent activity is a key concern.

Salafi Imams with significant regional links are also active. The presence of a certain Saudi-Palestinian sheikh in the city of Nablus, for example, is attracting the attention of the authorities. This individual, whose brother is in a Saudi jail accused of al-Qaida ties, has been in Nablus since early 2008. He has a lot of money (presumably from

supporters in Saudi Arabia), and has been engaging in 'Dawa' (outreach) activities, gathering around himself a circle of young activists committed to the Salafi-Jihadi path.

Despite the significance of their activities in the West Bank, it is <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza that remains the key area of activity for the Salafis. In Gaza, the Salafis have been particularly engaged in activities associated with the enforcement of Islamic "morality," as they define it. These have included a rash of "honor killings" of both <u>women</u> and men. For example, members of the Salafi al-Saif al-Haq al- Islam vigilante group are considered responsible for the murder of the owner of the Teachers Bookshop - the only Christian bookshop in Gaza - on October 7 of last year. In the same month, Lina Suboh, daughter of a prominent Gaza university professor, was also murdered. These are two of hundreds of such killings that have taken place in Gaza over the last 18 months. They have been accompanied by bombings of various dens of iniquity in the Strip - including restaurants and cafes that allowed mixed dining.

But the Salafis are not concerned only with Palestinian internal moral health. Prominent individuals within existing political organizations are known to sympathize with this trend. This is particularly noticeable in *Hamas*'s armed wing in Gaza, Izzadin Kassam. Sheikh Nizar Rayyan, a leading tactician in the group, is considered close to the Saudi-Palestinian imam mentioned above. Rayyan is the most prominent of a large number of individuals in Izzadin Kassam in Gaza who are known to adhere to the uncompromising ideas of Salafism.

With Fatah and Palestinian secular politics in decay, and <u>Hamas</u> facing the failures associated with governance in the real world, the stage is set for the further growth of the Salafi trend. Its growth should be placed within the context of a broader Islamization of Palestinian politics and society, in line with regional trends.

It is not possible to draw any causal link between the growth of Salafism and the "self-radicalization" associated with it, and the three acts of terror by apparently "self- radicalized" individuals in Jerusalem over the last months. Undoubtedly, however, behind the scenes, this is an angle of investigation energetically being pursued.

On Wednesday, the Israeli security cabinet held its first discussion ever on the issue of the global jihad. One may assume that this discussion was not held purely for the general education of cabinet members. Salafi-Jihadism, with its hard-to-trace links between idea and deed, its loose frameworks of organization, and its utterly uncompromising ambitions, has arrived among us.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Where lingerie is money and death is always near

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 14, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 19

Length: 302 words

Byline: Jason Koutsoukis, Rafah, Gaza Strip

Body

THE smuggler introduced himself as Abu Nasser, clearly not his real name.

With seven business partners and 12 paid employees, he manages a network of tunnels that run from the southern Gaza city of Rafah under the Egyptian border.

Through the tunnels, some of which stretch as far as 1200 metres, Abu Nasser imports the goods that Israel will not let pass into the besieged Gaza Strip. Israel has ultimate control over the Gaza-Egypt border.

Every night, Abu Nasser and his workers use electric motors to haul up to 20 barrels into Gaza through the tunnels packed with items such as shirts and dresses, shoes, foods and spices, electrical goods and small furniture items.

The item most in demand at the moment, Abu Nasser says, is **women**'s lingerie.

"French lingerie, designer clothes from Italy, everything," he says. "We are still human. We still like to do over here what everyone else does."

Now 36, Abu Nasser says he has been smuggling things into Gaza since he was 14.

"It used to be weapons and gold. Now, because <u>Hamas</u> are in control, ordinary people don't need weapons. And if someone gets a gun through, then in two hours <u>Hamas</u> are knocking on their door anyway, asking them why need a gun.

"And gold? No one can afford gold any more."

Abu Nasser says that his business turns over about \$US40,000 (\$A42,800) a month. After the money is cut between his partners and his workers are paid, he makes about \$US2500 a month.

"Much better than what most people here get. I am lucky, I know, but there is a need and we service it. Without the smuggling, life here is impossible."

Work in the tunnels is getting more dangerous, he says, with the Egyptians using more sinister methods to deter smugglers.

"When they find a tunnel now, they put in poisonous gas. If someone is in the tunnel, at the other end, it kills them."

Graphic

PHOTO: Through an extensive network of hidden tunnels hundreds of metres long, Gazans smuggle goods considered contraband by Israel under the Egyptian border. PICTURE: AP

Load-Date: June 13, 2008



IN OTHER WORDS

Daily News (New York)

April 26, 2008 Saturday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 17

Length: 343 words

Byline: By Adam Sommers

Body

The story: Peanut farmer-turned-nut job Jimmy Carter says talking to <u>Hamas</u> is a must. "We do not believe that peace is likely, and certainly that peace is not sustainable unless a way is found to bring <u>Hamas</u> into the discussions in some way," he says.

In other words: If Israel would just stop being so doggone stubborn and give back the land they stole in 1948, pack up and get out, the Palestinians, Syrians and everyone else on the planet would love the Jews a whole lot more. Come on, get out. Then we'll be pals.

The story: Even days after his departure, city residents are still buzzing over the Pope's visit. Jose Vasquez struggled to get a glimpse as Benedict's motorcade rolled by, and gushed, "Very few religions have a leader like we do. But I definitely wanted to be here to greet him."

In other words: I just HAD to see him. Even if it was just a glimpse, in that 0.548 of a second he telepathically told me to go to Phoenix and work in the soup kitchen and make chili for dinner next Tuesday. I telepathically responded I'd get right on it. I mean, he's the Pope.

The story: Katerina Plew of Long Island sues Victoria's Secret, claiming the company stole her idea for a bra with removable straps. She created it, she says, because "Some <u>women</u>, they walk around with straps hanging out. That's not me. I didn't like bra straps."

In other words: I may not be rich, but I don't live at 1309 Trailer-Trash Lane. On the other hand, if this suit comes out all right, these cups will be overflowing with gold and I won't care who sees 'em. Whoo hoo!

The story: Sen. Chuck Schumer rages at soaring gas prices. "We could change this, but not until we aggressively go after price-gouging at the pump, break up the oil company monopoly and recapture the windfall profits oil companies are making," he said.

IN OTHER WORDS

In other words: Wait. Hold on. Did I just say we could stop oil conglomerates from price-gouging and hoarding windfall profits? Oh, man! I gotta stop breaking those pills in half, like Dr. Dimwitz said. Nobody beats Big Oil. No bod-dee.

asommers@nydailynews.com

Load-Date: April 26, 2008



Inside Today

The Gazette (Montreal)
April 15, 2008 Tuesday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 373 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

U.S. Politicians Denounce Carter-Hamas Meeting

Presidential hopefuls and the White House distanced themselves yesterday from former U.S. president Jimmy Carter's decision to hold talks with *Hamas* leaders.

Details, Page A16

Drunk Driver Gets Three Years

A judge has handed a drunk driver a three-year prison sentence and suspended his licence for six years for spectacular accident on the Décarie Expressway in 2005 that killed a CEGEP teacher. Details, Page A6

Bernier Upbraided by Harper

Prime Minister Stephen Harper upbraided Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier for creating a "misimpression" that the governor of Kandahar, Asadullah Khalid, should be fired. Details, Page A12

Business

Publisher Gives Go-Ahead

Despite the threat of a lawsuit by Toronto-based Barrick, the world's largest gold miner, a Quebec publishing house will release a book linking the company to the deaths of Tanzanian miners. Details, Page B1

Testosterone on the Market

Cambridge researchers have found that market traders with high levels of testosterone tend to rake in above-average profits - but sometimes their risk-taking gets the better of them. Details, Page B2

Sports

Cheminots Take CEGEP Title

Inside Today

The Collège de St. Jérôme Cheminots <u>women</u>'s hockey team defeats the Dawson College Blues 6-2 to sweep the series and clinch their fifth CEGEP championship in six years. Details, Page C6

Immelman Stuns Even Himself

Masters winner Trevor Immelman had a severe fever, major surgery and weeks of immobility last year. He never thought he'd now be wearing the green jacket.

Details, Page C6

Arts & Life

Chan and Li Together at Last

Martial arts icons Jackie Chan and Jet Li have wanted to work together for years, and they get their chance in Forbidden Kingdom. Details, Page D5

A Bee on the CBC

Applications for Super Spellers, a nation-wide spelling contest hosted by the CBC and produced by Halifax Film, will be accepted until Friday, April 18th. Details, Page D5

- Today's Columnists

"The issue boils down to one word: leadership."

Aubin, Opinion, A19

Mike Boone on Canadiens merchandise: Sea of red is inescapable. Montreal, A3

Jay Bryan on Canada's market: Commodities will continue to dominate. Business, B1

Pat Hickey on the Habs' lineup: A change might be welcome. Sports, C1

Graphic

Photo: SEBASTIAN SCHEINER, REUTERS; Ex-U.S. president Jimmy Carter visits Barzilai Hospital in Israeli city of

Ashkelon.;

Photo: Henry Aubin;

Load-Date: May 28, 2008



<u>Feature - A Right to Exist?; John Wight argues that Israel must answer a</u> simple question on its actions

Morning Star
April 28, 2008 Monday

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Length: 920 words

Body

The recent attempt by former US president Jimmy Carter to facilitate dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians ended in inevitable failure and condemnation.

A deluge of opprobrium greeted his assertion that any future peace negotiations must include <u>Hamas</u> and his decision to meet <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Meshaal guaranteed the ex-US president the eternal calumny of Israel and her supporters.

Throughout the week of the ex-president's failed attempt to facilitate meaningful dialogue, we heard the same revulsion levelled at *Hamas*'s refusal to recognise Israel's right to exist. It is a right or supposed right which has taken on the characteristics of received truth with regard to the issue of Israel/Palestine. It is a received truth, however, which flies in the face of a history of ethnic cleansing, apartheid and expropriation.

Based on the balance of forces involved in this brutal conflict, based on its entire history, the question that we should be asking is not whether <u>Hamas</u> or the Palestinians recognise Israel's right to exist, but whether or not Israel recognises the Palestinians' right to exist.

The entire history of empire, colonialism and imperialism is replete with oppressors attempting to portray themselves as victims and their victims as terrorists and savages that need to be either tamed, cleansed or subjugated - and, of course, always in the interests of civilisation or security and stability.

Think British empire, think nazi occupation of Europe, think French and US occupations of Vietnam, think French occupation of Algeria, think British occupation of Ireland, think Israel's occupation of Palestine. The same pattern emerges.

Among these examples, the state of Israel has enjoyed something of an Indian summer in terms of its ability to continue to deny the Palestinians their national, civil and human rights. This is due in part to the guilt which pervades the upper reaches of European and US society over the Holocaust. Of equal if not more importance, however, are strategic and economic objectives relating to vast oil reserves in the region.

Israel's role as a US gendarme has been well documented. In return, the US provides Israel with the economic aid, without which its economy would collapse, enough weaponry to maintain its status as the fourth largest military power in the world, the ability to flout international law repeatedly without consequence, as well as legitimacy for a policy of apartheid and ethnic cleansing.

On another level, it is ironic that criticism of Israel is immediately denounced as anti-semitic, regardless of how much savagery and violence it brings to bear against a people whose only crime is to exist, while China is demonised internationally for clamping down on riots in Tibet.

The recent flurry of activity by celebrities like George Clooney, Steven Spielberg and, most recently, JK Rowling over the issue of Darfur reveals a hypocrisy that verily reeks with support of the dominant ideology, US imperialism. Maybe in this we might be accused of being a tad cynical, but is it mere coincidence that, when it comes to both Tibet and Darfur, the common denominator is China?

Where are our esteemed celebrities when it comes to the Palestinians?

Never mind that, 60 years ago, 530 Palestinian towns and villages were depopulated and destroyed and 750,000 men, <u>women</u> and children were forcibly expelled by zionist terrorist organisations like the Stern Gang or the Palmach. Never mind that 78 per cent of historic Palestine was expropriated and that illegal Israeli settlements are being built and extended on Palestinian land to this day. Never mind that the Palestinians have been starved and blockaded throughout Israel's occupation, a policy of collective punishment which has reached its nadir with the ongoing barbaric siege of 1.4 million civilians in Gaza.

In recent months, Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilnai has threatened those same 1.4 million men, <u>women</u> and children with a "shoah" or holocaust. More recently, the incoming UN special investigator Richard Falk saw fit to draw comparisons between Israel's policy of collective punishment against the Palestinians of Gaza and the nazis in occupied Europe.

But still not a peep from our liberal intelligentsia or messrs Clooney and Co.

Carter's visit to the region took place against a backdrop of yet more incursions by Israeli troops and tanks, along with airstrikes, in Gaza. The Israelis claim that these military incursions, resulting on this occasion in the deaths of Palestinian civilians, including children and a Reuters cameraman, were a response to continuing Palestinian rocket attacks against the Israeli town of Sderot, which lies a few miles outside Gaza.

However, missing from this easy assertion is the fact that Sderot is a town established on land where the Palestinian village of Najd once stood.

Najd's inhabitants were forcibly expelled from their village on May 13 1948 by the Negev Brigade of the nascent Israeli army. It was an act of terrorism that took place before Israel was declared a state and before any Arab armies entered Palestine. In accordance with UN Resolution 194 and Article 13, Section 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the villagers of Najd have the right of return to their homes.

The history of the origins of Sderot is repeated hundreds of times all over what is now the state of Israel.

Again, the question that a world interested in justice should be asking the Israelis is simple. Do the Palestinians have the right to exist?

Load-Date: April 28, 2008



Existence of Israel a miracle let alone that it's a democracy

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

May 10, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: THE EDITORIAL PAGE; Pg. A26; Opinion

Length: 885 words

Byline: Licia Corbella, Calgary Herald

Body

Years ago, the ambassador of Israel to Canada at the time said something that struck me as both illuminating and yet obvious.

"That Israel still exists is miracle enough," said Haim Divon, referring to the decades of war and conflict his tiny country has endured since its birth 60 years ago this past Thursday. "But what is really miraculous is that it has survived as a democracy. That is truly a miracle."

Divon made those comments back in March of 2002, when many of us in the West were still feeling pretty edgy following the brutality and impact of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States.

As a result of that one day of terror on American soil, the U.S. government started rebalancing the need to beef up security and scale back some freedoms.

In some cases, it went too far, and so the balancing act continues. But Israel -- which has suffered from almost daily rocket attacks and numerous suicide bombings against Israelis carrying out such provocative activities as drinking coffee in a restaurant and taking the bus to school -- has not chipped away at the freedoms of those living within its often treacherous borders.

During times of war and unrest, most countries suspend elections, put limits on free speech, press freedom and other key rights most of us in democracies take for granted.

And yet, according to Freedom House -- an organization that monitors and measures freedom around the world -- Israel is the only country in the entire Middle East that is free. The Freedom House map shows Israel -- which covers just 0.6 per cent of the land mass of the region -- as just a tiny speck of green (which signifies free) amidst an almost entirely grey mass representing "not free" states, like Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait, Iran and on and on it goes. Only Jordan and Lebanon are painted different colours -- in this case yellow -- for partly free.

The United States, meanwhile, after suffering just one day of attacks, established Guantanamo Bay prison for enemy combatants and allowed warrantless wiretapping against potential terrorists.

Earlier this month, Freedom House issued a new report entitled: Today's American: How Free? In short, the answer to that question still remains: very free, with some tweaking needed.

Existence of Israel a miracle let alone that it's a democracy

While Freedom House is critical of the high rates of incarceration in the United States and the issues already mentioned surrounding counter-terrorism, it points out that the U.S. system of checks and balances is not just remarkably resilient and strong, but self-healing. For instance, Congress has severely limited warrantless wiretapping brought in by the George W. Bush administration, and the Supreme Court has forced the government to ensure that prisoners in Guantanamo and other military jails be governed under the Geneva Convention.

Would the United States or any other country, however, maintain such a high level of freedom as Israel after so much hardship? It's not likely.

In every area of rights and freedoms measured by Freedom House, Israel gets almost as high marks as Canada and the U.S. One of the main criticisms of Israel by the mostly uninformed or outright anti-Semitic is how badly Israel treats Palestinians. There are numerous examples, however, of how much better Israel treats Palestinians than Palestinians expect to be treated by their own leaders and neighbours. A particularly striking one took place last June, when <u>Hamas</u> took control of the Gaza Strip following deadly battles with its Fatah rivals. Fatah fighters, along with <u>women</u> and children, ran for their lives into the Erez Crossing tunnel in an effort to get to the West Bank through Israel rather than through Gaza.

Stop and think about that.

Those Palestinians recognized that the people they so often refer to as the brothers of monkeys and swine would treat them better than their fellow Palestinians. They knew there was no way the Israeli government or Israeli citizens would randomly murder them simply because of who they back politically or what they think.

Even after <u>Hamas</u> issued an amnesty for Fatah fighters and their families following its victory in Gaza, news agencies reported that the frightened Fatah civilians and soldiers didn't believe <u>Hamas</u>. Instead, they preferred to languish in that fetid tunnel hoping that their hated enemies -- the Israelis -- would let them into a country they don't even recognize as having the right to exist and that doesn't even appear on <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah maps. A very telling vignette.

For those who view Israel as the aggressor in the region -- despite its small numbers and small land size -- I often ask the following questions of the wilfully blind and naive: What do you think would happen to Israel if it declared it would lay down its arms and not raise them for any reason? Honest people acknowledge that Israel would cease to exist in very short order. What do you think would happen if the Palestinians laid down their arms? Again, the honest people admit that peace would break out.

Entire libraries are filled with tomes that go into great detail as to how peace can be made in the region. The above two questions point to the simple answer. Should it ever happen, it will be nothing short of a miracle. Then again, Israel is proof that miracles really do happen.

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Load-Date: May 10, 2008



Border buying spree exposes the plight of Gaza; 1.5m left without basics of life

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

January 26, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 23

Length: 1067 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin, Rafah

Body

IT'S cold and wet, the electricity keeps going out, there's no petrol for the car and nothing left in the shops, and the row with the neighbours could soon turn really nasty.

Yet despite the gloom there was an air of suppressed carnival in Gaza this week as tens of thousands enjoyed a rare outing from what has become, for many years now, a de facto prison for 1.5 million untried inmates.

On Thursday, a day after *Hamas* militants theatrically broke Israel's ever-tightening siege by blowing holes in the Egyptian border wall, Hanan Atallah, 18, came from Gaza City, hoping to leave the strip for the first time in her life.

Sadly, her 55-year-old mother's legs were not up to vaulting the low concrete wall on the border. So while her brother crossed in search of cheese, yoghurt, milk and washing powder, the two <u>women</u> gazed at the sandy scrub and rough concrete houses of Egypt, only a few metres away.

"It looks just like here," said Hanan, a little disappointed.

It was the second day of the crossing and already much of the border commerce was a great deal more organised. Fifty metres back from the wall a few stalls sprang up, selling shawarma and baklava.

Amar al-Kor, 21, the son of a Rafah concrete merchant, had hired a truck to haul home 30 tonnes of cement, handed sack by sack across the border wall.

"There hasn't been any shipments of cement since <u>Hamas</u> took over Gaza from Fatah last year," he said. "The Israelis wouldn't let us have any after that, so people who want to build or fix their houses can't do anything . . . in Gaza we need a lot more cement than this."

Mohammed al-Rifai, 20, from Gaza City was herding back 10 goats and two kids purchased at the steep price of \$A1950, but still only a third of the previous going rate in Gaza, where fresh meat has become a rare luxury.

"We'll keep some to fatten but most will be sold for meat straightaway," he said. "It's hard to find food for them now. We try and bring them to the north, near the border, where it's still green, but the Israeli soldiers shoot to make us go away."

Border buying spree exposes the plight of Gaza 1.5m left without basics of life

Some brought back luxuries like biscuits, sweets, cigarettes, televisions. But the most popular items were big drums of cooking oil, boxes of dairy products, baby formula, tinned meat and fish, washing powder, sanitary towels, mattresses, school copy books and - above all - fuel: diesel and petrol in plastic containers; metal canisters of liquid petroleum gas, which most Gazans use for cooking.

"We've had nothing to cook with for five days," said Moataz Abu Khuji, 19, earlier this week, having spent most of Tuesday queueing for a gas refill only to see supplies run out. "I'll sleep here tonight. I can't go home to my brothers and sisters without gas," he said.

Having cut off fuel supplies to Gaza late last week - a much reduced flow has since resumed - Israel blames the crisis on militants who fire missiles at Israeli border communities.

A redoubled barrage of homemade missiles injured several civilians last week in the wake of a routine Israeli invasion that killed about 40 Palestinians and injured more than 100.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Aryeh Mekel said this week that life in Gaza would return to normal if the rocket fire stopped. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel would not allow Gazans to live well while the rocket fire continued, but would not allow a humanitarian crisis to develop.

But UN agencies and aid groups say that a humanitarian crisis already is the norm.

Medicines are in short supply or unavailable, and restrictions on spare parts have shut down vital medical equipment in hospital wards. The embargo has left around 40% of people without running water, while most of Gaza City's sewage - 400,000 litres a day - is being pumped raw into the sea. The rest overflows into streets and basements, poisoning ground water.

Nearly all of the enclave's 1.5 million people are now dependent on foreign donors and UN food aid because of an economic boycott - imposed with full Western support after *Hamas* won elections in early 2006.

The boycott shut down most of Gaza's remaining private industry. The only remaining productive sector, agriculture, has been unable to resume its once highly profitable sale of fruit and flowers to Europe and North America because of Israel's ban on exports.

Ismail al-Helou, a Gaza fruit farmer, snorted contemptuously when asked about the announcement, shortly before US President George Bush's visit this month, that Israel was relaxing its ban on food and flower exports.

"They are great liars," he said. "Nothing has happened. It was all said just to look good when they were supposed to have peace talks."

Aid agencies warn that the goods coming across from Egypt this week cannot even begin to compensate for the thousands of daily tonnes of imported fuel and supplies cut off by the blockade.

"What everybody should realise is just how desperate the situation here continues to be," said John Ging, director of the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, now the biggest employer and provider in Gaza.

"Last week we had something in the order of 100 trucks a day of humanitarian supplies coming into Gaza. Yesterday we had 10, the day before 16, today none at all. Before June there were 400 trucks coming in a day - and that to an economy that was already very severely damaged."

<u>Hamas'</u> dramatic initiative in blowing open the border crossings has created a major PR problem for both Egypt and Israel. Neither wants to be seen to publicly slam the door on desperate civilians whose purchases underline their plight.

But Israel, with strong US support, believes that its blockade can force Gazans to rise up against *Hamas* militants.

Border buying spree exposes the plight of Gaza 1.5m left without basics of life

Israel and the US have told Cairo it must solve the problem, warning of an influx of terrorists and weapons if the border is not closed. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the Gazans were starving and should be treated with compassion.

But many Gazans have already discovered that the Rafah escapade is providing, at best, only an illusion of freedom. This week, after months blockaded by Egypt and Israel, many Palestinians took advantage of the breach in the wall to try to take up jobs or studies in Egypt and abroad.

Many were turned back at checkpoints on the way to the Suez Canal because they did not have Egyptian entry stamps from the Rafah crossing. A crossing which, by agreement with the US and Israel, cannot reopen without Israel's permission.

Graphic

FOUR PHOTOS: Basic commerce: Palestinians flood across the border into Egypt to buy necessities - a wheelchair, bags of cement, goats and containers of fuel. Pictures: AP and Getty Images

Load-Date: January 25, 2008



Irish woman refused exit from Gaza to Egypt

The Irish Times
February 8, 2008 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 399 words

Body

EGYPT: Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern has said his department will "do everything possible" to resolve the situation of a Galway woman who is trying to leave Gaza through the Egyptian border. Lorna Siggins, Western Correspondent, reports.

However, Mr Ahern also said Galway resident Treasa Ní Cheannabháin (56) bore a "personal responsibility" for her plight.

Ms Ní Cheannabháin, from Barna, her daughter, Naisrin Elsafty (19), who is a medical student, and Ms Ní Cheannabháin's Egyptian niece, Seham Elhotty (26), were refused exit from Gaza back into Egypt earlier this week after they undertook a relief mission on behalf of their charity.

However, last night the Egyptian authorities allowed Ms Elsafty and her cousin through at the Rafah border crossing, as Ms Elsafty has Egyptian identification and her cousin has an Egyptian passport.

Speaking to **The Irish Times**, Ms Ní Cheannabháin described "chaos" at the border and said she was alone with several Danish and English people who were also told they could not leave Gaza by the Egyptian authorities. "I've very little Arabic, and I'm being held on the Egyptian side. I am reluctant to return now to Gaza as I have no idea when I will be able to leave," she said.

Mr Ahern said yesterday that his department had "explicitly warned against travelling to Gaza", and this travel advice had been updated regularly.

"Individuals such as Ms Treasa Ní Cheannabháin-Elsafty and her daughter, Naisrin Elsafty, who decide to enter Gaza against our strong advice must accept personal responsibility for the consequences of their actions."

"Notwithstanding that, we will continue to do everything possible to resolve the situation," Mr Ahern said. The Irish Embassy in Cairo had made "very strong representations to the Egyptian authorities to facilitate safe passage", he said, and the Irish Ambassador in Tel Aviv had also made representations.

Earlier this week, an Israel air strike on a <u>Hamas</u> security compound killed seven men, while two other members of <u>Hamas</u> were shot dead by Israel soldiers near the Egyptian border.

Ms Ní Cheannabháin, who is married to an Egyptian doctor, travelled into the Palestinian territory late last week, after she and her relatives were refused entry by the Egyptian authorities.

Irish woman refused exit from Gaza to Egypt

The $\underline{\textit{women}}$ were carrying more than EUR 7,000, collected by the Galway-Palestinian children's fund for relief in Gaza.

Load-Date: February 8, 2008



Breaking a new hole in the wall of media coverage of Palestine

The Daily Star (Lebanon)
January 31, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 964 words

Byline: Bouthaina Shaaban

Body

Two important studies concerning the preparations for the war on Iraq were recently released in the West. In the meantime, the massacres against unarmed Palestinians continued under the policy of ethnic cleansing which was adopted by the global Zionist movement since the beginning of its occupation of Palestine.

First person by Bouthaina Shaaban

Two important studies concerning the preparations for the war on Iraq were recently released in the West. In the meantime, the massacres against unarmed Palestinians continued under the policy of ethnic cleansing which was adopted by the global Zionist movement since the beginning of its occupation of Palestine.

The first study, "Flimsy arguments," is an American report released by two nonprofit American organizations. According to this study, President George W. Bush and senior officials in his administration made hundreds of "false statements" about the threats posed by Iraq to American national security, in the two years following the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. Authors of the study, who are members of the Center for Public Integrity and of the Fund for Independence in Journalism said "a comprehensive study indicates that these false statements constructed an important part of an organized campaign that raised the public opinion and led the nation to war on the basis of completely erroneous information." Bush and senior officials in the American administration including Vice President Dick Cheney, then-National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, made 935 false statements about "the danger posed by Saddam Hussein on the American National Security" during those two years.

The second study is British, published in weekly supplements of The Guardian newspaper. It is taken from a book by the famous British journalist Jonathan Steel, in which he clarifies how the British waded into the war "without any information, any preparations, any clue about the reasons of this war and the consequences which may ensue of it." George Joffe, an Arabist from Cambridge University, recalls when Prime Minister, Tony Blair, asked him and other experts, to adduce their opinion about waging the war on Iraq, how the Prime Minister had talked only about Saddam without paying any attention to what he was told about Iraq and its people. Joffe says that he got the impression of "someone with a very shallow mind, who's not interested in issues other than the personalities of the top people, no interest in social forces, political trends, etc" (The Guardian - weekly supplement, January 21, 2008).

Observers of the horrible massacres, the brutal siege, and the collective punishment, to which the Palestinian people are being exposed, would immediately notice the same policy of deception and fraud that is practiced by the forces of democracy on the people of Palestine. This is obvious in the muddling headlines and articles, published in both Arab and Western newspapers, which aid Israel in its ongoing campaign of genocide and displacement against the Palestinian people. The ensuing misuse of language in the media could be very much noticed in most of what has been published about Gaza; the International Herald Tribune wrote on January 16, 2008, "18 were killed when fighting flared in Gaza, attack killed <u>Hamas</u> leader." The article did not mention that the 18 Palestinians were killed by Israel who takes over their land, sky, air and waters, rather it talked about the responsibility of <u>Hamas</u>, and it justified the Israeli attack as being a response to the rockets of <u>Hamas</u>. In this way the delusive tool of media operates in collusion with the rulers of occupation and settlement, it alters the rockets of <u>Hamas</u> to substitute for the key reason of the struggle in the Middle East, which is the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Ending the resistance of the Palestinian people and surrendering them to the Zionist colonialism are the main aim of Israel.

When Israeli Premier Ehud Olmert announced that "the residents of Gaza can walk if they don't have gasoline for their cars, because they have a murderous terrorist regime that won't let people in the south of Israel live in safety," all <u>women</u> of Gaza broke through to Rafah. In the following day and despite plenty of difficulties they faced, hundreds of Palestinian children, <u>women</u> and men rushed to blow up the concrete border wall between the two parts of Rafah, breaking the barrier of oppression and starvation, facing the Zionist racism and astounding the whole world, enemies and friends. The Jewish writer, Jeff Halber, wrote in his article (Hole in the Wall: Power to the Palestinian People): "The Palestinians represent far more than just themselves. Their refusal to submit to the dictates of governments reflects the desire of billions of oppressed people for identity, freedom, and a decent life. In this the Palestinians stand at the forefront of peoples' insistence everywhere that their rights and fundamental values as human beings be respected by governments."

Would writers ever stop importing their language from the lexicon of the western deception and start using a language that fairly describes the strife of the Palestinians with their admirable human merits? Would they ever honestly write about the brutal crimes and massacres that Israel is committing every day in Palestine? Palestine and its people will always remain the symbol that provides us with the pulse of life. History shall never forget those who committed crimes against Palestinians, they are the leaders and the engines of terrorism. These stories of heroism shall remain as candles to illuminate the way for new generations towards honor, esteem and noble civilization.

Bouthaina Shaaban is Syria's minister for expatriots.

Load-Date: October 22, 2008



Boy stole dad's dollars

The Star (South Africa)
March 31, 2008 Monday
e4 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 697 words

Body

Jakarta - Indonesian police were today searching for a 9-year-old boy who ran away from his home in Jakarta with more than \$10 000 (about R80 000) of his father's cash. The boy reportedly bought a Playstation and a cellphone after enlisting the help of a shopping centre security guard to change dollars into Indonesian rupiah. He did go to school the next day but has been missing since Thursday.

Jakarta - Hardline Muslims today called for the death of a Dutch legislator for producing a film critical of their faith. Police stood guard as 40 demonstrators from the Islamic Defenders Front rallied outside the Dutch embassy. A spokesperson for the IDF said he had yet to see the film, but nevertheless called on the government to sever all diplomatic links with the Netherlands.

Canberra - An Australian judge will investigate the country's worst naval tragedy following the discovery this month of HMAS Sydney, 66 years after it was attacked and sunk by a German ship. All 645 crew aboard the Sydney were killed after the 30-minute battle off the northern coast of Western Australia in November 1941.

Damascus - The exiled leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Khaled Mashaal, says that Israel exaggerates the Palestinian militant group's military strength and accuses the Jewish state of seeking to spark a war against <u>Hamas</u> and the Lebanese guerrilla force Hezbollah. Mashaal said in an interview yesterday that <u>Hamas</u>' military capability is "humble" but effective because the group's will is so great.

Beijing - Chinese police have arrested a teacher linked to the rape and sexual assault of 16 girls, more than a year after he went on the run, the Beijing Times reported today. Huang Shiming was accused of raping six girls aged between 8 and 11, and was accused of sexually assaulting 10 others. He was identified in the southern province of Guangdong and will soon face trial.

Seoul - A South Korean court sentenced a disgraced former university professor to 18 months in jail today for faking her Yale doctorate and embezzling official museum funds, a court said. Shin Jeong-ah (36) was convicted for using her fake degree to become an art history professor at Dongguk University and acquire financial support for an art museum where she was working.

Luanda - Angolan rescuers brought out seven more bodies from the rubble of a collapsed police criminal investigation headquarters, bringing the death toll to 15, state media said today. The victims - all <u>women</u> - were found in the <u>women</u>'s detection unit, which was the worst hit when the seven-storey building collapsed in the capital Luanda on Saturday, injuring more than 150 others.

Boy stole dad's dollars

Wellington - The world's largest species of flightless parrot is edging back from extinction with five new chicks hatched in New Zealand in recent weeks and two more on the way, wildlife officials said today. The latest births of kakapos brought the population of the rare bird to just 91. The kakapo, which is native to New Zealand, last bred in 2005, when four chicks were produced.

Istanbul - Members of Turkey's top court are expected to decide whether to hear a case for a ban on Turkey's Islamic-rooted ruling party. The 11-member Constitutional Court was scheduled to convene today to discuss the argument for the dissolution of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party on grounds that it is trying to scrap secular principles enshrined in the country's constitution.

Baghdad - Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses Iraq's government and the US embassy, appeared to be under rocket or mortar attack today, according to witnesses. A siren wailed inside the US-protected compound and a recorded voice warned people to take cover amid the sound of explosions. A dust storm enveloping the city made it difficult to see where the missiles were landing.

Lima - Visitors are increasingly vandalising the ruins of Peru's famed Sacsayhuaman fortress, leaving behind what authorities say is an unusual accumulation of graffiti from the likes of soccer fans and lovers. Photos published in Peru's El Comercio newspaper yesterday show the ancient ruins scrawled with "AL", for the Alianza Lima soccer club, along with initials inside hearts and signatures.

Load-Date: March 31, 2008



2 Israeli Settlers and 2 Palestinians Killed in Drive-By Shooting During Hiking Trip - Correction Appended

The New York Times

December 29, 2007 Saturday

Late Edition - Final



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

Length: 873 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Rina Castelnuovo contributed reporting.

Rina Castelnuovo contributed reporting.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two Israeli settlers out hiking with a friend near Hebron were shot and killed Friday by Palestinians driving by, according to the Israeli police.

The Israelis, David Rubin, 21, and Ahikam Amihai, 20, were on leave from army duty and managed to return fire, killing two Palestinians. Two other Palestinians, who the Israeli police said may have been lightly wounded, escaped.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack. The Israelis were hiking to a stream west of Hebron and the Israeli settlement of Telem. The Israeli Army has been attacking Islamic Jihad in Gaza for the past few weeks, trying to suppress rocket fire into Israel. Late Thursday night, Israeli forces killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, Muhammad Abdullah, 43, whom the Israelis said was in charge of manufacturing weapons, including rockets and mortars.

The friend hiking with the two settlers, a woman, hid from the gunmen behind a rock in the riverbed, called the authorities and was later treated for shock. The Israelis were said to be sons of rabbis from the Hebron area, according to David Wilder, a spokesman for settlers there, and they had lived in Kiryat Arba, an Israeli settlement established in 1971 and adjoining Hebron.

Mr. Rubin was a sergeant in the naval commandos, and Mr. Amihai was a corporal in the air force commandos. Their rifles were missing from the scene and believed to have been taken by the Palestinians.

Micky Rosenfeld, an Israeli police spokesman, called the shooting a terrorist attack. "A small group of Israelis who were out hiking near Telem were attacked by terrorists who opened fire," he said.

The police set up roadblocks and were searching the area, Mr. Rosenfeld said. One Palestinian gunman was killed at the scene, and the other died on the way to a Palestinian hospital.

2 Israeli Settlers and 2 Palestinians Killed in Drive-By Shooting During Hiking Trip

Uri Ariel, a legislator from the National Religious Party, cited the recent release of Palestinian prisoners and said that the killings were "further proof of intensified terrorist attacks by Arabs, who take advantage of Israel's weakness and leniency."

Separately, Israeli forces late Thursday shot and killed a bodyguard for Ahmed Qurei, the former Palestinian prime minister and the chief negotiator in current peace talks. The bodyguard, Mutassem Sharif, 23, was a member of the Palestinian security forces, but Israel said he was suspected of supplying weapons to other armed Palestinian groups.

He was killed fleeing his house in a Ramallah suburb when Israelis arrived to arrest him. Israel said he died in an exchange of gunfire, but Palestinian security officials denied that Mr. Sharif had fired at the Israelis.

In a statement, Mr. Qurei condemned the operation and the killing. Israel, he said, was trying to hinder peace talks "by doing the opposite of its commitments and pledges to the international community, the most dangerous of which is the continuous assassinations of Palestinian fighters."

Israeli officials said Friday they had made no commitments to stop military operations intended to protect Israeli citizens from attacks, whether from the West Bank or Gaza.

Also on Thursday, Mr. Qurei and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, met at the official residence of Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, for talks, and Mr. Qurei said both sides were committed to moving ahead, intending to set up negotiating committees in the next few days.

On Friday, Riad al-Malki, a Palestinian minister on the West Bank, said that Israel had agreed to deliver 25 armored vehicles to Mr. Abbas's forces with a month, but without mounted guns. And Israeli officials said that Mr. Olmert had ordered the Housing Ministry not to issue any additional building permits on occupied land in the West Bank without his approval.

Mr. Olmert wants to avoid surprises that disrupt the talks, but he has said that construction will continue inside settlements that Israel intends to keep in a future peace deal. Palestinians say that Israel must stop all settlement activity beyond 1967 boundaries.

The Yesha Council, an organization that represents settlers, condemned Mr. Olmert for "another surrender to the Palestinians and Americans." In Jerusalem, near Mr. Olmert's home, hundreds of Jewish and Arab <u>women</u> protested the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The protest was organized by <u>Women</u> in Black, founded 20 years ago after the first Palestinian uprising in 1987.

In Gaza City Friday evening, the <u>Hamas</u> police arrested more than 40 members of its rival organization Fatah inside an affiliated university, Al Azhar University, including the deputy president, Jabir Daour, and the head of student affairs, Ali Najar, and they confiscated hundreds of yellow Fatah flags.

Fatah, the dominant Palestinian faction, has been preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the movement, and <u>Hamas</u>, which runs Gaza, is concerned that a rally could spark political unrest. In the West Bank, Fatah prevented <u>Hamas</u> from celebrating its own anniversary earlier this month.

In Gaza on Thursday, Israeli forces killed at least seven Palestinian gunmen, including Mr. Abdullah, who was known as Abu Murshad, in four separate episodes. Five of the dead were from Islamic Jihad and two from <u>Hamas</u>.

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

2 Israeli Settlers and 2 Palestinians Killed in Drive-By Shooting During Hiking Trip

A headline on Dec. 29 about a drive-by shooting incident in the West Bank referred imprecisely to the circumstances. As the article reported, two Israeli settlers hiking with a friend near Hebron while on leave from army duty were shot by Palestinian gunmen who drove by, but the two Israelis managed to return fire before they died, and two of their attackers died as well. All four were not killed in a drive-by shooting while on a hiking trip.

Correction-Date: January 8, 2008

Load-Date: December 29, 2007



5 The Five Big Issues

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 21, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. 2

Length: 383 words **Byline:** Tammy Mills

Body

1 CEASEFIRE A fragile deal between Israel and Palestinian Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> over the Gaza Strip was struck on Thursday. It is the first formal ceasefire since <u>Hamas'</u> bloody takeover of the territory more than a year ago. World leaders welcomed the news, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (above) said on Wednesday that the truce could be short-lived. About 516 people have been killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting since November, most of them Gaza militants.

2 MEMORIAL Wednesday marked the one-year anniversary of the triple-shooting in Melbourne's CBD that claimed the life of Brendan Keilar, a solicitor and father of three. Christopher Wayne Hudson shot and killed Keilar on June 18 after the lawyer came to the aid of Kaera Douglas, who was being dragged by the hair by Hudson while getting in a taxi. Douglas and Dutch backpacker Paul de Waard, who also stopped to help, were shot but survived. A commemorative plaque sits in the footpath at the scene of the shooting.

3 UP IN THE AIR First it was track and field, now other sports - including gymnastics, soccer, cycling and <u>women</u>'s basketball - are going to shun the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. The smog problem, as well as heat and fatigue, are the factors athletes say will prevent them from taking part. This means less than half the Australian contingent will be at the opening ceremony.

4 NOT HAPPY Most voters are unhappy with the way the Govern-ment is handling petrol prices, an Age/Nielsen poll revealed. The poll showed that 56% of voters were critical of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's management of fuel and 78% called for Government in-tervention. Petrol prices broke through \$1.70 a litre this week, with predictions that they could go close to \$1.90 this year. Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson would have been rubbing his hands with glee if the poll hadn't also shown that Peter Costello was preferred opposition leader.

5 FACE OF OZ Paul Keating briefly became the next Lara Bingle this week. A media report said there was a push for the former Labor prime minister to become the face of the new G'day UK campaign. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd quickly shut down the speculation, saying the chance of the "Lizard of Oz" promoting Australia is as likely as him winning the Eurovision song contest. -- TAMMY MILLS

Load-Date: June 20, 2008



The unholy return of the Palestinian pilgrims

The Jerusalem Post January 3, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 622 words

Byline: ZVI MAZEL

Highlight: ANALYSIS. Zvi Mazel is Israel's former ambassador to Egypt.

Body

After three days of a tense standoff, Egypt's determination not to allow the thousands of pilgrims returning from Mecca into the Gaza Strip without being thoroughly checked by Israel to prevent smuggling of explosives and cash to bolster *Hamas* rule finally crumbled and a jubilant crowd surged into the strip.

One can wonder why they were allowed to cross unsupervised into Egypt in the first place - in spite of Israel's protests, which went unheeded.

Under the joint agreement signed by Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the European Union following Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza, the checkpoint at Rafah between the Gaza Strip and Egypt was to have been closely monitored by EU inspectors and double-checked by Israel through video surveillance.

However, things did not go according to plan. The <u>Hamas</u> takeover of the Gaza Strip led to the precipitated flight of the EU inspectors, who feared for their lives, and ultimately to the closing of the checkpoint.

This new breach of the border agreement comes against the backdrop of the unending flow of smuggled weapons, explosives and terrorists through the tunnels under what is known in Israel as the Philadelphi Corridor, the narrow stretch of land along the border. Israel has repeatedly protested to the Egyptian authorities - with no discernible effects - and this has led to a heightening of tension between the two countries.

The visit of Defense Minister Ehud Barak to Egypt last week was intended to defuse the situation. Barak did come back with a firm Egyptian commitment to have the pilgrims cross through the Kerem Shalom checkpoint so that Israel could make sure that no explosives or cash for *Hamas* would go through.

It may have been na-ve to believe that this is what would happen. The pilgrims were very vocal in their determination to go back the way they had come, and their makeshift camps with wailing <u>women</u> and resolute men made front page news throughout the Arab world. Mubarak did try to denounce Arab media, but the outcry did not abate and he gave in. Egypt was not prepared to be portrayed any longer as a country persecuting innocent pilgrims in order to do Israel's bidding.

Two years ago, the decision to withdraw from Philadelphi was not taken lightly. Many voices had been raised to warn that it would be folly to entrust the Egyptians with guarding the border. However, a legal argument won the day: Israel, it was argued, would still be considered as the occupying power if if the IDF remained along the border.

The unholy return of the Palestinian pilgrims

It turned out to have been a major mistake. In spite of the fact that not a single Israeli soldier remains there, in world public opinion Israel is still the occupying power. Worse, entrusting the Egyptian with guarding the border showed a staggering lack of strategic understanding.

Though Egypt has made peace with Israel, it is first and foremost an Arab country aspiring to regional leadership, and wholeheartedly on the side of the Palestinians in their struggle against Israel.

The idea that Egyptian soldiers would be instructed to stop smuggling at all costs - which means they would have to resort to violence and to live fire - is ludicrous in that context.

Egypt cannot afford the opprobrium that would be attached to killing Palestinians on an almost daily basis for the sake of keeping the border safe for Israel. Huge public demonstration and rioting could occur in Egypt. We just saw the way President Hosni Mubarak had to bow to pressure and let the pilgrims go, in spite of his undertaking to Ehud Barak.

It is now up to Israel to think long and hard about what it wants to do. What we need is a solution, not someone to blame.

There is a warning for America, too, in that story: Don't push Egypt too far.

Graphic

Photo: PALESTINIAN PILGRIMS crowd the Rafah border crossing to the Gaza Strip yesterday. (Credit: Khalil Hamra/AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Our moderate British mosques threatened by 'modernisation'

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

November 30, 2007 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 25

Length: 688 words

Byline: PAUL GOODMAN

Body

The consensus about how to combat violent extremism can be summed up in three words: reform the mosques. British mosques and madrassahs - the argument runs - are dominated by elderly men from abroad who don't speak English and have limited means of communication with the younger generation. This leaves young British Muslims vulnerable to exploitative English-speaking al-Qa'eda operatives.

The solution seems obvious: open up the mosques. Bring in young, English-speaking people to run them. Sweep away the old-fashioned assumptions, and empower Muslim <u>women</u>. Above all, monitor the masjids and madrassahs. Inspect them, regulate them, control them and subject them to the blizzard of best practice and quality standards guidance that's done so much for local government since 1997.

Hazel Blears, the Communities Secretary, seems to agree. She recently praised the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), which was launched yesterday - gaining rather less coverage than the plight of Gillian Gibbons in Sudan. This government-approved board requires scrutiny. It is a product of the Government's Preventing Extremism Together project set up in the wake of 7/7. The Government rejected its key recommendation of a public inquiry into 7/7, and Mr Blair lurched away from its approach by producing his own 12-point plan - described by John Denham, now Skills Secretary, as "half-baked".

But MINAB has survived. Its consultation document contained details of a steering committee and results from a questionnaire which revealed that 92 per cent of respondents "supported the creation of MINAB". Only later did it note that out of the 1,202 questionnaires sent out, only 74 were returned.

The steering committee contains four members - the mainstream British Muslim Forum, the Shi'ite Al-Khoei Foundation, the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) and the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB). The MCB's controversial status is well known, though it has been helpful over the teddy bear row.

MAB's credentials are even more eyebrow-raising, given its links to the Muslim Brotherhood in general and <u>Hamas</u> in particular. Dr Kamal Helbawy, its founder, admitted two years ago to still being a member of the Brotherhood and has been denied entry to America. It has also been alleged that Dr Azzam Tamini, its leader, issued communiqués on behalf of <u>Hamas</u> during the 1990s. His views on suicide bombing are unambiguous. Asked if he would carry out such an attack in Israel, he said: "Sacrificing myself for Palestine is a noble cause. It is the straight way to pleasing God and I would do it if I had the opportunity."

Such are the qualifications of one of the members of the body set to advise Britain's mosques. MINAB, according to its draft constitution, will "produce advice on the suitability of Imams and scholars coming from abroad for

Our moderate British mosques threatened by 'modernisation'

employment in the UK". It will "facilitate harmonisation of standards" in relation to religious education. These standards will "complement and supplement the law". It will be paid "fees".

Membership is voluntary and based on self-regulation. But pressure to write MINAB's regulatory role on to the statute book is bound to grow. And if ministers resist this pressure, MINAB will be in a powerful position to lobby statutory bodies, such as the Charity Commission.

Yes, more English should be used more in mosques and other places of worship. Yes, <u>women</u> and young people should be encouraged to be more active in them. But what matters most for community cohesion isn't whether English is used: it's what's said in English. It isn't whether <u>women</u> or young people are more active: it's which ones are more active.

Mainstream mosques, with their gentle, sufi-influenced spirituality, will fall within the purview of MINAB. There's a case for a national advisory body, but it would be fatal to the struggle against extremism were the allies of *Hamas* and the Muslim Brotherhood to regulate and ultimately control - under the politically acceptable jargon of best practice and quality standards - Britain's Islamic religious institutions.

The author is a Conservative spokesman on community cohesion

Load-Date: November 30, 2007



News Summary

The New York Times

November 16, 2007 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 708 words

Body

INTERNATIONALA3-17

Militants Extend Reach Beyond Tribal Pakistan

The militants who have carved out a mini-state in Pakistan's tribal areas have captured more territory inside settled areas, despite Gen. Pervez Musharraf's emergency decree.A1

General Musharraf pushed ahead with preparations for elections. His opposition said it had formed a united front.A10Atomic Report Critical of Iran

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report that Iran has made incomplete disclosures about its past nuclear activities, virtually assuring a new push to impose stricter sanctions. A12

Drop Seen in Roadside Bombs

An American military official reported a sharp decrease in roadside bombs and homemade explosives in Iraq.A14

Iraq's prime minister approved the trial of two Shiite former officials accused of killing and kidnapping hundreds of Sunnis.A14Abbas Urges *Hamas*'s Ouster

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, called for the ouster of <u>Hamas</u> from Gaza after at least seven civilians were killed by <u>Hamas</u> policemen.A6More Lashes for Saudi Victim

A Saudi court more than doubled the number of lashes that a <u>female</u> rape victim was sentenced to last year, prompting a public debate on how <u>women</u> are treated in the kingdom.A3 Slump in Burmese Gem Sales

The precious stone market, a financial lifeline for Myanmar's economy, is in a slump.A17

NATIONALA18-28

Clinton Seizes Debate To Challenge Opponents

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton struck a more aggressive posture in the face of attacks from her Democratic rivals during a debate last night, challenging their positions on issues like health care and warning former Senator John Edwards in particular against "throwing mud." A1

News Summary

Mississippi Aid Faulted

Mississippi was required to spend half of federal grant money to help low-income citizens to recover from Hurricane Katrina. But of the \$1.7 billion it has spent so far, most has gone to programs that benefited affluent residents and big businesses. A1

Bush Opens Up Air Routes

A week before the peak Thanksgiving travel period, President Bush announced that airlines would be able to make fuller use of military airspace to relieve congestion and cut delays. A18

President Bush announced that he was nominating a federal judge and former prosecutor for the No. 2 spot in the Justice Department. He also selected nominees for four posts left vacant after Alberto R. Gonzales stepped down as attorney general. A20

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Cow of the Dinosaur World

Researchers reported that the dinosaur Nigersaurus taqueti had a short neck and a habitual head posture pointed directly toward the ground. It was a ground-level browser like modern cows. A28

NEW YORK/REGIONC14-15

New York Students Make Few Gains on U.S. Tests

New York City's eighth graders have made no significant progress in reading and math since Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg took control of the city schools, federal test scores show. The results also indicate little narrowing of the gap between white students and their black and Hispanic counterparts. C14

Patient Warning Delayed

State health officials notified 628 patients that they should be tested for hepatitis and H.I.V. infection because they were treated years ago by an anesthesiologist in Nassau County who used improper procedures for preventing the spread of diseases.C15

BUSINESS DAYC1-11

Complaints of Favoritism

The Bush administration criticized China for issuing regulations that they say are aimed at favoring Chinese industries. C1

Fuel Standards Rejected

A federal appeals court rejected fuel economy standards for light trucks and sport utility vehicles, ruling that regulators failed to assess the economic impact of tailpipe emissions that contribute to climate change. A1

Help During Late Night

Several hosts of late-night shows have begun taking steps to ensure that their non-writing staffs receive some portion of their income during the television and film writers' strike. C4

Business DigestC2

OBITUARIESC12

Clara Fox

News Summary

An advocate of subsidized housing for poor and moderate-income people, she was 90.C12

EDITORIALA30-31

Editorials: In contempt; prosecuting Blackwater; a stem cell achievement; Gorbachev's baggage.

Column: Paul Krugman.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: November 16, 2007



Hidden voices, different options

The Jerusalem Post March 7, 2008 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 1001 words

Byline: NAOMI CHAZAN

Highlight: Critical Currents. In this explosive period, looking through the gender lens offers fresh perspectives and

conjures up intriguing policy alternatives

Body

International <u>women</u>'s day is being marked this year in the shadow of war and the concomitant drowning of feminist voices. As the number of casualties rises at a terrifying pace, those most directly affected are scarcely heard in decision-making circles. Even though Israeli and Palestinian <u>women</u> - in all their diversity - are very much part of their respective societies, they offer different insights, experiences, concerns and emphases than their male counterparts. The incorporation of these gendered perspectives may help to achieve a lull in the fighting and enhance the prospects for constructive resolution.

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000 provides a bold framework for the inclusion of <u>women</u> in peace building, peace making and peacekeeping. It has been ratified by both the Palestinian Authority and Israel (which is the first country to legislate its key provisions). In this extremely explosive period, looking through the gender lens offers fresh perspectives and conjures up intriguing policy alternatives outside the conventional box.

All assessments of the present situation highlight the fact that this round of the Arab-Israeli conflict is being conducted on the backs of civilians. Although propelled by sharply different motives and carried out by vastly divergent and unequal means, <u>Hamas</u>-inspired rocket attacks and Israel's sustained incursions into the sealed Gaza Strip disrupt daily life in Sderot and Khan Yunis, in Ashkelon and Nablus. There can be no semblance of normality in these conditions: People cannot get to work, children miss school, medical services are stretched beyond capacity and human dignity is stripped. Israelis are now experiencing the discombobulating shocks that have been the lot of Palestinians for too long.

FEMINIST analysis acknowledges this suffering, while pointing to its main victims - the aged, the young and <u>women</u>. This is why it also underscores the obligation of all parties, in line with international law, to protect civilians and to desist from actions that may imperil their existence. The introduction of monitors charged with verifying compliance may provide the necessary safeguards.

These are, indeed, exceedingly emotional times: The range accompanying this round of warfare is especially pronounced. Too many live with fear, trauma and trepidation. The numbing pain of parents who have lost children is as heartrending in Arabic as it is in Hebrew. Grief, anger, despair and frustration intermingle, conveyed electronically to homes throughout the Middle East and beyond.

<u>Women</u> are not embarrassed by their feelings and have little difficulty in putting them into words. They are, however, much more reluctant to use these sentiments to determine policy. Many Israelis and Palestinians are currently on a collision course of revenge and retribution. From a gender perspective, allowing this vicious spiral to take over is in itself a form of defeat. It clouds judgment and further exacerbates extremism. Voices of moderation are submerged by a rising nationalist chorus on both sides. Every Israeli bombing increases support for <u>Hamas</u>; every Kassam launch generates calls for more military action. <u>Women</u> nevertheless vigorously resist the tendency to succumb to this growing brutality.

THE IMMEDIATE objective today, most concur, is to break the mounting rhythm of attack and response. Yet the three main policy options being considered by Israeli policy-makers are almost exclusively military in nature. The first is to sustain the status quo in the hope that persistent pressure will lead in due course to a civilian uprising against militant Islamic hegemony. This thinking is as fallacious today as it was in the past. The second is to step up land and air attacks - as in the past week - in order to substantially weaken the extremist infrastructure. Such a policy plays into <u>Hamas</u> hands, increasing its popularity locally and arousing sympathy internationally. The third, and by far the most threatening, is to embark on a full-scale invasion which will exact an enormous human price and probably prove ineffective.

From a *female* vantage point, these scenarios are totally unacceptable. *Women*, much more than men, recognize that there is no military solution to the conflict; trying to stop the violence by military means will only contribute to its escalation. Before any further action is taken, a moratorium devoted to a thorough reassessment is needed. An unconditional cease-fire under international supervision (either declared unilaterally or reached by agreement) is therefore an essential first step toward stabilization.

During this hiatus, every effort must be made to renew negotiations with as broad a Palestinian coalition as possible, with a view to achieving a permanent status settlement within the next few months. Successful talks leading to the realization of a two-state solution are the only way to truly defeat <u>Hamas</u> and to undermine its destructive worldview. They are also critical to the attainment of veritable human security.

These alternative <u>women</u>'s voices, much like those of many other groups silenced in the current militaristic climate, are all too easily relegated to the private arena. The cost of their dismissal is great: their exclusion narrows options, circumscribes creativity and constricts opportunities immeasurably. Societies that promote gender equality and insist on the significant representation of <u>women</u> in decision-making positions are more likely to avert wars, reduce the recurrence of violence and nourish open societies. Given the present deterioration, nothing more can be lost and much can be gained by actively involving <u>women</u> in the process. A more inclusive approach may supply new ingredients and instill some hope for the future.

This is, indeed, a bleak international <u>women</u>'s day. But if it provides a chance to air <u>female</u> perspectives, and if some of these voices are heard, then, perhaps, it may yet augur a better tomorrow.

Graphic

Photo: An Ashkelon woman reacts to the explosion of a missile launched from Gaza, marking a bleak international **women**'s day. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



International: Tutu enters Gaza to start investigation into deaths

The Guardian - Final Edition May 28, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 17

Length: 417 words

Byline: Rory McCarthy, Jerusalem

Body

Desmond Tutu, the South African archbishop, met the former Palestinian prime minister and <u>Hamas</u> leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Gaza at the start of a much-delayed UN investigation into the shelling by the Israeli military of a Palestinian house which killed 18 members of a single family in Beit Hanoun.

Tutu was sent by the UN human rights council to lead the inquiry only days after the incident in November 2006. However, the Israeli government did not give him a visa and complained that the council was politicised in its criticism of Israel.

Yesterday, after several months of delay, Tutu crossed into Gaza from Egypt at the Rafah crossing point, which is usually closed and almost never used for UN or diplomatic visits, but where he did not require any Israeli travel permit.

Tutu met Karen Abu Zayd, the head of the UN relief and works agency, which supports Palestinian refugees, and then met Haniyeh, one of the leading *Hamas* figures in Gaza who was sacked as prime minister last year.

Tutu was to tell Haniyeh that he strongly condemned militants firing rockets from Gaza into southern Israel and the killing of Israeli civilians, but he was also to speak of his criticism of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, according to a source travelling with him.

Today Tutu will travel to Beit Hanoun to talk to survivors of the Israeli artillery strike. All the dead were from the Athamna extended family, among them 14 <u>women</u> and children. They were asleep in the house when the shells struck early in the morning.

As they poured out of the house they were hit by more shells - a wave of six or seven in total. It came only a day after the Israeli military had ended a six-day incursion into Beit Hanoun, which had left 50 Palestinians dead.

After the shelling incident, the Israeli military said it had fired "preventative artillery at launch sites" from which militants had fired rockets a day earlier towards Israel, but there had been a "technical failure" with the artillery gun.

International: Tutu enters Gaza to start investigation into deaths

Although Tutu was not given a visa to travel to Gaza, Louise Arbour, the UN high commissioner for human rights, did travel to Beit Hanoun at the time, and to the Israeli towns around Gaza, and said there had been a "massive" violation of human rights in Gaza.

The UN human rights council then sent Tutu on a fact-finding mission to "assess the situation of victims, address the needs of survivors and make recommendations on ways and means to protect Palestinian civilians against further Israeli assaults".

Load-Date: May 28, 2008



Israeli Forces in Gaza Kill 9 and Destroy Homes

The New York Times
January 4, 2008 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1222 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Khan Yunis, Gaza.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli forces operating in Gaza killed at least nine Palestinians on Thursday and blew up the houses of some known militant commanders, as the Palestinians fired a Katyusha rocket from Gaza that landed in northern Ashkelon, a city of 120,000 people.

The rocket landed in an open field and did no damage, but it traveled more than 10 miles, the farthest of any rocket so far from Gaza, the Israeli police said. The Katyusha, a manufactured missile of 122 millimeters, has a range of up to 13.7 miles. There are thought to be fewer than 20 of them in Gaza.

But Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said Thursday's firing showed that the Palestinians were improving their ability to use the weapon and to exploit its range, which could endanger a quarter of a million Israelis, and he called on Egypt to do more to stop the smuggling of weapons into Gaza.

"It's a sign of things to come and an issue of great concern," Mr. Regev said. "These rockets are not homemade and are smuggled in, and our concern is not one or two Katyushas, but a whole range of weapons, including antitank and antiaircraft rockets."

Israel is upset with Cairo for allowing more than 2,000 Gazans to return home from the hajj pilgrimage through the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, rather than, as originally agreed, through the Kerem Shalom crossing controlled by Israel. Israel wanted to check the returning pilgrims to see if they were smuggling cash back for *Hamas*, which runs Gaza, or if some of those returning were wanted militants who had received military training in Lebanon, Syria or Iran.

Mr. Regev denied that there was a diplomatic crisis with Egypt, but said, "There is tension." Egypt is a crucial ally of Israel, he said. "So we want to try to encourage Egypt to do more, but at the same time to ensure that the relationship remains stable," Mr. Regev said. "Peace with Egypt is fundamental to us. But if <u>Hamas</u> is allowed through a porous border to strengthen itself, build a more formidable military regime and expand the range of its rockets, it's not in Egypt's interests, either."

Israel continued its attacks on Palestinian militants in Gaza, especially from Islamic Jihad. In an incursion in southern Gaza, in a village near Khan Yunis, Israeli troops and tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, destroyed a

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house, killing two brothers, Ahmad and Sami Fayyad, their sister, Asma Fayyad, 24, and their mother, Karima Fayyad, 60. Their father, Muhammad Fayyad, a farmer, was wounded.

Medics at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis said that Sami Fayyad's wife was wounded, and that the couple's 3-year-old daughter was clinically dead.

Sami Fayyad, 30, was a fighter with Islamic Jihad's military wing. Ahmad Fayyad, 32, was a former member of the Palestinian Authority security forces. Israeli Army spokesmen said the brothers were firing on Israeli forces from alongside and inside the house. The house was hit by at least one tank shell, and Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces, using armored bulldozers, then collapsed the rest of the house.

In a statement, Israel said blame for the deaths of the <u>women</u> "lies with the gunmen, who operated intentionally from a civilian environment."

At the Khan Yunis hospital were the bodies of two other Palestinian fighters killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli troops. Munir Burhom, 22, and Burhom Abu Lehyia, age unknown, were members of *Hamas*'s military wing.

Two more <u>Hamas</u> fighters were also killed Thursday, while more than 30 people were wounded, including five children on the way to school, hit by shrapnel. Three bodies, so far unidentified, were taken from a house destroyed by Israel.

Early Friday, Israeli troops killed at least one Palestinian militant in a clash near the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, Reuters reported. It said an Israeli Army spokeswoman said troops had shot at a gunman and confirmed hitting him.

The Israelis also carried out airstrikes on what they said was an Islamic Jihad warehouse in Gaza City and three other military targets. But Palestinians said the Israelis also bombed the Gaza City homes of two senior Islamic Jihad commanders whom the Israelis killed in rocket attacks a week ago or more ago.

The homes, of Karim Dahdouh and Muhammad Abdallah Abu Murshad, were bombed from the air and destroyed. At the time, Israel said they were responsible for making rockets and launching hundreds of them at Israel. Mr. Dahdouh was killed Dec. 17; Mr. Murshad was killed a week ago.

The Israelis, like the British during the Mandate, often destroy the homes of prominent enemies, usually by bulldozer in the occupied West Bank. To destroy homes from the air in Gaza, where Israel no longer keeps a permanent military presence, seems to be a new policy, intended to deter other militants by underlining the risk not just to their own lives but to the livelihood of their families.

Israeli military officials insisted, however, that the four targets bombed were specific military objectives and not homes, and that only one airstrike took place in Gaza City, on the warehouse.

A more primitive Qassam rocket landed in a backyard of the Israeli town of Sderot, damaging a house and sending the owner, a woman, into shock.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops in about 70 jeeps moved into the center of Nablus and arrested three senior members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, affiliated to Fatah, and dozens were wounded in the raid. The Israelis are pursuing leads to the killings of two Israeli settlers near Hebron last week, which Israel says was carried out by men affiliated with Fatah.

Mr. Olmert made a surprise visit to Jordan on Thursday to meet with King Abdullah II and update him on talks with the Palestinians before President Bush's arrival in the region next Wednesday. In their talks, in Aqaba, the king warned Israel against expanding its settlements on occupied land and said such moves threatened to obstruct progress on a lasting peace accord, a palace official told Reuters. The king had met Wednesday with the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

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Israeli officials said Mr. Olmert told the king that Israel would not build any new settlements in the West Bank and would avoid further land appropriations there, briefed him on the Katyusha rocket strike and said that unless the Palestinians cracked down on terrorism, no progress could be made.

Separately, Israel announced that it had detected the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in poultry in a petting zoo near a kindergarten in the northern, coastal town of Binyamina. The government said that 18 contaminated birds were found dead last week, and it ordered the destruction of poultry and banned the transportation of animals in a two-mile radius of the town.

Friday will be the second anniversary of the stroke that incapacitated former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, 79. Doctors at the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv said that Mr. Sharon's condition had changed little and that his body was functioning normally, although he is connected to a feeding tube. They said that he showed some responses to the sound of voices of his close family.

Mr. Sharon "has not been in deep coma since his admission and throughout this period there have been some signs of response to several kinds of stimuli," the medical statement said.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS: The body of Munir Burhom, 22, of <u>Hamas</u>'s military wing, was carried from a house destroyed by the Israelis near Khan Yunis. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ALI ALI/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY)

Palestinians fled their homes in a village near Khan Yunis on Thursday during an Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip involving troops and tanks backed by helicopter gunships. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ABID KATIB/GETTY IMAGES) MAP: The attacks near Khan Yunis focused on Islamic Jihad. Map of Khan Yunis along the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: January 4, 2008



Jordan, Fearing Islamists, Tightens Grip on Elections

The New York Times

November 11, 2007 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 1; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 1325 words

Byline: By THANASSIS CAMBANIS **Dateline:** AMMAN, Jordan, Nov. 9

Body

This month's legislative elections were supposed to be a watershed in this pro-American kingdom's slow but committed march to democratic change.

But <u>Hamas</u>'s rise to power in the Palestinian Authority and its violent takeover of Gaza in June have cast a heavy shadow over politics in Jordan, where a Hashemite monarch maintains a tight, authoritarian grip on a restive Palestinian majority and an activist Islamic opposition.

As a result, the government has dropped plans to change its byzantine electoral law, prohibited some critics from seeking office and threatened to bar independent observers from the polls. And, with less than two weeks before the Nov. 20 vote, opposition candidates are accusing the government of rampant voter fraud.

The government's fears have resonated in some quarters of the liberal elite that just two years ago was pushing for a political overhaul that would allow national parties and free, fair elections. But Jordan's system restrains not only Islamists but also secular liberal parties and advocates of Palestinian rights. Many in the opposition accuse the government of using the specter of rising Islamism to justify autocratic rule.

"We have democracy, but we don't want it to go to an extent where the radical people could rule the country," said Hakem Habahbeh, a pilot who was spending a recent evening at the campaign tent of Ahmed Saffadi, in a wealthy, liberal enclave. Mr. Saffadi, a former military officer and now a cellphone company executive, is running for Parliament from the third district of Amman, the capital. Political discussion in the tent ran late into the evening. Most of the talk involved rising prices and unemployment, and fear that Jordan's Islamists could follow the example of *Hamas* and rise to power.

"We can't have more freedom right now, conditions don't allow it," said Ahmed Saleem, another Saffadi backer at the tent. With the examples of disorder nearby in the West Bank, Gaza and Iraq, he said, liberals in Jordan have set aside demands for political freedom.

"Jordan needs stability," said Mr. Saleem, a bureaucrat in the mayor's office. "We don't like to make trouble."

The slowdown in democratization has further alienated Jordan's only significant opposition party, the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Action Front, which commands deep support in urban areas, especially among Jordanians of

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Palestinian origin. The party has put forward 22 candidates, even fewer than it did in 2003, saying they would not stand a chance against the widespread government fraud it expects.

The Islamic Action Front boycotted municipal elections in July amid charges that the government was busing soldiers to districts and ordering them to vote for pro-government candidates.

Though some in the party say it would be better to participate in the coming elections, even if the voting is compromised, Zaki Bani Rsheid, the secretary general, argued for another boycott.

Mr. Bani Rsheid contends that in a completely open election, Islamists would win a plurality of votes and the right to form a government. (In the last parliamentary election in 2003, the Islamic Action Front won 17 of 110 seats.)

"We gave the government legitimacy and got nothing in return," he fumed this week. "The election will not be fair."

Islamists in Jordan have been given greater latitude to take part in political life than in most Arab countries, but Mr. Bani Rsheid says the government insists on "no reform, no political change, no democracy," because "they are looking at what happened to *Hamas*."

The elected legislature has limited powers in Jordan's heavily centralized monarchy, but the body has the authority to introduce legislation, which it rarely does, and to censure the cabinet, which it has done on occasion. All 110 legislative seats will be decided in the election.

Independent Jordanian groups have trained thousands of monitors and have been tracking the campaign for illegalities, but they have been in a protracted fight with the government over access to polling stations.

Already, candidates have charged that the government has illegally shifted the registrations of tens of thousands of voters to provinces where pro-government candidates need more votes. The government has denied the accusations but has refused to open the registration rolls to scrutiny.

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of offering money for votes. Analysts like Nahed N. Hattar, a Christian who writes for the Arab al Youm newspaper, said such vote buying is rampant. Mr. Hattar blames an influx of money from rich candidates, and from competing power centers in the government, which he says offer money for votes to maximize their parliamentary blocs.

Beyond allegations of cheating, the election system is set up in a way that makes it hard for Islamists and other opposition candidates to compete.

The election law reserves seats in Parliament for <u>women</u>, and Christian and Circassian minorities. Gerrymandered districts overrepresent rural areas where Jordanian tribes are strong, and underrepresent urban areas dominated by Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

Here in the capital, where more than a third of Jordan's population lives, every legislator represents about 95,000 people. In the rural provinces of Al Karak and At Tafilah, by contrast, each legislator represents about 2,000.

The government has not shied away from direct interference. In October, authorities banned Toujan al-Faisal, a former lawmaker and an outspoken critic of government corruption, from running for Parliament because of her 2002 conviction for "harming the state's dignity." Ms. Faisal served 100 days in prison for the offense, which stemmed from her criticism of the government's approach to car insurance.

"Here the head of a corrupt government decides who can and cannot run for office," Ms. Faisal said in an interview in her home here. "They want a Parliament that won't hold the government accountable for corruption."

For the most part, candidates have focused on issues like fighting inflation and promoting youth. Still, some slogans and speeches explore delicate topics, like the links between Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and those in Jordan, where the population is 30 percent to 60 percent Palestinian, depending on who is estimating. Credible estimates put the figure at 50 percent to 60 percent.

Jordan, Fearing Islamists, Tightens Grip on Elections

The campaign of Najati al Shakhshir, a Palestinian businessman who made much of his fortune renting cars in Jordan and Iraq, is based largely on demanding more rights for Palestinians. Palestinians, for example, are not allowed to hold senior jobs in the military.

"All Jordanians have equal rights and obligations, no matter where they were born," said Mr. Shakhshir, whose family is from Nablus, in the West Bank.

Such talk alarms some Jordanian analysts, who say it will only raise tensions between Jordanians of Palestinian origin and those East Bank Jordanians who lived here before the first influx of Palestinian refugees in 1948.

And the Muslim Brotherhood's party has done little to temper fears spurred by the Gaza takeover. A former secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, Hamza Mansour, is running a firebrand campaign with language almost identical to that of *Hamas*.

"We must not give up the resistance," Mr. Mansour, a Palestinian whose family came to Jordan from Haifa, said Tuesday. "We must never give up the right of return. We must condemn the embargo of Gaza!"

At a voter rally in Amman's poor, hilly second district, Mr. Mansour -- wearing a traditional white tribal scarf on his head and a suit and tie -- showed a slide show featuring armed and masked <u>Hamas</u> fighters to about 75 men. His posters show two crossed swords supporting a Koran beneath the slogan, "Choose Islam as your weapon."

"The system has disfigured democracy," he shouted hoarsely. "Don't let them hold us back."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTO: Supporters of Ahmed Saffadi, a candidate for Parliament from Amman, in his tent last week under a poster of the royal family. (PHOTOGRAPH BY BRYAN DENTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Load-Date: November 11, 2007



Misplaced praise for a misbegotten peace; The Belfast accord

The International Herald Tribune
April 10, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 1039 words

Byline: Geoffrey Wheatcroft - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: BATH, England

Body

Last week Bertie Ahern announced his resignation as prime minister of Ireland under a cloud of financial scandal. There was nevertheless a chorus of praise for his role in securing the settlement in Northern Ireland, notably from Tony Blair, who in doing so was praising himself as well. That settlement was a great and noble thing, was it not?

This is now one of the unassailable orthodoxies of the age, the conventional wisdom to end them all. Even Blair's harshest critics over Iraq add that he must be given credit for his achievement in securing the Belfast agreement 10 years ago this week, and then in exerting the pressure which finally brought about an executive in which lan Paisley, chief minister until he departs before long, shares power with Martin McGuinness as his deputy. The two have recently been disporting themselves in America to still more applause.

But is this outcome really so splendid, and are the men who now rule Ulster so admirable? Paisley is a bully and a bigot; McGuinness was leader of the IRA at a time when it killed large numbers of men, **women** and children.

Some of the IRA's victims were killed at random, but many were killed because they were Protestants, as deliberately as Muslims have been killed in Bosnia or Jews in Israel by other murderous nationalists.

Those who defend the settlement claim that it was a victory for democracy and a triumph over bigotry and violence, but this is historically false and intellectually absurd. Paisley and McGuinness personify the forces of extremism which prevented a just accommodation for decades, until they stepped into the wreckage they themselves had created and picked up the pieces.

One effect of the "peace process" was to destroy the comparatively moderate and democratic parties, David Trimble and his Unionists on the Protestant side, the Social Democratic and Labour Party on the Catholic side. They were routed respectively by Paisley's Democratic Unionists and by Sinn Fein, the political front of the IRA. And this was not an accident.

Ten years ago Trimble found it very difficult to sell the agreement to his followers until Blair made him additional promises, which he either forgot or had no intention of keeping in the first place.

Meantime, under John Hume, its original leader, the SDLP formed a common front with Sinn Fein. On either side, the voters logically enough concluded that force was all British politicians respected.

Those politicians have admitted as much. Jonathan Powell was Blair's chief aide in the Belfast talks. He was told by the SDLP, he says, "that we talked to Sinn Fein because they had the guns.

My answer to that is: yes, and your point is?" That only confirms what Blair himself said. In a recent BBC radio program, "The Price of Peace," Alex Attwood of the SDLP recalls Blair telling him and his colleagues, " the problem with you is you don't have guns."

All those who defend the settlement must attempt to distinguish between the IRA and other terrorists, not to say between Ulster and pretty much everywhere else, a question which has been addressed on this page. The "irony," Michael Goldfarb writes in "Peace is not about justice" (Views, Dec. 8, 2007), is that "the price of conjuring peace out of conflict is that justice is not done; most crimes go unpunished." That has surely been the case in Northern Ireland.

And yet there is a problem. If IRA leaders are appointed to high office, what good reason is there for pursuing Ratko Mladic? This is not said frivolously. The Belfast journalist John O'Farrell has reviewed McGuinness's career, culminating in his appointment as, of all things, minister of education (or "Minister For Surviving Children," as someone sarcastically put it), and observed that "the children of Northern Ireland will have their futures in the hands of a man who, if he were Serb, would be indicted at The Hague."

But then he isn't a Serb, and one should remember that one of the gravest of all Serbian crimes is that there aren't enough Serbian Americans.

Another possible comparison is with the conflict in the Holy Land. Since Zion Evrony became Israeli ambassador in Dublin, he has been told "that Israel should talk to <u>Hamas</u>, as Britain and Ireland spoke to the IRA." But he rejects the advice, and the comparison ("<u>Hamas</u> is not the IRA," Views, Sept. 1, 2007).

It will not have occurred to him that the Irish republican cause in fact compares unfavorably with the Palestinian national cause at every single point. This is written by someone who detests terrorism and has little affection for any kind of extreme nationalism.

The Palestinians have never known democracy, but Ireland has been democratically governed since the 19th century. The lot of the Ulster Catholics was sometimes bleak 60 years ago - until compared with, let's say, the lot of black Americans at the same time.

No Palestinian state exists to this day, but there has been an autonomous Irish state since 1922. Most people now believe that there should be a two-state settlement in the Holy Land, but a two-state settlement is what Ireland achieved more than 80 years ago.

The equivalent of the IRA's demand for a United Ireland, only put aside for the moment, is the one by <u>Hamas</u> for a United Palestine. As Ahmed Yousef, a Palestinian adviser, has said, <u>Hamas</u> is endlessly told that it must recognize Israel's right to exist but, "Irish republicans continue to aspire to a united Ireland . . . Why should more be demanded of the Palestinians?"

Yes, there is peace of a kind in Northern Ireland, although many working-class districts are in the hands of "republican" or "loyalist" mobs. The latest reports from Iraq, where Baghdad is much more segregated between Sunni and Shiite than before the war, will remind anyone who knows Ulster that Belfast is also far more segregated than 20 years ago.

Looking back, maybe the most generous thing to say is that the Belfast Agreement of 1998 was, like the Munich Agreement of 1938, at best a tactical concession to force. And at best it could be greeted, as Leon Blum, the French socialist leader, said he greeted Munich, with a mixture of shame and relief.

*

Load-Date: April 18, 2008



Israel needs a national unity government

The Jerusalem Post February 19, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 1135 words **Byline:** ISI LEIBLER

Highlight: The leader of the opposition should offer to participate in a cabinet led by a new Kadima Party prime

minister. CANDIDLY SPEAKING.

Body

In many respects we are rapidly moving toward a situation which has ominous parallels to the weeks preceding the Six Day War. As then, the enemy is gathering on our borders while the nation lacks faith in its leadership. To make matters worse, our dysfunctional government is poised to make decisions in sham negotiations with a failed Palestinian leadership that may be irrevocable and could have existential implications for our future.

The Winograd Commission report has only served to intensify the rage and frustration shared by the majority of Israelis across the political spectrum against a failed prime ministership of Ehud Olmert. Yet alas, the reality is that cynical Knesset members remain glued to their seats and elections in the short term are unlikely. But if we cannot immediately achieve our goal of holding elections, we must not despair or wring our hands proclaiming that we are helpless. Nothing is more certain than the inevitability that people power will prevail.

The imminent danger confronting us is the permanent damage that could be inflicted on the nation before elections take place. It is therefore imperative for Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition, to seize the initiative and launch a campaign proclaiming that the House of Israel is facing the greatest threat to its survival since the Yom Kippur War. He should reiterate the demand for Olmert to step down. But simultaneously he should take a page from his mentor, Menachem Begin, who set aside all political and personal differences and volunteered in 1967 to serve in a cabinet together with his political foes. Netanyahu should call for a government of national unity to provide the people with confidence that the critical decisions that will soon have to be resolved will not be influenced by anything other than the national interest.

BY MAKING such an offer, Netanyahu may tempt the coalition parties to rid themselves of Olmert without being obliged to compromise their selfish personal agendas. He would provide an example of a national leader rising above politics in the interests of the nation and could take credit for having suspended the dangerous radical initiatives currently underway.

Unless that happens, we are entitled to be genuinely fearful concerning the irrevocable decisions with existential implications for the nation that this government is now considering. Unilateral concessions to the Palestinians that were neither endorsed by the Cabinet nor the Knesset are in the pipeline. They are being implemented with stealth despite the opposition of the vast majority of Israelis and in some cases, in the absence of adequate analysis of the possible consequences.

Israel needs a national unity government

In addition, despite Olmert's promise to Shas, Palestinians are telling the world that they are already finalizing a deal over Jerusalem even though the details, including the future of the Temple Mount, have yet to be disclosed. We could well wake up one day to discover that a similar disaster to what we inflicted upon ourselves in Gaza is repeated in Jerusalem. And when the inevitable occurs, and <u>Hamas</u> and the Palestinian Authority are reunited, we may find that western Jerusalem neighborhoods will be subject to missile attacks similar to Sderot.

This is happening along with a rapid deterioration in other spheres of the security situation. The flow of advanced weaponry and the huge infiltration of terrorists through the porous Egyptian Gaza border represent new threats to the IDF. And unless we act soon to neutralize the increasingly lethal missile attacks against our civilians in the south, the entire nation may soon find itself under attack.

THE UNITED NATIONS carries on like Alice in Wonderland with even the Security Council unable to condemn <u>Hamas</u> for launching missiles against Israeli civilians.

It is of course an outright lie to suggest that Hamastan remains an "occupied territory." It is a fully autonomous terrorist regime administered by fanatical criminals publicly committed to our destruction. Nor are most Gaza residents innocent victims. The vast majority supported the election of <u>Hamas</u> and continue to endorse their barbaric objectives.

Yet as the Palestinians literally celebrate killing Israeli <u>women</u> and children, we are being condemned for imposing "collective punishment" and breaking international law by reducing their electricity. Truly distorted logic!

THAT IS WHY it is now imperative for Netanyahu to ring the alarm bells and - as a last ditch effort - offer to participate in a unity government with a new prime minister. If his offer is accepted, Olmert will be replaced, the disastrous ongoing unilateral concessions that may otherwise prove to be irrevocable will be suspended, and transparency in government will be restored.

If the current leaders refuse to respond to such an initiative, they will stand condemned.

With a united voice and utilizing Netanyahu's communication skills, a unity government would be able to inform the world that we have reached the end of our tether. Our message would be simple: Unless the terror attacks on our civilians are halted forthwith, we will take whatever steps are necessary.

We will be at war and all <u>Hamas</u> leaders will immediately be targeted for assassination. If that does not bring an end to the missile attacks, we will have no choice. Despite bloodshed and possible loss of innocent lives, our response will be identical to that of all self respecting nations from time immemorial whose citizens were being wantonly murdered by their neighbors.

What makes our position ever more surrealistic is that despite the fact that the US remains our key ally, the State Department is now trying to pressure Israel to make further unilateral concessions and warning us against initiating a major ground action to uproot those launching missiles against our civilians.

Yet, paradoxically, support for Israel from the American public is at an all time high. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should therefore be informed that we can no longer stand by with folded arms when the lives of our civilians are at stake. Our government must request that she endorse our legitimate right to defend ourselves.

If she declines to respond positively we should not be afraid to take off our gloves and appeal directly to the American people. We should urge them to consider how they would expect their government to behave were they to be in a similar situation. If we explain our position clearly and unapologetically, Americans will support us.

The implementation of such proposals may appear to be remote. But the reality is that the House of Israel is today truly in danger. Now is the time for the nation to set aside all differences and display the solidarity which in times of need has always proven to be our greatest asset.

Graphic

Photo: PA PRESIDENTIAL guard. Are irrevocable Israeli concessions to the Palestinians in the pipeline? (Credit: AP)

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BUSH IN MIDEAST TO PUSH FREEDOM

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Body

For years, President Bush has eagerly waved a flag for democracy in the Mideast from afar. This week, he steps gingerly into the troubled region where his freedom agenda is stalled.

Mr. Bush proclaimed in his second inaugural address that the United States would work for democratic reform in every nation and culture, "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Now, in the final months of his presidency, he is off to sell democratic ideals to wary Mideast leaders who have turned their focus to who will succeed him, and how political turmoil will play out in Pakistan.

Mr. Bush was leaving late yesterday on the eight-day trip.

The Dec. 27 assassination of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has cast a shadow over Mr. Bush's trip to Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"It is very much on the minds of everyone in the region, and particularly on the minds of the authoritarian Arab rulers in Riyadh, Cairo, Amman and the Gulf States," said Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution analyst who advised Mr. Bush on the Middle East.

They see embattled Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf as one of them, Mr. Riedel said. "They see his political problems as evocative of what happens when the word 'democracy' is uttered in a Muslim state, and they fear very much that this strong ally of theirs is going to be deposed in 2008."

During his trip, Mr. Bush will nudge the Israelis and Palestinians toward a peace pact, get an update on Iraq and work to counter Iran's quest for greater influence in the region. But Mr. Bush's freedom agenda in the region -- an initiative he holds close to his heart -- will be an overarching theme.

In a speech Sunday in the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Bush will highlight political change that has occurred in places like Bahrain, and how regional security is important not only for democracy, but also for economic growth. On Saturday, he'll host a round-table session about democracy with Kuwaiti <u>women</u>, who were excluded from political life until recently.

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Mr. Bush has repeatedly said he never expected "Jeffersonian democracy to break out instantly" across the Middle East. That's a reality readily acknowledged by National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, who, in previewing Mr. Bush's trip, ticked off democratic reforms that have occurred in the region over the past few years, then lamented the sluggish progress.

Mr. Hadley noted that the first woman was elected to the parliament in Bahrain (the first ever in any Gulf Arab state); Kuwait allowed <u>women</u> to vote and run for office for the first time; Egypt held its first multiparty elections; Saudi Arabia held municipal council elections; and King Abdullah has started a national dialogue to address reform, including <u>women</u>'s rights and relations with non-Muslims.

"I think it is fair to say that this rate of progress has not continued in the way we would have hoped," Mr. Hadley said.

He added that the democracy agenda suffered a setback when the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> swept Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006. <u>Hamas</u> later led a violent takeover of the Gaza Strip, essentially splitting Palestinian governance.

<u>Hamas</u>, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, now runs Gaza, while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his secular Fatah Party, backed by the United States, now run the West Bank.

"I think the election of *Hamas* in the Palestinian elections gave a number of countries pause as to where this was heading," Mr. Hadley said.

In an effort to demonstrate some progress toward peace on the eve of Mr. Bush's arrival in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday met and authorized their lead negotiators to "commence immediately" talks on "all core issues" of a final peace accord, said Olmert spokesman Mark Regev.

But talks on those issues -- borders, Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlements and the status of Jerusalem -- failed to get off the ground in the weeks since the November conference of Mideast players that Mr. Bush hosted in Annapolis, Md., as an old dynamic reasserted itself.

Even before the negotiators' first meeting Dec. 12, an Israeli government call for bids for new construction at Har Homa -- a Jerusalem neighborhood built on West Bank land captured by Israel and annexed to the city in 1967 -- brought loud protests from Palestinians, who seek the area as part of a future state.

Jon Alterman, a Mideast expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that if there is a surprise in store during Mr. Bush's trip to the region, he expected that it would be a stop in Lebanon, where the Westernbacked government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora is locked in a political standoff with the pro-Syrian opposition.

"Lebanon is the last flickering flame of the administration's democratization push in the Middle East," Mr. Alterman said. "Clearly, a visit to Lebanon would carry with it immense security concerns, ... but I find it hard to imagine that the president will be so close and not seek to do something that will strengthen the hand of Prime Minister Siniora and his allies."

Mr. Bush hasn't given up on seeing democracy flourish in the Middle East, and his advisers are convinced that it will be something history will ultimately enshrine to his legacy. But they say short-run concerns -- such as curbing proliferation of nuclear weapons, fighting terrorists and maintaining regional security -- have required trade-offs.

Mr. Bush has been criticized for ignoring repression in Egypt, being tolerant when Mr. Musharraf imposed emergency rule in Pakistan and taking a much harder stance against the Myanmar ruling junta. Despite these decisions, the administration insists that Mr. Bush has never stopped championing democracy or meeting with political reformists, dissidents and human-rights advocates around the world.

"I think what they truly believe in their heart of hearts is that the history books will give George Bush credit for being the first one to sound the liberty bell in the Middle East," said Ken Pollack, director of research at Brookings

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Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy. "What is unclear is what his legacy will be beyond that, and I think that what we would all say the most generous assessment that you can give was, 'Bright idea. Horrendous execution.' "

Notes

The Chicago Tribune contributed to this report.

Graphic

PHOTO: Mohammed Abed/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images: Palestinians in Gaza City prepare anti-Bush banners yesterday on the eve of the president's landmark visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories. As violence simmered ahead of the visit, Palestinians called on Mr. Bush to press Israel to freeze settlement activity when he visits the region this week in a bid to bolster the peace process.

\ INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC: The White House; ESRI; AP: (Bush meets with Middle East leaders)

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