

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:02:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445031

# Documents (100)

1. Is that a crocodile in your pocket or ...

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

2. In the World

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

3. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

4. WORLD IN FOCUS How to bridge the divide

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

5. Prince Bandar shows the House of Saud how to punch its weight

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

6. 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

7. Child survivor of assassinations recounts shootings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

8. PM shares the theory of Mr Tony: you cant please everyone

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

9. World at a glance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

10. Defence minister raises 'Cain'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

11. Unveiling stupidity

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

12. Top of the World

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

13. Israelis Fire on Marchers Aiding Gaza Gunmen, Killing 2

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

14. Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

15. Lebanese leader in vow to 'root out' militant group

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 16. Support Palestine

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 17. PM urges Canadians to remember victims

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

#### 18. 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 19. Bold step needed on Middle-East dialogue

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 20. Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007



# 21. Rockets shake Israeli city: Sderot woman is gassam casualty Israel responds with raids on Gaza Strip

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

22. World Journal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

23. The Wrap: Hackers target Whitehall

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

24. OUR VIEW Fanatics 21st-century danger

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

25. 'Smugglers' get 15 minutes to go, then house is blown up

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

26. Israel has power to end conflict

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

27. Inside today

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

28. 2006 at a Glance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

29. Bethlehem's Second Coming

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

30. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: IS DEMOCRACY ALWAYS GOOD?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

31. Amid Political Upheaval, Israeli Economy Stays Healthy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

32. Pakistan zeroes in on zealots

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

33. Tortured artists

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

34. This Week They Said

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

35. REPTILES' AUSSIE ADVENTURE STARTS INSIDE GNOMES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

36. Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

37. In Short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

38.\_World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

39. International: World briefing: Israel counts the cost of war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

40. World Digest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

41. In Short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

42. DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

43. DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

44. IRAN STILL BALKS ON NUKE PLAN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

45. Saudi king loses power to name successor: Royal council to select crown prince

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

46. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

47. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

48. Report presents picture of severe abuses toward women Human Rights Watch finds the problem among Palestinians is getting worse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

49. Shot down, the women used as a human shield

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

50. Israel alert for revenge attacks as Gaza buries its dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

51. 5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

52. Shot down, the women used as a human shield

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 53. Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

#### 54. At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

#### 55. Top 2 candidates head to presidential runoff

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

#### 56. Lessons from Northern Ireland Blair can take to 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 57. Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

58. Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

59. 5 Minute Herald: Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

60. The danger of a 'chosen' nation Israel holds a sacred place in the words of the Old Testament. But does

Christian doctrine give that country a free pass at the expense of 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

61. US voters mind the gender gap - World in brief World 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

62. Draft dodgers should bear 'Mark of Cain': Israeli minister; One in four evades summer conscription

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

63. National briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

64. McCain's Iowa campaign chief stirs Mormons' ire by sniping at Romney's LDS faith

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

65. Federal Liberals to run intellectual in Outremont by-election; Dion parachutes in Jocelyn Coulon to fend off

Thomas Mulcair's New Democratic challenge

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

66. Between dust and deliverance; COMMENTARY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

67. This Week They Said

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007



### 68. Utah McCain supporters fuming over anti-LDS comments

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 69. Immersedin grief, and unable to move on DEATH IN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 70. Pulitzer for Imam Feature Called 'Outrageous'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 71. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 72. The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 73. Egyptian Charged With Spying for Israel in Turkey; Israel Denies It



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

74. THE KIBBUTZ In the summer of 1978, like thousands of other idealistic teenagers, Andy McSmith (right) volunteered to work on a kibbutz. Israel 's great experiment in socialist living captured his imagination and broadened his horizons. But nearly three decades later, the settlers who welcomed him into their peaceful community on the edge of Gaza are divided from their neighbours as never before - as he discovered when he returned to Nahal Oz

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

75. Lurid details of sex scandal serve as diversion for war-weary Israelis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

76. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

77. The kidnap of this woman's husband sparked the latest war 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, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 78. Israeli pullout from Gaza leaves community in ruins More rockets are fired across the border

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 79. Devastation is revealed after tanks pull out of siege town

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

#### 80. Critics' Choice

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 81. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 82. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 83. Israel ushers in Jewish New Year amid tensions along its borders



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

84. Presidential candidates debate in N.H.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

85. G2: Lost in showbiz: Off with their heads: the al-Qaida take on celebrity

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

86. THE NEW TERROR THREAT: TARGET EUROPE: COMMENTARY: Some converts do fall prey to the

fanatics. But let us remember the many who do not

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

87. Israel told to reroute part of barrier Court ruling hailed: 'They demolished the Berlin Wall, we want to

<u>demolish the Bilin wall'</u>
Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

88. Business briefs

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

89. A desolate maze divides two worlds Few make the trek along a surreal corridor that separates Israel drom

poverty-stricken Gaza
Client/Matter: -NoneSearch Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

90. Tuesday - Critic's View

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

91. Extremists pick professionals' brains - TERROR ARRESTS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

92. CONTINUATION: 'I was bleeding on the back seat. The soldier looked at the blood and laughed'

<u>CHRISTMAS APPEAL</u>
Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

93. Guardian Weekly: The Week: The roundup

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 94. Olmert and Abdullah: In Pursuit of a Mirage

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 95. <u>PELOSI VISIT TO SYRIA IRKS BUSH SPEAKER'S TRIP IS LATEST MOVE BY DEMOCRATS TO ASSERT INFLUENCE</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 96. Tapping Ahmadinejad's Egg: What America and the world can do to crack the Iranian threat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

# 97. Israeli police commissioner steps down Panel criticized him over 1999 crime case

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

### 98. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

99. Violence must end

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007

100. Al-Qaida No. 2 attacks leaders of Egypt, Yemen, Palestinians in Web message

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2006 to

Sep 30, 2007



# Is that a crocodile in your pocket or ...

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

March 27, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Prince George Citizen All Rights Reserved

Section: TODAY IN PRINCE GEORGE; Pg. 2; Oddities

Length: 411 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

# **Body**

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A woman with three crocodiles strapped to her waist was stopped at the Gaza-Egypt border crossing after guards noticed that she looked "strangely fat," officials said Monday.

The woman's shape raised suspicions at the Rafah terminal in southern Gaza, and a body search by a <u>female</u> border guard turned up the animals, each about 50 centimetres long, concealed underneath her loose robe, according to Maria Telleria, spokeswoman for the European observers who run the crossing.

"The woman looked strangely fat. Even though she was veiled and covered, even with so many clothes on there was something strange," Telleria said.

The incident, which took place on Thursday, sparked panic at the crossing.

"The policewoman screamed and ran out of the room, and then <u>women</u> began screaming and panicking when they heard," Telleria said. But when the hysteria died down, she said, "everybody was admiring a woman who is able to tie crocodiles to her body."

In her defence, the woman said she "was asked" to carry the crocodiles, said Wael Dahab, a spokesman for the Palestinian guards at the crossing.

The reptiles, which had their jaws tied shut with string, were returned to the Egyptian side of the border.

Dahab said the animals were likely meant for sale to Gaza's small zoo or to private owners. The crocodiles would fetch "good money," even in the impoverished territory, he said. In Gaza, the animals can fetch about \$580C -- roughly two months' salary for a low-ranking policeman.

The woman was not the first to try to smuggle exotic wildlife through the Rafah crossing, Dahab said: Another woman tried to bring in a monkey tied to her chest, and other travellers tried to smuggle in exotic birds and a tiger cub. Border guards more frequently confiscate cigarettes, prescription drugs and car parts.

The crossing is the only way in and out of Gaza for residents of the crowded coastal strip.

# Is that a crocodile in your pocket or ...

Since Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, the crossing has been subject to a complex system of control: Egypt and the Palestinians are responsible for the crossing, with European monitors are stationed at the terminal and Israeli inspectors watch from a distance over closed-circuit TV.

Israel retains final say over whether the crossing can open, and has kept it closed over 80 per cent of the time since an Israeli soldier was captured by <u>Hamas</u>-linked militants in Gaza nine months ago, charging that the crossing is being used to smuggle money and weapons to militants.

Load-Date: March 27, 2007

**End of Document** 



# In the World

The Philadelphia Inquirer March 7, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A06

Length: 484 words

# **Body**

Study:Palestinians face spending crisis

JERUSALEM - The Palestinian Authority faces a fiscal crisis that could threaten its existence, in part because it keeps expanding the public payroll despite sharply reduced revenues, the World Bank said in a report released yesterday.

The Palestinian economy declined in 2006 from an already low level, and per capita gross domestic product fell at least 8 percent, said the report, obtained by the Associated Press.

The decline coincides with an international boycott of <u>Hamas</u>, which rose to power a year ago. Since then, foreign aid has been redirected to moderate Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas or disbursed as direct salary or welfare payments to Palestinians.

About 25 percent of the Palestinian labor force is unemployed, the report said. In Gaza, the rate is 36 percent. - AP

Two Calif. women poisoned in Russia

MOSCOW - An American doctor and her daughter were being treated at a Moscow hospital yesterday after being poisoned late last month with thallium, a highly toxic element with a history of use in pesticides and in murder.

Both <u>women</u>, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in the 1980s but recently returned to Russia for a vacation, were severely sickened, but their lives are not in danger, medical officials here said.

Viktor M. Kaznacheyev, chief physician at Sklifosovsky Clinic, said Marina Kovalevsky, 49, and her daughter, Yana, 26, of Studio City, Calif., were under the supervision of poison specialists. They have been treated at the clinic since falling ill Feb. 24. The circumstances of the poisonings were unclear.

#### - N.Y. Times News Service

Italian prosecutors clear MD in death

#### In the World

ROME - Italian prosecutors yesterday cleared a physician who disconnected the respirator of a paralyzed man who had asked to die, a patients' advocate group said. Mario Riccio assisted in the December death of Piergiorgio Welby, 60, a writer with muscular dystrophy.

Anti-euthanasia campaigners and some conservative politicians called Welby's death murder. But Riccio, Welby's family and now prosecutors called it a suspension of therapy that conformed to a patient's right to refuse treatment.

In an apparent contradiction in Italian law, patients can legally refuse care, but the Italian medical code requires doctors to keep a patient alive.- **AP** 

#### Elsewhere:

**The United States**said yesterday it wanted North Korea to move beyond an initial agreement to shut its main plutonium-making reactor and "come clean" about other ways it enriches uranium.

**North Korea** has ordered its diplomats stationed overseas to send their children back to the communist nation in an apparent attempt to prevent diplomats from defecting, a South Korean newspaper reported.

**Guatemalan President** Oscar Berger ordered the national police to clean out corrupt officers and upgrade training after six members of the force were accused of killing three Central American Parliament members.

Load-Date: March 7, 2007

**End of Document** 



# **Inside Today**

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 16, 2007 Friday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

**Length:** 425 words **Byline:** The Gazette

# **Body**

Washington Shuns New Palestinian Government

The rocky Middle East peace process received another jolt yesterday when Palestinian officials said the United States had told them it would have no contact with ministers from the new Palestinian unity government. Washington says the snub is because *Hamas* continues to refuse to accept Israel's right to exist. Details, Page A15

Canada, U.S. Talk Depression

Canada and the United States are convening a special forum on mental health after a startling survey found one in six North American adults have been diagnosed with depression. Details, Page A14

Cops: Street Gangs Not at War

Gang-related killings on Montreal Island rose by more than double last year - to 12 from five in 2005, Montreal police report. But despite that increase, gang activity remains under control, says an assistant director of the force. Details, Page A6

Senate Panel: Review CIDA

Since 1968, the Canadian International Development Agency has spent \$12.4 billion in sub-Saharan Africa, with little to show for it. The problem, a Senate committee concluded, is that 81 per cent of CIDA staff is based in the Ottawa area - not in Africa. The report recommends that the government reform the agency or consider disbanding it. Details, Page A12

#### **BUSINESS**

#### GAME COMPANY TO SET UP HERE

Eidos Interactive, the video-game maker that made a cult heroine of gunslinging vixen Lara Croft, plans to open a studio in Montreal that will hire 350 in three years. British-based Eidos will invest \$50 million to create the studio and recruit 150 by the end of this year. Details, Page B1

**Sports** 

Inside Today

Predators Pick Up Forsberg

The surprising Nashville Predators, vying for the NHL's overall lead, have landed Peter Forsberg, trading two players and a pair of draft picks for the Philadelphia Flyers star. Details, Page C2

Preview

Music to Chill Out the Planet

Al Gore yesterday announced a series of worldwide concerts - called Live Earth - to focus on the threat of climate change, with a powerhouse lineup of over 100 performers, from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Snoop Dogg to Bon Jovi. Details, Page D8

- Today's Columnists

"Mario Dumont has become Public Enemy No. 1 for both Jean Charest and Andre Boisclair." Legault, Opinion, A19

Mike Boone on backyard census: Bird lovers take stock of their flocks. Montreal, A7

Janet Bagnall on equality: No women on "accommodation" panel? Opinion, A19

L. Ian Macdonald on Charter of Rights: After 25 years, merits are still debatable. Opinion, A19

Bill Brownstein on Fired!: Annabelle Gurwitch's movie is the best revenge. Arts, D1

# **Graphic**

Photo: (See hard copy for photo);

Photo: JosEe Legault;

Load-Date: March 2, 2007

**End of Document** 



# WORLD IN FOCUS; How to bridge the divide

The Advertiser (Australia)
February 17, 2007 Saturday
State Edition

Copyright 2007 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: MAGAZINE; Pg. W03

Length: 1083 words

Byline: by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia

# **Body**

FEW will dispute the fact that the defining tension today is between the West and the Muslim world. Sure, there are other tensions as well - Japan and China; Japan and the two Koreas; Russia and Ukraine; India and Pakistan; the U.S. and Cuba as well as Venezuela; and the many conflicts in Africa. But none of these is as profound or as far-reaching in their global consequences.

This great tension between the West and the Muslim world has sometimes been described as a "clash of civilisations". But this would be to distort the nature and causes of the confrontation completely. I would like to argue that what we are burdened with is the consequence of our inability to construct a global order that can maintain the peace, restrain the strong and protect the weak. Many in the West would identify the critical point as the al-Qaida terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The campaign against terror won the support and participation of the Muslim world. The other actions of the U.S., however, attracted little support.

For the Muslim world, the critical point occurred when Israel was created out of Arab land without their acquiescence, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homeland. Most in the Arab and Muslim world eventually accepted the existence of Israel. But the ensuing conflict, in which the U.S. and the West are perceived to be partial to Israel, remains the single most powerful factor dividing the Muslim world and the West.

Ours is not a confrontation of cultures, religions or civilisations. What pits us against each other is the pursuit and aggrandisement of power, and opposition to it; the desire to dominate and impose one's will, and resistance to it; the usurpation of land and resources, and the struggle against it; and the slaughter of the lives of innocent men, **women** and children, and our outrage at this.

The question is what can we do, together or severally, to moderate the tensions and close the divide? The answer is quite obvious. We must address the issues that most alienate and antagonise us. We cannot avoid giving the greatest priority to the resolution of the issue of Palestine. If we are able to resolve the issue justly and equitably, in accordance with UN resolutions and relevant decisions, much of the roots of conflict and instability in the Middle East will disappear.

Iraq is now the other great irritant and obstacle to better relations between the West and the Muslim world. Indeed, Western governments will be more popular, even with their own people, if they can revise their policies and rehabilitate the situation in Iraq.

#### WORLD IN FOCUS How to bridge the divide

The third important issue that we should tackle is terrorism. This is perhaps even more a threat to some Muslim countries than it is to Western countries or interests. Where terrorism is essentially driven by domestic factors and has a domestic agenda, it has little impact on our relations. But where it is linked to international terrorism and al-Qaida, the West and the Muslim world must work together to counter the threat. We are in fact already doing this to a large extent. I am convinced that the campaign against militancy and terrorism will be much more successful if we are able to make effective progress with regard to the issues of Palestine and Iraq. Much of the resistance and militancy in the Middle East, as well as terrorism, will begin to subside. <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah will disband their militant wings when Palestine is liberated.

Hostilities between some countries in the West and Iran and Syria should also decline when the Palestinian issue is resolved and the situation in Iraq returns to normal. Neither Tehran nor Damascus will be providing assistance to <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, or supporting sectarian resistance and militancy in Iraq as alleged. The only issue that should remain to be peacefully resolved is the nuclear issue involving Iran.

A certain level of terrorism will conceivably persist for some while, because the terrorists of today are the products of what happened before. But they will be robbed of a cause. Sympathy and support for them will decline. Terrorism that is driven by domestic conditions and that pursues a domestic sectarian agenda will remain, but it will be rid of any anti-Western impulse. There will be no international terrorism.

The fourth area where we should be devoting our energies is reducing the influence of the forces of intolerance, extremism and militancy in our respective body politics and societies. We usually recognise voices of extremism and militancy only on the other side. Extremism and militancy in our own body politics and societies are often viewed as respectable and patriotic voices that have the interests of the country at heart.

These forces can in fact cause great harm to our interests both at home and abroad. They urge adversarial rather than collaborative approaches with other countries. They are quick to counsel the use of coercive policies without adequately exhausting other options. More dangerously, they are quick to counsel war and the use of force.

The influence of the forces of extremism and militancy can be even more pervasive in some Muslim societies. Some of them preach a severe and intolerant brand of Islam that rejects the pursuit of material wealth. They keep Muslims in a state of underdevelopment and backwardness. They preach intolerance of other faiths. They forbid fraternisation with non-Muslims. They deny <u>women</u> a place of dignity in society. A few of them distort the teachings of Islam and the meaning of jihad. They incite violent attacks against not only foreign military forces that are considered to have harmed Muslims but also innocent civilians.

It is incumbent upon us on both sides of the divide to rein in the extremists and moderate their influence upon policy and society. This will help us build a more harmonious and peaceful environment in our own countries and a more harmonious and peaceful community internationally.

Edited extract of a speech to the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London.

#### Abdullah Ahmad

#### **BADAWI**

- \* He succeeded Mahathir bin Mohamad as Prime Minister of Malaysia in 2003 after four years as deputy.
- \* The son of a prominent politician, he graduated at the University of Malaya with a Bachelor of Arts in 1964.
- \* He held a series of civil service posts until he was elected to Parliament in 1978.
- \* Calling for modern and progressive Islamic rule, he led the National Front coalition to a landslide victory in the 2004 elections.

Load-Date: February 16, 2007

**End of Document** 



# Prince Bandar shows the House of Saud how to punch its weight

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

March 9, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Telegraph Group Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Inside Abroad; Pg. 23

**Length:** 1018 words **Byline:** Con Coughlin

# **Body**

Just what has come over the Saudis? For as long as anyone can remember, the House of Saud has been a model of discretion and reticence in its dealings with the outside world. Whenever the royal family has found itself having to deal with some unpleasant local difficulty, such as Saddam threatening to overrun their oil fields, or Osama bin Laden plotting to murder the king, its time-honoured response has been to reach for the chequebook and buy its way out of trouble. No publicity, no fuss.

Well, that was then. Nowadays, if you look at any of the key issues affecting the region, whether it is Iraq, Iran or the stalemate over Israel/Palestine, you'll invariably find the Saudis spear-heading some bold initiative to find a solution.

Take the talks they hosted last month to persuade the rival <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah Palestinian factions to stop the bloody infighting that nearly brought Gaza to the brink of all-out war. Had it not been for the personal intervention of King Abdullah, the rival Palestinian groups would still be trying to resolve their differences through violence. But after he managed to persuade Ismail Haniyeh, the <u>Hamas</u> leader, and Mahmoud Abbas, the veteran Fatah activist who is nominally the Palestinians' president, to get together in the Saudi holy city of Mecca, the two sides agreed to patch up their differences and form a government of national unity - albeit one that still declines to recognise the right of Israel to exist.

Even more daring was the Saudi initiative this week to try to talk some sense into the nuclear-obsessed Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Saudi Arabia's hardline Sunni regime has always been a source of friction for the Shia zealots who seized control of Iran during the 1979 revolution, so much so that Iran's Revolutionary Guards were blamed by the Saudis for training the al-Qa'eda terror group that blew up the Americans' military base in Dhahran in 1996, killing 19 people and wounding 500.

Yet the new-look Saudis have been able to ignore the bad blood and laid on a lavish welcome for Mr Ahmadinejad. And, if Saudi reports are to be believed, the summit achieved a tangible result, with the Iranian president, who normally makes impassioned speeches calling for Israel's destruction, actually supporting an Arab peace plan to end the Israel-Palestinian crisis (although there was, strangely, no mention of this historic volte face in the official Iranian media).

Similar Saudi initiatives have been undertaken in Lebanon, where Saudi mediation was credited with preventing the country from sliding into civil war after the murder of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, and in Iraq, where the Saudis, who vociferously opposed the Iraq war, are desperate to prevent the chaotic security situation spilling across their borders. And all this without a chequebook in sight.

#### Prince Bandar shows the House of Saud how to punch its weight

So why this frenetic bout of activity? Saudi Arabia itself has been undergoing a subtle transformation since King Abdullah succeded to the throne on the death of his brother, King Fahd, in 2005. Unlike many of his predecessors, Abdullah is actually prepared to discuss sensitive issues, such as improving the lot of Saudi <u>women</u> and human rights legislation.

Abdullah is also determined to move away from the isolationist tendencies of the past, and to use the country's wealth, weight and prestige to influence events in the region, rather than simply reacting to them. One of his first acts as king was to appoint his nephew Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a former long-serving ambassador to Washington, the country's new national security adviser.

Ever since his appointment, "The Roving Prince", as the 58-year-old Bandar is affectionately known by his staff, has been the driving force behind Saudi Arabia's attempts to establish itself as a major player in the politics of the region. A flamboyant character who counts both Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela among his close friends, Bandar's success in raising his country's international profile derives from the 22 years he spent in Washington, where he became such a close friend of the Bush clan that he became known as "Bandar Bush".

Bandar's relationship to the current President is so close that he was one of the first confidants Bush turned to after the September 11 attacks, inviting him to the White House two days later to smoke cigars. The American investigative journalist Bob Woodward claimed in his book Plan of Attack that Bandar was shown essential details of the war plan against Saddam, even before Secretary of State Colin Powell. In return Bandar promised that Saudi Arabia would increase oil production to keep petrol prices down for the duration of the conflict.

Compulsive conspiracy theorists, such as the anti-war film director Michael Moore, have had a field day with the Bush-Bandar relationship. One of the more outlandish suggestions is that they colluded in a monstrous plot to purloin Iraq's vast wealth. The reality, as you might expect, is very different. Bandar's closeness both to Bush and the entire Washington political establishment has strengthened the Saudis' hand in their attempts to have a positive influence over the region, which is good news both for the Saudis and the Americans. For the alternative to Saudi interventionism in the Middle East is Iranian meddling.

The reason Bandar has been so busy collecting Air Miles in recent weeks was the belated realisation that, without Saudi intervention, the Iranians were in danger of dictating the course of events in all the region's key conflicts. On Teheran's orders, Hizbollah is trying to overthrow the democratically elected government in Lebanon, while an assortment of Shia militias is attempting to inflict a similar fate on the Iraqi administration. In Gaza, Iran has now replaced the European Union as the main provider of funds for the Palestinian Authority.

As Dick Cheney, the American Vice-President, is said to have remarked when he met King Abdullah at the end of last year, the only way to stop the Iranians becoming the region's dominant power is for the Saudis to claim the role for themselves.

Load-Date: March 9, 2007

**End of Document** 



# **News Summary**

The New York Times

January 28, 2007 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 424 words

# **Body**

#### **INTERNATIONAL 3-12**

#### Saudi Arabia Shifts Oil Policy

Saudi Arabia, which benefited from record oil prices last year, has sent signals in the past two weeks that it is committed to keeping oil at around \$50 a barrel -- down \$27 a barrel from the summer peak that shook consumers.

### Attacks on Shiites Continue

Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad came under attack once again, the 10th consecutive day of large scale bloodshed, as bombings and shootings left at least 300 people dead and roughly 1,000 wounded in the past two weeks. 4

#### U.S. Debate on Israeli Bombs

The Bush administration will inform Congress that Israel may have violated agreements with the United States when it fired American-supplied cluster munitions into southern Lebanon during its fight with Hezbollah last summer, officials said. 3

#### 3 Killed in Gaza Violence

At least three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza in continuing battles between fighters loyal to Fatah and *Hamas*, which has been celebrating the anniversary of its victory a year ago over Fatah in legislative elections. 3

### Bomb Kills Pakistani Police

At least 14 people were killed, most of them policemen, and several others were wounded in what appeared to be a suicide bombing in the northwestern city of Peshawar, the police said. 4

#### NATIONAL 14-22

#### Obama's Years at Harvard Law

Harvard Law School was the place where Barack Obama, the Illinois senator now running for the presidency, first became a political sensation and emerged as the polished public figure he is today. 1

#### **News Summary**

#### Dispute Over Singer's Burial

More than a month after the death of James Brown, the singer's body has still not been laid to rest because of a financial dispute. 14

#### Early Campaigning

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Iowa, beginning her campaign to become the nation's first <u>female</u> president. In New Hampshire, Rudolph W. Giuliani sounded nearer than ever to being a presidential candidate. 16

### **Antiwar Protest in Capital**

Tens of thousands of protesters converged on the National Mall to oppose President Bush's plan for a troop increase in Iraq. 21

### NEW YORK/REGION 25-29

#### Redistribution Helps Casinos

New Jersey's Casino Reinvestment Development Authority was created to capture gambling revenue and redirect it to blighted areas. But the agency has handed about \$400 million back to the casinos themselves. 1

### Last Days of Pfizer Enclave

The Pfizer company is set to close its Brooklyn location after 157 years as an industrial magnet and benefactor. The company's imminent departure will mean more than the loss of 600 jobs. 25

Chess 29 Weather 30

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 28, 2007

**End of Document** 



# Child survivor of assassinations recounts shootings

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

December 12, 2006 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Vancouver Sun, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 391 words

Byline: Daily Telegraph

Dateline: GAZA

# **Body**

GAZA -- With a calm voice that sounded as if she was describing a petty incident in the playground, six-year-old Lydia Abu Id recounted Monday how she survived one of the cruellest political assassinations in Palestinian history.

The assault by masked gunmen claimed the lives of her cousins, the three young sons of a senior Fatah intelligence officer, Baha Balousheh, and plunged the Palestinian territories to the brink of civil war as the <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah factions wrestle for power.

Pointing with her right forefinger for emphasis, Lydia recounted in precise detail where everyone was sitting on the morning school run when their car was attacked on a busy street in central Gaza City.

Osama, 9, Ahmed, 6, and Salam, 3, were accompanied by Lydia, their driver Ayman Ghoul and bodyguard Mahmoud Habeel. "Ayman was driving, Mahmoud was in the passenger seat with Salaam on his lap. I was behind Ayman, Osama was next to me in the middle and Ahmed was next to him, behind Mahmoud," she said. It was only when she came to the next part of the description that her voice wavered a little. "I saw masked men and there was a gunshot that made the car stop," she said. "There were more shots and I slid down behind the driver's seat. When the shooting stopped, I felt broken glass on my head and there was blood on my face.

"But when I asked Osama to give me a towel to clean the blood away, he did not respond."

Police estimated that 60 bullets were pumped into the unarmoured white Skoda sedan, killing the boys and Habeel, 22, and leaving the driver seriously wounded.

Incredibly, Lydia walked away with just a few tiny scratches on her face.

A few hours after the incident she sat in her dead cousins' bedroom clutching a photograph of the boys and described in a very matter of fact way how she had been forced to change her school uniform because it was covered in blood.

With a Pooh bear rug and bright pink bedlinen, the bedroom would not have looked out of place in a Western home. The three infant beds had been made and one duvet cover bore the English motto: "Our lovely friends always make our heart warm with happy laughter."

# Child survivor of assassinations recounts shootings

In the next room, Linda Abu Taqieh, the 33-year-old mother who had lost all three of her children, sat wearing mourning black, her eyes wide and sore with tears. *Female* relatives and friends crowded the room to console her.

Load-Date: December 12, 2006

**End of Document** 



# PM shares the theory of Mr Tony: you cant please everyone

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 20, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 5

Length: 390 words

Byline: Patrick Wintour, Dubai

# **Body**

He was in the throes of an especially ardent debate towards the end of a particularly difficult tour of the Middle East when the prime minister lifted the mood with "the theory of Mr Tony".

Mr Blair had been subjected to 30 minutes of questioning by several hundred students at Zayed University during his visit to the United Arab Emirates, challenged over Palestine, Iran and Iraq, before one questioner raised laughter by addressing him as Mr Tony.

In response, he shared with the audience of <u>women</u> students his secret of what he described as Mr Tony's theory of leadership. "The art of leadership is learning to take the decisions," he said. "Sometimes you are right, sometimes you are wrong. Some of the decisions are very difficult and someone always gets angry.

"When I first started in politics, I wanted to please everyone, and you can't please everyone and you learn that the best thing is to do what you think is right and everyone can make their judgment.

"That's the theory of Mr Tony - which I prefer to 'prime minister', let me tell you."

The brief moment of lightness gives way to more high-level diplomacy today when Mr Blair will call for a new alliance to be built across moderate Middle Eastern states in an attempt to pin Iran back, and win the "great challenge of the 21st century", the defeat of an "extremist and warped" brand of Islam. His remarks, in a speech to be given in Dubai designed to pull together the threads of his six-nation tour of the Middle East, are probably his starkest warning yet of the strategic threat posed by Iran. They come amid reports that the US may send an aircraft carrier to the Gulf as a warning to Iran over its plans to construct nuclear weapons.

Mr Blair has been touring the region trying to build support for his plan to break the deadlock in the Palestinian peace process by isolating the Iranian-backed <u>Hamas</u> government, and instead bolster ing the president, Mahmoud Abbas. He will today call for talks between Israel and the Palestinian leadership, as his aides said they were encouraged by signs that Israel understood the need to help Mr Abbas. The proposals were dealt a blow yesterday when a key element of the plan - early Palestinian elections - was rejected by the Turkish prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the first leader Mr Blair met on his six-nation tour of the region.

Load-Date: December 20, 2006



## World at a glance

The Evening Standard (London)

November 3, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: LL 04; Pg. 6 Length: 414 words

## **Body**

TV evangelist paid me for sex, says gay escort . AN American evangelist who condemns same-sex marriage has resigned after being accused of paying for sex with a man.

The Rev Ted Haggard, leader of the influential National Association of Evangelicals, also stepped aside as head of his 14,000-member New Life Church while a church panel investigates, saying he could "not continue to minister under the cloud created by the accusations".

But the married father-of-five denied the allegations, made by a 49-yearold man who told a Denver radio station Haggard paid him to have sex.

Mike Jones said the preacher paid him for sex nearly every month for three years after he advertised himself as an escort on the internet.

He said he had been contacted by a man who called himself Art, but whom he later saw on television as Haggard. Haggard told a TV station: "I never had a gay relationship with anybody, I'm faithful to my wife."

In a written statement, he added: "I am voluntarily stepping aside from leadership so the overseer process can be allowed to proceed with integrity.

In the interim, I will seek spiritual guidance."

Jones, who said that he last had sex with Haggard in August, claims to have voicemail messages from him.

Human shield woman shot dead at mosque

A WOMAN lies gunned down in the road after being used as a human shield by desperate Palestinian militants.

The militants were attempting to escape from a mosque in the border town of Beit Hanoun, where they had been taking refuge from Israeli troops in a 19-hour stand-off.

#### World at a glance

<u>Women</u> massed at the mosque after an appeal for the human shield was broadcast on <u>Hamas</u> radio. All the gunmen escaped.

Witnesses said bulldozers demolished a wall as the Israelis tried to force those inside to surrender last night. Two woman were killed and two wounded.

Israeli troops seized the town this week in an attempt to stop rocket fire on Israeli communities.

Hitmen hired to tackle gang rule .DEATH squads are being hired by ordinary citizens in Guatemala to halt violence in the city. People in the central American country are enlisting the help of assassins to kill gang members.

Known as "social cleansing", polls show half the 12 million population support it and have had enough of the 5,000 murders which happen each year. A family of five was found murdered yesterday by a riverbank in the city yesterday. A policeman at he scene said: "This could be gangs, could be a personal vendetta. But who knows, here everybody is killing everybody."

## **Graphic**

SEX CLAIMS: TED HAGGARD (RIGHT); GAY ESCORT MIKE JONES

Load-Date: December 1, 2006



## Defence minister raises 'Cain'

The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan)

July 31, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Leader-Post, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B4

Length: 470 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

# **Body**

JERUSALEM -- Israeli's new defence minister, Ehud Barak, suggested Monday draft dodgers should bear the "Mark of Cain on their foreheads" for evading compulsory military service in what has long been known here as "the people's army."

Military service was once considered a right of passage and essential for the Jewish state's defence. But according to Israeli Defence Forces statistics, one of four Israelis born in 1989 evaded this summer's draft by getting medical or religious exemptions or because they had a criminal record or were living overseas.

Most controversially, more than one in 10 of those eligible for military service who skipped it were Ultra-Orthodox Israelis who did so in order to study the Jewish holy book, the Torah.

Unless exempted, all Israeli males upon turning 18 are drafted to serve three years in the armed forces. All Israeli *females* are obliged to serve about half that time.

Barak, a highly decorated paratrooper who once entered Lebanon dressed as woman while leading a raid that killed three senior members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization responsible for the murders of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics, decried the new attitude at a memorial service for Ze'ev Schiff, the dean of Israeli military correspondents,

"The Israel Defence Forces are turning gradually into an army of only half the people," said Barak, who served as prime minister from 1999 to 2001, adding that those who did their service were being made to feel like suckers."

Barak also lambasted employers for firing reservists who were called up and universities for not allowing them to take their examinations in such a way as not to conflict with their military obligations.

With politicians and many other public figures held in low esteem, the military had been Israel's last untarnished institution. But its senior commanders were widely condemned for the tactics used during Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer and for allowing three soldiers to be kidnapped by Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> and taken from Israel into Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The most recent embarrassment came over the weekend when an Israeli soldier from the crack Golani Brigade fell asleep while on an operation about 700 metres inside Gaza and a friend vouched for his presence during a head

#### Defence minister raises 'Cain'

count. The sleeping soldier's unit only discovered that he had been left behind when they did a second head count in Israel and rushed back to retrieve him.

In another incident that the IDF is still investigating, a unit conducted an operation without authorization last Thursday near the West Bank town of Hebron. Wearing civilian clothes, they commandeered a Palestinian taxi and then shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian who had approached the vehicle. As a result, a multitude of charges are pending against six soldiers.

Load-Date: July 31, 2007



## **Unveiling stupidity**

University Wire
October 12, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Indiana Daily Student via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 451 words

Byline: By Ayesha Awan, Indiana Daily Student; SOURCE: Indiana U.

Dateline: BLOOMINGTON, Ind.

# **Body**

Much like the USSR and the evils of communism were deemed the permanent enemy of America in the 20th century, today's eternal threat seems to be "Islamofascism" via terrorism.

Though I do not agree with the idea, I can understand how those in power and many others believe that to make the world a safer place, they need to somehow change the way people practice Islam and modernize Muslim society.

This led politicians, pundits and policymakers alike to figure out how to go about this daunting task in some other way besides invading countries that have no ties with the al Qaeda terrorist network.

In an unparalleled display of stupidity, chief policymakers in various nations decided that there is, in fact, a way to fight Islamic extremism, to deter suicide bombers, to help pacify and integrate immigrants in Western countries, to make al Qaeda operatives wave American flags while rocking out to Lynyrd Skynyrd, to motivate *Hamas* to send get-well cards and flowers to Ariel Sharon, to turn sectarian violence in Iraq into sectarian potluck dinners, to inspire the Taliban to devote their lives to producing children's television shows instead of opium.

What action, you ask, will result in this phenomenal new world order?

Banning head scarves and veils!

Sheer brilliance.

Apparently the move is aimed at helping immigrants modernize and assimilate into Western society. Some predominately Muslim countries, such as Turkey, are considering a ban on or discouragement of the Islamic head scarf and the less common face veil in order to curb extremism.

A terrorist or "extremist" bent on causing death and destruction is not going to wake up one morning and decide he doesn't want to anymore because his wife decided not to wear a head scarf or veil outside the home.

Governments have also defended such policies by arguing that <u>women</u> who wear veils are oppressed. This might or might not be true, but the fact that many <u>women</u>, like German schoolteacher Fereshta Ludin, are fighting for their rights to wear the veil points to the opposite.

#### Unveiling stupidity

Muslim <u>women</u>, and Muslims in general, contrary to popular idiotic thought, are not just a big a mass of people waiting for some great mandate that will instantly change their lives.

No <u>women</u> ran around the streets of France ripping scarves from their heads and purchasing halter tops when the French instituted their ban on conspicuous religious dress at state schools.

Such bans on people's choice of religious dress will do nothing to curb extremism or integrate immigrants. What should be addressed are the root causes of these problems: poverty, lack of proper education -- both religious and secular -- and political injustice.

(C) 2006 Indiana Daily Student via U-WIRE

Load-Date: October 12, 2006



## Top of the World

thespec.com

July 5, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A04

Length: 427 words

Byline: The Hamilton Spectator

## **Body**

In a gut-busting showdown that combined drama, daring and indigestion, Joey Chestnut emerged yesterday as the world's hot dog, eating champion by gobbling down a record 66 franks. The Californian knocked off six-time titlist Takeru Kobayashi of Japan in a rousing yet repulsive triumph in Nathan's annual Hot Dog Eating Competition in New York. Chestnut, 23, broke his own world record by munching 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes before a screaming crowd in Coney Island.

A bus with at least 40 passengers was buried in a mountain mudslide in Mexico early yesterday. Witnesses said neither government workers nor volunteers from local villages were able to dig anyone out. The accident happened about 7:45 a.m. on a road southeast of Mexico City. Witnesses said the road was buried in large boulders and earth over a stretch of more than 300 metres. The landslide, which followed heavy rains Tuesday night, pushed the bus off the road and nearly 150 metres down a ravine, where it vanished under the mud, rocks and fallen trees. A local resident said many of the passengers were <u>women</u> and children. "I imagine they are all dead," he said, adding that it might take days to dig out the bus.

Former Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniyeh, right, was quick to greet BBC reporter Alan Johnston after his release yesterday. *Hamas* argued that winning his freedom after four months captivity was proof of Gaza law and order.

Al Gore III, centre, son of former vice-president Al Gore, was released on \$20,000 bail yesterday, after being arrested for drug possession in Santa Ana, California. Gore, 24, was charged with possessing marijuana and illegal prescription drugs after deputies pulled him over for speeding in his Toyota Prius. Police said he was travelling about 160 km/h on the San Diego freeway when he was pulled over around 2:15 a.m.

Nova Scotia's songbird wishes a proposed wind farm in Gulf Shore would just fly away. Singer Anne Murray, who has a summer home in the area, is joining other residents in opposing construction of 20 to 27 100-metre-high wind turbines. "I am all for them ... in the right place," said Murray. "I don't believe these ones are in the right place."

RCMP carted out boxes of documents yesterday from the home of Jacques Corriveau, a man described as a central figure in the federal sponsorship scandal of the 1990s. The program had been meant to increase Canadian patriotism in Quebec. Corriveau, who has never been charged, was present as RCMP searched his residence near Montreal as the investigation into improper spending continues.

# **Graphic**

Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, MEXICO; Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, UNITED STATES; Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS, CANADA; Photo: Reuters, UNITED STATES; Photo: Khalil Hamra, the Associated Press, GAZA STRIP; Photo: TORONTO STAR, CANADA

Load-Date: July 5, 2007



## Israelis Fire on Marchers Aiding Gaza Gunmen, Killing 2

The New York Times

November 4, 2006 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1024 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE; Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Nov. 3

## **Body**

Israeli troops killed two Palestinian <u>women</u> and wounded some 10 others who were seeking to serve as human shields for <u>Hamas</u> militants holed up in a Gaza mosque on Friday after an overnight standoff. The troops fired on a crowd of <u>women</u> and at least a few men as they marched to the mosque.

Hundreds of <u>women</u>, urged on by Palestinian radio, were flocking to the mosque to try to prevent an Israeli attack and to help an estimated 60 men escape. In the chaos that erupted when the shooting began, the gunmen inside the mosque escaped.

The shooting provoked widespread outrage among Palestinians.

The Israeli military said its fire was directed at Palestinian gunmen hiding among the <u>women</u> as they marched toward the Um al-Nasir mosque in Beit Hanun, the town in the northeastern Gaza Strip where Israeli troops and militants have been battling for several days. The Israeli military said eight gunmen in the crowd had been shot, and while it acknowledged that many <u>women</u> had been present, it said it was not aware of having hit them. It also said there would be an investigation.

Tolls of the dead and wounded were provided by Palestinian hospitals. The two <u>women</u> killed were Ibtisam Masoud, 45, and Rawda Khelah, 48, according to Kamal Adwan Hospital. Video shot by Western news organizations showed <u>women</u> walking close together, then fleeing in several directions after the shooting began. The footage also showed at least two men, not visibly armed, among the <u>women</u>.

Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian prime minister, angrily called for the international community to "come here and witness the daily massacres that are being carried out against the Palestinian nation."

Mr. Haniya also praised the **women** "who led the protest to break the siege of Beit Hanun."

The shooting, replayed on Palestinian television and Arab satellite channels, was the most dramatic episode in this week's fighting in Beit Hanun.

Israeli forces entered the town early Wednesday trying to stop Palestinian rocket fire aimed at southern Israeli towns.

As Israeli forces pursued the militants in the town on Thursday, about 60 gunmen dashed into the Um al-Nasir mosque, setting off a standoff that lasted through the night.

Israeli troops in armored vehicles surrounded the mosque. For several hours, soldiers with loudspeakers called for the militants to surrender, and several did, according to the military. The Israelis also fired tear gas and stun grenades, which make a deafening sound, in an attempt to force out the gunmen.

Around 3 a.m., the gunmen in the mosque began firing on the Israeli soldiers, who shot back, and heavy exchanges ensued, the military said. The Israeli Army called in an armored bulldozer, which tore down one wall of the mosque compound, the military and Palestinian witnesses said.

"The fighting around the mosque is not something we wanted," said Mark Regev, a spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry. "But international law is clear: when combatants take control of a religious site and begin firing, it becomes a legitimate target. They broke the sanctity of the site."

Early Friday morning, a Palestinian radio station called for <u>women</u> to march to the mosque to support the gunmen inside. A short time later, <u>women</u>, dressed in flowing black abayas and head scarves, began marching toward the mosque. The television video showed some girls in the group.

As they approached the mosque, shots rang out, but the <u>women</u> continued marching. A moment later, a number of <u>women</u> were hit, and the crowd scattered. Some wailing <u>women</u> turned back, while others kept advancing toward the mosque, climbing over improvised dirt barriers set up by the Israeli forces.

"We heard the call for <u>women</u> to help the fighters, and we decided to go," said Mona Abu Jasir, 37, who was hit by a bullet in the right leg. "We did not have weapons, and we were walking toward the mosque when I was shot."

The Israeli military first said its soldiers had shot at individual gunmen among the <u>women</u>, but several hours later, it said they had fired in response to shots fired from men in the crowd.

One marcher, Suhad el-Masri, 28, said she and several of her relatives had been carrying abayas and scarves to give to the men. "We took them so they could disguise themselves as <u>women</u> and escape," she said. Her sister, Hiba Rajab, 20, was shot in her legs and left arm; her wounds were considered serious.

Some <u>women</u> reached the mosque, and the gunmen managed to slip away, the military and Palestinian witnesses said. It was not clear whether the gunmen escaped with the help of clothes provided by the <u>women</u>.

Soon after the standoff ended, the mosque's roof collapsed.

Later in the day, about 1,000 <u>women</u> marched outside Egypt's diplomatic mission in Gaza City, denouncing the Israeli actions and calling for Egypt to intervene.

In violent clashes throughout the day, at least eight more Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank, according to Palestinian medical workers and security officials. Most of the deaths in Gaza were the result of Israeli airstrikes on Friday night against militants in northern Gaza.

Over the past three days, more than 25 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including militants and civilians, as well as one Israeli soldier. No Israelis were injured in the fighting at the mosque.

Also Friday, Palestinian militants fired several more rockets from northern Gaza into southern Israel, but there was no damage and no one was wounded, the military said. So far, the Israeli operation has not reduced the rocket fire, which has continued for the past three days.

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers arrested Abdel Rahman Zaidan, the Palestinian minister for housing and public works, a member of *Hamas*, the radical Islamic group that leads the Palestinian government.

#### Israelis Fire on Marchers Aiding Gaza Gunmen, Killing 2

In a separate development, Israel's former prime minister, Ariel Sharon, who has been in a coma for 10 months, was transferred Friday to an intensive care unit because of an infection affecting his heart, the Sheba Medical Center said. In a statement, the center described Mr. Sharon's condition as stable.

http://www.nytimes.com

## **Graphic**

Photo: Palestinian <u>women</u> fled after an Israeli tank opened fire on a march yesterday, during a standoff in Beit Hanun in the northeastern Gaza Strip. (Photo by Suhaib Salem/Reuters)

Load-Date: November 4, 2006



## Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

May 27, 2007 Sunday

Copyright 2007 Telegraph Group Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 29

Length: 475 words

Byline: HARRY DE QUETTEVILLE in Nahr al Bared

## **Body**

ISLAMIC FIGHTERS in the siege at Lebanon's Nahr al Bared refugee camp claim to have spent months digging underground bunkers ahead of a battle they promise will last "two years or more".

In an echo of last summer's war in Lebanon, when Hezbollah fighters used tunnel networks to inflict casualties on Israeli troops, militants at the camp north of Beirut say they have dug in for guerrilla combat with the Lebanese army. Shihab al-Qaddour, the deputy leader of the Fatah al Islam group, promised that his band of several hundred "battle-hardened" fighters had built extensive subterranean fortifications.

"We are prepared for a battle that will last two years or more," he said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. "We are ready to blow up Beirut and every other place in Lebanon."

The bunkers could pose a further challenge for the limited capabilities of the Lebanese army, whose forces have been authorised to storm the militants' hideout after receiving new equipment from the United States last week.

The supplies, consisting of bombs, bullets and body armour, are also believed to include night-vision equipment, although it is not clear whether the Lebanese forces have had the necessary training to put the American military donations to good use.

Mr al-Qaddour's description of his men as veterans of global jihad tallied with the terrified accounts of Palestinians who have managed to escape their camp-turned-battlefield.

They have described long-bearded men in flowing robes roaming the narrow breeze-block alleyways of the camp on motorcycles, imposing Islamic law with beatings and summary justice since their arrival six months ago.

<u>Women</u> not wearing the veil were targeted as tensions rose in the camp between its 40,000 residents and the Fatah al Islam newcomers, those among the exodus have reported.

"Even if they were not very numerous, they still scared everyone," said Shawki el Hajj, 40, speaking at the Beddawi refugee camp nearby, where many of those who have fled are taking shelter.

"There were some Palestinians among them, but there were also foreigners, such as Saudis and Yemenis who had fought against the Americans in Iraq."

Others in Beddawi said the Fatah al Islam members spent much of their time reading the Koran, and despite not working had plenty of money.

#### Gunmen in Lebanese siege dig in for 'two-year battle'

Their obvious extremism and battle experience quickly subdued any opposition from the long-standing Palestinian militant groups, Fatah and <u>Hamas</u>, that police the 12 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, which are home to some 400,000 people.

Under a decades-old agreement, the Lebanese army is not allowed to enter the camps. But from positions around Nahr al Bared, it has been closely monitoring the fighters. Over the past few days Lebanese soldiers have been resupplying, having run out of ammunition. An assault is expected this week.

Load-Date: May 27, 2007



## Lebanese leader in vow to 'root out' militant group

Aberdeen Press and Journal May 25, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 DC Thomson Co Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 18

Length: 480 words

## **Body**

Lebanon's prime minister yesterday vowed to wipe out an Islamic militant group barricaded in a Palestinian refugee camp.

It raised the prospect that the Lebanese army will either storm the camp, in what would likely be a bloody battle, or dig in for a long siege to force their surrender.

Sporadic gunfire marred the two-day-old truce as the Lebanese army moved troops around the Nahr el-Bared camp but did not attempt to advance, apparently giving time for negotiations and for the militants to comply with an ultimatum to surrender or face a military assault.

Fighters from the al Qaida-inspired Fatah Islam militant group, estimated in the hundreds, have barricaded themselves in the camp, saying they will fight off any Lebanese attack.

The fighting between the army and the militants, which broke out Sunday, has killed some 50 combatants and many civilians.

Thousands of Palestinian civilians - mainly <u>women</u> and children - have fled the camp but many more remain inside.

Most of refugees who have fled the camp since the truce took hold on Tuesday packed into the nearby Beddawi refugee camp.

The Lebanese military stays out of the camps under a 1969 agreement that allows the Palestinians to run them, but Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said in a TV address yesterday that Fatah Islam was "a terrorist organisation" and blamed the group for "attempting to ride on the suffering and the struggle of the Palestinian people".

"We will work to root out and strike at terrorism, but we will embrace and protect our brothers in the camps," Mr Saniora said.

Storming the camp could also spark unrest in Lebanon's 11 other Palestinian refugee camps. In a sign of the danger, a bomb exploded on Wednesday in the Aley mountain resort overlooking Beirut, a 90-minute drive south of Nahr el-Bared.

The blast, which injured 16 people, was the third in the Beirut area since Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday warned Israel it would be uprooted if the Jewish state attacked Lebanon in the coming summer.

#### Lebanese leader in vow to 'root out' militant group

"If you think that by bombing and assassinating Palestinian leaders you are preparing ground for new attacks on Lebanon in the summer, I am telling you that you are seriously wrong," Mr Ahmadinejad told a crowd in the city of Isfahan.

"If this year you repeat the same mistake of the last year, the ocean of nations of the region will get angry and will cut the root of the Zionist regime from its stem."

Mr Ahmadinejad's comments came as Israeli troops in the West Bank arrested more than 30 senior <u>Hamas</u> members yesterday, including a Cabinet minister, legislators and mayors - pressing forward with an offensive against the Islamic militant group.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said Mr Ahmadinejad's comments reflected the Iranian leadership's support for the "most extreme elements in Lebanon and in the Palestinian Authority."

Load-Date: May 26, 2007



## Support Palestine

University Wire

January 2, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 The Stampede via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 1683 words

Byline: By Parker Creel, The Stampede; SOURCE: Milligan College

Dateline: MILLIGAN COLLEGE, Tenn.

## **Body**

As I reflect on the message that was presented to the student body in convocation on December 5th, I become hungry for responses, rebuttals and feedback from faculty and students. I imagine that many might have found Dr. Rivage-Seul's talk on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be new, different and, more predictably, offensive. I will admit that I can understand why. Dr. Rivage-Seul had some very challenging and difficult things to say not only about the conflict, but about the United States involvement in the Middle East. I also imagine that many might have felt as though they were being attacked or condemned as "terrorists." Once again, I can understand why. The implications of Dr. Rivage-Seul's conclusions might make supporters of Israel and the United States feel that way.

In the midst of possible outrage, I would like to offer my perspective on the conflict and my reaction to Dr. Rivage-Seul's presentation. As some of you might know, I too, like Dr. Rivage-Seul, have had the privilege of spending time in Israel/Palestine. For two months this past summer, I lived with, worked alongside, ate with and learned from Palestinians living in the West Bank under the Israeli Occupation for two months. And as it turns out, Dr. Rivage-Seul was there around the same time that I was. So, having experienced life in the West Bank, how would I respond to Dr. Rivage-Seul's speech?

I would like to begin by thanking Dr. Rivage-Seul for taking time to share his experiences and reflections on the situation in the Middle East.Dr. Rivage-Seul has spent a significant amount of time studying and sharing life with oppressed peoples in the United States, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua and even Palestine.Also, he has spent a great deal of time reflecting, studying and teaching such subjects as economics, politics, revolutions, peace, liberation theology and conflicts throughout the world.So, while one may disagree with him, I think that we would greatly benefit from at least listening to and considering Dr. Rivage-Seul's thoughts on the conflict, thoughts made out of his commitment to Christ.

Life in Israel/Palestine is difficult and rather complicated, and our government, our churches, our media and our culture don't offer us perspectives and information that help us grasp this reality. Instead, they offer us simple generalizations and stereotypes that are biased and rather misleading. This is what I think Dr. Rivage-Seul was trying to get across, and this is something I learned all too well while living in the West Bank.

The portrait that is painted for us in the United States looks a lot different than the actual scenery that exists in the Middle East. Over and over again, the crimes and terrorist actions of the Palestinians are reported on with unfailing consistency and intensity. The United States, put simply, does not lack information on the vices of the

#### Support Palestine

Palestinians. Our government condemns them as evil terrorists, and our media portrays them as inhuman and bloodthirsty. This is what we have been fed, and I have to say that it is a very unbalanced meal.

In truth, the Palestinians, even the terrorists, are human, and beautiful human beings at that. They are, in many ways, more humane than most Americans. They have a passionate and intense Mediterranean spirit combined with a strong sense of unhesitant hospitality and familial love and commitment. To the surprise of many, Palestinians, even the violent ones, are like Americans. They struggle to balance and maintain the duties, obligations, and privileges of daily life. They struggle to support their families financially. They love to dance and smoke nargeelah. They enjoy spending time with their families, friends and strangers. Girls are stressed out about going out on a first date. Mothers have dreams of a better life for their children. They hang out in coffee shops, fall in love, talk about politics and religion, cry when their friends and family die, go to Church, laugh, play sports, study history, English, write poetry, pray to God and yes, they watch a lot of television.

But, you don't hear that from our government, our churches or our media. All we hear is that they are terrorists. Equally, just as we have a wealth of information on the terrorists, we lack a lot of information when it comes to Israeli life. They are portrayed as the victims of massive acts of terrorism and violence when in reality they are themselves very much involved in those same acts. They have guns, helicopters, fighter jets, tanks, and missiles which are funded, in large part, by the United States and are used quite frequently. Israel is stronger than Palestine, economically, governmentally, internationally and militarily. Trust me when I say they are not the innocent victims that they are made out to be. As I saw and experienced, Israelis have systematically and effectively done much to make life difficult and extremely frustrating for Palestinians on economic, social, psychological and spiritual levels.

For example: 70% of adult males in the West Bank and Gaza have been arrested at least once in their lifetime. These arrests, which are in many cases unjustified, have serious ramifications on Palestinian life. Is raelis can hold a Palestinian prisoner for up to 18 days without giving an explanation. Then, they can interrogate a prisoner for up to 180 days without charging them with a crime. During these arrests and interrogations, Palestinians are beaten and humiliated, which terrifies their families and the rest of their community; they are horribly tortured for information. Currently, there are around 9,000-10,000 prisoners in Israeli jails, including men, young adults, women and their children whom were born inside the prison.

Israelis, on a consistent basis, sneak into the West Bank to assassinate and destroy Palestinian housing and villages. While I was in Bethlehem, the Israelis raided a local kindergarten because it was supposedly linked to <u>Hamas</u>. They destroyed files, computers, and equipment used to teach the children. Another example is when <u>Hamas</u> had a cease fire with Israel, which Israel refused to honor this past year. While <u>Hamas</u>, the terrorists, upheld its end of the bargain, Israel continued to kill 500 Palestinians and injure over 2,000.

Israelis receive these tank-like bulldozers from Catepillar (an American corporation) which are used to demolish Palestinian homes. Basically, if Israelis want a piece of land, especially in East Jerusalem, they put a demolition order on it, and anywhere in the next two years, they show up and demolish the house, sometimes even with the families inside. Jeff Helper, an Israeli himself who coordinates an organization against house demolitions named ICAHD, stated that "House demolitions have become the hallmark of the Occupation. Indeed, since 1967 Israel has demolished almost 12,000 Palestinian homes, leaving some 70,000 without shelter and traumatized."

Israelis are also strangling Palestinian life. The Israelis are constructing a wall and fence which surrounds the West Bank for the supposed purpose of security. However, and B'tselem (an Israeli human rights organization) will confirm, the wall is being built for other reasons. In many areas, the wall encroaches upon Palestinian land and makes room for the building of Israeli settlements. In the northern city of Qalqilyeh, the entire city is surrounded by a concrete wall. It is like a prison.

By the way, it is illegal according to international law and the Geneva accords for occupiers to build permanent settlements on occupied land. Israel has around 200-300 settlements in the West Bank alone. The wall prevents possible growth for Palestinian development. In addition, there are checkpoints in strategic points throughout the West Bank which are not intended for security purposes, but rather are intended to make travel difficult. Palestinians are refused to pass, made to wait in line for hours, and even abused and humiliated at these checkpoints. Farmers

#### Support Palestine

are refused entry to their farms, and supply trucks are refused passage to get their products to other cities throughout the West Bank. These checkpoints congest, slow down, and even stop development and economic opportunities like cholesterol in a blood vessel. And we are all well aware of what a heart attack can do to a person.

And don't get me started on the situation in Gaza. This summer, Israeli's shelling killed a family on the beach, leaving a very young little girl terrified and without a family. Israel destroyed the only power station in Gaza. Israel blew up a university in Gaza. Gaza has become a ghetto. Palestinians cannot get in or out without permission from the Israelis and are forced to live in horrible conditions in an area which is the most densely populated land mass of its size in the world.

All of these things have been impediments and barriers and contradictions to any apparent appeal to peace on the behalf of Israelis to Palestinians.

But, you don't hear these things from the U.S.Like I said, life in Israel/Palestine is difficult and complicated. There are Israelis who are peaceful, not violent. There are Palestinians who are peaceful and want the conflict to end. But, there are Israelis who are violent and who should be labeled as terrorists, and there are Palestinians who are violent and who are labeled as terrorists.

Dr. Rivage-Seul reminded us of something very valuable.He reminded us to be weary of loyalty to the agenda of empires and nations, like the U.S. and Israel, because they might lead us astray from the truth.He reminded us of our short-sightedness and the fact that there are realities taking place throughout the world of which we are very unaware.He reminded us that the Palestinians are suffering and oppressed, and that we very well may be maintaining and perpetuating that suffering and oppression.I hope that Dr. Rivage-Seul's speech is not an end to this matter, but to a beginning of a discussion about what is going on there, and how we are involved.My purpose was to add to that discussion, and I have much more to think about and say.I hope you do and will also.

(C) 2007 The Stampede via U-WIRE

Load-Date: January 2, 2007



## PM urges Canadians to remember victims

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

April 16, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Times Colonist, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 425 words

Byline: Andrew Mayeda, CanWest News Service

**Dateline: OTTAWA** 

## **Body**

OTTAWA -- Prime Minister Stephen Harper bore witness to the millions of Jews killed during the Holocaust in a memorial ceremony yesterday, vowing to oppose anyone who advocates the "destruction of Israel."

"It has been said that lies become truth if they are repeated often enough. That's why truth is so precious. That's why the truth must be repeated, over and over, to protect us from lies," Harper told a couple of hundred people gathered on Parliament Hill to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

"So let us plainly state the awful, incontrovertible truth that brings us here today: Millions, including six million Jewish men, *women*, and children were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust."

Harper was joined at the rally by opposition MPs, senators, ambassadors and members of the Jewish community.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler had stern words for Iran, which recently held a conference to question whether the Holocaust took place. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

"We are witnessing yet again in our own day in Ahmadinejad's Iran the toxic convergence of the incitement of the most horrific of crimes, namely genocide, and ... the most virulent of hatreds, namely anti-Semitism, propelled by the publicly avowed intent to acquire nuclear weapons for that purpose," said Cotler.

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, also remarked that any attempts by Iran or other countries to "resurrect" the designs of the Holocaust "must be firmly dealt with by all responsible nations and peoples of the world."

But Harper avoided mentioning Iran by name in his speech.

At last year's ceremony, he singled out Iran and the Palestinian organization <u>Hamas</u>, warning that Canada would not ignore "signs of trouble" from either of them.

"Unfortunately, in some countries, hatred of the Jews is still preached from religious pulpits and still proclaimed from political podiums.

There are still people who would perpetrate another Holocaust if they could," the prime minister said.

#### PM urges Canadians to remember victims

"It's not good enough for politicians to stand before you and say they remember and mourn what happened over six decades ago. They must stand up to those who advocate the destruction of Israel and its people today. And they must be unequivocal in their condemnation of anti-Semitic despots, terrorists and fanatics."

After the speeches, Harper and other dignitaries laid wreaths at the eternal flame in front of the Parliament Buildings.

Holocaust Memorial Day, or Yom ha-Shoah, was established as a federal memorial day in 2003.

## **Graphic**

Photo: Peter Thompson, CanWest News Service; A woman touches name of one of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust during a ceremony held yesterday at Earl Bales Park in Toronto.;

Load-Date: April 16, 2007



## **News Summary**

The New York Times
April 22, 2007 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 479 words

#### **Body**

INTERNATIONAL 3-18 Making Detainees Talk in Iraq In the joint American and Iraqi operation to clear insurgents from dangerous neighborhoods, American troops are confronted with a problem: how to deal with their Iraqi counterparts' aggressive interrogation techniques, including beatings. 1 A military investigation has found that the Marine Corps chain of command in Iraq showed a routine and blatant disregard for the lives of Iraqi civilians that contributed to its "willful" failure to investigate an attack by marines that killed 24 unarmed Iraqis. 18 Kremlin Tightens Grip on Radio Radio news in Russia has been a rare bright spot in a darkening media landscape.

But new rules imposed on Russia's largest independent radio news network leave an increasingly small number of news outlets not managed by the government. 1 New Defiance in Israeli Settlers Jewish settlers evacuated from Gaza by the Israeli government 20 months ago are showing greater assertiveness in protesting the moves. They are taking advantage of the weakened position of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who, after the rise to power of *Hamas* and Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer, is in no position to challenge the settlers. About a dozen masked Palestinians bombed and set fire to the American International School in Beit Lahiya, north of Gaza City, school officials and Palestinian security officials said, causing extensive damage, but no injuries. 10 Nigeria Vote Begins in Chaos Nigeria's presidential election began amid chaos, with a botched attempt to smash a truck bomb into the headquarters of the electoral commission in the nation's capital and with ballots arriving late to polling places and lacking vital information to identify candidates and prevent fraud. 3 NATIONAL 20-27 Infant Death Rate Up in South For decades, Mississippi and neighboring states with large black populations and expanses of enduring poverty made steady progress in reducing infant death. But progress has stalled, and in recent years the death rate has risen in Mississippi and several other states. 1 Gunman's Silence and Rage From the beginning, Seung-Hui Cho did not talk, and his mother agonized over his brooding behavior. Interviews with investigators, relatives, classmates and teachers show how Mr. Cho progressed from silence to murderous rage, and how he meticulously prepared for his final hours. 1 Giuliani's Immigration Stance A decade ago, as mayor of New York, Rudolph W. Giuliani often defended illegal immigrants. But now he is running for president, and the politics of immigration in the post-9/11 world is vastly different. 1 NEW YORK/REGION 29-34 More Men Living Downtown Men now outnumber women in Lower Manhattan by a ratio of 126 to 100, a disparity usually seen only in towns with prisons or military bases. 29 Chess 34 Weather 24

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 22, 2007



## Bold step needed on Middle-East dialogue

New Straits Times (Malaysia) January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 29; LOCAL

Length: 460 words

Byline: A.D.A.

#### **Body**

OVER three days last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reiterated the urgency of solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

First, in his talk at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, he rejected the notion that a clash of civilisations is the cause for the violence in the Middle East, saying: "What the world is burdened with is the consequence of its inability to construct a global order that can maintain the peace, restrain the strong and protect the weak."

He added: "There is a tendency for differences to occasionally degenerate into conflict, tempting the strong to resort to coercive measures, including the use of force, to impose their will on the weak when convenient or necessary. While the weak, to counter that, resort to force when so inclined or when necessary, with weapons and tactics and that in extreme cases nations invade and attack each other, seize territory and resources, and subjugate or evict the local population."

Three days later, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Abdullah repeated his contention that "the root cause of the problem in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in politics and the projection of power, not in religion or culture".

He added: "The Israeli-Palestinian conflict too is the single most important source of Muslim anger towards Israel and the West and must be resolved."

There is a need for leaders of the parties to the conflict to come face to face to hammer out lasting solutions. Of course, it is easier said than done. But if, as Abdullah said, warring parties do not face up to the task then men, <u>women</u> and children would continue to be victims, and sympathy for the cause of militants will spread and involve nations in violence.

Unless a neutral party offers to mediate (I feel neither the US nor EU is neutral), the warring factions will forever avoid face-to-face dialogue.

May I propose that, as chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Abdullah offers Kuala Lumpur as a venue for Israel-Palestine peace talks.

Malaysia could invite the leaders of Palestine - President Mahmoud Abbas representing Fatah, Prime Minister Ismail Haniya as leader of <u>Hamas</u> - and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel (even though we have no diplomatic relations with the country) for a round-table meeting with the OIC chairman as moderator.

#### Bold step needed on Middle-East dialogue

It would help if leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia as well as US President George W. Bush or his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are invited, as all of them have a vested interest.

Unless and until bold steps are taken, the unrest will continue to fester with increasing violence, leading to terrorism gaining the upper hand, finally engulfing the region and probably the world.

A.D.A.

Ampang, Selangor

Load-Date: January 30, 2007



# Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick)
September 13, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The Times & Transcript. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. C11

Length: 506 words

## **Body**

Israelis ushered in the Jewish New Year last evening amid new fears of war after fresh rocket attacks by Palestinian militants in Gaza and reports of an Israeli air strike against Syria.

The Rosh Hashana holiday, followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur -- the Day of Atonement -- is traditionally a time for taking stock of spiritual and cultural values, and Israelis were in thoughtful mood in the hours before the start of the holiday, which began at sunset.

At the lively, open air Mahane Yehuda market in downtown Jerusalem, where shoppers scrambled to stock up on food before the two-day holiday, some Israelis expressed discontent with the government and frustration with the continued conflict with the Palestinians.

"I don't think you'll find any Israeli who's optimistic," said Ari Bouderhem, 47, owner of the Emil coffee shop. "It's not in our nature."

Bourderhem said holiday business was better than last year, which was marred by an inconclusive summer war with the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon. But he said he saw rough times ahead and "maybe a war."

Jewish families celebrate Rosh Hashana by eating apples and honey and other traditional foods symbolizing sweetness and prosperity.

The holiday this year falls on the same day as the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

So as Jews sit down for festive family dinners, Muslim families will also gather for a special meal ahead of their month of sunrise-to-sunset fasting.

In a routine measure, the Israeli military ordered a closure of Israel's borders with the West Bank and Gaza over the holiday, when packed synagogues, beaches and parks in Israel are seen as being particularly vulnerable to attack.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian rocket from Gaza struck an army base in southern Israel, wounding 40 soldiers, one critically. Israel's government has ruled out a large-scale military retaliation, a decision some Israelis questioned.

"I just don't believe in this government anymore," said Moshe Levi, 40, a fruit seller.

Israeli authorities are apparently concerned that a military incursion into <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza could undermine fledgling peace talks with the western- backed Fatah movement in control of the West Bank.

Israelis usher in Jewish New Year amid border tension, fresh attacks; West Bank and Gaza border closed for Jewish, Muslim holidays

In a three-hour meeting Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to set up high-level working groups to outline a final peace deal before a proposed international conference in November.

Israelis also expressed concern about Syrian accusations, confirmed by Washington, that Israeli warplanes struck deep into Syrian territory last week.

The wall-to-wall silence on the reports from the normally voluble Israeli government has fuelled worries about possible war as Israelis struggle to figure out what the planes were doing in Syria.

A poll published in the Maariv newspaper yesterday showed Olmert's approval rating was 3.2 on a scale of 10.

Two <u>women</u> -- Parliament Speaker Dalia Itzik and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni -- emerged as Israel's most popular politicians, with grades of 6.3 and 6.1, respectively.

Load-Date: September 13, 2007



# Rockets shake Israeli city: Sderot woman is qassam casualty Israel responds with raids on Gaza Strip

The Gazette (Montreal)

November 16, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A21

Length: 397 words

Byline: MATTHEW FISHER, CanWest News Service; AFP contributed to this report

Dateline: SDEROT, Israel

## **Body**

Retaliate or negotiate.

Both positions found support on the quiet residential street where one of 13 homemade Qassam rockets fired from the Gaza Strip yesterday killed an Israeli woman and cut off the legs of a bodyguard to the country's defence minister as they walked down a path behind a row of houses.

"Every time they hit us with a Qassam, we should take down one of their tall buildings," said 72-year-old Elie Bonifad as he stared angrily from his doorstep at the spot 20 metres away where one of the rudimentary missiles exploded as children were getting ready for school.

"After a few buildings are gone, these attacks will stop."

But faced with a regular barrage of rockets from Gaza for six years in this small Negev desert farming city only five kilometres from the Palestinian territory, Bonifad's next-door neighbour, 66-year-old Shaul Sigler, was equally adamant the only way to stop them was to talk with Gaza's violent hardliners.

"We have gone in there a million times with the army and what happened? Nothing!" Sigler said as he stood at his front door beside his wife, Haya. "We must negotiate directly."

Although more than 1,000 rockets have been fired into Israel from Gaza in the past year, yesterday was the first lethal attack launched from the Palestinian territory in 16 months.

The bloodshed presented fresh security and political worries for beleaguered Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who was already reeling from immense public unhappiness over how his government and the Israeli Defence Forces failed to stop Hezbollah from launching thousands of rockets from Lebanon this summer.

Israeli warplanes carried out five raids on the Gaza Strip late yesterday and early today, Palestinian security officials said.

Rockets shake Israeli city: Sderot woman is qassam casualty Israel responds with raids on Gaza Strip

They said two Palestinians were wounded when the Israelis targeted a house in Shatti refugee camp in the north of the Gaza Strip, where an official of the Palestinian militant umbrella group the Popular Resistance Committees lived.

A second Israeli air raid took place on the Jabaliya refugee camp, also in the north of the Gaza Strip. That attack targeted the home of a leader of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of *Hamas*, which heads the current Palestinian government, the sources said. They gave no further details.

The Israeli army confirmed that aircraft had carried out two attacks "aimed at buildings used to store weapons."

## **Graphic**

Photo: DAVE BUIMOVITCH, REUTERS; Israeli <u>women</u> react at the scene of a rocket attack on the southern Israeli town of Sderot yesterday. A rocket fired by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip killed Fatima Slutsker and seriously wounded another person, medical officials said.; Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic)

Load-Date: November 16, 2006



## **World Journal**

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

July 23, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publications Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 499 words

#### **Body**

Murder

Sisters stabbed to death in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- Three sisters were found stabbed to death in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, raising suspicion they were killed by relatives because of suspected immoral behaviour, a human rights organization said. The three sisters, 16-year-old Nahed Hija and her sisters, 19-year-old Suha and 22- year-old Lina, were found dead from multiple stab wounds, buried in a shallow grave in the central Gaza Strip early Sunday morning, said Hamdi Shakkour of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. Shakkour said they suspected the <u>women</u> were victims of "honour crimes," in which <u>women</u> are murdered by male relatives because of suspected intimate relations - not necessarily sex - outside of marriage. The <u>Hamas</u> force that polices the Gaza Strip said in a statement it was investigating the deaths. Honour killings are practiced throughout the Arab world. At least 12 <u>women</u> were killed for honour crimes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last year, but this is the first time three sisters were murdered together.

Boy's best friend

Chihuahua saves child from rattler

MASONVILLE, Colo. - Zoey is a Chihuahua, but when a rattlesnake lunged at her owners' one-year-old grandson, she was a real bulldog. Booker West was splashing his hands in a birdbath in his grandparents' northern Colorado back yard when the snake slithered up to the toddler, rattled and struck. Five-pound Zoey jumped in the way and took the bites. "She got in between Booker and the snake, and that's when I heard her yipe," said Monty Long, the boy's grandfather. The dog required treatment and for a time it appeared she might not survive. Now she prances about. "These little bitty dogs, they just don't really get credit," Booker's grandma Denise Long told the Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald.

Violence

Gaza militants killed in Israeli airstrike

JERUSALEM - An Israeli air strike killed two Palestinian militants in the northern Gaza Strip Sunday afternoon just after they fired rockets at Israel, the Israeli military and hospital officials said. The Israeli military said its aircraft hit a rocket launching site after militants fired rockets at Israel, hitting them. Abu Hamzeh of Islamic Jihad said the two men belonged to the group and "were on a holy mission."

#### World Journal

#### Kidnappings

Taliban extends hostage deadline

KABUL, Afghanistan - A purported Taliban spokesman said Sunday that the hardline militia has extended its deadline for the lives of 23 South Korean hostages until this evening to give negotiators more time. Qari Yousef Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the Taliban, said the militants were giving the Afghan and South Korean governments until 7 p.m.today to respond to their demand that 23 Taliban prisoners be freed in exchange for the Koreans' lives. A police chief in Ghazni province said Afghan officials and elders had met with the kidnappers on Sunday to resolve the crisis. U.S. and Afghan troops also moved into the region in case military leaders call for a rescue operation.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007



## The Wrap: Hackers target Whitehall

Guardian.com

September 5, 2007

Copyright 2007 Guardian Unlimited (© Guardian Newspapers Limited) All rights reserved

# theguardian

Length: 1141 words

Highlight: Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's digest of the best of the day's papers.

## **Body**

Welcome to the Wrap, Guardian Unlimited's digest of the best of the day's papers.

#### CHINESE HACKERS TARGET WHITEHALL

First it was dodgy toothpaste, pet food and toys, now China stands accused of trying to hack into western computer networks. In its splash, the Guardian's security correspondent, Richard Norton Taylor, reports on how Chinese hackers, some believed to be from the People's Liberation Army (PLA), have been attacking the computer systems of British government departments. The attackers have hit the Foreign Office's network and those of other key departments, the paper says. On its inside pages, the paper notes that China's technological prowess is growing along with internet penetration, which is set to reach 150 million people this year and is on course to overtake that of the US in five years. Yesterday, the Financial Times had a front-page article on similar attacks by the PLA on Pentagon computer networks.

\* Titan Rain - how Chinese hackers targeted Whitehall\* Army sets sights on targets in space and cyberspace

#### **REFLECTIONS ON BASRA**

The Independent, a fervent critic of the Iraq war, devotes its front page to the withdrawal of the British military from Basra palace in southern Iraq to the city's airbase. Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Saunders tells the paper: "I could have stayed there for another six months, we would have been able to defend ourselves, and killed a lot of people in the process, but what would have been achieved?" Patrick Cockburn, who has covered Iraq extensively, writes that the British campaign was doomed from the start by a lack of Iraqi support. "Local people said they had never bowed their heads to Saddam Hussein and asked why they should now accept a foreign occupying power," he says. The Times reports that the US has drawn up contingency plans to send American troops to Basra if Gordon Brown decides to pull out the remaining 5,000 British troops, but says it is the last thing an overstretched American military wants to do.

\* Independent: Basra - the soldiers' tales\* Times: US plans to take over Basra if Britain withdraws all troops

#### **BLAIR'S MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**

The top story for the Times is Tony Blair's latest foray into the Middle East conflict. The paper says the former prime minister turned Middle East envoy returns to the area at a time of deepening crisis, with Israel threatening to turn off

#### The Wrap: Hackers target Whitehall

all power to the Gaza Strip after an Islamist rocket strike that narrowly missed a nursery. Mr Blair's efforts will be hampered, the Times reports, because he has no mandate to talk to <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamist movement that seized control of Gaza in June. There are now fears that <u>Hamas</u> might repeat its uprising in the West Bank, currently under the control of its rival, Fatah.

\* Times: Rockets and chaos confront Blair as he grapples with peace mission

#### THATCHER'S HEIRS

Gordon Brown's contention that he is a "conviction politician" like Labour's nemesis Margaret Thatcher is picked up by many political correspondents. The Mail, a fan of the new PM, says Mr Brown is moving ruthlessly to exploit turmoil in Tory ranks by comparing himself to Lady Thatcher. In the Telegraph's comment pages, Simon Heffer is practically tearing his hair out over David Cameron's inability to land a blow on Mr Brown and over the latest bout of Tory infighting - which allowed the PM to gloat yesterday that Mr Cameron was a prisoner of Tory factions. Mr Heffer, who thinks Mr Brown would trounce the Conservatives in an early election, writes: "Mr Brown is doing so well not because he has better policies than his rivals (insofar as he has any), but because he is a better politician than any of them."

\* Mail: I'm a conviction politician like Maggie, Brown taunts Cameron\* Telegraph: Why abhor Tories when they do it themselves

#### JANE'S LEGACY

The papers pay generous tribute to Jane Tomlinson, who died on Monday at the age of 43 after a seven-year battle with cancer. Given six months to live in 2000, she turned herself into an athlete who ran, swam and cycled for thousands of miles to raise money. Jill Foster writes in the Daily Mail that she saw Tomlinson at the beginning of last week when she was frail and so ill she could not stay at home. "It was obvious that she was exhausted but, bloody-minded to the last, she was determined to record more memories on tape for the third book we were writing together about her life." The Guardian's Martin Wainwright writes that she had lived, against her expectations, to see one of her three children give birth to a granddaughter - and to leave a legacy for all her family in the form of her courageous story.

\* End of the fight - the mother who ran, swam and cycled in cancer battle\* Mail: Jane Tomlinson - an inspiration to the end

#### MIND THE GAP

If you're a *female* manager in Britain, avoid the food and drink industry. That is the message conveyed by a survey on the gender pay gap from the Chartered Management Institute. The survey, based on 42,000 managers in every sector, is given page three treatment in the Guardian. The survey found that *women* averaged 43,571 last year, while the men averaged 49,647. The gap was widest in food and drink, where male managers earned 46% more than their *female* counterparts, the paper reports.

\* The figure that shows it pays to be a man

#### **EUROSTAR BREAKS RECORD**

As the Eurostar shaved half an hour off the journey between Paris and London for a new record of two hours three minutes and 39 seconds, the Independent injects a sober tone into the hoopla. Dozens of trains capable of speeds of 125 mph will slow to a crawl today to cross the single-track Royal Albert bridge across the Tamar outside Plymouth, writes Simon Calder. "The fact that this ancient infrastructure is still an essential component in Britain's railway network shows how far behind the railway curve the UK has slipped." He blames the lack of belief from both main political parties that the railways should provide mobility for the masses.

\* 205mph but still three minutes late\* Independent: Why Britain still lags behind France

The Wrap: Hackers target Whitehall

#### ABSOLUTE ZERO TOLERANCE

Kathleen Jennings, the cub scout leader who made the news when she was taken to court for leaving her feet on a train seat, is pictured on page three of the Telegraph. The court dismissed the charge, to the chagrin of David Jones. Writing in the Mail, he thinks she should have been punished. A believer in zero tolerance, he argues this principle works only if "you treat all minor infringements with due seriousness and don't just pick on easy targets while ignoring more hardened thugs".

\* Telegraph: Feet on seat student escapes conviction\* Mail: Zero tolerance must mean exactly that - even if she's a sweet maths student

#### **COMING UP TODAY**

The search for Steve Fossett, the millionaire aviator missing in America.

The last preliminary hearing before the Diana, Princess of Wales, inquest begins in full.

Load-Date: September 5, 2007



## OUR VIEW; Fanatics; 21st-century danger

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

July 8, 2007, Sunday

Copyright 2007 Charleston Newspapers

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. P2C

Length: 501 words

Byline: Gzedit

## **Body**

EXTREMISTS at the fringe of Islam caused still more horror last week. Muslim zealot students holed up in a Pakistani mosque plunged into a Friday gunbattle with police. And a secret clique of British Muslim doctors was charged with plotting mass murder - squelching the notion that Muslim fanatics turn murderous because they are poor and downtrodden.

These developments are causing another wave of "why they hate us" articles. The latest Newsweek devotes a cover story to the baffling phenomenon. Regarding the British doctors, it asks:

"Would any other culture or religion produce eight MDs and medical professionals - all of them sworn to heal - who apparently deemed it morally correct to kill innocent people in large numbers? Has something gone wrong with Islam itself, or at least the culture it has produced?"

In The New York Times, Thomas Friedman said a "death cult" has grown in Islam, "feeding off it like a cancerous tumor." Conservative columnist Cal Thomas asked why the West lets zealots "come to Britain and America and build their mosques, teach hate, and plot to kill us?" He added that, of course, most Muslims are peaceable, but extremists can blend invisibly among them.

The deadly element in Islam is tiny - perhaps no larger than the crackpot fringe of Christians who committed "prolife" murders at U.S. abortion clinics. But it takes only a handful of deranged believers to cause horror. Just 19 volunteer suicide "martyrs" perpetrated the infamous 9/11 terror strike that killed 3,000 Americans.

Therefore, faith-based terrorism has become the worst menace of the 21st century, and the driving force behind many conflicts. However, it isn't a monolithic Muslim phenomenon. Instead, it's a hodgepodge of various discontents, a lot of them purely local.

Newsweek International Editor Fareed Zakaria - who spoke in Charleston during the 2002 Gazette-WVU Festival of Ideas - wrote an insightful analysis in the July 9 issue, saying that violence and extremism are loathed by most Muslims.

"When Taliban fighters occasionally take over a town in southern Afghanistan, they disband the schools, burn books, put <u>women</u> behind veils," he said. "These actions cause fear and resentment, not love. Most Muslims, even those who are devout and enraged at the West, don't want to return to some grim fantasy of medieval theocracy."

Strangely, al-Qaida, once seen as a worldwide terror force, has mostly deteriorated into Sunni death squads killing Shiite Muslims, he said.

#### OUR VIEW Fanatics 21st-century danger

Zakaria added that militant Islamic political parties do poorly in most Muslim countries, "rarely garnering more than 7 or 8 percent of the vote." Exceptions like the *Hamas* victory in Gaza are flukes caused by extreme conditions, he wrote. Since the militants cannot win through democratic processes, they resort to slaughter as a path to power. They're few in number, but an extremely ugly threat.

Humanity endlessly passes through phases that rise, then fade. We hope the current era of fanatic murder soon disappears into the past.

Load-Date: July 9, 2007



# 'Smugglers' get 15 minutes to go, then house is blown up

The Guardian - Final Edition
October 2, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 15

Length: 425 words

Byline: Conal Urquhart, Rafah

## **Body**

Everyone in Rafah is dreading a call from Abu Nimr. It could come at any time but it normally means the recipient has 30 minutes to evacuate his house before it is blown up.

Abu Nimr has been busy. Last week he called five households in Rafah, on the border between Gaza and Egypt. The families fled their homes in time to see them destroyed by two or three missiles. Abu Nimr tells those he calls that he is a representative of Israeli military intelligence and he knows their house hides the entrance to a smuggling tunnel.

Normally he says they have 15 minutes to get out, but he's a reasonable guy and often holds off for 30 minutes.

After each attack last week, the Israeli army issued a statement. "The attack was based on specific intelligence information," it said, adding that it had "warned the population not to stay in structures that are used by terrorist organisations for storing weaponry".

It is not always possible to believe Israeli army statements, but in this case they appear to be accurate. There have been disputes between neighbours over the tunnels and in one case a gun battle between Palestinian police and a family believed to have been digging one.

Sami Shaher,46, was rebuilding his house 50 metres from the border after it was destroyed by the Israeli army in 2002. He said he received a call at 10.30pm on Wednesday from Abu Nimr. Thirty minutes later his unfinished house was blown up, leaving a crater 20 metres wide and 10 metres deep. A 14-year-old girl was killed by flying debris. There is no visible evidence of a tunnel.

Further west in the Yibna area of Rafah, <u>women</u> were salvaging belongings from the wreckage of a three-storey building that was home to five families. Abdul Karime Breakah, 28, said his brother was contacted by Abu Nimr on Thursday morning. Both Mr Breakah and Mr Shaher said they were aware of tunnels being dug in their area but denied they were in their homes.

Smugglers have been digging tunnels between Rafah and Egypt for more than 10 years. Abu Nimr's campaign coincides with a flurry of Israeli intelligence briefings that *Hamas* is trying to acquire advanced weapons. However, although shiny new guns and Egyptian cigarettes can be seen on the streets of Gaza, there is no evidence of such weapons.

### 'Smugglers' get 15 minutes to go, then house is blown up

Since the Israeli soldiers left, there have been few impediments to smugglers and now Gaza is in economic and political paralysis, tunnelling is more common. The signal that Israel now knows where some of the tunnels are and will destroy houses hiding them has sent a shockwave around the region.

Load-Date: October 2, 2006



## Israel has power to end conflict

Chicago Daily Herald
June 8, 2007 Friday
All Editions

Copyright 2007 Paddock Publications, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6; An Arab perspective

**Length:** 529 words **Byline:** Ray Hanania

# **Body**

The number 40 is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible to represent endless and long periods of time that go far beyond its literal meaning.

As the Israeli occupation of the West Bank - including Arab East Jerusalem - passes the 40-year mark, both sides might be wise to recognize that if they fail to renew efforts to achieve a fair and just peace, they will be commemorating a worsening conflict 40 years from now.

Why have we not achieved peace? Pro-Israel writers ignore Israel's responsibility in undermining peace. In reality, Palestinians and Israelis have been star-crossed antagonists who are both to blame.

When it comes to peace, Palestinians and Israelis have never been in sync.

After capturing the territories in the June 1967 war, Israeli leaders vowed they would exchange the land for a genuine and lasting peace accord based on the two-state solution originally proposed and rejected by the Arabs in 1947.

But the Palestinians were not in charge of their own destiny in 1967, and the Israelis always denied that the Palestinians ever existed. Israel's "magnanimous offer of peace" was never intended for the Palestinians, but to the Arabs and mainly the Jordanians.

When Palestinians did take control of their own destiny in the early 1970s, Israel stepped up its opposition to the Palestinian leadership. Palestinians who dared to display a Palestinian flag were arrested and deported.

Although Israel claimed it would trade land for peace, it began a massive campaign to settle religious extremists in the territories, settlers who today number more than 450,000 including in illegal settlements around East Jerusalem.

Rather than negotiate with the PLO, Israel instead helped a sheik in Gaza Strip, Ahmed Yassin, to gain control over the PLO. Yassin launched <u>Hamas</u> during the first intifadah. He and many Palestinian <u>women</u> and children were murdered by Israel as he was wheeled out of a Gaza mosque.

Even when the PLO recognized Israel in 1988 and entered into the peace process with Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli extremists, including government leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon, did as much as Palestinian extremists to prevent peace talks from continuing.

### Israel has power to end conflict

A Likud settler murdered Rabin in 1995, destroying peace and leading to Sharon's intentionally provocative declaration on the Temple Mount that Israel would never share East Jerusalem with Palestinians.

Even during the peace process, Israel increased settlements, setting an array of preconditions including refusing to acknowledge Palestinian refugees' rights

Forty years later, Palestinians and Israelis continue to be at each others' throats, with the Islamist power rising ominously, threatening not only Israel but secular Palestinian life.

But in the end, while Palestinians say they desire peace, only Israel has the upper hand, the power and control to make peace happen. Palestinians are occupied. Israel is the occupier.

Israelis can build more walls that they call "fences," and increase settlements, or recognize that their refusal to return the occupied lands remains the real obstacle to peace.

Either this is only 40 years, or it is a biblical reference to a conflict that will continue forever.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2007



## Inside today

The Gazette (Montreal)

May 25, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

**Length:** 503 words **Byline:** The Gazette

### **Body**

Lebanese PM pledges to 'finish off terrorists'

Thousands of tracer bullets streaked through the sky last night, as fighting erupted for about half an hour between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam

militants, breaking an informal two-day ceasefire. It was unclear whether this was the start of the offensive "to uproot terrorism and finish it off" that Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora had promised hours earlier. Details, Page A14

Abbas pleads for ceasefire

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas called for a halt to rocket fire and a truce with Israel yesterday after the Israeli army seized 33 senior <u>Hamas</u> figures in the latest crackdown against the Islamist group. Details, Page A12

Suspect held in Park Ex blaze

A 30-year-old man with a history of setting fires has been arrested after a blaze at a Park Extension presbytery early yesterday, and police are investigating to see whether he is linked to other recent blazes in the area. Details, Page A7

Babies are lingo savvy: study

A new study by researchers at McGill University, the University of British Columbia, Oxford University and Universitat de Barcelona suggests babies as young as 4 months might be able to tell languages apart without actually hearing them spoken. Details, Page A8

Quebec tobacco law flouted

When it comes to selling cigarettes to minors, Quebec is smoking the other provinces, a new Health Canada study says. Details, Page A9

Tories put program on hold

#### Inside today

Hundreds of summer festivals across Canada say they are being shut out of a new \$30-million federal sponsorship program that was suspended by Heritage Minister Bev Oda following accusations that it was a slush fund for Conservative MPs. Details, Page A10

Business. Dream comes true, naturally

A Granby couple with a shared passion for healthy living has turned a hobby into an expanding chain of supermarkets offering only natural and organic products. Details, Page B1

Black judge rejects evidence

U.S. prosecutors may be prohibited from showing the jury invoices of expensive purchases made by Conrad Black, which included a 26-carat ring, because the documents were obtained outside the United States. Details, Page B2

Sports. Palmer's out, Calvillo's in

Jim Popp, the Alouettes general manager and head coach, confirmed yesterday Jesse Palmer has officially retired,

and that Anthony Calvillo is the team's starting quarterback. Details, Page C1

Canada gets taekwondo gold

Karine Sergerie's win this week in the World Taekwondo Championships final gave her Canada's first gold medal at the event. Details, Page C4

Preview

Brief postcards from Paris

Some of the world's best-known art house directors team up with some of international cinema's finest actors for Paris, je t'aime, an often charming series of vignettes set in different neighbourhoods of Paris. Details, Page D1

Low-key film delivers message

The affecting drama Close to Home uses a mismatched pair of Israeli soldiers - both <u>women</u> - to delve into the fear, loathing and heartache of the conflict in the Middle East. Details, Page D6

## **Graphic**

Photo: (See hard copy for photo description);

Load-Date: May 25, 2007



The Gazette (Montreal)

December 31, 2006 Sunday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A12

Length: 1731 words

Byline: LIZ FERGUSON, The Gazette

### **Body**

### January

- 2 An explosion at a coal mine in Tallmansville, W.Va., kills one miner, while 11 others are asphyxiated. Only one man survives.
- 4 Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon falls into a coma after a massive stroke; he's replaced by his deputy, Ehud Olmert.
- 5 Canada beats Russia 5-0 to win the gold medal at the World Junior Hockey Championship in Vancouver.
- 10 The Rolling Stones perform at the Bell Centre.
- 15 Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry, 59, is killed in a suicide bombing in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- Michelle Bachelet, a socialist, becomes the first *female* elected to the presidency of Chile.
- 16 In Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is sworn in as the first women president anywhere in Africa.
- 18 Rain and freezing cause such icy conditions that hundreds of Montrealers fall and break legs, arms or wrists, 14 city buses are in accidents and several intersections are closed.
- 23 Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party win the federal election, with 124 seats out of 300, for a minority government.
- 25 Brigitte Serre, 17, is stabbed to death while working the overnight shift at a gas station in St. Leonard.
- 26 *Hamas* wins 76 of the 132 seats to take control of the Palestinian government.
- 29 At least 60 people die when an exhibition hall roof covered in heavy snow collapses in Poland.

### february

2 Societe des Alcools du Quebec admits two of its vice-presidents tried to set up a price-fixing and kickback scheme.

- 3 About 1,000 passengers of a ferry, most of them Egyptians, die when the vessel sinks in the Red Sea.
- 5 The Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 to win the Super Bowl.
- 6 Stephen Harper is sworn is as prime minister.
- Denmark faces a rising storm of criticism in the Islamic world for newspaper cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed that were republished in several newspapers across Europe. Danish interests are attacked in several countries.
- Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet is accused of heading a multimillion-dollar sports gambling ring that reportedly includes NHL players and Wayne Gretzky's wife, Janet.
- 10 The 20th winter Olympics open in Turin, Italy.
- 11 U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney accidentally shoots lawyer Harry Whittington while hunting at a Texas ranch.
- 16 A UN report says prisoners at Guantanamo Bay are being tortured and urges the U.S. to close the prison.
- 17 A major storm, with freezing rain and wind gusts of up to 110 kilometres an hour, leads to a fatal 64-car pileup on Highway 40 near Lavaltrie and a 38-vehicle accident near Ottawa. On Montreal Island, 10,000 households are left without power, as are 150,000 homes across the province.
- 18 *Hamas* is sworn into the Palestinian legislature.
- 20 The bodies of a murdered Canadian couple, Domenico and Annunziata Ianiero, are found in their hotel room near Cancun, Mexico. Mexican police cast suspicion on other Canadian guests.
- 22 At Samarra in Iraq, a bomb attack destroys the dome of one of the holiest Shiite Muslim shrines. The blast brings a huge increase in sectarian violence, which increasingly resembles a civil war.
- 26 Canada finishes with 24 medals in 10 different sports at the winter Olympics, landing third in the overall medal standings, behind Germany's 29 and the United States's 25. Winnipeg speed-skater Cindy Klassen led the way for Canada with one gold, two silvers and two bronzes.

### **MARCH**

- 2 Advertising executive Jean Brault, founder of Groupaction marketing, pleads guilty to five counts of defrauding the federal government in the Quebec sponsorship scandal.
- In a case involving Montreal student Gurbaj Singh Multani, the Supreme Court of Canada rules that Sikh students can wear ceremonial daggers to school.
- The loonie reaches a 14-year high of 88.5 cents U.S.
- Paul McCartney and wife Heather Mills visit the Gulf of St. Lawrence to protest against the annual seal hunt.
- 3 BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion Inc. of Waterloo, Ont., agrees to pay \$612.5 million U.S. to NTP Inc. to settle their patent dispute.
- 5 Canadian Paul Haggis wins the best picture Oscar for his racial drama Crash.
- 8 Canadiens goalie Jose Theodore is traded to the Colorado Avalanche.
- 10 Loto-Quebec and the Cirque du Soleil abandon plans to build a new casino in the Peel Basin.
- 11 Former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, 64, is found dead in his prison cell at the United Nations detention centre near The Hague, Netherlands.

- 15 An international child porn ring is busted, with up to 10 Canadians among the 40 people arrested.
- 17 France is shaken by mass youth demonstrations against a new short-term labour contract. It is later withdrawn.
- 18 Protests take place around the world to mark the third anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Hundreds of demonstrators march in downtown Montreal despite a windchill of minus 16C.
- 22 The ferry Queen of the North hits a rock and sinks, 130 km south of Prince Rupert, B.C., but 99 of its 101 passengers and crew are rescued by the Coast Guard and local fishermen.
- 23 Canadian peace activists James Loney and Harmeet Singh Sooden are rescued after being held hostage in Iraq since Nov. 26.
- 24 The Basque separatist group ETA announces a ceasefire in its armed struggle against the Spanish state.
- 26 An Afghan court frees a man who had faced possible execution because he had converted to Christianity.
- 27 Sparks from renovation work start a fire that destroys Eastern Townships landmark Auberge Hatley.
- 31 Alberta Conservatives hold a leadership review and give Premier Ralph Klein only 55 per cent support.

### **APRIL**

- 7 The Quebec Court of Appeal sentences Paul Coffin to 18 months in jail for his part in the sponsorship scandal. His firm, Coffin Communications, received \$1.56 million from 1997 to 2002 for contracts that required little or no work.
- The provincial government finally approves the two superhospital projects, saying they will be built mainly as public-private partnerships, and will be finished by 2011.
- 11 Downtown merchants are relieved when the provincial government announces some stores will be allowed to stay open and profit from the lucrative Grand Prix weekend during the St. Jean Baptiste holiday.
- 21 Train service between Montreal and Toronto is halted and 8,000 Via Rail passengers are stranded when Tyendinaga Mohawks block rail lines near Belleville, Ont., in solidarity with natives in Caledonia, Ont.
- 22 Thousands of Montrealers mark Earth Day by protesting the provincial government's plan to to sell a piece of Mount Orford Provincial Park and allow condos to be built there.
- 24 Bombs in the Egyptian resort town of Dahab kill at least 23 people and injure more than 60 others.
- 26 Canadiens captain Saku Koivu suffers a serious eye injury in a playoff game.
- 27 PM Stephen Harper announces Canada and the U.S. have finally settled the softwood lumber dispute. Opposition parties grumble that the deal is a sellout.

#### MAY

- 3 Zacarias Moussaoui, who had testified that he was scheduled to hijack a fifth airplane to crash into the White House on 9/11, is sentenced to life in prison.
- Picasso's painting Dora Maar au Chat sells for \$95.2 million U.S. at Sotheby's in New York.
- An Armenian passenger plane crashes in the Black Sea, killing all 113 people aboard.
- 5 Former mayor Pierre Bourque resigns as city councillor, official opposition leader at city hall and leader of political party Vision Montreal.

- Jean Brault, an advertising executive with Groupaction Marketing Inc., is given a 30-month sentence for his role in the \$250-million sponsorship scandal.
- 7 To the delight of their supporters, soldiers of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) hold their annual march along Sherbrooke St., even though the city had told them they would have to use de Maisonneuve Blvd. instead.
- 10 Claiming that the justice system prevented him from seeing his daughter, a man spends 27 hours on a billboard platform near the Jacques Cartier Bridge, causing havoc with city traffic.
- 15 More than 170 people die in co-ordinated attacks by gangs in the Brazilian city of Sao Paolo.
- 16 Police say that, with the arrest of 38 people, they have dismantled a major drug trafficking network that controlled sales from Montreal to the Lanaudiere region.
- 17 Capt. Nichola Goddard is killed in a Taliban ambush. She is the highest-ranking Canadian soldier and the first *female* Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan
- 27 A magnitude-6.3 earthquake kills more than 5,100 people on Indonesia's main island of Java.
- 30 Quebec's Bill 112, banning smoking in bars and restaurants, comes into effect.

#### **JUNE**

- 2 Seventeen people are arrested in the Toronto area and charged with participating in the acts of a terrorist group, including training and recruitment; firearms and explosives offences for the purposes of terrorism and providing property for terrorist purposes.
- 7 A U.S. air raid kills Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of Al-Qa'ida in Iraq.
- 17 Montreal adopts 10-digit telephone dialing.
- 18 A painting by Gustav Klimt fetches a record \$135 million at auction.
- 19 In Raleigh, N.C., the Carolina Hurricanes defeat the Edmonton Oilers 3-1 in Game 7 to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup.
- Charles (Chuck) Guite is sentenced to 31/2 years in a federal penitentiary for his part in the sponsorship scandal.
- 20 Police dismantle a debit-card fraud ring that victimized about 18,000 people in the Greater Montreal area.
- 21 The RCMP bust a major drug-trafficking ring in an operation involving more than 350 officers. Thirty-six people are arrested and 42 search warrants executed in Montreal, the Eastern Townships and Saskatchewan.
- 21, 22 Madonna appears at the Bell Centre, her first performance in Montreal since October 23, 1993.
- 22 Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologizes in the House of Commons for the country's past mistreatment of Chinese immigrants.
- 25 Palestinian militants kill two Israeli soldiers and abduct a third in an attack on a border post. Israel hits back with a massive incursion during which it knocks out the territory's only power station and abducts leading members of the ruling *Hamas* movement.
- At the 38th annual Formula One Grand Prix of Canada, 119,000 fans see Spain's Fernando Alonso win over German rival Michael Schumacher.
- 29 The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the war crimes tribunals established by President George W. Bush to try the so-called "enemy combatants" held at Guantanamo Bay, ruling the commissions violated U.S. law and the Geneva Convention.

**JULY** 

5 North Korea test-fires up to six missiles, causing much consternation.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: PAUL CHIASSON, CP FILE PHOTO; Olympic speed-skater Cindy Klassen raced to one gold, two silver and two bronze medals.;

Colour Photo: MARIE-FRANCE COALLIER, GAZETTE FILE PHOTO; Quebec's Bill 112, banning smoking in bars and restaurants, came into effect in late May.;

Colour Photo: PIERRE OBENDRAUF, GAZETTE FILE PHOTO; Three lanes of a Laval overpass collapse onto Highway 19, killing five people and injuring six others.; Colour

Photo: BILL GRAVELAND, CP FILE PHOTO; A Black Hawk helicopter lands in Mas'um Ghar, Afghanistan, bringing Canadian military personnel for a push into the Panjwaii district.

Load-Date: December 31, 2006



# **Bethlehem's Second Coming**

New York Sun (Archive)

December 28, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 1179 words

**Byline: DANIEL JOHNSON** 

## **Body**

What's in a name? In the case of Bethlehem, a great deal. Few names on earth can compare in resonance to the birthplace of both King David and Jesus Christ. And the resonance of a place name can be a powerful weapon in the wrong hands.

Just before Christmas, the heads of the Anglican and Catholic churches in England - respectively, the archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and the archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor - led a delegation of all the main Christian denominations in Britain on a visit to Bethlehem. Their mission was supposedly to draw attention to the plight of Christians there. Instead, they allowed themselves to become tools of Islamist propaganda. Here is how it happened.

For the vast majority of Christians, Bethlehem means angels, shepherds, and a mother with her baby in a manger. For Jews, however, the little town of Christmas carols has acquired a more sinister significance. According to the government of Israel, about half of all the terrorist attacks on Israel come from or through Bethlehem.

Only four years ago was the terrorist presence in Bethlehem brought home to the world. In 2002 the Church of the Nativity was occupied and desecrated by Palestinian terrorists belonging to both Fatah and <u>Hamas</u>. Priests and nuns were held hostage. Some of the terrorists were wanted for their part in the terrible attack on a hotel in Netanya, which killed 30 and wounded 140 Israelis.

Under the circumstances, the Israelis might well have felt justified in storming the basilica. Rather than risk the lives of the hostages or damage to one of the holiest of all Christian shrines, however, the Israel Defense Force waited patiently for 39 days. The siege ended with a deal that allowed the terrorists to be given asylum in several European countries. Now Prime Minister Olmert and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, have paved the way for the repatriation of these thugs to Bethlehem. Their imminent return is awaited with fear and trepidation by the Christians, who anticipate a new reign of terror. Only last year, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades stormed the town hall on Christmas Day.

For the Christians who live there, moreover, Bethlehem has come to symbolize Islamic persecution. The Christian population of Bethlehem, whose economy still depends on pilgrims and tourists, has dwindled to 12% today from 85% in 1948. Christians complain of murders, rapes, land grabs, and constant harassment in the atmosphere of hysteria and jihad that has been deliberately cultivated since the town became a *Hamas* stronghold. The ruling party of the Palestinians wants a final solution of the Middle East conflict: an Islamofascist greater Palestine, with no Jews or Christians at all.

### Bethlehem's Second Coming

Enter the archbishop and the cardinal. Neither prelate wasted a single word on the Muslims who have transformed Bethlehem from a symbol of peace into a byword for terror. Instead, they condemned two much safer targets: Israel's security fence, which they claimed was "strangling" the economic life of the town, and the invasion of Iraq, which was allegedly responsible for the persecution of Christians all over the Muslim world.

On the security fence, Archbishop Williams said that "it is undoubtedly a fact that suicide bombing attacks have gone down since the barrier was erected." But he went on to condemn "the human cost that we have seen" which "has to raise the question: what alternative is there now?" The answer to that question lies with the Palestinians, whose continued violence reinforces the conviction of the vast majority of Israelis that there is no alternative. The fence has improved security throughout the region, and pilgrims have benefited as much as anybody else. But the terrorists know that the Israelis will be blamed if pilgrims can't get into Bethlehem.

The Israelis are aware of this, of course, and so have provided free shuttle bus service for pilgrims from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Not a word about this from the archbishop or the cardinal. Instead, one Catholic church at St. Ives, in the English county of Cornwall, has erected a 30-foot-by-6-foot mock-up of Israel's security fence in place of the traditional Christmas crib. The parish priest, Father Paul Maddison, said that this will "highlight the plight of the Palestinian people."

Even more absurd is Archbishop Williams' other contention, that the American and British governments are to blame for the fact that ancient Christian communities are disappearing from many parts of what we now call the Muslim world, but which were once centers of Christendom.

In an article for the London Times, the archbishop accused Tony Blair and George Bush of being "short-sighted" and "ignorant" by failing to have a "strategy" to protect the Christians against Muslims who regard them as part of the "crusading West." "The results are now painfully adding to what was already a difficult situation for Christian communities across the region," he wrote.

In fact, it is the archbishop who is ignorant. As a professor of the University of Bradford, Shaun Gregory, responded in a letter to the Times: "The genocide, displacement and repression of Christians across the Muslim world is one of the great untold stories of the past 150 years. Were it more widely known it would explode the myth of Islamic tolerance of other faiths."

We know what happened when the pope referred, even obliquely, to that untold story. The idea that even America has the power to protect Christian minorities from their Muslim neighbors when it is all we can do to keep the global jihad under control only shows that the archbishop is naïve as well as ignorant.

Fortunately, his colleague, the Anglican bishop of Rochester in Britain, Michael Nazir-Ali, is made of sterner stuff. Born in Pakistan, he is the only bishop in the Church of England who has first-hand experience of life in an Islamic state. Last Sunday he issued a timely warning against allowing Muslim <u>women</u> to wear the veil in public. He was responding to reports that a Muslim man wanted for the murder of a policewoman escaped from Britain disguised in a burka because airline staff at Heathrow were too squeamish to ask "her" to undress. As a convert from Islam, the bishop knows that he has nothing to lose by taking a tough line: If the jihad triumphs, he and his fellow "apostates" would be the first for the chop - literally so.

It is sad that Bethlehem has been reduced to a photo opportunity. In bygone centuries, Bedlam - the colloquial abbreviation of "Bethlehem" - was synonymous with the most famous lunatic asylum in the world. The idle rich would pay to gawp at the poor wretches. Are asinine archbishops and canting cardinals who add their quavering voices to the chorus of hatred for "Jews and Crusaders" any better?

The use and abuse of Bethlehem as a propaganda tool by the useful idiots of the jihad put me in mind of William Butler Yeats' great poem "The Second Coming," which ends with a terrible unanswered question: "And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,/Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?"

Load-Date: December 28, 2006



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: IS DEMOCRACY ALWAYS GOOD?

The Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

August 3, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The New Mexican

Section: TEEN PAGE; Pg. D-2

Length: 510 words

**Byline: SANFORD BRICKNER** 

# **Body**

Democracy is good. I say this because other systems are worse. -- Jawaharlal Nehru

If you are or ever were a teenager in America, you probably studied about democracy in school. Certainly our president did, and, like Nehru, found it to be good. Perhaps that's why when no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq -- the original reason for our invasion of the country -- he adopted a new reason: the spread of democracy, not only in the Middle East, but also throughout the world.

In November of 2003, President Bush reaffirmed his belief in democracy in a lengthy speech before the United States Chamber of Commerce on the 20th Anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy.

In this speech, the president, in addition to committing the United States to the spread of democracy throughout the world, declared: "For the Palestinian people, the only path to independence and dignity and progress is the path of democracy."

Yet in January 2006, a little over two years later, when the Palestinians chose the path of democracy, the United States rejected the final results of their election when it showed that <u>Hamas</u> (the party committed to the destruction of the state of Israel) won a majority of the legislative seats, giving it the ability to form a majority government on its own.

Is democracy only good if it results in elections favoring the interests of the United States?

It might be understandable, given the president's commitment to democracy, why we were willing to sacrifice American lives in Iraq to remove from power a Sunni minority that were denying rights to the Shia, the religious group representing a majority of the country's population.

But it is less understandable why the president, professing a belief in democracy, now wants to sell billions of military arms to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is one of the least democratic countries in the Middle East. It is a monarchy ruled by the royal family. <u>Women</u> are denied equal rights. The country funds schools and mosques that teach hate directed at Western society and non-Moslem religions.

Furthermore, it has been accused of sending men and weapons to help the Sunnis in Iraq defeat the United States' effort to support a democratically elected government dominated by the Shia majority.

Why would the president want to send arms to such a nation?

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: IS DEMOCRACY ALWAYS GOOD?

Could it be that the president is less concerned about spreading democracy in the Middle East than he is about protecting one of America's major sources of crude oil? Saudi oil accounts for approximately one-third of the oil imported into the U.S.

During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated, "We must be the great arsenal of democracy." During our current war on terrorism, President Bush, rather than committing to be a great arsenal of democracy, apparently believes we must be the great weapons arsenal for nations committed to supplying us oil, regardless of whether or not they are democracies.

Sanford Brickner is a retired lawyer who wants teens to be aware of their rights. Send your questions to teens@sfnewmexican.com

Load-Date: August 16, 2007



# Amid Political Upheaval, Israeli Economy Stays Healthy

The New York Times

December 31, 2006 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1166 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 26

## **Body**

For Israel, it has been a typically tumultuous year: Ariel Sharon, then the prime minister, collapsed into a coma on Jan. 4, the radical Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> won Palestinian elections later that month, and Israel fought a monthlong war in Lebanon this summer.

But despite the political turmoil and spasms of violence, Israel, it seems, has figured out how to keep its economy charging forward.

It was the country's third straight year of strong growth, with the economy expanding nearly 5 percent. The stock market has been hitting record highs; unemployment is at a 10-year low. Israel's central bank is lowering interest rates to 4.5 percent on Jan. 1, putting them well below rates in the United States, an almost unprecedented development. The Israeli shekel is trading at 4.2 to the dollar, its strongest level in five years.

Further, Warren E. Buffett, the billionaire investor, paid \$4 billion for an Israeli company, and Donald Trump is developing a 70-story luxury residential tower on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

"Israelis look at the economy, and they've essentially been through these disturbances in the past, and they know the economy is pretty robust and it tends to come back," said Stanley Fischer, the governor of the Bank of Israel. "Things that happen here have a smaller impact on markets than I think they would abroad."

While the Israeli economy has been thriving, the Palestinian economy has moved in the opposite direction, contracting by an estimated 10 to 15 percent this year, according to the Palestine Monetary Authority.

For Israel, the business that best illustrates the economy's resilience this year is the company Mr. Buffett bought, Iscar Metalworking Company, a global leader in the manufacture of precision metal-cutting tools.

In May, Mr. Buffet bought 80 percent of the company, which has its headquarters on an isolated hilltop in northern Israel that offers a panoramic view of the nearby border with Lebanon.

Barely two months later, a cross-border raid by Hezbollah guerrillas ignited 34 days of fighting that pushed Israeli troops into Lebanon and drew heavy rocket barrages against northern Israel.

### Amid Political Upheaval, Israeli Economy Stays Healthy

One rocket slammed into the Tefen Industrial Park, where Iscar is situated, causing minor damage to a building belonging to another company. Many more rockets crashed nearby during the weeks of war.

Many Iscar workers moved their families away from the border region, but the company maintained production, with only occasional slowdowns.

"It took us a brief time to adjust, but we didn't miss a single shipment," said Eitan Wertheimer, Iscar's chairman. "For our customers around the world, there was no war."

The northern city of Haifa came under almost daily rocket attacks, and ships stopped entering Haifa's port, the country's largest. Some exporters shipped their goods by air at much higher expense in order to meet deadlines.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which has been setting records throughout the year, seemingly shrugged off the war; it was slightly higher at the end of the conflict in August than before it started in July.

At the beginning of the year, Israel's economy was forecast to grow at around 5.5 percent, and will come in at about 4.8 percent, according to Mr. Fischer, who attributed the dip to the war.

The Palestinian economy, meanwhile, has been devastated. During the peace talks of the 1990s, the Israelis and Palestinians increased cooperation, and by 2000, both sides were growing rapidly and nearly 150,000 Palestinians entered Israel daily. Most were workers who accounted for a large slice of the Palestinian economy.

When the Palestinian uprising began in September of that year, both sides took an immediate economic hit, but for the Palestinians, the downward spiral has yet to end.

Israeli security forces greatly increased the web of restrictions in the Palestinian areas to prevent attacks, and the measures have also imposed great hardships on Palestinian economic life. The Palestinians grew increasingly dependent on aid as their access to Israel's economy dwindled. The problems worsened into crisis this year after <u>Hamas</u> came to power, and Israel began withholding Palestinian tax revenues and Western countries cut off direct aid to the Palestinian government.

The Palestinian per capita gross domestic product, which was about \$1,800 annually at the beginning of the uprising, plummeted to \$1,200 last year and continues to fall.

For Israelis, per capita gross domestic product has risen over the last six years from a little over \$15,000 a year to around \$18,000, according to government figures.

Israel turned the corner on a two-year recession in 2003, and for the past three years the economy has expanded at 4.4 percent to 5.2 percent annually, with a similar forecast for next year. The growth comes from technology, service and other modern industries, and trade mostly with the United States, Europe and East Asia.

Plagued by hyperinflation in the 1980s, Israel has an inflation rate hovering around zero percent this year, and it has been averaging less than 1 percent annually for the past five years.

The economic tide is not lifting every Israeli boat, however. Despite the economic growth, the number of Israelis living below the poverty level has been edging up, from 18 percent in 2002 to more than 20 percent last year, according to the government's National Insurance Institute.

Critics say this is because Israelis who are struggling economically have seen their benefits fall sharply, while they remain unemployed. The unemployment rate is at its lowest level in a decade, but still relatively high at 8.4 percent.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who as finance minister pushed aggressive open-market policies from 2003 to 2005, was also widely criticized for cutting social programs in a country where couples often have many children and depend heavily on such subsidies.

### Amid Political Upheaval, Israeli Economy Stays Healthy

"The basic problem is that economic growth has been very uneven," said Shlomo Swirski, the academic director of Adva, a research institute that focuses on the poor.

Job growth, he said, has been concentrated in sectors that require a high level of education. Economic growth has been greatest in Tel Aviv and surrounding areas, the economic hub of the country, while the less developed Galilee in the north and Negev Desert in the south have seen much less progress, Mr. Swirski added.

"We're looking at growth that is highly concentrated geographically, economically and socially," he said.

Economists note that many of the poor come from two groups, Israeli Arabs and ultra-Orthodox Jews, that have large families and low participation rates in the work force. Among Israeli Arabs, few <u>women</u> have formal jobs. Among the ultra-Orthodox, many men do not work.

"We still see a strong debate over income distribution," said David Levhari, an economics professor at Hebrew University. "But overall, I think we're looking at an economy that should continue to do pretty well."

http://www.nytimes.com

## **Graphic**

Photos: An Israeli company that produces armor for military vehicles. Israel has had three years of solid growth and unemployment is at a 10-year low. (Photo by Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

Palestinians waited recently to receive part of their salaries in Hebron. The Palestinian economy has been ravaged over the past several years. (Photo by Hazem Bader/Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: December 31, 2006



# Pakistan zeroes in on zealots

Christian Science Monitor July 9, 2007, Monday

Copyright 2007 The Christian Science Publishing Society All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

Length: 560 words

### **Body**

When the violent strand of Islam eventually collapses of its inherent contradiction, that day may have been foreseen in the siege at Pakistan's Red Mosque. If the military uses wise tactics to end the siege well, civilization will be the victor.

The standoff began after the mosque's radical jihadists began to escalate their terrorizing of citizens in the capital, Islamabad. For months, the Muslim militants had been sending self-appointed vice squads onto the streets to enforce their strict version of Islamic law. They accused <u>women</u> of being prostitutes, burned music discs, and abducted police. Pakistani society, which prefers democracy over sharia vigilantism, was fed up.

When the military finally decided to crack down last week, the militants showed what they were really made of: They are using **women** as hostages. And one of their leaders, senior cleric Maulana Abdul Aziz, tried to sneak out of the compound in **women**'s clothing, covered in a burqa and wearing high heels. For all of his past sermonizing on keeping the sexes separate, his attempted escape in drag revealed the underlying farce of Islamic holy war.

The mosque and its religious schools (madrassas) are a key part of Pakistan's long history of dealing with militant Islam, going back to its support of Islamic fighters against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and then the post-Soviet Taliban regime.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, however, President Pervez Musharraf has tried to break the link between the military's intelligence services and Muslim radicals. The Red Mosque siege represents a firm, public stand by the government to weed out the militants before they threaten Pakistani society itself.

If Mr. Musharraf succeeds in ending the standoff with little bloodshed, the victory will send a strong message to anyone trying to turn Pakistan into "Talistan."

Other stark standoffs between violent, totalitarian Islam and civilized society are currently happening in several Muslim lands. Lebanon's military is trying to end the hold of Islamic militants on a Palestinian refugee camp. Secular Palestinian leaders have successfully isolated the Sunni radical group <u>Hamas</u> in the Gaza Strip. And in Saudi Arabia, more and more citizens are challenging the mutawiyin, or the nonuniformed religious militia who enforce the radical Wahhabi form of Sunni Islam on public behavior.

Pakistan has many more radical groups it will need to confront, especially along the border with Afghanistan and at dozens of Muslim seminaries that teach violent tactics. The nation's problem is compounded by the bungled attempts of Musharraf, who is both president and chief of the army, to restore a full democracy in Pakistan after his eight years in power.

### Pakistan zeroes in on zealots

So far, he has shown restraint during their siege of the Red Mosque, a move that only helps to show the militants' moral weakness and allows more of those holed up inside to think twice and escape. He has the quiet support of much of Pakistan's political opposition.

This crisis also represents, in a microcosm, an attempt by the world's 1 billion, mainly moderate Muslims to stand up to zealots. Al Qaeda and other such groups have lost their "war" to create a united Muslim state because of their violent, antidemocratic tactics. It only takes a civilized response to reveal their lack of appeal.

(c) Copyright 2007. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: July 8, 2007



## Tortured artists

University Wire July 6, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Indiana Daily Student via U-Wire

Section: COMMENTARY

Length: 509 words

Byline: By Amanda Lowry, Indiana Daily Student; SOURCE: Indiana U.

Dateline: BLOOMINGTON, Ind.

# **Body**

On Monday night, I came to an embarrassing realization: I didn't know who won the last four seasons of "American Idol."

I consulted Wikipedia to solve this crisis, where I further realized I had not even heard of two of those winners. More research showed me that I wasn't the only one who had stopped paying attention -- Nielsen ratings for the show last season were down nearly 7 million viewers from season five.

Had I noticed this trend a couple of weeks ago, I would have given it the same attention as the show's last 5.9 seasons. But this past week, I was also introduced to the series finale of the Palestinian *Hamas* children's TV show "Tomorrow's Pioneers."

The show, which was canceled last week, had only been on the air since April. It featured a costumed mouse named Farfur, obviously plagiarized from Mickey Mouse, who preached to kids endearing values such as anti-Semitism, Islamic domination and how to use an AK-47 assault rifle. In the final episode, Farfur was beaten to death by an Israeli official trying to seize his land.

It may have been taken off the air in Israel due to poor ratings, but a clip of the finale's last five minutes on YouTube has gained popularity. On Tuesday, it received honors as the site's No. 10 most viewed and most discussed video.

Auditions for the next "Idol" competition begin at the end of this month. If the show takes some pointers from the finale of "Tomorrow's Pioneers," it could -- like Farfur tried to do for Palestine -- restore its glory. Here are suggestions:

- \* Force contestants to wear knock-off cartoon character costumes. Of course, the reason "Tomorrow's Pioneers" got away with their knock-off was because he would have been less likely to be recognized as such by Arab audiences than Americans. Therefore, contestants would have to pick characters from movies such as "Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest" or "Titanic: The Animated Movie."
- \* Have contestants write songs spewing hatred toward groups against whom they are prejudiced -- blacks, <u>women</u>, etc. One of the major reasons I've always hated "American Idol" is because the contestants sing crappy covers. We don't need more pop stars who don't know how to write their own music. Granted, increasing songwriting talent would mean sacrificing singing talent, and the people interested in fresh songwriting talent tend to be indie rockers

### Tortured artists

who don't watch TV. But if the messages are so offensive no one can concentrate on the singing or inspiration, sick viewers will cause the ratings to skyrocket.

\* Have the judges violently beat the season winners. The celebratory atmosphere after the winner is announced is thoughtful but propels the contestants' delusions that their talent will be useful after that evening. Beating them would provide them with more realistic symbolism about their situation -- that despite all that artistic talent, The Man will sack them.

By taking these lessons, "American Idol" could reach the high-level entertainment of "Tomorrow's Pioneers" -- and hopefully to its fate, too.

(C) 2007 Indiana Daily Student via U-WIRE

Load-Date: July 6, 2007



## This Week They Said

The Irish Times

May 26, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS FEATURES; News Features; Pg. 24

Length: 535 words

### **Body**

I have no doubt whatsoever. I don't think that anybody who is a student of Irish politics and Fianna Fáil's desire to be in government would doubt that for one minute. - Sinn Féin Deputy First Minister in the North, Martin McGuinness, says he has "no doubt" that the Taoiseach would seek Sinn Féin support to form a coalition government if the election resulted in a hung Dáil.

Sinn Féin Deputy First Minister in the North, Martin McGuinness, says he has "no doubt" that the Taoiseach would seek Sinn Féin support to form a coalition government if the election resulted in a hung Dáil.

Mr Ahern is known here as the Teflon Taoiseach (pronounced TEE-shak), an alliterative English-Irish word play on the official name of the prime minister's office, reflecting his ability to survive unscathed from personal and political controversies.

- New York Times take on the General Election.

The housing boom is over.

- The OECD comments on Ireland's property market in its latest Economic Review.

The property market has changed so much over the past year that it is only possible to continue a high-quailty service with increased fees.

- Mark FitzGerald, chief executive of Sherry FitzGerald, which has raised the commission it charges on house sales in Dublin.

The vice- president is pleased to be a grandfather for the sixth time.

- Megan McGinn, a spokeswoman for Dick Cheney, whose lesbian daughter, Mary, has given birth to a son.

We will put an end to the terrorist phenomenon without hesitation.

- Fuad Siniora, the Lebanese prime minister, says he will crush Islamic fighters holed up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon.

They are just terrorists in suits.

### This Week They Said

- Israeli deputy defence minister Ephraim Sneh after Israeli soldiers detained 33 <u>Hamas</u> officials, including two Palestinian mayors.

They told us we were hanging up immoral pictures . . . [ that] were not up to EU standards and could cause car accidents.

- Moris Eskenazi, whose company has been stopped by the Turkish government from placing ads involving <u>women</u> in bikinis.

I think he's proving to be increasingly irrelevant with these kinds of comments.

- White House spokesman Tony Fratto on Jimmy Carter after the former US president described the Bush administration as "the worst in history".

He is one of the people that is clearly being discussed.

- Joseph Stiglitz, a former senior vice-president of the World Bank, says Tony Blair is in the running to be the next president of the bank.

Obviously there can't be a new constitution. A simplified treaty is the only way forward.

- French president Nicolas Sarkozy outlines his future of the European Union.

We believe it is an absolutely harmful thing.

- Russian president Vladimir Putin voices his opposition to US plans for a missile "defence shield" in Europe.

The politics of fear is fuelling a downward spiral of human rights abuse in which no right is sacrosanct and no person safe.

- Irene Khan, of Amnesty International, whose new report says America's "war on terror" is causing more harm than good.

It's 5:37, it's about minus 30, it's cold, it's fantastic, the Himalayas are everywhere. It is amazing.

- Mountaineer Rod Baber makes the first mobile phone call from the peak of Mount Everest.

Load-Date: May 26, 2007



## REPTILES' AUSSIE ADVENTURE STARTS INSIDE GNOMES

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
June 20, 2007 Wednesday
0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2007 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 4A

Length: 496 words

## **Body**

#### ANIMAL KINGDOM

Apparently, the roving gnomes wanted some pets. Because when Australian customs officials did a routine check of international mail recently, they found two snakes and three lizards inside three figures being shipped from Britain. "When the package was opened, the officer spotted several snakes moving about. The package was immediately resealed," a customs official said in describing an astute policy. Then the next day, they found five more snakes and five more lizards in another shipment. It's illegal to bring reptiles into Australia, but it's the reptiles that get punished. They were killed, while the gnomes were released after refusing to answer questions.

### Cops clear horse in car theft caper

A horse was briefly detained in Soweto, South Africa, while police were investigating a car theft. The suspect, who was not named, was pulling a cart that carried the stripped body of a new car. The police also took into custody the two men on the cart, and quickly determined that they were the real suspects. "We couldn't leave the horse on the road because it was carrying a suspected stolen car," said police spokeswoman Lindiwe Mbatha. The horse also refused to answer questions and was released.

#### **GONE A-COURTIN'**

#### Most people can be presumed innocent

Speaking in his own defense during a trial in Boston last month, Richard Glawson, on trial for a weeklong series of crimes in 2001, addressed the jury. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I'll kill all of you if you find me guilty of any one charge, and that goes for your family, too," he said. Well, that hardly got him any sympathy votes at all. Those jurors found him guilty of the charges, and so far he has been sentenced to at least 65 years in prison, with new charges for intimidation still pending. He also is accused of vandalizing the court room with two bologna and cheese sandwiches.

#### Canadian man can't even get court date

A judge in Peterborough, Ontario, has sentenced a man to three years without a girlfriend. Seems Steven Cranley, 24, doesn't handle breakups well at all, and after an incident where he cut his ex-girlfriend's phone cord, then punched and kicked her, then stabbed himself in the neck as police arrived, the judge said enough is enough. Justice Rhys Morgan ruled Cranley "cannot form a romantic relationship of an intimate nature with a <u>female</u> person."

### REPTILES' AUSSIE ADVENTURE STARTS INSIDE GNOMES

#### **CLUBS ARE BLAZING**

In Nevada, 'fore!' becomes 'fire!'

A golfer in Reno, Nev., has an electric swing. Or something, because when he smacked his ball out of the rough, he did something that created a spark. Enough of one to start a fire that burned almost 20 acres of dry grass. It took 50 firefighters to get the fire under control.

Compiled by staff writer Jim Webster from Times wire services and other sources.

### THIS JUST IN

"Fatah is considered the more moderate (of the Palestinian groups), basically the difference being Fatah wants to kill the Jews, while *Hamas* wants to KILLLLLLLL the Jews."

Jon Stewart, host of The Daily Show

# **Graphic**

PHOTO: A garden gnome has snakes coming out of it. PHOTO: A masked man holds a rocket launcher in this photo.

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



## Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp

The Evening Standard (London)

May 21, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: B

Length: 538 words

## **Body**

LEBANESE troops tightened their siege of a Palestinian refugee camp today, laying down a barrage of artillery.

It emerged that their target a militant group with ties to al Qaeda had been training fighters inside the camp for attacks on European and possibly US targets.

One militant killed in the two days of fighting, Saddam El-Hajdib a senior official in the Fatah Islam group was a suspect in a failed German train bombing last summer, said a Lebanese security official.

The death toll remained uncertain as hundreds of Lebanese troops, backed by tanks and armoured carriers, surrounded the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp on Tripoli's outskirts.

M-48 battle tanks unleashed their fire on the camp, sending orange flames followed by white plumes of smoke. The militants responded with mortars. At least 27 soldiers and 20 militants had been killed, Lebanese security officials said, but they did not know how many civilians had died inside the camp because they are forbidden to enter.

One official in the camp said 34 people had been killed inside the camp, including 14 civilians. That could not be independently confirmed.

Ahmed Methqal, a Muslim cleric in the camp,said sniper fire had confined the camp's 30,000 residents to their houses. "You can say there is a massacre going on in the camp of children and <u>women</u> who have nothing to do with Fatah Islam," he said.

Clashes between troops surrounding the camp and Fatah Islam fighters began after a gun battle raged in a suburb of Tripoli, a predominantly Sunni city.

Fighting spread after police raided suspected Fatah Islam hideouts, searching for men wanted in a recent bank robbery. A gun battle ensued and troops were called in.

### Militants killed as Lebanese tanks pound refugee camp

Militants then burst out of the refugee camp, seizing Lebanese army positions, capturing two armoured vehicles and ambushing troops, killing two soldiers.

The violence added further instability to a country already mired in its worst political crisis between the Western-backed government and Hezbollah-led opposition since the end of the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war.

Lebanon has struggled to defeat armed groups that control pockets of the country especially inside the 12 Palestinian refugee camps, housing almost 400,000 people, which are havens for Islamic militants.

Palestinian officials in the West Bank tried to distance themselves from the Fatah Islam group and urged the camp's refugees to isolate the militants.

"Entering the camp does not mean it will be easy to get rid of this (Fatah Islam) phenomenon," said PLO representative Abbas Zaki.

Lebanese TV reported that also among the dead were men from Bangladesh, Yemen and other Arab countries.

In Beirut, an explosion across the street from a busy shopping mall killed a 63-year-old woman and injured 12 other people in the Christian sector of the Lebanese capital further raising fears of unrest.

. The Israeli air force fired a missile at a house in Gaza City, killing eight people, in the deadliest attack since Israel started hitting back for rocket salvos from Gaza last week.

The apparent target of last night's airstrike, *Hamas* politician Khalil al-Haya, was not at home and was unharmed. At least 13 people were wounded. Israel stepped up the attacks today, killing at least five people..

## Graphic

TERROR: SHOPPERS FLEE BLAST IN BEIRUT MALL

Load-Date: May 26, 2007



## In Short

#### The Irish Times

May 2, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 15

Length: 568 words

### **Body**

A roundup of today's other world stories in brief:

Truck driver denies Ipswich murders

IPSWICH - A forklift truck driver accused of murdering five <u>women</u> in eastern England will go on trial next year after he denied the charges in court yesterday.

Steve Wright (49) was arrested following one of the nation's biggest manhunts after five prostitutes were murdered in the space of 11 days in December last year.

In a hearing at Ipswich Crown Court, Mr Wright was asked how he pleaded to the charge of murder in the case of each of the five <u>women</u>. He replied each time in a clear firm voice: "Not guilty." The trial is scheduled to start on January 14th next year and is due to last up to eight weeks.

- (Reuters)

Climate change envoys appointed

UNITED NATIONS - UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon yesterday appointed three international figures to recommend a global response to climate change.

The envoys are former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos and former South Korean foreign minister Han Seung-soo.

A UN spokeswoman said the three would come up with proposals for a critical UN conference in Bali, Indonesia in December and perhaps a high-level conference on the subject during the General Assembly in September.

- (Reuters)

Iran to tell US and UK to guit Irag

TEHRAN - Iran will tell the US and Britain to get their troops out of Iraq and leave the problem for neighbouring countries to sort out when regional and western foreign ministers, including the US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, meet at a special Iraq summit in Egypt later this week.

#### In Short

Although no bilateral meetings between Dr Rice and her Iranian counterpart, Manouchehr Mottaki, are planned, both sides have indicated a willingness to talk on the sidelines of the Sharm el-Sheikh conference about Iraq's security.

- (Guardian service)

Mine owner gets life over 21 deaths

BEIJING - A Chinese court has jailed a colliery owner for life in an unprecedented move to improve safety standards in the world's deadliest coal industry.

Wang Jianjun was found guilty of covering up an accident which killed 21 people and delayed rescue work by almost two days.

On March 18th a gas explosion at Wang's mine trapped 21 miners. Instead of calling the rescue services, Wang tried to cover up the accident. He cut the cables of the pit shaft, and told inspectors the mine was closed. He ordered other mine workers to stay home and promised victims' families hush money if they kept quiet. His actions delayed rescue work by 44 hours and condemned the men to death.

- (Guardian service)

Palestinian workers to strike

RAMALLAH - Tens of thousands of Palestinian civil workers will strike today to protest at the government's failure to secure their full wages, unpaid since the militant *Hamas* group came to power in March 2006.

Government workers' union chief Bassam Zakarneh threatened a new round of work stoppages by more than 65,000 employees to demand full pay and back pay.

- (Reuters)

Spector trial in recess over illness

LOS ANGELES - Testimony was postponed until next week in the murder trial of rock producer Phil Spector because of the illness of his lead defence attorney.

Court was unexpectedly recessed on Monday and jurors sent home after defence lawyer Bruce Cutler became ill. Prosecutors and the rest of Spector's defence team are expected to meet without jurors today to hammer out legal issues.

- (Reuters)

Load-Date: May 2, 2007



### **World datelines**

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

April 1, 2007 Sunday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 589 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

### **Body**

### Algeria

ALGIERS -- The former head of an Algerian militant group that played a key role in the country's bloody insurgency announced plans Saturday to form a new political party. Argentina

BUENOS AIRES -- Rising rivers in three rain-soaked provinces have forced some 38,000 people to flee their homes and floodwaters have claimed seven lives, authorities said Saturday. Colombia

BOGOTA -- An American entrepreneur who introduced foreign men to "young, sexy, exotic and beautiful Latin <u>women</u>" via the Internet was killed in the western city of Cali by gunmen on a motorcycle, police said Saturday. England

LONDON -- Boris A. Berezovsky, a self-exiled Russian tycoon and virulent foe of the Kremlin, said Saturday that he was interviewed Friday at Scotland Yard by a Russian investigator in the inquiry into the poisoning of the former KGB officer Alexander V. Litvinenko.

LONDON -- Four British police officers led by a senior murder expert will help Jamaican authorities investigate the mysterious death of Pakistan's cricket coach after his team's shocking loss in the World Cup, Scotland Yard said Saturday. India

AHMADABAD -- Forest guards recovered the carcasses of two rare Asiatic lions and a cub believed to have been killed by poachers on the outskirts of their only natural habitat in western India, a wildlife official said Saturday. Israel

JERUSALEM -- Israel's prime minister said Saturday he's not ready to order a large-scale military operation in Gaza, despite the military's warnings of a *Hamas* arms buildup in the coastal territory. Italy

ROME -- Jazz musician Tony Scott, a clarinetist, composer and arranger who worked with such greats as Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker, has died, the House of Jazz said Saturday. He was 85. Scott died Wednesday in Rome, where he had lived for decades, according to a statement from the Italian center for the promotion of jazz. Japan

TOKYO -- In another sign that Japan is pressing ahead in revising its history of World War II, new high school textbooks will no longer acknowledge that the Imperial Army was responsible for a major atrocity in Okinawa, the government announced late Friday.

#### World datelines

TOKYO -- Japanese musicians overcame fatigue and a major earthquake to set the record for the world's longest concert on Saturday, playing 184 hours nonstop in a program that ranged from The Beatles' classics to Japanese traditional harp music. Nigeria

LAGOS -- Gunmen have kidnapped a British oil worker from an offshore oil rig in southern Nigeria, officials said Saturday, the latest abduction in the impoverished region. Somalia

MOGADISHU -- Artillery fire and mortar shells rained down on Somalia's capital Saturday, killing and wounding untold numbers of civilians as government and Ethiopian troops tried to wipe out Islamist insurgents. Ukraine

KIEV -- Tens of thousands of demonstrators called on Ukraine's president Saturday to defeat a challenge from the rival prime minister by dissolving parliament and calling new elections, a move that could throw the ex-Soviet republic into crisis. Venezuela

CARACAS -- For beer and whiskey-loving Venezuelans, Easter this year won't be an alcohol-soaked drinking fest. President Hugo Chavez has imposed a ban on alcohol sales during Holy Week in an attempt to reduce accidents and crimes, prompting a run on liquor stores. Zimbabwe

HARARE -- Nine opposition activists who were to be arraigned Saturday on charges of attempted murder and illegal weapons possession all required medical attention for injuries sustained since their arrests, doctors said.

Load-Date: April 1, 2007



## International: World briefing: Israel counts the cost of war

The Guardian - Final Edition
April 3, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 20

**Length:** 580 words **Byline:** Simon Tisdall

# **Body**

Israel is still counting the cost of last summer's war against Hizbullah in Lebanon, though the final balance may not be entirely disadvantageous. Regional analysts say internally challenged Arab regimes such as Egypt were privately pleased to see a threatening "sub-state" actor such as Iranian-backed Hizbullah knocked on the head. After all, they could be next.

Arab-Israeli relations have followed an upward curve ever since the war, culminating in prime minister Ehud Olmert's weekend offer of multilateral peace talks without preconditions. Unconfirmed reports abound of secret meetings between Israeli and Saudi officials.

Yet some of the most acute damage from the war is only now coming to light. A survey on patriotism by Herzliya university north of Tel Aviv, conducted primarily to assess the impact of the war on "the Israeli spirit", found that national pride (expressed by 83% of those interviewed) and willingness to fight for Israel (92%) remained high.

In contrast, it noted a "very strong decline in confidence in the government and in the Knesset (parliament)" and to a lesser degree, in the defence forces (whose "approval rating" fell by more than 20 points). Most damaging of all was the war's negative impact on Israel's ethnic Arab minority, comprising about 20% of the population.

"The Arab citizens identify themselves first and foremost as Arab patriots (85%), and then as Palestinian patriots (52%), and least of all as Israeli patriots (32%)," the survey said. "The war weakened the emotional attachment of the Arab public to the state."

Nadia Hilo, the only <u>female</u> Arab Knesset member, said the war was only one element in a growing disconnect. "There's a definite problem of racism, there's more and more divisions, more and more alienation&. . .&The real danger for Israel is inside if it does not give its Arab citizens equality and integration."

Ms Hilo said overcrowded schools in Arab villages, higher than average unemployment, relatively few Arab <u>women</u> in the labour market, and separate security searches at airports were all aspects of an ingrained discrimination. She said "a national programme of positive discrimination with annual targets for employment of equally qualified Arabs" was urgently required.

Ms Hilo also said Israel was not trying hard enough to resolve the Palestinian conflict. "We can't just say <u>Hamas</u> is there so we can't do anything."

### International: World briefing: Israel counts the cost of war

Israeli Jews have mixed feelings about such criticisms, to put it mildly. A typical response is that the Arab population prefers to stay in Israel rather than move elsewhere; and that illegal immigration from the Palestinian territories has brought uncounted thousands into the country.

A government official said the results of earlier, limited attempts at affirmative action, in public sector appointments, were not encouraging. "The truth is they don't want to be seen to be working for the Israeli state," he said.

Professor Amnon Rubinstein of Herzliya said the issue should be seen in a wider context. " Society is in a state of transition. The gap between Jews and Muslims is widening."

He said there was recognition that the majority's attitude had to change.

But mutual distrust persisted. Israeli Jews were increasingly spooked by rising Islamic fundamentalism and radicalisation in the Arab world. Despite governments' talk of regional peace, he said, many continued to look at Israel's Arabs and wonder whether "they are hoping to help bring about the day when Israel will disappear".

Load-Date: April 3, 2007



## **World Digest**

The Toronto Star March 23, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 565 words

## **Body**

Israel

Deal reached for release

of captured Israeli soldier, Palestinian president says

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said yesterday that a deal has been reached to free Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 20, whose capture by <u>Hamas</u>-affiliated gunmen in June ignited weeks of Israeli reprisals. "We agreed recently on a framework" for freeing the soldier "in agreement with the Egyptians, and this process is happening quickly," Abbas told Israel TV.

France

Canadian WWII soldier

given top military award

A Saskatchewan soldier has been given France's highest military award for a battle that nearly killed him in 1944.

Matt Gress, 87, said yesterday he accepted the Medal of the Knight of the Legion of Honour on Wednesday in memory of fellow soldiers who did not survive. Gress lost his arm and was shot in his right leg during the bloody battle.

China

Frozen bank account snags North Korea nuclear talks

Negotiations on halting North Korea's nuclear program broke down abruptly yesterday, with the country's chief envoy to the talks flying home after a dispute over money frozen in a Macau bank could not be resolved.

Kim Kye-gwan left Beijing after refusing to take part in six-party talks to push forward a February agreement calling for North Korea to begin winding down its nuclear programs in return for energy aid and political considerations. China, which is hosting the talks, said negotiations would recess but did not give a restart date.

Pakistan

Nuclear-capable stealth missile successfully tested

## World Digest

A nuclear-capable cruise missile with the capability to avoid radar detection was successfully test-fired yesterday, the military said.

The missile, named Babur or Hatf VII, has a range of 700 kilometres and is capable of carrying various types of warheads, including nuclear, it said.

Mozambique

13 killed, 100 injured

in blast at national armoury

A fire broke out and explosions rocked the national weapons depot yesterday in Mozambique's capital of Maputo, killing at least 13 people, injuring 100 and sending thousands streaming from their homes in panic. The blast's cause was being investigated.

Germany

Museum opens to celebrate Jewish heritage of Munich

The city of Munich, where Adolf Hitler founded the National Socialist party, opened a museum celebrating its Jewish heritage yesterday.

Built near the site of a synagogue destroyed by the Nazis in the Kristallnacht pogrom of 1938, the museum aims to educate visitors about famous Jews from Munich where the community is only now back to its pre-Holocaust strength.

India

Servant charged in brutal deaths of women, children

A servant has been charged with the rape and murder of a young woman, and police said he has confessed to killing 16 *women* and children, eating some of their flesh.

Surender Koli was charged with killing a 26-year-old prostitute, one of 19 victims whose mutilated remains were found packed in 57 plastic bags in December around the house where he was working in Noida, a town on the outskirts of New Delhi.

Mexico

Canadian drowns in sea off Cancun while on holiday

A Canadian on spring break drowned in the resort of Cancun, police said.

The 23-year-old tourist went missing after going out for a swim in the sea on Wednesday, Quintana Roo state police said in a statement. His death was likely caused by a strong current, police said. The name and hometown could not immediately be confirmed.

From the Star's wire services

World

Load-Date: March 23, 2007



## In Short

The Irish Times

March 23, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 15

Length: 549 words

## **Body**

A round-up of today's other world stories in brief:

Abbas tells of plan to free Israeli soldier

JERUSALEM - Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah said in an interview yesterday a framework had been agreed with Israel that could secure the release of a captured soldier held by militants in Gaza.

Mr Abbas made the comments ahead of a visit to the region by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice.

Militant groups, including <u>Hamas</u>, seized Cpl Gilad Shalit last June in a cross-border raid from Gaza into southern Israel. - (Reuters)

Prophet cartoon complaint rejected

PARIS - A French court yesterday ruled in favour of a satirical weekly that had printed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, rejecting accusations by Islamic groups who said the publication incited hatred. Following a recommendation by the public prosecutor, the court said the cartoons published by the weekly Charlie Hebdo fell under the category of freedom of expression and did not constitute an attack on Islam in general. - (Reuters)

Indian servant in serial killing case

NEW DELHI - A servant in India has been charged with the rape and murder of a young woman, and police said he has confessed to killing 16 **women** and children, eating some of their flesh, in a case that has shocked India.

Surender Koli was charged with killing a 26-year-old prostitute, one of 19 victims whose remains were found in December around the house where he was working in Noida, near New Delhi. - (Reuters)

Mandelson rules out second term

LONDON - European trade chief Peter Mandelson said yesterday he would not seek a second spell at the European Commission when his term expires in 2009.

Mandelson was asked by BBC radio about a newspaper report that he might no longer be welcome as Britain's commissioner in Brussels if British chancellor Gordon Brown becomes prime minister this year, as widely expected. Mr Mandelson, a close ally of prime minister Tony Blair, has long had a tense relationship with Mr Brown. - (Reuters)

#### In Short

## Ex-astronaut denies kidnap attempt

MIAMI - A former US astronaut who drove 950 miles (1,530km) to confront the girlfriend of her ex-lover pleaded not guilty yesterday to attempted kidnap and battery charges.

Lisa Nowak (43), is accused of trying to kidnap the woman, whom she viewed as a rival for the affections of navy commander and astronaut William Oefelein, after driving from Houston to Orlando wearing diapers to avoid a bathroom stop. - (Reuters)

Somalia names al-Qaeda leader

MOGADISHU - The Somali government said yesterday that al-Qaeda had made a young militant Islamist commander its leader in Mogadishu as fighting raged for a second day in the coastal capital.

Deputy defence minister Salad Ali Jelle told a news conference that Aden Hashi Ayro - an Afghanistan-trained commander in his 30s who runs the Islamists' feared Shabab, or military wing - was personally directing the growing insurgency. - (Reuters)

Sheridan alleges bug found in car

GLASGOW - Police are investigating a complaint from politician Tommy Sheridan that he has been bugged. The socialist politician's staff called in officers yesterday after they found what they thought was a surveillance device in his car.

He won a high profile libel victory over the News of the World last August after it printed lurid claims about his sex life. - (PA)

Load-Date: March 23, 2007



St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 26, 2007 Monday

FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2007 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 573 words

Byline: From News Services

# **Body**

#### **DETROIT**

Farrakhan urges unity for Muslims, Christians

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan stressed religious unity Sunday during his final major speech, saying the world is at war because Christians and Muslims are divided.

Farrakhan, 73, told the thousands at Detroit's Ford Field that Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad would embrace each other with love if they were on the stage behind him.

"Our lips are full of praise, but our hearts are far removed from the prophets we all claim," he said. "That's why the world is in the shape that it's in."

Farakhan spoke for the first time since ceding leadership of the movement last year because of illness. The speech at the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions capped the Nation's three-day convention in the city where it was founded in 1930.

ENFIELD, CONN.

Seven die in two cases of murder-suicide

A total of seven people died in two separate weekend shootings at Connecticut homes, police said Sunday. Investigators believe both incidents were murder-suicides.

Police said the incidents did not appear to be connected.

In Enfield, authorities said a man, 81, shot two <u>women</u> and another man Saturday before turning the gun on himself. Police said the victims - ages 80, 49 and 53 - were acquaintances. Authorities did not release the identities of the three people.

In the second incident, about 36 miles away in Cheshire, a man, 51, fatally shot his wife and adult stepdaughter Sunday before killing himself, police said. The couple's children ran to a neighbor's house to call 911 when they heard gunfire.

NAIROBI, Kenya

Pirates seize U.N. ship off coast of Somalia

Pirates hijacked a cargo ship delivering U.N. food aid to northeastern Somalia on Sunday. The crime marks at least the third time since 2005 that a vessel contracted to the United Nations has been hijacked off the country's dangerous coast.

The ship, the Rozen, had just dropped off more than 1,800 tons of food aid in the semiautonomous region of Puntland in northeastern Somalia when the pirates struck, said Stephanie Savariaud, a spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food Program.

It was not immediately known if any of the 12 crew members aboard were injured in the attack.

The bandits target both passenger and cargo vessels for ransom or loot, using the money to buy weapons.

**JERUSALEM** 

Police raid companies believed to aid militants

Police said Sunday that they had arrested Israeli staff members at two Tel Aviv companies suspected of helping channel funds to the *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad Palestinian militant groups.

Authorities raided offices of Shintrako Ltd. and Mayan Customs Brokers and International Forwarding on Sunday, police said in a statement. Police arrested the general manager of Shintrako and other workers of the two companies, the statement said.

CONAKRY, Guinea

Nation's president agrees to union demands

Guinea's powerful union chiefs called off a crippling strike Sunday after the president agreed to appoint a new prime minister in an attempt to end simmering unrest that has killed scores of people this year.

One of the country's two main union chiefs, Rabiatou Serah Diallo, said Sunday that union officials proposed five names for the post and President Lansana Conte was expected to choose one of them.

Ibrahima Fofana, another union leader, said the strike would end at midnight Sunday.

Strikes this year have crippled the economy, shut down the port and forced up prices for key commodities.

Load-Date: February 26, 2007



St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 26, 2007 Monday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2007 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 578 words

Byline: From News Services

## **Body**

#### **DETROIT**

Farrakhan urges unity for Muslims, Christians

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan stressed religious unity Sunday during his final major speech, saying the world is at war because Christians and Muslims are divided.

Farrakhan, 73, told the thousands at Detroit's Ford Field that Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad would embrace each other with love if they were on the stage behind him.

"Our lips are full of praise, but our hearts are far removed from the prophets we all claim," he said. "That's why the world is in the shape that it's in."

Farakhan spoke for the first time since ceding leadership of the movement last year because of illness. The speech at the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions capped the Nation's three-day convention in the city where it was founded in 1930.

ENFIELD, CONN.

Seven die in two cases of murder-suicide

A total of seven people died in two separate weekend shootings at Connecticut homes, police said Sunday. Investigators believe both incidents were murder-suicides.

Police said the incidents did not appear to be connected.

In Enfield, authorities said a man, 81, shot two <u>women</u> and another man Saturday before turning the gun on himself. Police said the victims - ages 80, 49 and 53 - were acquaintances. Authorities did not release the identities of the three people.

In the second incident, about 36 miles away in Cheshire, a man, 51, fatally shot his wife and adult stepdaughter Sunday before killing himself, police said. The couple's children ran to a neighbor's house to call 911 when they heard gunfire.

NAIROBI, Kenya

Pirates seize U.N. ship off coast of Somalia

Pirates hijacked a cargo ship delivering U.N. food aid to northeastern Somalia on Sunday. The crime marks at least the third time since 2005 that a vessel contracted to the United Nations has been hijacked off the country's dangerous coast.

The ship, the Rozen, had just dropped off more than 1,800 tons of food aid in the semiautonomous region of Puntland in northeastern Somalia when the pirates struck, said Stephanie Savariaud, a spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food Program.

It was not immediately known if any of the 12 crew members aboard were injured in the attack.

The bandits target both passenger and cargo vessels for ransom or loot, using the money to buy weapons.

**JERUSALEM** 

Police raid companies believed to aid militants

Police said Sunday that they had arrested Israeli staff members at two Tel Aviv companies suspected of helping channel funds to the *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad Palestinian militant groups.

Authorities raided offices of Shintrako Ltd. and Mayan Customs Brokers and International Forwarding on Sunday, police said in a statement. Police arrested the general manager of Shintrako and other workers of the two companies.

CUILAPA, guatemala

Police jailed in deaths of politicians are killed

Four imprisoned Guatemalan policemen were killed Sunday, days after the officers were arrested in connection with the deaths of three Salvadoran politicians, police said.

The prison in Cuilapa was embroiled in a riot but officials were uncertain whether the killings preceded or came after the riot. The warden was among those being held hostage.

The four officers, including Luis Arturo Herrera, head of the Guatemalan National Police organized crime unit, were arrested on Thursday. On Feb. 19, assailants killed three Salvadoran officials and their driver. The politicians represented their country at the Central American Parliament.

Load-Date: February 26, 2007



## IRAN STILL BALKS ON NUKE PLAN

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)
February 22, 2007 Thursday
SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-3

Length: 583 words

# **Body**

VIENNA, Austria -- Iran called yesterday for talks with the United States -- but despite a U.N. Security Council deadline did not budge on council demands that it mothball its uranium enrichment program or face harsher sanctions.

Amid Iran's nuclear defiance, the U.N. nuclear watchdog finalized a report to be released today that is expected to formally confirm the Islamic republic's refusal to freeze enrichment -- a conclusion that could subject it to tougher U.N. sanctions.

Officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency said the report by Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the U.N. agency, would say Iran has expanded enrichment efforts instead of freezing them.

Once released, the report will be sent to the agency's 35-nation board and to the Security Council, which set a deadline of Feb. 21 for a freeze and said Iranian defiance could lead to sanctions in addition to those imposed in December.

In remarks directed at Washington -- the key backer of tougher U.N. action -- Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said yesterday the dispute "has to be decided peacefully with the United States."

Bush won't budge on Cuba

WASHINGTON -- Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez had some straight talk yesterday for lawmakers and business groups pressing for a softer approach toward Cuba as the island prepares for a post-Fidel Castro era.

The Bush administration won't waver from its tough stance toward Havana, he said.

"The question is not when will the U.S. change its policy," Mr. Gutierrez told a Council of the Americas event on Cuba. "The question is when will the Cuban regime change its policy."

Mideast peace talks

BERLIN -- European diplomats sounded more welcoming than the United States as world powers took stock yesterday of a shift in Palestinian politics since announcement that <u>Hamas</u> militants would govern alongside moderates.

### IRAN STILL BALKS ON NUKE PLAN

"I hope very much that a national unity government will be part of the solution and not part of the problem," European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said after a meeting of Middle East peace negotiators.

The session was organized so that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice could report on a preliminary peace summit she had with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

With little forward motion to report, the Berlin meeting of the group known as the Quartet -- the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia -- became a strategy session on how to deal with a blended Palestinian government.

Kosovo talks stall

VIENNA, Austria -- Negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority on a U.N. plan that would put Kosovo under internationally supervised self-rule remained deadlocked yesterday, a U.N. envoy said.

Martti Ahtisaari, the diplomat who drafted the proposal on the province's future status, said a final round of talks in Vienna began in conciliatory mood but the two sides remained far apart.

Thatcher's statue unveiled

LONDON -- Despite protests that previous prime ministers had to be dead to rate a statue in Britain's Houses of Parliament, Lady Margaret Thatcher unveiled her silicon bronze likeness at a ceremony yesterday.

The statue, standing 7 feet 4 inches, faces another of Winston Churchill in the members' lobby of the Palace of Westminster, the ornate parliamentary building on the bank of the River Thames.

The 81-year-old baroness was the first <u>female</u> British prime minister, serving from 1979 until she resigned during a revolt by her own Conservative Party in 1990.

Load-Date: February 22, 2007



# Saudi king loses power to name successor: Royal council to select crown prince

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)
February 10, 2007 Saturday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Edmonton Journal, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 496 words

Byline: Hugh Miles, Daily Telegraph

**Dateline: OXFORD** 

## **Body**

OXFORD - Saudi Arabia has significantly reduced the powers of its absolute monarchy by quietly removing the king's authority to choose his own successor.

This landmark constitutional reform, enacted by royal order last October but only disclosed this week, fundamentally changes the way the desert kingdom, which controls 25 per cent of the world's oil, is governed.

Until now, the king alone has selected his successor, known as the crown prince, from among the sons and grandsons of King Abdul-Aziz, the founding leader of Saudi Arabia, better known as Ibn Saud.

In future, a committee consisting of senior members of the royal family, called the Bay'ah Council, will vote for the crown prince from three candidates named by the king. The council is empowered to reject the king's choice and can impose a crown prince against the monarch's will. It can also declare the king or crown prince incapable of ruling.

"What makes this change important is that, in addition to taking the final decision about who rules out of the king's hands and institutionalizing it, it brings stability to the succession process," said Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former Saudi ambassador to London and Washington.

Disclosing the reform in a lecture at St. Anthony's College, Oxford, Prince Turki added: "The council, which will be chaired by the oldest son of the kingdom's founder, will make decisions by majority vote on a secret ballot."

Prince Turki said the monarchy had "opened the door for more participatory values in Saudi Arabia, in areas such as shared decision-making and checks and balances."

All 21 surviving sons of King Abdul-Aziz, plus representatives of sons deceased or incapable, will sit on the council. **Women** are excluded from governance.

The new selection process is expected to be used only after the current crown prince, Sultan, who has served as defence minister for almost 45 years, has become king.

Saudi king loses power to name successor: Royal council to select crown prince

The reigning King Abdullah is probably 84 years old and Crown Prince Sultan is about 83, although their exact dates of birth are uncertain.

Until now, the interior minister, Prince Nayef, had been expected to become king after Sultan. This will almost certainly not happen. Prince Nayef, who is about 74, is a deeply conservative figure regarded as one of the principal obstacles to reform.

Under the new system, if Abdullah dies before Sultan, Sultan will still succeed him, but the next crown prince will be selected by the new procedure.

King Abdullah established the new council by royal order on Oct. 20, 2006. Under the new system, Prince Turki, who was Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief before his ambassadorial appointments, is a credible candidate for crown prince.

He resigned abruptly from his post as ambassador in Washington, D.C., last year for unexplained reasons.

Other possible candidates for the throne from the younger generation include Prince Muhammad bin Fahd, governor of the oil-rich Eastern Province, and Prince Khalid bin Sultan, son of the defence minister.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; Saudi King Abdullah, centre, is shown with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Mashaal on Thursday after the rival Palestinian groups reached a power-sharing agreement in Mecca.;

Load-Date: February 10, 2007



Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)
February 2, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 581 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

## **Body**

## Australia

CANBERRA -- Nearly half the members of Australia's Parliament signed a letter to the U.S. Congress appealing for help repatriating the lone Australian terror suspect held at Guantanamo Bay, officials said today. The letter asks Congress to ensure that David Hicks is not tried by a military commission at the U.S. naval base in Cuba.

#### Britain

LONDON -- British entrepreneur Richard Branson said Thursday he is setting up a nonprofit blood bank to allow parents to store stem cells from their children's umbilical cords. The airline, mobile phone and media magnate, head of the Virgin Group, said he hoped the Virgin Health Bank would eventually store up to 300,000 umbilical-cord blood samples.

#### Canada

COBOURG, Ontario -- Five people were killed and 10 injured Thursday in a fiery chain-reaction crash 60 miles east of Toronto that destroyed more than a dozen vehicles, as a blizzard reduced visibility to near zero, officials said.

## Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA -- Ethiopia's government said Thursday it had foiled a bomb attack by bitter rival Eritrea targeting an African leaders' summit.

## Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY -- Gunfights erupted across the Gaza Strip Thursday, killing at least six people after <u>Hamas</u> militants hijacked a convoy delivering supplies to the rival Fatah-allied security forces, effectively destroying a short-lived truce.

## Indonesia

JAKARTA -- Indonesia claimed a major victory in the fight against bird flu Thursday, saying the heart of the capital had been cleared of back-yard fowl and that residents elsewhere were handing in chickens for slaughter. But poultry could still be seen roaming freely in suburban neighborhoods.

Italy

ROME -- Gian Carlo Menotti, who composed a pair of Pulitzer Prize-winning operas and founded the Spoleto arts festivals in Italy and the United States, died Thursday at a hospital in Monaco. He was 95.

#### Mexico

MEXICO CITY -- President Felipe Calderon praised on Thursday a new law that obligates federal and local authorities to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against <u>women</u>, and he promised a "relentless" fight against gender-related abuse.

### **Philippines**

MANILA -- Suspected Muslim guerrillas stormed a Philippine jail early today and blasted a hole through a wall, freeing three alleged bombers and dozens of other inmates, officials said.

MANILA -- About 20 people were killed when a fuel tanker truck exploded as it was negotiating an uphill road in the southern Philippines, a police official said today. The truck, carrying liquefied petroleum gas, slowed as other vehicles alerted the driver to a fire beneath the tanker, regional police chief Jaime Caringal said. It suddenly exploded as an oncoming passenger bus was passing by.

#### Russia

MOSCOW -- President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia faces unfair criticism and needless military threats from the West, lashing out in an annual news conference at U.S. plans to deploy missile defenses in Eastern Europe and rejecting grumbling that he is using Russia's gas and oil exports as political weapons.

#### Somalia

MOGADISHU -- Hundreds of supporters of Somalia's ousted Islamic courts council demonstrated in the capital Thursday against an imminent deployment of foreign peacekeepers.

## Venezuela

CARACAS -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said that Cuba's Fidel Castro has visibly improved, describing how the ailing Cuban leader has gained weight and is walking around and studying. "A notable improvement," Chavez said Thursday, describing Castro's condition when the two met recently in Havana.

Load-Date: February 2, 2007



Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

December 12, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 567 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

## **Body**

#### Australia

CANBERRA -- Wildfires on the island of Tasmania have destroyed at least 22 houses Monday, a local official said. The fires gutted houses on the fringes of the island's northeast town of St. Helens and also knocked out electricity and telephone communications, Mayor Robert Legge said.

### Bangladesh

DHAKA -- Four advisers to Bangladesh's interim government resigned Monday as soldiers patrolled towns and cities to try to end weeks of often-violent protests, prompting unease over the country's democratic future.

#### Britain

LONDON -- Police investigating the deaths of three prostitutes whose bodies were found a few miles apart in rural eastern England said Monday they were concerned about two other <u>women</u> reported missing in the same area -- raising fears that a serial killer may be on the loose.

LONDON -- A seal pup that was found by the side of a country road miles from the coast or the nearest river has been successfully released back into the Irish Sea, wildlife officials said Monday.

### Canada

LUNENBURG, Nova Scotia -- The U.S. Coast Guard's aerial search for the 25-year-old daughter of hockey great Bob Gainey was suspended Monday night, three days after she was washed overboard in the Atlantic during a storm while working on a sailing ship bound for the Caribbean.

## China

BEIJING -- Disarmament talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program will resume next week, China said Monday, announcing an apparent end to Pyongyang's 13-month-old boycott of the negotiations over U.S. financial sanctions.

## Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY -- Iran has pledged \$250 million in aid to the cash-strapped <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government, the latest sign of increasingly close ties between the Islamic group and Tehran, Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said Monday.

Israel

JERUSALEM -- Prime Minister Ehud Olmert listed Israel among the nations that have nuclear weapons in an interview aired on Monday, but his office said the remark was misinterpreted.

Jordan

SOUTHERN SHUNEH -- Officials from Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority met along the shores of the Dead Sea to settle details of a study to save the shrinking body of water, agreeing to proceed with plans to draw water from the Red Sea.

Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO -- Two opposition candidates said Monday they would go to court to challenge President Marc Ravalomanana's re-election and try to force a second round of voting.

Nigeria

LAGOS -- Lawmakers in Nigeria are debating a bill that would ban same-sex marriage and any form of association among gays, even sharing a meal at a restaurant. Few in Nigeria's deeply closeted gay community have publicly opposed the legislation, which proposes penalties of up to five years in prison and is widely expected to pass.

Somalia

MOGADISHU -- Islamic militiamen were moving on an Ethiopian border town to try to seal the 1,000-mile frontier and keep out any advancing Ethiopian troops while trapping those already in Somalia, an Islamic movement official said Monday.

Sudan

KHARTOUM -- African Union peacekeepers killed three Darfur refugees during a demonstration, the first civilian deaths at the hands of the force and a sign of further deterioration in the conflict, a U.N. official said Monday.

Turkey

ANKARA -- A boiler explosion Monday knocked down part of a five-story building housing military families in southeastern Turkey's largest city, killing at least four people and trapping about four others, authorities said.

Load-Date: December 12, 2006



# Report presents picture of severe abuses toward women; Human Rights Watch finds the problem among Palestinians is getting worse

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

November 7, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Woodward Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. a7

Length: 516 words

**Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

# **Body**

A new report presents an alarming picture of the abuse of <u>women</u> in the Palestinian territories, with police, courts and government agencies failing to treat violence such as rape and beatings as a crime.

Human Rights Watch cited practices such as rape victims being forced to marry assailants and light sentences for men who kill *female* relatives suspected of adultery. In a report released today, the rights group said families, tribal leaders and authorities, backed by tradition and discriminatory laws, often sacrifice victims' interests for "family honor."

And the problem is getting worse with growing poverty and lawlessness in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the New York-based group said.

The report comes about a year after a Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics survey of more than 4,000 households found 23 percent of <u>women</u> said they experienced domestic violence, but only 1 percent had filed a complaint. Two-thirds said they were subjected to psychological abuse at home.

Human Rights Watch urged the Palestinian president, parliament and government ministries to make protection of <u>women</u> a top priority. It said more can be done despite the conflict with Israel and the cash crisis in the Palestinian Authority brought on by the rise to power of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u>.

"The main failing of the system is the failure to treat violence against <u>women</u> as a crime and to address it accordingly," researcher Lucy Mair said. "We want to say you can take some positive steps and it's imperative to provide protection to more <u>women</u>."

Mair said Human Rights Watch studied the Palestinian territories - rather than investigating abuses in other traditional societies - because some Palestinian officials had signaled they were ready for change.

"This made us optimistic we have something to work with," she said.

Commenting on the report, Adnan Amr, a legal adviser to President Mahmoud Abbas, agreed Palestinian authorities are "weak" in enforcing the law, but blamed "the security and political situation we have been through over the past two years."

Report presents picture of severe abuses toward women Human Rights Watch finds the problem among Palestinians is getting worse

"All Palestinians, not only <u>women</u>, are paying a heavy price for the chaos," Amr said, referring to struggles between rival Palestinian groups.

Human Rights Watch's report, based on dozens of interviews with victims, social workers, lawyers and police chiefs in the West Bank and Gaza, said abusers in the Palestinian territories are granted virtual immunity.

Rapists who marry their victims are not prosecuted, it said, and such deals are often arranged by the families, tribal leaders and police.

Even those assigned to protect the victims often push for such an outcome. The director of the West Bank's only shelter for teenage girls is quoted as saying she arranged five such marriages in her six-year tenure.

Palestinian law is lenient with men who kill *female* relatives because of adultery. Yet it bars rape and incest victims from having abortions. Rape within marriage is not considered a crime, the report said.

Police and hospital doctors are not trained to handle abuse cases and often further humiliate victims, the report said.

## **Graphic**

AP Photo

Load-Date: November 7, 2006



# Shot down, the women used as a human shield

Daily Mail (London)

November 4, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: ED SC1; Pg. 24

Length: 516 words

**Byline: JANE FLANAGAN** 

# **Body**

TWO Palestinian <u>women</u> were killed yesterday during clashes between Israeli troops, protesters and militants in Gaza.

Witnesses said they were shot by Israeli troops who fired on a crowd of unarmed Palestinian <u>women</u> gathering near an ancient mosque in the town of Beit Hanoun where Palestinian gunmen had taken refuge to avoid capture.

Israel insisted its soldiers used only sniper fire to pick off militants who were using the women as human shields.

This version of events was rejected by Palestinian victims who said they came under direct fire from heavy machineguns mounted on Israeli tanks.

The crowd is believed to have numbered several hundred. Ten <u>women</u> were wounded. One of the two dead was said to be so badly hit in the face medical authorities struggled to identify her.

During the chaos, the gunmen inside the mosque escaped, the roof collapsed and the building was reduced to rubble, with just the minaret remaining.

Israeli warplanes were reported to have fired a missile at another mosque in the town last night.

Yesterday's violence came on the third day of a massive Israeli offensive named Operation Autumn Rains into Gaza in which the northern town of Beit Hanoun was sealed off as troops hunted for militants who use it as a site for rocket attacks into Israel.

While the exact details of the <u>women</u>'s killings in what has become known as the Battle of Beit remained confused last night, the incident is bound to further fuel tensions in the region.

Palestinian politicians were already describing shooting at the <u>women</u>'s in Jerusalem march as a 'war crime' and a 'massacre'.

Israeli special forces first entered the town in the early hours of Wednesday in search of militants.

By late Thursday up to 60 armed gunmen were holed up in the 700-year-old mosque in the town centre.

Tanks surrounded the building and loudspeakers broadcast messages for the gunmen to surrender.

## Shot down, the women used as a human shield

As the gunmen fired at the troops, Israeli forces used tear gas and stun grenades in an attempt to force a surrender before demolishing the al-Nasir mosque's perimeter wall.

With the siege continuing overnight, <u>Hamas</u> radio called on local <u>women</u> to march on the town centre to support the gunmen effectively by acting as human shields and to help them escape.

At dawn yesterday, several groups of <u>women</u> responded to the call. Asma Hamed, 23, ventured out onto the streets and said she was hit almost immediately by gunfire.

'I was shot from a tank only a hundred metres away and the bullet broke the bones in my foot,' she said from a bed at the Alawda hospital in Gaza.

An Israeli army spokesman claimed that eight gunmen were spotted among the crowds of <u>women</u> and only after the gunmen opened fire was the order given for Israeli soldiers to fire.

'We did not use general fire, but sniper fire against eight identified targets,' the spokesman added.

Israeli forces have made regular incursions into Gaza and the West Bank following the capture of an Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, in a cross-border raid by Palestinian militants on 25 June. More than 300 Palestinians have been killed in army operations since then.

Load-Date: December 1, 2006



## Israel alert for revenge attacks as Gaza buries its dead

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

November 10, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Telegraph Group Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 20

Length: 533 words

Byline: Tim Butcher in Beit Hanoun

# **Body**

THE bodies of 18 Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli artillery fire were buried in the north Gazan town of Beit Hanoun yesterday as Israel raised its alert level in anticipation of revenge suicide bombings.

As the funeral was held, Ehud Olmert, the Israeli prime minister, described the shelling on Wednesday as a "technical error" that resulted in a "tragedy".

After Israeli civilians were threatened by Palestinian leaders who talked of unleashing a fresh wave of attacks in revenge, and faced by worldwide condemnation of the killings, he struck an apologetic tone.

"It is certainly not a part of Israel's policy," he said. "It is a tragedy that we thoroughly regret."

Military operations would continue, he said. But in a further conciliatory concession, he also offered to meet Mahmoud Abbas, the moderate Palestinian leader.

The crowd of mourners in Gaza was so large that it could be seen from two miles away, throwing up clouds of dust as it crawled along the main road from the mortuary at Kamal Adwan hospital to Beit Hanoun. Borne on the shoulders of mourners, the bodies of 17 members of the Athamneh family and one other were taken first to the house where they died in a pre-dawn artillery barrage, then to a mosque and finally a mass grave on the sports field of the Beit Hanoun agricultural college.

"Let us be worthy successors to the martyrs who have died for us," chanted about 100 <u>female</u> mourners gathered outside the shell-damaged house where the victims died.

The procession marched behind a screen of party banners, yellow ones belonging to Mr Abbas's Fatah movement and green ones from *Hamas*, the radical Islamist movement that controls the Palestinian parliament. The Athamneh family is loyal to Fatah and several of the bodies were shrouded in the flags of the movement.

To the deafening roar of machineguns firing wildly into the air, the dead were taken for one final visit to their family home.

Maisa Athamneh, only eight months old, did not require a stretcher. Instead her lifeless corpse was held above the head of a tearful adult relative, stirring screams of horror and anger from the crowd.

## Israel alert for revenge attacks as Gaza buries its dead

After the anti-Israel emotion subsided the crowd dispersed and it was possible to find people on Hamed Street who were also angry with the militants responsible for firing home-made rockets into Israel. It was these militants that Israel was trying to target when the barrage of shells went off course and hit the Athamneh clan.

"If I see the men with rockets I shoot my gun at them," said Shahdi Kafarneh, 24, a policeman. "We don't want to die in our houses and we know that Israel will kill us if the rockets are fired nearby."

There were scant calls for peace at the internment of the bodies. Speaker after speaker called for revenge.

In Israel the authorities raised the alert state across the country after receiving 80 warnings of possible Palestinian attacks.

Meanwhile, France complained to Israel yesterday about the "hostile attitude" of its air force in Lebanon.

It followed an incident in which French peacekeeping troops came within seconds of firing on Israeli fighter jets that entered Lebanese airspace and appeared about to attack.

tim.butcher@telegraph.co.uk

Load-Date: November 10, 2006



## 5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

August 27, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Calgary Herald, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B12

Length: 1173 words

Byline: Compiled by Liz Brown, Calgary Herald

## **Body**

Top Stories

Bear Leads Police, Wildlife Officers on Five-Hour Chase

A brazen bruin led its would-be captors on a five-hour chase through the city's south end on Sunday before finally being caught in the backyard of a home in Lake Bonavista.

Page A1

Cancer Scans Held Up by Bureaucratic 'Insanity'

This fall, the Alberta Cancer Board hopes Ottawa will approve a substance it produces for use in cancer images known as PET scans, a move that could allow hundreds more patients to undergo the diagnostic technique annually.

But the process of applying for Health Canada's approval has been described as a case of bureaucratic "insanity," requiring years of research, \$2 million in costs and a 12-binder submission to government.

Page A1

Escape Banff's Bustle in Waterton National Park

Waterton Lakes National Park touts itself as the "alternative" to the hustle and bustle of Banff.

Page A3

News Sections -- A and B

City & Region

Foster Home Shortage Prompts Recruitment Blitz

The number of foster care families in Calgary has plummeted, prompting a province-wide campaign to recruit new parents.

Page B1

Rain Can't Stop Calgary's Dragonboat Festival

The 16th-annual Dragonboat Festival unleashed its fury on the waters of North Glenmore Park this weekend as more than 100 teams competed at four levels.

Page B1

Canada

Hot-Air Balloon Operator Faces Federal Investigation

Fantasy Balloon Charters -- operator of the hot-air balloon that crashed in a fiery ball in suburban South Surrey on Friday, killing two **women** -- has suspended all tours pending a federal investigation.

Page A7

World

Afghan Poppy Harvest to Set Record This Year

Afghanistan's poppy harvest is expected to top all records this year. A United Nations report due on Monday will announce that Afghanistan is now producing nearly 95 per cent of the world's opium.

Page A11

**Hamas** Planning Large-Scale Attack: Security Official

<u>Hamas</u> is seeking to launch a "large-scale" suicide attack inside Israel to torpedo chances of a peace deal, a senior security official warned Sunday.

Page A12

Islamic Extremists Blamed for Indian Blasts

Islamist extremists were blamed Sunday for a double bombing in the south Indian information technology hub of Hyderabad that left 42 dead and more than 50 injured.

Page A13

Traffic

- Road closure: 24th Street, between 90th Avenue and 107th Avenue S.E. is closed for construction until Sept. 3.
- Lane closure: The right lane is closed in the northbound direction on Centre Street at 23rd Avenue N.E. starting at 6 a.m. today until 6 p.m. Tuesday.
- Road closure: The road is closed in both directions on 25th Avenue at 6 Street N.W., until Aug. 31.
- Road closure: Springbank Way between Springbank Drive and Springbluff Boulevard S.W. is closed in both directions until Sept. 7.

**Commuter Weather** 

6 A.M. Off to Work: Cloudy with showers.

Temperature: 6 C

5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

12 Noon Lunch: Cloudy.

Temperature: 10 C

5 P.M. Heading Home: Cloudy with showers.

Temperature: 10 C

Overnight: Cloudy with showers ending in the evening, clear. Low: 3

Tuesday: Sunny with cloudy periods. High: 15 C Low: 3 C

Sunday: High: 10.6 C Low: 8.6 C

Online Extras

News: New report shows natives skeptical of federal Indian land claims tribunal.

News: Lake algae will be a top priority for federal NDP this fall.

Sports: Few standout athletes in a summer mired by scandal, writes John MacKinnon.

Quote of the Day

"There are American officials who consider Iraq as if it were one of their villages"

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, lashing out at U.S. politicians who have called for his resignation and accuse him of failing to put key laws and programs in place in the wartorn country. See story, Page A2.

Calgary Business -- B6

StatsCan, Bank Data Will Show Health of Economy

As Canada's big banks get ready to report their quarterly earnings this week, investors wonder how strong the Canadian economy was this summer.

At the same time, a Statistics Canada report to be released Tuesday is expected to show lagging productivity performance in recent years.

Page B6

Family Turns Kilts Into Cash

It was 35 years ago that Irene Hawes opened Calgary's Highland Scottish Gift Shoppe, which carries a complete line of Celtic goods, ranging from jewelry to traditional kilts. Now run by brother and sister Bill and Jeanie Hawes, the store's annual sales are approaching the \$1 million mark.

Page B6

Editorial -- A14

Hebron, Newfoundland Both Benefit From Oil Deal

The test of the deal between Newfoundland and the Hebron oilfield consortium is only partly to be gauged on what's in the headlines. Of as much significance will be the effect of the new rules on future exploration.

Page A14

Letter of the Day

## 5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

"I expect few (U of C) students would want to pioneer in the redevelopment of a dangerous downtown area and separate themselves from the rest of the student body at the main campus."

Donald J. Hoyda, Page A15

Sports -- D1

Stamps Part Ways With Boerigter

The Calgary Stampeders parted ways Sunday with one of their high-profile off-season free-agent signings.

The Stamps announced they've released receiver Marc Boerigter, who rejoined the team in November after spending four seasons in the NFL.

Page D1

Vipers Prep for Playoffs, Look to Greener Pastures

The Calgary Vipers are ready for their first, and maybe last, Northern League baseball playoff series.

A long-running dispute over scheduling and travel costs will come to a head at league meetings in October, and unless the Vipers get some satisfaction, they'll start exploring other options, including joining the California-based Golden League.

Page D3

Real Life -- B4

Senior Students Share First-Year Survival Tips

Starting a post-secondary education can be a daunting proposition. But fear not, freshmen. Calgary's senior students have a few survival tips for the upcoming year.

Page B4

Choosing Food for All the Wrong Reasons

The average person makes around 250 decisions about food every day. Luckily, simple awareness of eating 'cues' can help with weight loss.

Page B5

Sudoku

World's Hottest Puzzle Craze

How to Play:

Complete this grid by placing the digits 1 to 9 exactly once, and only once, in each horizontal row and in each column. Also, each digit should only appear once in every 3x3 shaded or white mini-grid in the puzzle. Sudoku appears on the 5 Minute Herald page Monday to Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday puzzle pages.

Entertainment -- C1

Calgary Celebrates Decade of Theatre Excellence

Every year at this time, more than a dozen Betty Mitchell Awards are handed out in a lively gala at Stage West to honour outstanding achievement in Calgary professional theatre.

Tonight is the 10th anniversary.

Page C1

It's An Odd World

African Bushmen Navigate Wild With Palm Pilots

The Discovery Channel has reported on the equipping of Bushmen -- indigenous to Africa's Kalahari Desert -- with handheld Palm Pilot personal digital assistants to track animals and locate plants via special software. The illiterate hunters can tap screen icons representing various animals, the activities they're engaging in, and how many they see, with a global positioning satellite automatically recording the location.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Bear leads police, wildlife officers on five-hour chase;

Colour Photo: Rain can't stop Calgary's Dragonboat Festival;

Colour Photo: Islamic extremists blamed for Indian blasts;

Colour Photo: Reuters; Picture of the Day: Indonesian Chinese girls perform a dance during the Kota Tua, or Old Town Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sunday. The festival is part of an effort to lure more tourists to visit Jakarta's old town.;

Colour Photo: Jeanie and Bill Hawes;

Colour Photo: Marc Boerigter;

Colour Photo: Choosing food for all the wrong reasons;

Photo: (See hard copy for description).;

Colour Photo: Betty Mitchell Award;

Load-Date: August 27, 2007



## Shot down, the women used as a human shield

Daily Mail (London)

November 4, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: ED 1ST; Pg. 4

Length: 526 words

**Byline: JANE FLANAGAN** 

# **Body**

PANIC-stricken Palestinian women run for cover as gunfire erupts around them.

This was the scene in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun on a day of chaos and bloodshed.

Two **women** were killed during yesterday's clashes between Israeli troops, protesters and militants.

Witnesses said they were shot by Israeli troops who fired on a crowd of unarmed Palestinian <u>women</u> gathering near an ancient mosque where Palestinian gunmen had taken refuge to avoid capture.

Israel insisted its soldiers used only sniper fire to pick off militants who were using the women as human shields.

This version of events was rejected by Palestinian victims who said they came under direct fire from heavy machineguns mounted on Israeli tanks. The crowd is believed to have numbered several hundred. Ten <u>women</u> were wounded.

One of the two dead was said to be so badly hit in the face medical authorities struggled to identify her.

During the chaos, the gunmen inside the mosque escaped, the roof collapsed and the building was reduced to rubble, with just the minaret remaining.

Israeli warplanes were reported to have fired a missile at another mosque in the town last night.

Yesterday's violence came on the third day of a massive Israeli offensive named Operation Autumn Rains into Gaza in which the northern town of Beit Hanoun was sealed off as troops hunted for militants who use it as a site for rocket attacks into Israel.

While the exact details of the <u>women</u>'s killings in what has become known as the Battle of Beit remained confused last night, the incident is bound to further fuel tensions in the region.

Palestinian politicians were already describing shooting at the <u>women</u>'s From Jane Flanagan in Jerusalem march as a 'war crime' and a ' massacre'.

Israeli special forces first entered the town in the early hours of Wednesday in search of militants.

By late Thursday up to 60 armed gunmen were holed up in the 700-year-old mosque in the town centre.

#### Shot down, the women used as a human shield

Tanks surrounded the building and loudspeakers broadcast messages for the gunmen to surrender.

As the gunmen fired at the troops, Israeli forces used tear gas and stun grenades in an attempt to force a surrender before demolishing the al-Nasir mosque's perimeter wall.

With the siege continuing overnight, <u>Hamas</u> radio called on local <u>women</u> to march on the town centre to support the gunmen effectively by acting as human shields and to help them escape.

At dawn yesterday, several groups of women responded to the call.

Asma Hamed, 23, ventured out onto the streets and said she was hit almost immediately by gunfire.

'I was shot from a tank only a hundred metres away and the bullet broke the bones in my foot,' she said from a bed at the Alawda hospital in Gaza.

An Israeli army spokesman claimed that eight gunmen were spotted among the crowds of <u>women</u> and only after the gunmen opened fire was the order given for Israeli soldiers to fire.

'We did not use general fire, but sniper fire against eight identified targets,' the spokesman added.

Israeli forces have made regular incursions into Gaza and the West Bank following the capture of an Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, in a cross-border raid by Palestinian militants on 25 June.

# **Graphic**

MAYHEM IN GAZA: PALESTINIAN <u>WOMEN</u> RUNNING FOR COVER BY THE MOSQUE IN THE TOWN OF BEIT HANOUN YESTERDAY AFTER ISRAELI FORCES STEPPED UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST MILITANTS

Load-Date: December 1, 2006



# Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on; ANALYSIS

The Independent (London)
October 5, 2006 Thursday
Fourth Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: MIDDLE EAST CRISIS / NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 555 words

Byline: JOHN DUGARD

## **Body**

In August last year Israel withdrew its settlers and armed forces from Gaza, claiming that this brought to an end 38 years of military occupation. Of course, it did nothing of the sort. Israel retained power over Gaza by controlling its air space, sea space and external borders. Sporadic shelling continued, as did the targeted assassination of militants. Despite this, there was at least an appearance of disengagement, which Israel could claim as a major step towards the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On 25 June 2006, a group of Palestinian militants attacked an Israeli military base near the Israeli-Egyptian border, which left two Palestinians and two Israelis dead. In retreating, the Palestinians took Cpl Gilad Shalit hostage and demanded the release of <u>women</u> and children in Israeli jails in return for his release. This act, together with the continued firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, unleashed a savage response, which continues to this day.

In July, international attention was diverted from Gaza by Israel's attack on Hizbollah's bases in Lebanon. Sadly, despite the ending of these hostilities, Israel's war in Gaza has disappeared from the radar of international concern. Yet it is as important as the conflict in Lebanon. It highlights the intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and reveals, yet again, the brutality of Israel's occupation.

Israel's attack on Gaza has taken several forms. On the military front, it has made repeated incursions in which both militants and civilians have been killed. Targeted assassinations have continued, accompanied by "collateral damage" - the name Israel gives to the indiscriminate killing of civilians who happen to be in the proximity.

The Israeli Air Force has bombed all six transformers of the only domestic power plant in Gaza. Since then, the power supply has been substantially reduced. Generators are used to operate X-ray departments and operating theatres. Perishable food cannot be preserved.

Poverty in Gaza stands at 75 per cent. Food prices have inflated and sugar, dairy products and milk are low as commercial supplies from Israel are limited. Fish is no longer available as a result of Israel's sea blockade.

## Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Gaza's border crossings, for persons to Egypt, and for goods to Israel, have been mostly closed since 25 June. This has brought to a virtual end the export of produce; and drastically limited the import of foodstuffs and other goods.

Israel justifies its actions as a security operation designed to put an end to the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel and as pressure aimed at securing the release of Cpl Shalit. Israel's actions, in these circumstances, have been excessive.

In short, the people of Gaza have been subjected to collective punishment in clear violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. For what? Surely not for sporadic Qassam rocket fire and the capture of Cpl Shalit? Instead, it seems the people of Gaza are being punished for having elected a *Hamas* government earlier this year.

Regime change, rather than security, probably explains Israel's punishment of Gaza. Whatever the reason, Gaza deserves more attention from the international community.

John Dugard is special rapporteur to the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestinian territory

Load-Date: October 12, 2006



# At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

Guardian.com

November 3, 2006

Copyright 2006 Guardian Unlimited (© Guardian Newspapers Limited) All rights reserved

# theguardian

Length: 477 words

Highlight: At least one Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces

today opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

## **Body**

At least one Palestinian woman was killed and another 10 were reported wounded when Israeli forces today opened fire on a group preparing to act as a human shield for militants in a Gaza mosque.

Dozens of <u>women</u> were gathering outside the mosque in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip this morning after an appeal on a local radio station. Up to 60 gunmen had taken refuge in the building after the Israeli army began its largest Gaza offensive in months in an attempt to stop militants launching rocket attacks on nearby Jewish settlements over the border.

Television pictures showed at least 50 <u>women</u> making their way along a pavement when shots could be heard ringing out. They started to flee in terror and at least two <u>women</u> were left lying on the ground.

Witnesses said one woman, aged about 40, was killed, and 10 others were wounded. Some reports said a second woman had died. The Israeli army said troops spotted two militants hiding in the crowd of **women** and opened fire.

Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers surrounded the building when militants took refuge there after two days of fighting, the Israeli military and Palestinian security officials said.

A large group of <u>women</u> protesters went on to gather outside the mosque. In the resulting confusion all the militants managed to escape and the building reportedly collapsed.

A 22-year-old Palestinian man was also killed in the northern town, which troops seized on Wednesday. More than 20 Palestinians, most of them militants, have been killed since the offensive began.

Overnight, the two sides exchanged fire. Troops also threw stun and smoke grenades into the mosque to pressure the gunmen to surrender. Witnesses said an Israeli army bulldozer knocked down an outer wall of the mosque. It was not clear if there were any casualties inside.

Residents said Beit Hanoun, a town of 30,000 people, was effectively under full Israeli control, with a curfew imposed.

At least one Palestinian woman was killed when Israeli forces opened fire on a group near a Gaza mosque.

After the shooting, loudspeakers across Gaza called on people to come to demonstrations after Friday prayers to express solidarity with Beit Hanoun. By late morning, two rallies were already in progress in Beit Hanoun, and militants in the crowds were firing at soldiers, the Israeli army said.

The army said it targeted Beit Hanoun because it was a major site for launching rocket attacks. But Israeli officials have said the takeover of Beit Hanoun was expected to last only a few days and did not signal the start of a wider military offensive in Gaza.

Militants, however, continued to fire rockets at Israeli border communities. Two Israelis were slightly wounded and a house was damaged in the latest attacks today.

In a separate operation last night, an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza City killed three <u>Hamas</u> fighters, including a local militant commander, witnesses said. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the strike.

Load-Date: November 3, 2006



## Top 2 candidates head to presidential runoff

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
October 16, 2006 Monday
4 Edition

Copyright 2006 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 5A

Length: 524 words

Series: AROUND THE WORLD

# **Body**

#### **ECUADOR**

A banana tycoon waging an old-fashioned populist campaign and a leftist outsider who is an admirer of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez will head to a runoff vote after neither scored an outright victory in Sunday's tight presidential election, partial results showed.

With just less than a quarter of the vote counted, Alvaro Noboa, Ecuador's wealthiest man, had 25.7 percent of the vote compared to 24.1 percent for Rafael Correa, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal said.

A Nov. 26 runoff was mandatory if none of the 13 candidates in the field managed to get 50 percent, or at least 40 percent of the valid vote and a 10-point lead over the rest.

Correa, 43, had surged ahead in polls before the election by pledging a "citizens' revolution" against the discredited political system.

Noboa, 55, is the owner of 110 companies. He says he will use his business skills to bring Ecuador's poor into the middle class.

## **ISRAEL**

Police back charges for Israeli president

The Israeli police on Sunday recommended that President Moshe Katsav face charges of rape and sexual assault allegedly committed against several <u>women</u> in his office. Israel's attorney general must now decide whether to file such charges.

Katsav, who has held the mostly ceremonial post since 2000, has denied any wrongdoing.

Katsav has been facing calls for his resignation, and Sunday's statement by the police was sure to intensify those demands. Attorney General Menachem Mazuz could take weeks to make a a decision.

OLMERT SAYS SUMMIT WITH ABBAS DELAYED

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT ON SUNDAY SAID A PLANNED SUMMIT WITH PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS HAS BEEN PUT ON HOLD BECAUSE OF ABBAS' DEMAND THAT ISRAEL RELEASE LARGE NUMBERS OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS - THE LATEST SETBACK FOR U.S.-LED EFFORTS TO RESTART PEACE TALKS..

ABBAS HAS DENIED MAKING SUCH A DEMAND. ISRAEL SAYS THAT BEFORE IT FREES ANY PRISONERS, A SOLDIER CAPTURED IN JUNE BY <u>HAMAS</u>-LINKED MILITANTS IN A CROSS-BORDER RAID MUST BE RETURNED.

**CHINA** 

VIDEO DISPUTES CLAIM BY CHINA IN SHOOTING

A ROMANIAN VIDEOTAPE THAT APPEARS TO SHOW CHINESE SECURITY FORCES SHOOTING TWO TIBETAN REFUGEES IN THE HIMALAYAS CONTRADICTS BEIJING'S CLAIM THAT THE REFUGEES WERE SHOT WHEN SOLDIERS ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE.

CHINA ACKNOWLEDGED ON THURSDAY THAT SOLDIERS KILLED ONE REFUGEE AND WOUNDED ANOTHER ON SEPT. 30. THE OFFICIAL NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY SAID THE SOLDIERS ACTED ONLY AFTER ABOUT 70 REFUGEES SEEKING TO ENTER NEPAL ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA ATTACKED BORDER TROOPS.

THE VIDEO WAS FIRST SHOWN ON PRO TV, A PRIVATE ROMANIAN NETWORK, AND WAS POSTED ON THE INTERNET. IT WAS RECORDED BY SERGUI MATEI, A ROMANIAN CAMERAMAN ON A CLIMBING EXPEDITION ON CHO OYU, A PEAK NEAR CHINA'S BORDER WITH NEPAL.

**SUDAN** 

REFUGEES CRITICIZE AFRICAN PEACEKEEPERS

REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS SCATTERED ACROSS DARFUR LIVE IN FEAR, SAYING THE AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPING MISSION DOES LITTLE TO PROTECT THEM EVEN AS RISING VIOLENCE IS DRIVING AWAY CRUCIAL HUMANITARIAN AID.

"YOU HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THREE YEARS NOW, AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US?" A TRIBAL LEADER BITTERLY ASKED A DELEGATION OF AU SOLDIERS AND POLICE THAT CAME TO THE KASSAB REFUGEE CAMP LAST WEEK.

## **Graphic**

PHOTO, (3)

Load-Date: October 16, 2006



## Lessons from Northern Ireland Blair can take to Middle East

The Sunday Times (London)
July 1, 2007

Copyright 2007 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Ulster News; Pg. 19

**Length:** 1248 words **Byline:** Liam Clarke

# **Body**

Only a few years ago if Northern Ireland were mentioned in connection with Third World trouble spots, it was generally to do with the exchange of terrorist know-how, weapons and funding. Now, when the two are mentioned in the same breath, it concerns the export of expertise in peace building.

The appointment of Tony Blair as an international peace envoy to the Middle East is the latest example. Russia, the EU and the UN have overlooked his role in the Iraq war and joined with the United States in backing his role. The former prime minister has that sort of clout for one reason -his role in Northern Ireland, including tempting Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness into coalition and persuading the IRA to decommission.

If Blair hadn't been so successful in bringing the IRA into the democratic fold, he would never have been considered suitable to promote peace between <u>Hamas</u>, al Fatah and the Israelis. Those pictures of Blair, Paisley and McGuinness laughing together in early May have boosted the former PM's reputation and taken the spotlight off the daily slaughter in Basra and Baghdad.

Sinn Fein, meanwhile, is sending delegations to the Basque region to advise on how to wind down a conflict it once cheered on. In the past, if you heard of two Northern Ireland veterans tramping through the jungles to talk to insurgents, the first thought would be of IRA terrorists providing bomb-making skills in return for cash. Nowadays it is Paul Murphy, the mild-mannered former secretary of state for Northern Ireland, and Chris Maccabe, the joint head of the British-Irish Secretariate. Recently the pair searched out the Tamil separatists to advise them on how best to engage with the Sri Lankan government.

Maccabe, a softly spoken man with an ironic turn of phrase and an eye for detail, is one of the coach drivers of the peace process and held a series of senior positions thorughout the conflict that preceded it. He was among the first officials to meet Sinn Fein openly.

Not many people could tell you which island in the Indian Ocean is attempting to govern itself using the Northern Ireland Constitution Act of 1973. It is Zanzibar, home to nearly a million people who have adopted the Stormont model. They see it as a means of ending years of violence and agreeing a devolved status within the state of Tanzania.

Maccabe has been engaged to offer advice on how to iron out a few local difficulties between two parties who differ on how closely they should be linked to Tanzania and are so finely balanced that neither can gain a decisive advantage over the other. Sound familiar?

#### Lessons from Northern Ireland Blair can take to Middle East

Maccabe advises continuous dialogue and minor acts of trust. He points to the example of the British government, which always kept its lines of communication open to the IRA. He points also to things that seemed unpromising at the time but which later made progress possible. One example is the failed talks between the IRA and the British government in 1972 that Gerry Adams was released from prison to attend and at which McGuinness had a concealed weapon.

"The fact that Adams had been brought out of prison by the British government as long ago as 1972 showed people that trust was possible," he said. "Adams came out, he didn't mess about or misuse it, and the British government didn't kill him and McGuinness when they got them to London. That established some sort of trust and confidence."

At the time the talks demonstrated the depressing distance between the two sides.

The British found the IRA unrealistic, the republicans thought the British arrogant, and afterwards the violence escalated. In retrospect it can be seen as the beginning of a long learning curve. Both sides knew they could deal with the other if they ever wanted to.

McGuinness and Adams were allowed to remain in place because the British authorities recognised them as people who could be dealt with at some stage.

Throughout the Troubles McGuinness had a line of communication to Michael Oatley, a senior MI6 official, which was used periodically to test ideas and to seek assurances on what was going on. Oatley is now part of a conflict resolution think tank that has been urging dialogue with <u>Hamas</u>, based on his lessons in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

The behaviour of Adams and McGuinness can be presented as collaboration or a cynical exercise at leadership level while their IRA followers fought and died, but that is not the whole story. "A puppet figure, like the Americans had in South Vietnam, tends not to work and it certainly hasn't worked in the Middle East, where anyone the Americans promote is automatically distrusted," explains a British official. "It is different if there are people who are clearly in control.

Then it usually pays you to do nothing to wreck them."

The logic is that an intelligent and popular leadership will in time see the need to do a deal. If removed, a new leadership will have to begin the learning curve.

Right through the Troubles there were deals between loyalist and republicans, sometimes over rackets and territory but also to de-escalate tension. One example used to illustrate the lessons of Northern Ireland is the murder of two loyalist prisoners in Crumlin Road jail by the IRA in 1991. Both sides quickly realised that if this continued it would end with dead <u>women</u> and children, visitors and relatives coming to and from the jail. Talks started, there was no retaliation, and the heat went out of the situation.

The story is instructive, but it also shows the limitations of the Northern Ireland model. True, there were escalations of violence, but both the paramilitaries and the state pulled back at crucial junctures from pushing it to civil war. All the taboos were broken at one time or another, but they remained taboos. People were attacked in churches, but there were never regular attacks on places of worship and religious processions of a type we see in Iraq. The paramilitaries were to some limited degree responsive to public opinion.

The size of the British state compared to the area of conflict in Northern Ireland also made it possible to contain the conflict. A smaller state whose very existence was threatened would have had to either concede or respond with greater aggression. That is what happened during the Irish civil war, where it was not possible for either the Free State forces or the insurgents to play the sort of long game that the British played in Northern Ireland. Each knew the other could win, whereas the British forces never really had to contemplate the possibility of defeat.

That is the problem in the Middle East, where Blair has an uphill struggle. The patience of Job won't be enough in Gaza; too many people will die during the learning curve. The distrust between the two sides is too severe.

#### Lessons from Northern Ireland Blair can take to Middle East

Another lesson from Northern Ireland may, however, be useful. That is the need to engage neighbouring states and international players in a broadly agreed approach.

This can create a steady political pressure to which apparently unreconcilable sides will, in the end, succumb.

Since the early 1970s the British and Irish governments have been intent on a Sunningdale-type settlement that would include power sharing and north-south co-operation. America and Europe bought in. They had many differences about the detail, but they stuck with the basic template and, after more than 30 years of trying, finally put it in place. Thirty years, there's the rub. Other conflict areas do not have that long.

liam.clarke@sunday-times.co.uk

Load-Date: July 7, 2007



# Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on; ANALYSIS

The Independent (London)
October 5, 2006 Thursday
Second Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 558 words

**Byline: JOHN DUGARD** 

# **Body**

In August last year Israel withdrew its settlers and armed forces from Gaza, claiming that this brought to an end 38 years of military occupation. Of course, it did nothing of the sort. Israel retained power over Gaza by controlling its airspace, sea space and external borders. Sporadic shelling continued, as did the targeted assassination of militants. Despite this, there was at least an appearance of disengagement, which Israel could claim as a major step towards the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On 25 June 2006, a group of Palestinian militants attacked an Israeli military base near the Israeli-Egyptian border, which left two Palestinians and two Israelis dead. In retreating, the Palestinians took Corporal Gilad Shalit hostage and demanded the release of <u>women</u> and children in Israeli jails in return for his release. This act, together with the continued firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, unleashed a savage response, which continues to this day.

In July international attention was diverted from Gaza by Israel's attack on Hezbollah's bases in Lebanon. Sadly, despite the ending of these hostilities, Israel's war in Gaza has disappeared from the radar of international concern. Yet it is as important as the conflict in Lebanon. It highlights the intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and reveals, yet again, the brutality of Israel's occupation.

Israel's attack on Gaza has taken several forms. On the military front, it has made repeated incursions in which both militants and civilians have been killed. Targeted assassinations have continued, accompanied by "collateral damage" - the name Israel gives to the indiscriminate killing of civilians who happen to be in the proximity.

The Israeli Air Force has bombed all six transformers of the only domestic power plant in Gaza. Since then, the power supply has been substantially reduced. Generators are used to operate X-ray departments and operating theatres. Perishable food cannot be preserved.

Poverty in Gaza stands at 75 per cent. Food prices have inflated and sugar, dairy products and milk are low as commercial supplies from Israel are limited. Fish is no longer available as a result of Israel's sea blockade.

#### Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Gaza's border crossings, for persons to Egypt, and for goods to Israel, have been mostly closed since 25 June. This has brought to a virtual end the export of produce' and drastically limited the import of foodstuffs and other goods.

Israel justifies its actions as a security operation designed to put an end to the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel and as pressure aimed at securing the release of Corporal Shalit. Israel's actions, in these circumstances, have been excessive.

In short the people of Gaza have been subjected to collective punishment in clear violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. For what? Surely not for sporadic Qassam rocket fire and the capture of Corporal Shalit? Instead, it seems the people of Gaza are being punished for having elected a <u>Hamas</u> Government earlier this year.

Regime change, rather than security, probably explains Israel's punishment of Gaza. Whatever the reason, Gaza deserves more attention from the international community.

John Dugard is special rapporteur to the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Load-Date: October 5, 2006



# Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on; ANALYSIS MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The Independent (London)
October 5, 2006 Thursday
Final Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 555 words

**Byline: JOHN DUGARD** 

# **Body**

In August last year Israel withdrew its settlers and armed forces from Gaza, claiming that this brought to an end 38 years of military occupation. Of course, it did nothing of the sort. Israel retained power over Gaza by controlling its air space, sea space and external borders. Sporadic shelling continued, as did the targeted assassination of militants. Despite this, there was at least an appearance of disengagement, which Israel could claim as a major step towards the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On 25 June 2006, a group of Palestinian militants attacked an Israeli military base near the Israeli-Egyptian border, which left two Palestinians and two Israelis dead. In retreating, the Palestinians took Cpl Gilad Shalit hostage and demanded the release of <u>women</u> and children in Israeli jails in return for his release. This act, together with the continued firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, unleashed a savage response, which continues to this day.

In July, international attention was diverted from Gaza by Israel's attack on Hizbollah's bases in Lebanon. Sadly, despite the ending of these hostilities, Israel's war in Gaza has disappeared from the radar of international concern. Yet it is as important as the conflict in Lebanon. It highlights the intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and reveals, yet again, the brutality of Israel's occupation.

Israel's attack on Gaza has taken several forms. On the military front, it has made repeated incursions in which both militants and civilians have been killed. Targeted assassinations have continued, accompanied by "collateral damage" - the name Israel gives to the indiscriminate killing of civilians who happen to be in the proximity.

The Israeli Air Force has bombed all six transformers of the only domestic power plant in Gaza. Since then, the power supply has been substantially reduced. Generators are used to operate X-ray departments and operating theatres. Perishable food cannot be preserved.

Poverty in Gaza stands at 75 per cent. Food prices have inflated and sugar, dairy products and milk are low as commercial supplies from Israel are limited. Fish is no longer available as a result of Israel's sea blockade.

#### Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Gaza's border crossings, for persons to Egypt, and for goods to Israel, have been mostly closed since 25 June. This has brought to a virtual end the export of produce' and drastically limited the import of foodstuffs and other goods.

Israel justifies its actions as a security operation designed to put an end to the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel and as pressure aimed at securing the release of Cpl Shalit. Israel's actions, in these circumstances, have been excessive.

In short, the people of Gaza have been subjected to collective punishment in clear violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. For what? Surely not for sporadic Qassam rocket fire and the capture of Cpl Shalit? Instead, it seems the people of Gaza are being punished for having elected a *Hamas* government earlier this year.

Regime change, rather than security, probably explains Israel's punishment of Gaza. Whatever the reason, Gaza deserves more attention from the international community.

John Dugard is special rapporteur to the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestinian territory

Load-Date: October 5, 2006



The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

March 6, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Calgary Herald, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B10

Length: 1186 words

Byline: Compiled by Michael Lau, Calgary Herald

# **Body**

Top Stories

Green Grandmother Jailed for Contempt

With a smile and a wave to her supporters, 78-year-old Betty Krawczyk followed deputy sheriff's officers out of B.C. Supreme Court Monday to start a 10-month sentence for criminal contempt. The grandmother has a long history of environmental activism and arrests for contempt.

Page A2

Bus Driver Shortage Hurts Schools: Officials

A "critical" bus driver shortage is robbing several hundred students of classroom instruction time and creating a raft of safety concerns for parents, officials from two Calgary school boards said Monday.

Page A1

Regular Screening Planned for Colon Cancer

Albertans over age 50 will soon be asked to take regular tests for colon cancer as the province prepares a new screening program for the deadly disease.

Page A1

News Sections -- A and B

City & Region

Calgary May Reap Millions From Funding Review

A provincial government committee is expected to review today a municipal funding blueprint that's being hailed by urban and rural leaders as "historic," and could see Calgary receive upwards of \$475 million in annual cash.

Page B1

Pedophile Facing Jail Term

Jail awaits a diagnosed pedophile caught in sexually explicit Internet chats with a police officer posing as a 13-year-old girl. Judge Bruce Millar will decide Patrick Gordon Kelly's fate next month.

Page B2

Canada

Provincial Airplane Put Up for Sale

What's worth at least \$1 million, has "hot brakes" and carried Ralph Klein? Alberta is selling a 28-year-old government airplane that has flown everyone from premiers to emergency crews fighting forest fires.

Page A4

World

Journalist's Death Sparks Calls for Investigation

A journalist who had criticized President Vladimir Putin and frequently irritated Russia's powerful intelligence services has died after falling from a fourth floor window in his Moscow apartment block. Colleagues demanded an investigation Monday into the death of Ivan Safronov.

Page A2

Hamas Forging Stronger Ties With Iran: Israel Official

A year-old international campaign to isolate the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government unintentionally has pushed the militant Islamic group into a dangerous and growing alliance with Iran, Israel's top internal-intelligence chief said Monday.

Page A8

Copter, Plane Crash Kills Eight People

A helicopter and a small plane collided in the air and crashed near a ski slope in Austria on Monday, killing all eight people aboard the two aircraft, police said.

Page A8

Traffic

- Lane closure: On 11th Street south of 64 Avenue N.E. The right lane is closed in the northbound direction. Starting 8 a.m. today until Wednesday, at about 4 p.m.
- Lane closure: On Memorial Drive at 3rd Street N.W. The right lane is closed in the eastbound direction. Starting 9 a.m. today until Friday, at about 3 p.m.
- Road closure: On 66th Avenue between 9th Street and Glenmore Trail S.W. The road is closed in the westbound direction. No parking is available. Starting 7 a.m. today until Saturday.

Commuter Weather

6 A.M. Off to Work: Clear.

Temperature: -3 C

12 Noon Lunch: Sunny.

Temperature: 5 C

5 P.M. Heading Home: Sunny.

Temperature: 7 C

Overnight: Clear. Low: -4 C

Wednesday: Variably cloudy. High: 12 C Low: -3 C

Monday: High: 2.9 C Low: -7.7 C

Online Extras

News: Man who aided sisters in plot to drown mother sentenced to one year in jail.

News: Government announces creation of seniors council.

Sports: Flaws everywhere in topsy-turvy East Division.

Quote of the Day

"You pay more to park it than to buy the damn thing"

Ray Allan, among the downtown commuters who say they are being driven to their financial limits following another rate hike this month at city owned parking lots.

Calgary Business -- d1

#### Markets

- TSX Composite 152.02 12711.25
- Dow Jones 63.69 12050.41
- Nasdaq 27.32 2340.68
- TSX Venture 111.37 2955.39

Ex-WorldCom Chief Loses Top Court Bid

Former WorldCom Inc. CEO Bernard Ebbers lost a U.S. Supreme Court bid to overturn his conviction for leading an \$11-billion fraud, the largest in U.S. history.

Page D2

Inter Pipeline Acquisition Boosts Oilsands Business

Inter Pipeline Fund is set to become one of the largest transporters of oilsands crude following its \$760-million purchase of the Corridor pipeline from Kinder Morgan Canada Inc.

Page D1

Editorial -- A10

**Emissions Game Heats Up** 

The coming month will be a shaky time for Alberta's energy industry. Ottawa, forced by electoral considerations to respond to environmental concerns, is to release its plan to deal with carbon dioxide emissions.

Page A10

Letter of the Day

"OK, now I'm losing it! I've put up with, tolerated, even grown to like some of the spoiled and coddled pets in people's lives, justifying that these animals are providing a modicum of peace, comfort and happiness and filling some of the voids in our society. But this is crossing the proverbial line."

Robert C. Dickson MD, Page A11

Sports -- F1

Saskin Denies Wrongdoing

Ted Saskin reiterated Monday nothing illegal has gone on at the NHL Players' Association. The embattled union director was reacting to a Toronto Star story that police were investigating whether the NHLPA interfered with player e-mails.

Page F2

Penguins Arena Talks Break Down

The Penguins moved a step closer to leaving Pittsburgh, declaring an impasse Monday in their new arena negotiations with state and local leaders and saying they will actively pursue relocation. The breakdown in arena talks came only three days after governor Ed Rendell said he felt an agreement was close.

Page F2

Scoreboard

National Hockey League

N.Y. Rangers 2 N.Y. Islanders 1

National Basketball Assoc.

Cleveland 91 Houston 85

Orlando 99 Milwaukee 81

Golden State 111 Detroit 93

Miami 88 Atlanta 81

Charlotte vs. Utah -

San Antonio vs. L.A. Clippers -

Real Life -- E1

Sneaker Fans Walking Tall

To David Brunning and fellow sneakerheads around the world, sneakers are a form of collectible, wearable art. They're all part of sneakerhead culture, and they're hot, hot,

Page E1

Sudoku

World's Hottest Puzzle Craze

How to Play:

Complete this grid by placing the digits 1 to 9 exactly once, and only once, in each horizontal row and in each column. Also, each digit should only appear once in every 3x3 shaded or white mini-grid in the puzzle. Sudoku appears on the 5 Minute Herald page Monday to Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday puzzle pages.

Entertainment -- C1

Jurors for Writer's Award Treated to Good Long Read

It's one thing to take home some things from work to read, and quite another to stagger off with 110 books. That was the required reading for each of the regional jurors of the Commonwealth Writer's Prize.

Page C1

Tonight's TV Picks:

- Gilmore Girls: 8 p.m. on Global (Ch. 7).
- Dateline NBC: 9 p.m. on NBC (Ch. 16).

It's An Odd World

Teens Sued Over Ostrich's Impotence

Three teenagers may face a hefty fine if a court decides their festive firecrackers outside an eastern German farm scared the libido right out of an ostrich named Gustav. Rico Gabel is seeking about \$7,600 in damages. The farmer claims fireworks set off by the boys made the previously lustful Gustav both apathetic and depressed, and thus unable to perform for six months with his two *female* breeding partners, according to the lawsuit.

# Graphic

Colour Photo: Betty Krawczyk;

Colour Photo: Ralph Klein;

Colour Photo: Ivan Safronov;

Colour Photo: Ajit Solanki, Associated Press; Picture of the Day: Vendors arrange watermelons at a roadside stall Monday in Ahmadabad, India. With summer in the offing, the demand for watermelons is expected to increase.;

Colour Photo: Bernard Ebbers;

Colour Photo: Ted Saskin;

Colour Photo: David Brunning;

Photo: (See hard copy for photo).;

Load-Date: March 6, 2007



# The danger of a 'chosen' nation; Israel holds a sacred place in the words of the Old Testament. But does Christian doctrine give that country a free pass at the expense of peace in the Middle East?

# USA TODAY February 12, 2007 Monday FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2007 Gannett Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: EDIT; Pg. 9A Length: 1216 words

### **Body**

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was nobody's fool. Born before Darwin and the age of modern science, Wesley was prescient enough to temper church tradition and the teachings of Scripture with reason and experience. Twenty-first century Christians would be wise to do the same.

I say that because some of our religious doctrines may be getting us into trouble. Evangelical Christian Jimmy Carter reminds us of one such doctrine with the publication of his controversial new book, Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid. It is the persistent notion (particularly among evangelicals) that because Israel was God's chosen nation in the Old Testament, America should turn a blind eye to her shortcomings today.

Many Americans fear that to be on the wrong side of Israel is to be on the wrong side of God, and nobody wants to do that. Especially if Armageddon is looming. (Some Christians derive this deep-seated, though unwarranted, fear from the Book of Revelation, in which Christ and his heavenly army defeat the Antichrist and his Satanic forces on the Plain of Megiddo in northern Israel. Israel appears in the book symbolically as the home of God's people in the same way that Babylon appears as the representative of Rome and the enemies of God. Neither reference was meant to be taken literally.)

Christians, of course, lay claim to a new covenant with God. We believe it is one that supplants the old covenant and offers love and forgiveness to all people regardless of politics or national origin. In New Testament theology, the church is the new Israel. It is God's primary vehicle for mediating grace to the world. More important, it is the poor and downtrodden (the "least of these," as Jesus called them) who lay claim to the title of God's chosen people. See the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25.

Carter, arguably America's finest example of Christian citizenship and our only president to enjoy major success in the Middle East, is nudging us away from our obsession with the Iraq war to a more global perspective on the conflict that threatens the entire region.

At the heart of the problem, of course, lies the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians who were displaced in the 1940s to make room for the new Jewish state. Although some land was reserved for the Palestinians, Israel seized most of that during the Six-Day War of 1967. Although most of Gaza has been returned, the majority of the West Bank is still under Israeli administration.

The danger of a 'chosen' nation Israel holds a sacred place in the words of the Old Testament. But does Christian doctrine give that country a free pass at the ....

Carter suggests that until we resolve this land dispute, we stand little chance of creating a lasting peace. Even then, we will have a long and difficult struggle against the jihadists of radical Islam, but only then will we have a chance of attracting the moderate Arab support so critical to winning the war on terror.

#### What must occur

So, how do we do it? First, by pressing Israel to withdraw from most of the West Bank. President Clinton nearly accomplished that by working with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. For reasons that will never be entirely clear, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat blinked and failed to seize upon the best Israeli offer in years. The question for Americans is: How do we now reapply pressure to both sides?

I visited the West Bank City of Ramallah shortly after Israel began building its so-called security fence separating Israel from the Palestinian territories. I had been invited by a group of prominent Israeli and Palestinian <u>women</u> (including several members of the Israeli legislature) who are part of the Global Peace Initiative of <u>Women</u>. Although I had ministered in the roughest parts of New Orleans, what I saw in Ramallah shocked me. It looked like Berlin after World War II. As I listened to the stories of the Palestinian <u>women</u> gathered at our hotel, the pro-Israel lens through which I had always viewed the Middle East grew clouded. There were stories of the houses and olive orchards that had been bulldozed to make room for the new wall and of the hundreds of checkpoints that kept law-abiding Palestinians from getting to their jobs or to and from school. I watched as a young Israeli soldier harassed an elderly man who was trying to get his donkey cart through one checkpoint. I wanted to throw up.

One story in particular stood out, probably because the young woman who told it reminded me of my own daughters. The woman, in her early 20s, had recently graduated from Birzeit University and moved to Ramallah to pursue a career in accounting. Days before my arrival, she had come home to find Israeli soldiers occupying her apartment building. They told her that a suspected terrorist lived in the building and she would not be allowed back inside. Despite her protestations and pleas (finally just to retrieve her personal effects and pictures of her dead father), the four-story building was destroyed. Her furniture, clothing, even her accounting license, were gone.

"I am young," she said, "and I will recover. But for my landlord and his eight children, this building was the only thing they had. Now, they have no choice but to go to the camps."

As I lay in my bed that night, I thought of those eight children and their parents now living in a tent. Even if the Israelis had caught the suspect, someday there very well may be eight young recruits to take his place. Like our ill-fated war in Iraq, Israeli policy seems to create more terrorists than it destroys.

We turned our former Nazi enemies into friends by helping rebuild their war-ravaged nation. Palestinian roads, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. Would we not be wise to try the same strategy with them?

#### Hopes for a moderate Mideast

The degradation of Palestinian territory is not the biggest challenge facing us. Neither is Israeli intransigence. Even such a fierce advocate for Israel's security as Ariel Sharon saw the folly of permanent occupation of Palestinian lands. Palestinian society itself is in shambles. It has no statesmen. No Mahatma Gandhi or Nelson Mandela. Steeped in a legacy of kickbacks and corruption, Arafat's Fatah Party is locked in a death struggle with *Hamas* over who will lead the Palestinian people. *Hamas* claims to have avoided the stain of corruption but is infected with the cancer of radical Islam -- an ideology as hate-filled and anti-Semitic as any on earth. The struggle between these two may be entirely beyond our control, but Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the institution of a mini-Marshall Plan in its wake are not. Both would strengthen the hand of more moderate elements in the Arab world and bolster our standing in the war on terror.

If God is on anyone's side in this mess, he's on everyone's side. Yes, he is moved to compassion for the jittery Israeli soldier who fears the next person through his checkpoint may be wearing a bomb. But if the New Testament is correct, he is even more heartbroken by the callous treatment of the Palestinians. "In so much as you did it to the

The danger of a 'chosen' nation Israel holds a sacred place in the words of the Old Testament. But does Christian doctrine give that country a free pass at the ....

least of these," Jesus said, "you did it to me." The wretched poor, squatting in the rocks and refugee camps, are God's chosen people, too. It's time we follow John Wesley's advice and start viewing them as such.

Oliver "Buzz" Thomas is a minister, lawyer and author of an upcoming book, 10 Things Your Minister Wants to Tell You (But Can't Because He Needs the Job).

Load-Date: April 1, 2010



# US voters mind the gender gap - World in brief; World in brief

The Evening Standard (London)
August 7, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: A; Pg. 24 Length: 590 words

# **Body**

HILLARY CLINTON'S Democratic presidential candidacy is strongly supported by <u>women</u> and Republican Fred Thompson is favoured by men, but both candidates are struggling to woo voters of the opposite sex. Mr Thompson gets 68 per cent of his support from men, according to a poll, while Ms Clinton gets 63 per cent of her backing from <u>women</u>..

Rescue teams drill down to miners trapped by quake SIX men remained trapped in a coal mine today after a huge cave-in thought to have been caused by an earthquake 16 miles away.

No contact had been made with the miners since the collapse at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah yesterday. But the mine operator said rescue teams had come within 1,700 feet of the men and work was being done to drill down and horizontally to them. A helicopter is being used to drill from the top of the mine which is in a steep canyon. Robert Murray, president of Murray Energy, which owns the mine operator, said: They could be in a chamber or they could be dead. Time is of the essence. Japan opposition takes power JAPANS Parliament elected an opposition politician as president of its upper house for the first time today. Satsuki Eda, of the Democratic Party of Japan, was chosen at a special session of the house following the defeat of Prime Minister Shinzo Abes ruling Liberal Democratic Party in last months elections. Mr Eda, 66, has served three terms in the upper house and four terms in the lower house. Mr Abes coalition still controls the more powerful lower house. Abbas hosts Israelis on home soil ISRAELI prime minister Ehud Olmert has met Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas for the first time on Palestinian soil. In his clearest promise yet to tackle a final peace deal, Mr Olmert said he hoped to launch negotiations soon on establishing a Palestinian state. Israeli and Palestinian security forces worked together to protect Mr Olmert during the three-hour session at a hotel in Jericho. Hamas dismissed the meeting as useless. Pfeiffer joins the Walk of Fame MICHELLE PFEIFFER has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Academy Award-nominated actress, whose film credits include The Fabulous Baker Boys and Dangerous Liaisons, attended the unveiling ceremony with her son John and daughter Claudia. Pfeiffer, 49, thanked her parents for supporting her decision to become an actress. US voters mind the gender gap HILLARY CLINTONS Democratic presidential candidacy is strongly supported by women and Republican Fred Thompson is favoured by men, but both candidates are struggling to woo voters of the opposite sex. Mr Thompson gets 68 per cent of his support from men, according to a poll, while Ms Clinton gets 63 per cent of her backing from women.

#### US voters mind the gender gap - World in brief World in brief

Revealed: the real Fake Steve THE identity of Fake Steve a blogger pretending to be Apple founder Steve Jobs has been uncovered. Dan Lyons, a technology editor at Forbes magazine, has been writing The Secret Diary Of Steve Jobs, a daily account of events as seen through the eyes of Mr Jobs, for the past 14 months. Mr Lyons, 46, who was exposed by a journalist, wrote on his latest blog: Damn, I am so busted, yo. Previous wife sold for 50 cents A WOMAN organised a rummage sale in her back yard and accepted 50 cents for a ceramic turtle with the ashes of her husbands previous wife inside. Anita Lewis of Elmira, New York, says it was a mistake and is desperately trying to trace the buyer who said she planned to use the urn as a cookie jar. She said: We have lots of turtles. It didnt even register that this was the one with the ashes.

Load-Date: August 7, 2007



# <u>Draft dodgers should bear 'Mark of Cain': Israeli minister; One in four evades</u> summer conscription

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

July 31, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Edmonton Journal, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 585 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

# **Body**

JERUSALEM - Israel's new defence minister, Ehud Barak, suggested Monday draft dodgers should bear the "Mark of Cain on their foreheads" for evading compulsory military service in what has long been known here as "the people's army."

Military service was once considered a right of passage and essential for the Jewish state's defence. But according to Israeli Defence Forces statistics, one of four Israelis born in 1989 evaded this summer's draft by getting medical or religious exemptions or because they had a criminal record or were living overseas.

Most controversially, more than one in 10 of those eligible for military service who skipped it were Ultra-Orthodox Israelis who did so in order to study the Jewish holy book, the Torah.

Unless exempted, all Israeli males upon turning 18 are drafted to serve three years in the armed forces. All Israeli *females* are obliged to serve about half that time.

Barak, a highly decorated paratrooper who once entered Lebanon dressed as woman while leading a raid that killed three senior members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization responsible for the murders of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics, decried the new attitude at a memorial service for Ze'ev Schiff, the dean of Israeli military correspondents.

"The Israel Defence Forces are turning gradually into an army of only half the people," said Barak, who served as prime minister from 1999 to 2001, adding that those who did their service were being made to feel like "suckers."

Barak also lambasted employers for firing reservists who were called up and universities for not allowing them to take their examinations in such a way as not to conflict with their military obligations.

With politicians and many other public figures held in low esteem, the military had been Israel's last untarnished institution. But during Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer senior commanders were widely condemned both for their tactics and for allowing three soldiers to be kidnapped by Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> and taken to Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Draft dodgers should bear 'Mark of Cain': Israeli minister; One in four evades summer conscription

#### Sleeping soldier left behind

The most recent embarrassment came over the weekend when an Israeli soldier from the crack Golani Brigade fell asleep while on an operation about 700 metres inside Gaza and a friend vouched for his presence during a head count. The sleeping soldier's unit only discovered that he had been left behind when they did a second head count in Israel and rushed back to retrieve him.

In another incident that the IDF is still investigating, a unit conducted an operation without authorization last Thursday near the West Bank town of Hebron. Wearing civilian clothes, soldiers commandeered a Palestinian taxi and then shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian who had approached the vehicle. As a result, a multitude of charges are pending against six soldiers.

Typifying the growing ambivalence among young Israelis about military service, a secular teenager working in a sushi restaurant in Tel Aviv breezily revealed last week that she had evaded the draft by getting a medical exemption because "lots of my friends are in the army now and they told me I wouldn't like it."

Such attitudes about conscription have raised the hackles of many Israelis. Parents of soldiers wounded in last summer's war held a rally at an army base last week to protest the growing number of exemptions.

The mark of Cain refers to a passage in Genesis in which God places a mark upon Cain, the first-born of Adam and Eve, after he slew his brother Abel.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Barak;

Load-Date: July 31, 2007



# **National briefs**

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) June 20, 2007, Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P12A

Length: 626 words

# **Body**

U.S., Israel back Abbas in Palestinian split

WASHINGTON - President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert sided emphatically Tuesday with a weakened Mahmoud Abbas, hoping extra money and warm words would give the moderate leader primacy over the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> in the newly divided Palestinian territories.

"He has spoken out for moderation," Bush said at an Oval Office strategy session with Olmert. "He is a voice that is a reasonable voice amongst the extremists in your neighborhood."

"Like you, I want to strengthen the moderates," echoed Olmert, who promised "to make every possible effort to cooperate" with Abbas.

It was not the first time Bush has felt the need to prop up Abbas, but this is a period of particular upheaval and uncertainty.

S.C. state treasurer faces drug charges

COLUMBIA, S.C. - South Carolina Treasurer Thomas Ravenel, a former real estate developer who became a rising political star after his election last year, was indicted Tuesday on federal cocaine charges.

Ravenel and another man were accused of distributing less than 500 grams of the drug starting in late 2005.

Ravenel started his political career in 2004, funding his own campaign for a U.S. Senate seat. He finished a close third in the Republican primary.

Ravenel was founder of the Ravenel Development Corp., a commercial real estate development company. His father, Arthur Ravenel Jr., was a powerful politician from Charleston who served eight years in the U.S. House and is a former state representative and state senator.

Thomas Ravenel is also the state chairman for former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's presidential campaign.

'Sopranos' spoof unveils Clinton campaign song

WASHINGTON - The scene: A diner and a jukebox. A nostalgic song. A cut to black. It worked as a finale for "The Sopranos." It now marks a new beginning for "The Clintons." Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign on Tuesday unveiled its new campaign song with a Web video that spoofs the final scene of the HBO series.

#### National briefs

The video and the announcement of Celine Dion's "You and I" as the official Clinton tune cap a monthlong, interactive Internet campaign that drew more than a million viewers to the Clinton campaign Web site and to YouTube, the popular online video display room.

The selection of Dion, who was born in Canada, resulted in some smirking accusations from Republicans that Clinton had "outsourced" her music. In fact, Dion's "You and I" has done a turn as a theme song already - for Air Canada in 2004.

But the song campaign and the video also illustrates the growing effort by some of the more technologically savvy campaigns to connect with voters and potential donors in clever, relatively inexpensive formats that are infused with pop culture references, contemporary themes or intimate moments.

More genetic testing for breast cancer urged

CHICAGO - A deadly gene's path can hide in a family tree when a woman has few aunts and older sisters, making it appear that her breast cancer struck out of nowhere when it really came from Dad.

A new study suggests thousands of young <u>women</u> with breast cancer - an estimated 8,000 a year in the U.S. - aren't offered testing to identify faulty genes and clarify their medical decisions.

Guidelines used by insurance companies to decide coverage for genetic testing should change to reflect the findings, said study co-author Dr. Jeffrey Weitzel of City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, Calif. Testing can cost more than \$3,000.

"Interestingly, it's about Dad," Weitzel said. Half of genetic breast cancers are inherited from a woman's father, not her mother. But unless Dad has <u>female</u> relatives with breast cancer, the faulty gene may have been passed down silently, without causing cancer.

Compiled from wire reports

Load-Date: June 21, 2007



# McCain's Iowa campaign chief stirs Mormons' ire by sniping at Romney's LDS faith

The Salt Lake Tribune June 22, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The Salt Lake Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: LOCAL

Length: 567 words

Byline: By Thomas Burr The Salt Lake Tribune

# **Body**

WASHINGTON - Prominent Mormon supporters of Sen. John McCain's presidential bid were outraged at a campaign worker's attempt to link the LDS Church to terrorists.

Chad Workman, the Warren County, Iowa, chairman of McCain's campaign, addressed a gathering of Republican activists in April and questioned whether Mormons were Christians. But he went much further, discussing an article alleging the LDS Church helps fund <u>Hamas</u>, and associating the treatment of Mormon <u>women</u> with the Taliban, according to a report in Thursday's Boston Globe. Workman's comments were a direct attack against rival presidential candidate Mitt Romney, whose membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is viewed by some evangelicals as outside the mainstream, and in some cases, as a cult.

"I think that's reprehensible," said state Sen. Curtis Bramble, a Mormon who recently switched from backing Romney to supporting McCain. "You can't control all of your volunteers [but] this would cause me very serious concern. I don't think there's room for that rhetoric in the campaign. Period." Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who is heading up McCain's efforts in Utah, said he would personally talk to McCain and ask him to take action against Workman if the anti-Mormon report is true.

"I'm going to ask him to send out a message from campaign headquarters that no one from his organization should say things like that," Shurtleff said. A top Romney supporter in Utah called for Workman to be axed from McCain's campaign.

"I know that McCain does not believe that and would never sanction it," said Kirk Jowers, director of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics and one-time head of Romney's former political action committee, the Commonwealth PAC. McCain "needs to remove [Workman] from having any position within the campaign, any status from within the campaign."

McCain himself has denounced attacks against Romney's religion or anyone else's in the campaign. During a visit to Salt Lake City earlier this year, McCain was asked what he would tell supporters of his that were bashing Romney's Mormonism. "I would make the most forceful statement possible that there is no place in American life for that, much less politics," McCain said.

McCain spokesman Danny Diaz said Thursday that the campaign has apologized to Romney and "reiterated that comments concerning his religion are inappropriate and unacceptable." McCain and Romney have ramped up their

attacks on each other in recent months as both seek support in early primary contest states. Romney has bumped into the lead in two of the three early states as McCain has lost ground, according to polls.

Romney spokesman Kevin Madden says targeting a candidate because of his or her faith is "absolutely uncalled for." "It's important that Sen. McCain apologize for these types of attacks coming from his campaign," Madden said. "I'd expect that Sen. McCain's supporters in Utah are just as disappointed as we are that their campaign has resorted to this kind of repugnant behavior."

The revelation of the McCain supporter's comments is part of a spate of attacks against Mormonism of late, including implications or forwarding of anti-Mormon rhetoric by the Rev. Al Sharpton, and staffers for former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback. All three apologized to Romney and LDS Church leaders.

tburr@sltrib.com

# **Graphic**

Mark Shurtleff

Mitt Romney

John McCain

Load-Date: July 25, 2007



# Federal Liberals to run intellectual in Outremont by-election; Dion parachutes in Jocelyn Coulon to fend off Thomas Mulcair's New Democratic challenge

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 21, 2007 Saturday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 578 words

Byline: DAVID JOHNSTON, The Gazette

### **Body**

The Liberal Party of Canada dropped a francophone intellectual into the vacant federal riding of Outremont yesterday, kicking off the start of what promises to be a summer festival of political parachuting in the Montreal region.

Montreal's trademark festival spirit was in strong evidence yesterday as prominent local Liberals gathered to applaud the political landing of Jocelyn Coulon in Outremont for the coming by-election.

Party leader StEphane Dion said the search is going well for star candidates to drop into Westmount-Ville-Marie and LaSalle-...mard, among other local ridings.

But he said he couldn't guarantee either of these two supremely secure Montreal Island ridings would end up being offered to a woman, although Dion said he still wants one-third of all Liberal candidates for any coming general election to be *female*.

Lucienne Robillard, who has held Westmount-Ville-Marie for the Liberals since 1997,

announced in April she would not seek re-election. Former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin, who has represented LaSalle-...mard since 1988, also has made it clear he won't be running again.

Coulon, 50, has been a contributor to the op-ed pages of La Presse for the past four years, specializing in international affairs. A former foreign editor at Le Devoir, he is a visiting professor at the UniversitE de MontrEal, where Dion taught before entering politics in 1996.

Currently a resident of neighbouring Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie riding, Coulon is well-known in francophone academia for his disdain of U.S. unilateralism.

In his morning acceptance speech yesterday, Coulon denied the Liberals have been hypocritical on Afghanistan - that is to say, they're pushing now from the opposition benches for Canada to get out by 2009, though it was the Liberals, while in power in 2002, who got Canada into Afghanistan in the first place.

Federal Liberals to run intellectual in Outremont by-election; Dion parachutes in Jocelyn Coulon to fend off Thomas Mulcair's New Democratic challenge

"We have to be clear," Coulon said. "We shouldn't have to blush over our (the Martin government's) intervention in Afghanistan, which was done under the cover of the highest political and moral authority in humanity - the United Nations.

"That wasn't the case with (the war in) Iraq. When we saw the Americans violating international engagements, when we saw the Americans of George Bush were insensitive to multilateralism, in which we believe, and which we helped build over the past 50 years, we said, 'No!"

Coulon's nomination is not uncontroversial. B'nai Brith Canada urged Dion yesterday to reject him as a candidate.

"Mr. Coulon has expressed views on Israel and the Middle East that appear out of step with current Liberal policy," wrote MoOse Moghrabi, legal counsel for B'nai Brith's Quebec region.

"His hostile attitude toward Israel, his anti-U.S. rhetoric and his calls to end the isolation of a government controlled by *Hamas*, a terrorist group banned in Canada, ought to disqualify him as a candidate for the Liberal Party.

"Surely, the Liberals cannot continue to countenance having an individual with such biased views as their point person on foreign policy issues."

The Conservative government has until July 28 to call a date for a by-election in Outremont, which has been vacant since former Liberal transport minister Jean Lapierre resigned in January.

The New Democratic Party is running Thomas Mulcair, the former Quebec environment minister. The Bloc QuEbEcois is running Jean-Paul Gilson, a relative unknown, while the Conservatives have yet to name their candidate.

djohnston@thegazette.canwest.com

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: ALLEN MCINNIS, THE GAZETTE; Liberal leader StEphane Dion listens as Jocelyn Coulon announces his by-election bid at a press conference in Montreal yesterday.;

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2007



# Between dust and deliverance; COMMENTARY

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

June 16, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publications Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. A11

Length: 613 words

**Byline: THOMAS FRIEDMAN** 

# **Body**

I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasser Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him. What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbours today with money, skills, or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind - one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The Arab world needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e., authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes.

But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Fallujah, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

Think about that. No - really think about it: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower? But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now, the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai, and the United Arab Emirates. I do not see any secular progressivism - a Fourth Way - emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria, and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, *women*'s empowerment, and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance. Far from it, Egypt had an election in 2005, and Ayman Nour, the candidate who dared to run against President Mubarak, got thrown into jail on phony charges.

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging - a progressive Islam articulated by the big, popular Islamic parties like <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese Cabinet and then proceeded to launch its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

#### Between dust and deliverance; COMMENTARY

Since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state - and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there - small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or al-Qaida in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq - without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements - is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them - and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

Thomas L. Friedman is a syndicated columnist for the New York Times. His column is distributed by the New York Times News Service.

Load-Date: June 16, 2007



# This Week They Said

The Irish Times

June 16, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS FEATURES; News Features; Pg. 14

Length: 581 words

### **Body**

Both Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> are leading us to death and destruction. They don't care about us. - Ayya Khalil, a native of Palestine, on this week's violence between the two militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

If it were up to me, I would close Guantánamo, not tomorrow but this afternoon.

- Colin Powell, former US secretary of state.

I am honoured and humbled by the democratic mandate the Irish people have given me.

- Bertie Ahern is returned to office as Taoiseach.

It is the proudest day in my life. After 25 years of struggle . . . the possibility is there to see our policies implemented in government.

- The Green Party's Trevor Sargent as it enters government with Fianna Fáil.

They have swallowed huge chunks of Fianna Fáil policy, with all the failings in health and other vital public services that go with them. The Green Party sacrificed its unique political identity, swapping principle for power.

- Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny accuses the Greens of selling out.

The president put it in his pocket and it returned safely home.

- White House spokesman Tony Snow addresses rumours that President Bush's watch was stolen during a state visit to Albania.

I used an old journalist's trick to get here.

- Gustavo Selva, the Italian senator who feigned illness to get an ambulance to drive him through dense Rome traffic to a TV appearance.

lan Paisley has a particular personality, I don't have any difficulty at all. All of the meetings I have done with lan Paisley have been very cordial.

- Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness on being in government with the DUP.

#### This Week They Said

I used to act dumb. That act is no longer cute. Now, I would like to make a difference . . . God has given me this new chance.

- Paris Hilton via phone from the LA County Jail where she is serving a 45-day sentence for traffic violations.

We have our own studio in New York, we can record a track and release it the next day if we feel like it, give it to people while it's fresh. We're the first band to do this but I doubt very much we'll be the last.

- Tim Wheeler, frontman of Irish rock group Ash, which is to release its new material exclusively on the internet.

Al [ Amnesty International] has betrayed its mission.

- Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, saying Catholics should stop donating to human rights group Amnesty International because of its new policy advocating abortion rights for <u>women</u> if they have been raped, are a victim of incest or face health risks.

He's a god, not a man.

- Jack Naiva, chief of the jungle village of Yaohnanen on the South Pacific island of Vanuatu, talking about the Duke of Edinburgh, whom the villagers worship as the son of a mountain spirit.

People get the impression that you're trying to [ mess] with them and it's not true. You're trying to entertain them.

- David Chase, creator of television series The Sopranos, which finished in surreal and controversial circumstances.

It is like a feral beast just tearing people and reputations to bits.

- British prime minister Tony Blair says television and newspaper coverage has worsened during his 10 years at Downing Street.

Cover your vital parts. I mean, if you expose your private parts, you'll get a fine. If you walk up and your pants drop, you get a fine. They're better off taking the pants off and just wearing a dress.

- Carol Broussard, mayor of Delcambre, Louisiana, who is about to sign into law a proposal that will make it a crime to wear trousers that show underwear.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2007



# **Utah McCain supporters fuming over anti-LDS comments**

The Salt Lake Tribune June 21, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The Salt Lake Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: LOCAL; Breaking

Length: 580 words

Byline: By Thomas Burr The Salt Lake Tribune

# **Body**

Posted: 5:24 PM- WASHINGTON - Prominent Mormon supporters of Sen. John McCain's presidential bid were outraged at a campaign worker's attempt to link the LDS Church to terrorists.

Chad Workman, the Warren County, Iowa, chairman of McCain's campaign, addressed a gathering of Republican activists in April and questioned whether Mormons were Christians. But he went much further, discussing an article alleging the LDS Church helps fund <u>Hamas</u>, and associating the treatment of Mormon <u>women</u> with the Taliban, according to a report in Thursday's Boston Globe.

Workman's comments were a direct attack against rival presidential candidate Mitt Romney, whose membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is viewed by some evangelicals as outside the mainstream, or in some cases, as a cult.

"I think that's reprehensible," said state Sen. Curt Bramble, a Mormon who recently switched from backing Romney to supporting McCain. "You can't control all of your volunteers [but] this would cause me very serious concern. I don't think there's room for that rhetoric in the campaign. Period."

Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who is heading up McCain's efforts in Utah, said he would personally talk to McCain and ask him to take action against Workman if the anti-Mormon report is true.

"I'm going to ask him to send out a message from campaign headquarters that no one from his organization should say things like that," Shurtleff said.

A top Romney supporter in Utah called for Workman to be axed from McCain's campaign.

"I know that McCain does not believe that and would never sanction it," said Kirk Jowers, director of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics and head of Romney's former political action committee, the Commonwealth PAC.

McCain "needs to remove [Workman] from having any position within the campaign, any status from within the campaign."

McCain himself has denounced attacks against Romney's religion or anyone else's in the campaign. During a visit to Salt Lake City earlier this year, McCain was asked what he would tell supporters of his that were bashing Romney's Mormonism.

#### Utah McCain supporters fuming over anti-LDS comments

"I would make the most forceful statement possible that there is no place in American life for that, much less politics," McCain said.

McCain spokesman Danny Diaz said Thursday that the campaign has apologized to Romney and "reiterated that comments concerning his religion are inappropriate and unacceptable."

"A presidential contest is a leadership test, not a religious one," McCain said.

McCain and Romney have ramped up their attacks on each other in recent months as both seek support in early primary contest states. Romney has bumped into the lead in two of the three early states as McCain has lost ground, according to polls.

Romney spokesman Kevin Madden says targeting a candidate because of his or her faith is "absolutely uncalled for."

"It's important that Sen. McCain apologize for these types of attacks coming from his campaign," Madden said. "I'd expect that Sen. McCain's supporters in Utah are just as disappointed as we are that their campaign has resorted to this kind of repugnant behavior."

The revelation of the McCain supporter's comments is part of a spate of attacks against Mormonism of late, including implications or forwarding of anti-Mormon rhetoric by The Rev. Al Sharpton, and staffers for former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback. All three apologized to Romney and LDS Church leaders.

tburr@sltrib.com

Load-Date: June 21, 2007



# Immersedin grief, and unable to move on; DEATH IN GAZA

The Independent (London)

November 11, 2006 Saturday

Fourth Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2 **Length:** 1252 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre In Beit Hanoun

# **Body**

Majdi Saad Athamneh couldn't easily explain why he had come back after Friday prayers yesterday to the now-empty, four-storey breeze-block building where it had all happened two days earlier. "I don't know," he said in hesitant English. "It's the house where I was born and lived all my life. What can I say?"

It was also, he didn't need to remind anybody, the house outside which he had passed the most hellish 15 minutes he will ever live through.

Forty-eight hours earlier he had been at the morgue in Kamal Adwan hospital distraught and weeping as he wrote down the names on a cigarette packet while the refrigeration trays were opened in turn to reveal the bodies of his 10-year-old son, Saad, three of his brothers and nine of his other close relatives, lost as they tried to flee through the choking smoke and dust from the barrage of shells fired by an Israeli artillery battery.

The puddles in the dirt road beside the building through which the family had tried to flee were no longer dark red with blood as they had been on Wednesday. Someone, too, had moved the chickens killed by shrapnel from the backyard. But last Tuesday's wash was still there, <u>women</u>'s long dresses, a child's frayed orange tracksuit trousers, some blouses, hanging from poles dislodged by the blasts.

The Western world, which was more interested by the count in the state of Virginia than the catastrophe in Beit Hanoun, has no doubt already moved on.

For the Athamneh family, now in their second day of mourning after the funerals, it is impossible to do so.

Majdi's cousin Munir Athamneh, 36, who had lived across the road, sat smoking a cigarette and weeping yesterday, hunched and alone in the doorway of the building. He pointed to the still-visible patches of blood on the ground across the alley where he had first seen, amid the confusion and screams of panic, the bodies of his two brothers lying by the wall. He, too, struggled to explain his presence here two days later. "I came to see," he said simply.

Five miles away from here and an hour or so earlier, the poverty-stricken and increasingly desperate 1.3 million residents of Gaza had been thrown what may prove their first real lifeline since the beginning of an international

#### Immersedin grief, and unable to move on DEATH IN GAZA

economic blockade against the new <u>Hamas</u> government they had elected almost 10 months ago. Ishmail Haniyeh, the Palestinian Prime Minister, offered publicly to step down if it was necessary to ease the boycott. He was cheered by stunned worshippers when he announced at a Gaza City mosque: "When the issue of the siege is on one side, and my being Prime Minister is on the other, let the siege be lifted to end the suffering of the Palestinian people."

While the carnage in Beit Hanoun may have stimulated further popular demand for the Palestinian factions to resolve their differences in the face of external attack, it isn't the main reason for Mr Haniyeh's declaration. It could presage the long talked about "national unity" government which President Mahmoud Abbas hopes will persuade the international community - among other things - to pressure Israel to pay up the \$60m (£31.5m) a month in duties it owes the Palestinian Authority so that salaries can be paid to the tens of thousands of employees on whom Gaza and West Bank income is now so disproportionately dependent.

For now at any rate, it will have little meaning for the Athamneh family, immersed in its private grief. It is unlikely, for example, to console Majdi's surviving brother, Ibrahim Athamneh, 26, whose wife, lying in intensive care in Shifa, has yet to be told that their infant daughter, Malak, is dead. Even less so 11-year-old Mustafa Athamneh, whose mother, Nihad, 33, was killed in the alley, whose two brothers, Yazin and Saqr, are in Shifa hospital in Gaza City, and whose 13-year-old brother, Saeb, has been transferred to the Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv with severe head injuries.

As friends and neighbours continued to arrive at the blue mourning tent 150 yards from the now-deserted family home, Mustafa, the arm of his widowed father Usama around his shoulder, was unable to stop crying. "I have no one to play with," he had said a few minutes earlier. "I have no one around me."

The sense of loss and guilt he will have to grow up with is scarcely imaginable. "I was with my mother when she fell down," he said. "I ran away. I haven't slept for two days and nights."

Yesterday, red-eyed but eager now to get the details right, Majdi, who had barely been able to speak on Wednesday, described how he had rushed out into the alley with his wife and children after the first shell hit the roof only to see Saad, semi-conscious and gasping after being struck by the second shell, lying on the ground. He had rushed to the end of the alley, turning right into Hamad Street, to try and summon help or an ambulance, but was halted in his tracks by a third shell. As he turned back, a fourth shell, he said, struck the building, killing Saad. He picked the child up in his arms and ran back and turned left into the street. Before he could reach the cross-road 50 metres away, a fifth landed. He believes this was the shell which killed four of his *female* relatives.

The more grief-stricken the family members, the less inclined they are to mouth political slogans or, for the most part, to engage in open debate over whether the tactic of firing Qassam rockets into Israel has brought more suffering to Palestinians than to Israelis. But they react with near-universal disbelief at Israel's depiction of the artillery barrage as a "technical malfunction", or at the idea that its targeting could not have been observed in real time by one of the units among the military presence in the vicinity. "One or two shells might be a mistake but not 15 or 20," said Ibrahim Athamneh. The number of shells was probably closer to 12. But there is no dispute that the number of civilian deaths from last Wednesday rose to 19 yesterday as one more man died of his wounds. It is not lost around Hamad Street that this is more than twice the number of Israeli civilians killed in six years by the Qassam rockets Israel has been trying to halt.

Reflecting on the meaning of the attack, Majdi allowed himself one political statement - a reference to the newest Israeli cabinet member, the hard-right nationalist Avigdor Liberman. "It's a present for the Deputy Prime Minister," he said. "The man who said he wanted to turn Gaza into Chechnya."

#### A bloody week

#### **SUNDAY**

Two Palestinian militants are killed and several injured in an Israeli missile strike near Jabalya.

#### **MONDAY**

Israeli missile aimed at a group of militants lands near a Palestinian kindergarten, killing a teenage boy, critically wounding a teacher and seriously wounding eight children. A <u>female</u> Palestinian suicide bomber blows herself up near Israeli troops in Beit Hanoun, injuring one soldier.

#### **TUESDAY**

Eight Palestinians are killed by Israeli soldiers in separate incidents. <u>Hamas</u> fires six rockets into Israeli town of Ashkelon. Israel says it has completed its week-long Gaza operation in Beit Hanoun which killed 60 gunmen and civilians.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

Nineteen civilians killed in artillery barrage in Beit Hanoun, including 13 members of a single Palestinian family.

#### **THURSDAY**

Two Palestinians reported missing after Israeli missile attack on home of a militant leader. Israeli drones buzz funeral of victims of Beit Hanoun attack.

#### **YESTERDAY**

The death toll from Beit Hanoun rises as Israeli hospital officials confirm that one of the wounded transferred to Israel, has died.

Load-Date: November 11, 2006



# Pulitzer for Imam Feature Called 'Outrageous' - Correction Appended

New York Sun (Archive) April 20, 2007 Friday

# Correction Appended

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: NEW YORK; Pg. 2

Length: 489 words

Byline: GARY SHAPIRO -, Staff Reporter of the Sun

# **Body**

A feature by a New York Times reporter, Andrea Elliott, that this week was awarded a Pulitzer Prize has come under fire from critics because it did not mention that a murderer who committed a 1994 terrorist attack had been incited by a former imam at the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, as well as for portraying a succeeding imam as moderate when he had praised the leader of *Hamas* and a *female* suicide bomber.

"The article is not complete," a Middle East terrorism specialist at the American Jewish Committee, Yehudit Barsky, said. In a letter to the editor published in the New York Times on March 12, 2006, Ms. Barsky raised the fact an anti-Semitic sermon of a former imam was cited as motivation for the killing of a rabbinical student, Ari Halberstam.

Pulitzer Prize entrants are supposed to tell jurors about any "significant challenges" to their work, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, Sig Gissler, said.

Asked if the Pulitzer board did review any challenges, Mr. Gissler said the deliberations are confidential. "We don't disclose what does or does not come before the board," he said.

In addition to Ms. Barsky's letter to the editor, the New York Post and The New York Sun ran articles critical of Ms. Elliott's work.

In reference to Ms. Barsky's letter to the editor, the metropolitan editor of the New York Times, Joe Sexton, said yesterday via e-mail, "We did not and do not regard that letter to the editor to be a significant challenge to the accuracy and or fairness of the series."

Ms. Barsky told the Sun yesterday that the terrorist attack on the rabbinical students in 1994 "was not a small event. It was frontpage headlines."

Mr. Sexton added: "The second article in Andrea Elliott's series squarely examined Reda Shata's and the mosque's circumstantial connection to the 2004 case of an alleged plot to blow up the Herald Square subway station. The article candidly explored how Mr. Shata has wrestled with the need to be alert to possible terrorist threats inside his mosque."

The mother of the murdered rabbinical student, Devorah Halberstam, called the award "outrageous."

#### Pulitzer for Imam Feature Called 'Outrageous'

The director of the Middle East Forum, Daniel Pipes, whose column appears in the Sun, said, "Just from the between-the-lines information Elliott provides in her articles, it is clear that the imam is no moderate but an Islamist."

Mr. Sexton also added that Ms. Elliott's series "is a portrait of a religious leader who first arrived in Brooklyn one year after 9/11. Neither he nor the articles had any relevant connection with a killing on the Brooklyn Bridge eight years earlier."

The executive director of the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Steven Emerson, said, Ms. Elliott "took at face value" what the imam said.

A journalism professor at New York University, Robert Boynton said "her intent was very self-consciously to humanize the world of the imam as well as balance off some of the more incendiary portraits we've been reading."

#### Correction

An unidentified former imam at the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge delivered an anti-Semitic sermon that was cited as motivation for the killing of a rabbinical student in a letter to the editor published in the New York Times on March 12, 2006. The identity of the former imam was misstated in an article on page 2 of the April 20-22 Sun.

Correction-Date: April 27, 2007

Load-Date: October 10, 2007



## **World datelines**

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

April 23, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 618 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

# **Body**

#### Afghanistan

KABUL -- A suicide bomber blew himself up Sunday in the eastern Afghan city of Mehtar Lam, killing six civilians and wounding 40 others, while a roadside blast hit an Afghan intelligence service vehicle and killed all four people inside

#### Bosnia-Herzegovina

SARAJEVO -- A fast-moving fire tore through an orphanage in Bosnia's capital early Sunday, killing five babies and injuring 17 others and a nurse, police and hospital officials said. The blaze broke out on the third floor of the Ljubica Ivezic orphanage in downtown Sarajevo around 6 a.m. and rapidly spread to three rooms where the babies were sleeping, according to the Sarajevo fire brigade.

#### Britain

LONDON -- Bangladesh's former prime minister was blocked from boarding a flight home from London on Sunday after her country's military-backed interim government banned her from returning. Sheikh Hasina had vowed to go home from a private trip abroad to fight charges of corruption and abetting the murder of four protesters during riots. But last week, the Bangladesh government barred her return and asked airlines not to allow her on any flight to the country.

#### Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA -- Eight Ethiopians held hostage for 52 days after they were kidnapped along with five European tourists have been released unharmed, government officials said Sunday. Thirteen Ethiopians were seized at gunpoint along with the five Europeans on March 1 while on a sightseeing tour in northeastern Ethiopia near the disputed border with Eritrea. Five of the Ethiopians were found within days of the kidnapping. The Europeans were released March 13.

#### Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY -- <u>Hamas</u> militants called Sunday for a fresh wave of attacks against Israel after troops killed nine Palestinians in weekend fighting, straining a 5-month-old cease-fire.

India

#### World datelines

NEW DELHI -- Eight tigers are missing from a reserve in western India, raising new concerns about the country's dwindling big cat population, a news report said Sunday. The rare adult tigers have vanished from the Ranthambore National Park, which covers 60 square miles in the western state of Rajasthan, The Indian Express newspaper reported, citing the Wildlife Institute of India.

Italy

PAVIA -- Pope Benedict XVI called Sunday for life in all its phases to be respected and defended, saying such a fundamental value must accompany any medical advances.

South Korea

SEOUL -- South Korea's top official on North Korea stressed Monday that delivery of promised rice aid to Pyongyang depends on whether the communist nation lives up to its commitment to start dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

Syria

DAMASCUS -- Syrians began voting for a new parliament Sunday in an election the government hopes will help soften the country's image and ease its international isolation. But the opposition called the vote a farce and urged a boycott. Turnout appeared to be low on the first of two consecutive days of voting.

Turkey

ANKARA -- A court jailed five suspects Sunday on murder charges linked to the killings of three Christians who were tied up and had their throats slit at a publishing house that had drawn protests by nationalists for distributing Bibles. Six others were released pending trial, the court said. It was unclear what charges the six faced, and a trial date has not yet been set.

Zimbabwe

HARARE -- <u>Women</u> arrested at a protest organized by a pro-democracy group were stripped of their clothes and jailed naked for hours, the group said Sunday, accusing police of violating Zimbabwe's traditional moral values. Eighty-two members of the <u>Women</u> of Zimbabwe Arise group were arrested in the city of Bulawayo at the protest Thursday against power outages. Police said it was an illegal political demonstration.

Load-Date: April 23, 2007



# The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

New York Sun (Archive) March 30, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 619 words

# **Body**

On March 23, Hillel Neuer, representing UN Watch, spoke to the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council, meeting in Geneva. His remarks follow. An editorial appears on the adjacent page:

Mr. President,

Six decades ago, in the aftermath of the Nazi horrors, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rene Cassin, and other eminent figures, gathered here, on the banks of Lake Geneva, to reaffirm the principle of human dignity. They created the Commission on Human Rights. Today, we ask: What has become of their noble dream?

In this session we see the answer. Faced with compelling reports from around the world of torture, persecution, and violence against **women**, what has the Council pronounced, and what has it decided?

Nothing. Its response has been silence. Its response has been indifference. Its response has been criminal.

One might say, in Harry Truman's words, that this has become a Do-Nothing, Good-for-Nothing Council.

But that would be inaccurate. This Council has, after all, done something.

It has enacted one resolution after another condemning one single state: Israel. In eight pronouncements - and there will be three more this session - <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah have been granted impunity. The entire rest of the world - millions upon millions of victims, in 191 countries - continue to go ignored.

So yes, this Council is doing something. And the Middle East dictators who orchestrate this campaign will tell you it is a very good thing - that they seek to protect human rights, Palestinian rights.

So too, the racist murderers and rapists of Darfur <u>women</u> tell us they care about the rights of Palestinian <u>women</u>; the occupiers of Tibet care about the occupied; and the butchers of Muslims in Chechnya care about Muslims.

But do these self-proclaimed defenders truly care about Palestinian rights?

Let us consider the past few months. More than 130 Palestinians were killed by Palestinian forces. This is three times the combined total that were the pretext for calling special sessions in July and November. Yet the champions of Palestinian rights - Ahmadinejad, Assad, Khaddafi, John Dugard - they say nothing. Little 3-year-old boy Salam Balousha and his two brothers were murdered in their car by Prime Minister Haniyeh's troops. Why has this Council chosen silence?

#### The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

Because Israel could not be blamed. Because, in truth, the dictators who run this Council couldn't care less about Palestinians, or about any human rights.

They seek to demonize Israeli democracy, to delegitimize the Jewish state, to scapegoat the Jewish people. They also seek something else: to distort and pervert the very language and idea of human rights.

You ask: What has become of the founders' dream? With terrible lies and moral inversion, it is being turned into a nightmare.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Reply by U.N. Human Rights Council President Luis Alfonso de Alba:

For the first time in this session I will not express thanks for that statement. I shall point out to the distinguished representative of the organization that just spoke, the distinguished representative of United Nations Watch, if you'd kindly listen to me. I am sorry that I'm not in a position to thank you for your statement. I should mention that I will not tolerate any similar statements in the Council. The way in which members of this Council were referred to, and indeed the way in which the council itself was referred to, all of this is inadmissible. In the memory of the persons that you referred to, founders of the Human Rights Commission, and for the good of human rights, I would urge you in any future statements to observe some minimum proper conduct and language. Otherwise, any statement you make in similar tones to those used today will be taken out of the records.

Load-Date: March 30, 2007



# Egyptian Charged With Spying for Israel in Turkey; Israel Denies It

The New York Times
February 18, 2007 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 9

Length: 568 words

Byline: By MONA EL-NAGGAR; Christopher Mason contributed reporting from Toronto.

Dateline: CAIRO, Feb. 17

## **Body**

An Egyptian student who fled the country six years ago is now sitting in jail, arrested upon his return to Cairo on charges of spying for Israel.

According to his former lawyer, the man, Mohamed Essam Ghoneim el-Attar, has confessed and is "regretting everything he has done." Mr. Attar, who has dual citizenship in Egypt and Canada, is facing a likely sentence of 15 to 25 years, the lawyer said.

"His personal circumstances -- divorced parents, needs a job -- are no excuse," said the lawyer, Ragab el-Assal, who met with the defendant last week. "He is someone who sold himself for the sake of money and ambition, the destructive kind."

Mr. Attar, who originally fled Egypt to avoid a prison sentence for what the lawyer said was his failure to pay a car repair bill, has been allowed only limited access to legal counsel since he was arrested on Jan. 1, Mr. Assal said before seeing him. In fact, at the time Mr. Assal was not even sure where Mr. Attar, 31, had been incarcerated.

"All they said to me is, 'We do not have him,' even though I have an official permit to see him," said Mr. Assal, after he had spent an entire day visiting Egyptian authorities and prisons in search of his client.

But after finally seeing his client and examining the investigation files, Mr. Assal relinquished the case, adding that he thought Mr. Attar was guilty as charged and would be convicted accordingly.

"I wish the confessions were a result of torture and the case a fabrication; I wish he was innocent," Mr. Assal said. "But there are confessions, witnesses and evidence. It is a lost case."

Egyptian law enforcement authorities have not disclosed the details of the arrest, which they announced more than one month later. But an account of the case was reported by Al Ahram, a newspaper with close ties to the government.

According to the newspaper, Mr. Attar left Egypt in August 2001 on a tourist visa to Turkey, where he offered his services at the Israeli Embassy and was recruited by an agent of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, to gather information about Egyptians and Arabs living there.

#### Egyptian Charged With Spying for Israel in Turkey; Israel Denies It

The newspaper also said he was asked to select other potential recruits by luring them with "money and <u>women</u>," and that he later moved to Canada where he converted to Christianity, changed his name to Joseph, obtained Canadian citizenship and got a job at a bank in Toronto with the help of two other Mossad agents.

Mr. Assal said witnesses included people who said they were approached by Mr. Attar in Turkey. According to the news report, the three Israelis have been charged with espionage and will be tried by Egyptian courts in absentia.

Israeli officials denied the allegations, saying they learned about the case from news reports.

"I would summarize it in one word: nonsense," said the Israeli minister of Internal Security, Avi Dichter, while speaking to reporters last week in Ottawa.

Israeli intelligence services have been accused of using Canadian identities to shield agents before. In 1997, Mossad agents, using fabricated Canadian passports, tried to assassinate a leader of <u>Hamas</u> in Jordan, causing the Canadian government to file a protest. At the time, the Israeli government said it would not use false Canadian passports again, a pledge Mr. Dichter repeated last week.

"Those days are over and that's why I say it is a fabrication," he told reporters.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: February 18, 2007



THE KIBBUTZ; In the summer of 1978, like thousands of other idealistic teenagers, Andy McSmith (right) volunteered to work on a kibbutz. Israel's great experiment in socialist living captured his imagination and broadened his horizons. But nearly three decades later, the settlers who welcomed him into their peaceful community on the edge of Gaza are divided from their neighbours as never before - as he discovered when he returned to Nahal Oz

Independent Extra

November 13, 2006 Monday

First Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: EXTRA; Pg. 24

Length: 2859 words

Byline: Andy McSmith

### **Body**

One way for a student to see the world in the Sixties and Seventies was to work on a kibbutz. It was neither difficult nor dangerous. A visit to the London office of the National Union of Students would fix you up with a cheap air ticket; you were given the address of a youth hostel in Tel Aviv, run by an old man who regaled you with the story of the day he met Moshe Dayan, the one-eyed hero of the Six Day War; and in the morning, you were handed a bus ticket and told that the driver would give you a shout when you were at the gate.

Aged 20, I was keen to sign up. I'd grown up fascinated by the Middle East. My father had picked up Arabic when he was serving in North Africa and sometimes took engineering jobs over there. I was born in Egypt, went to a primary school in Beirut, at the age of four or five, so - I'm told - I spoke English with an Arabic accent. My Arabic is long lost, unfortunately, but I grew up thinking that Nasser was the greatest statesman of his day, and that the Israelis were marauders who built their state on stolen land.

But just as it is possible to be appalled by the treatment of North America's aboriginals and yet admire the white settlers who tamed that continent, so you could abhor the Israeli state's military excesses and admire the kibbutzniks. They were the pioneers, brought up on socialist ideas nurtured in European ghettoes, who braved danger to make the desert fertile. Instead of just talking about the end of the capitalist system, as we western idealists did; they removed themselves from it, working for the collective, not for wages, and producing for need, not the market.

And so, in 1978, I headed towards the southernmost tip of Israel, on the edge of the Negev desert, near the Gaza border, where I spent three uneventful weeks in late August and early September picking apples and oranges, and discovering that life in an agrarian socialist enclave was rewarding, if not exactly exciting. There were four western students already at Kibbutz Nahal Oz - two English boys, and a pair of American girls. We worked through the day and sat around chatting in the evenings, there being nowhere to visit and little to do. It did not matter that we were working for nothing but our board and lodging, when the kibbutzniks were paid no wages either.

Hard work and habit were the order of their lives. One day, when there was film showing in themain hall, we English boys arrived to find the chairs already set out, and took seats at the front, provoking an agitated reaction from the k i bbutzniks. The girl who liaised with us was urgently summoned. She explained with some embarrassment that the seats we had taken were the very seats that certain older kibbutzniks had always occupied since the first projector had been brought in for the first film showing, in the Fifties. Some extra chairs were rustled up so that we could sit with a good view of the screen, without upsetting unalterable arrangements. In the end, I said a regret-filled farewell to these good people to return to the less altruistic world of metropolitan capitalism, I had never been back.

No one mentioned the war while I was there. There were Arabs living near the kibbutz, in uneasy harmony with the Jewish settlers. On only one occasion was I warned that I might be in some danger, when I turned up to pick oranges barefoot, and an old kibbutznik advised me sharply, in a mix of Hebrew and broken English, about snake bites. A fence, just a few hundred yards beyond the orange groves, marked the Gaza border. I cannot even remember whether we were advised not to stray across it.

There is a fence there today, too, but it is an altogether more emphatic boundary, fitted with electronic sensors. Crossing it, in either direction, could get you killed. I saw it last month, when a London based organ-isation called Bicom, funded by the Israeli government, took a small party of leftist journalists out there in the hope of making us more sympathetic to Israel's cause. I joined the trip with enthusiasm, and looked forward to revisiting this happy, idealistic place I had not seen since I was 20.

Tami and Tzvi Halevi are true Zionist pioneers. Tami's parents left Nazi Germany in 1934. Tzvi's mother fled Russia soon after the Bolshevik revolution. His father was born in Palestine. Aged 15, he came to live at Nahal Oz, when it was founded by a group of young Israelis in 1953. Over dinner in a small restaurant on a neighbouring kibbutz, I offered my memories of the place as they talked about their lives there. The table where we sat was just 1,600m from the border with Gaza - within easy range of <u>Hamas</u>'s rockets. Nahal Oz itself is only 800m from its Arab neighbours.

Nahal Oz was always regarded as an elite kibbutz; a settlement which was able to choose its members, its attractions undiminished by its proximity to Egypt. There were raids and clashes, but it must have seemed back then that once Israel and Egypt had made peace, as they did in the mid-Seventies, nothing could threaten the enduring idealism of the kibbutz's founding fathers.

Except that the kibbutzniks would learn that though Israel could make peace on one front, they could not prevent the conflict breaking out in another form. And though the pioneers could shut out international capitalism at their front gate, they could not stop it creeping around the back. Almost anyone who starts up a business in today's Israel first examines the European and the US market: every Israeli company is a multinational. In the Eighties, largely because of the cost of the ongoing conflict, and as it moved more decisively into highly competitive world markets, the country underwent rampant inflation. Under financial pressure, the government cut support for the kibbutz movement. Even more than the hostility of the neighbouring Arabs, economics threatened the survival of Nahal Oz.

So its founders went back to their first principles and rewrote them (rather in the way that Tony Blair ripped up Clause Four of the Labour Party constitution). They built a metalwork factory producing industrial-size ratchet mechanisms. Each kibbutz member now draws a salary according to his work and qualifications. Two years ago, they opened a hi-tech factory to help meet the ever-expanding demand for security cameras, as Israel covers itself with more and more surveillance systems to keep the Palestinians out.

But having adapted to the changing market, the kibbutz was hit again by the changing nature of the war. There were to be no more open conflicts like the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and earlier, when Arab armies faced the Israelis on the field of battle. Then, the Arabs lost, taking fearful casualties; Israel occupied whatever territories she wanted for strategic purposes.

Most Israelis date the start of this year's conflict from 12 July, when the news broadcasts reported that three of their soldiers had been taken prisoner. But for the kibbutzniks of Nahal Oz, the day to remember was 17 July, when in 80

shattering minutes before their home was hit by 17 Qassam rockets. The attack killed a bull, destroyed 10 cars, broke windows and strafed a farmhouse. "All the media was focused on Lebanon, so we had that pleasure to ourselves," remarked Tsvi, drily.

In all, according to the Hale-vis, the kibbutz had been hit 300 times since spring 2000 - an average of once a week. Hundreds more rockets have peppered the surrounding countryside. Two months ago, the kibbutz was suffering five to six hits a day, then at the height of the Lebanon war, it all suddenly went quiet, as if the missile suppliers had been called off, to concentrate on keeping Hizbollah equipped. Ominously however, <u>Hamas</u> declared that the summer campaign was "just the beginning". That day, its fighters had hit a neighbouring kibbutz. Nahal Oz had been spared, but had been hit the previous day, and the day before. "You never get used to the missiles, but it becomes like a psychological mechanism," Tami said.

The <u>Hamas</u> rockets, fortunately, are not as powerful or accurate as those available to the Iscisively raeli Defence Force. Human casualties are rare, but the kibbutzniks spend much of their lives picking up debris and repairing damage. Nahal Oz is one of the few kibbutzim in which each family now has its own bomb shelter. Installing them, just on this one kibbutz, cost 7 million shekels (£860,000). They fear that more accurate and more powerful rockets may soon find their way across the porous Egyptian border and into Gaza. They have a very low opinion of the Egyptian border patrols.

Ronnie, a part time policeman who was also at the dinner table, told a story about one of his colleagues who was on patrol in Gaza, and stopped an elderly Arab who was leading a donkey. At the bottom of a saddle bag, a rocket was discovered. The old man explained: "Someone paid me to fire it that way [towards Israel] - but I like you, so if you'll pay me, I'll fire it that way [towards Gaza] instead."

The tale has the feel of an urban myth, a story the teller would very much like to believe. But the Halevis are also adamant that the Palestinians who fire the rockets do so for money. Given the level of poverty in Gaza, and an unemployment rate of more than 30 per cent, it is not difficult to believe that bored youngsters would happily take a few dollars for firing a rocket over the security fence, if someone is prepared to pay them. On the other hand, if you live under daily bombardment, it might be a comforting delusion to believe that your torutes before breakfast, mentors are doing it for mercenary motives alone, rather than because they hate you.

The worst affected, inevitably, are the children. Medical studies reveal that kibbutz children in southern Israel are three or four times more likely than their urban contemporaries to suffer symptoms like nightmares and bed-wetting.

"Our youngest daughter is now 30 years old," Tami said. "She loves life on the Kibbutz but two years ago she left to have children, because you cannot stay on the Kibbutz as a young mother with missiles falling down on you.

"The children feel secure enough to play outside but mentally they are affected by the constant barrage. They are very frightened of the rockets. Some of the classrooms have been made rocket-proof - but not all - so children are receiving less schooling. There are 95 children on the kibbutz, from babies to 18-year-olds. Six years ago the Kibbutz had 200 children. The young go to serve in the army, and they don't come back."

After dinner, we drove to a high point on the Gaza border. It was a lovely, peaceful, star-lit night. The distant lights of Gaza could have been any town anywhere. In the other direction were the lights of an Israeli town; it looked no different in the darkness. There was a road, evidently, leading to the Palestinian settlement. In the dark it was impossible to see the road itself, but in the distance came the lights of three vehicles moving very slowly towards us. As we stood on flattened ground near a large hut, the light and the low buzz of a generator told that there were people at work inside. Beside it was a white balloon, about 10ft high, which slowly, gracefully, ascended into the dark sky until it was almost out of sight.

The balloon was no toy. It was carrying a heavy cargo of surveillance equipment. Inside the hut, 18-year-old <u>female</u> conscripts in military uniforms were gazing intently at their computer screens. There's nothing unusual about teenagers spending hours in front of a computer, but these young <u>women</u> are not chatting to their friends on MSN. Theirs is a dull task, whose success is literally a matter of life and death. Each has 10 kilometres of the security

fence to monitor. If anything touches the fence, an alarm is triggered on the screen. If anyone steps up close to the boundary, even in the dead of night, a thermal image is immediately picked up by heat sensors. When a conscript spots trouble, she will summon her sergeant (who may be no more than 20 years old), and they decide whether to deploy ground troops. If they make a mistake, Israelis could die. If they do their job well, the only dead bodies will be Palestinian.

Just after we left, Israeli military commanders decided that the appropriate response to the damage done to property and livestock by *Hamas*'s rockets would be to charge into Gaza and slaughter 18 people. The spy equipment that directed their artillery barrage into Beit Ha-noun last week, just a few miles north from where we were standing, may have been in the innocent-looking balloon outside the surveillance hut.

Kibbutzniks are generally on the liberal side of Israeli public opinion. The Halevis supported Ariel Sharon's decision to dismantle Israel's military facilities in Gaza and order all the Jewish settlers to leave. Most members of Nahal Oz looked upon the right-wingers who opposed the pull-out and encouraged resistance as extremists and troublemakers. They wish that peace talks could resume, and that lines of trucks would once more trundle past their kibbutz taking food and equipment into Gaza - if only there were an administration across the security fence that would talk to Israel. "The trouble with the Palestinian leadership," Tzvi said, ruefully, "is that they never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity." When there is a rocket attack, he wants to shout across the border: "Don't you realise you'll suffer worse than us?"

Yet they find it hard to oppose Israel's ruthless policy of shooting to kill any Palestinian caught on the wrong side of the fence. One night, in October 2004, as the kibbutzniks slept, one of those young <u>women</u> who spend the hours of darkness sitting before computer screens spotted the outlines of four men, who had crossed from Gaza by hiding in the back of a truck, close to the security fence. They were heading towards Nahal Oz. She alerted the army. On the young Arabs' corpses, after the army had disposed of them, they found automatic weapons and grenades. "I will never forget that day," said Tzvi. "We owe our lives to that girl, who was awake."

The atmosphere is febrile - and the danger, for both sides, is real. Ronnie described how a friend, a policeman, stopped a car, driven by a young Arab, at the border. The officer saw a flash of something that looked like a rifle barrel, and in a split second opened fire without hesitation. Horrified that he might have killed an unarmed man, he searched the car and found the rifle.

We said goodbye to the Halevis at the border post, and they went back to the little corner of Israel to which they have given their adult lives. Its founding principles of socialism have given way to a more worldly realism. Its primary purpose is no longer to coax crops from the harsh land on which the community was built. Instead, it is an anachronistic little commercial enterprise, kept going by these people and their love for the place where they have lived all their lives. But who knows when the war, or economics, or the restlessness of the young - or some other calamity - will extinguish the dream. All the Halevis can hope for is to grow old in peace.

#### The kibbutz movement

Kibbutz (the plural is kibbutzim) translates as "gathering" or "together" in English.

Kibbutzim are based on the principles of joint ownership of property and co-operation of production, consumption and education.

The first kibbutz was founded in 1909, at Degania, in what was then Palestine, by Joseph Baratz, together with nine other men and two *women*.

The early pioneers believed in the establishment of a Jewish homeland, but also wanted to start an entirely new form of society; Many early kibbutzniks valued their communist beliefs over their religious and cultural ties and kibbutzim remain secular today.

By 1940 there were 82 kibbutzim, with 26,500 members.

At its high point in the Sixties, the kibbutz movement accounted for 7 per cent of Israel's population. Members were widely respected throughout Israeli society, making up 15 per cent of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Kibbutzniks were a key part of the Israel Defence Force. During the Six-Day War, 200 of the 800 Israeli soldiers who were killed belonged to kibbutzim.

There are now some 270 settlements, housing 116,000 people - around 2.1 per cent of Israel's population.

Kibbutzim still account for 33 per cent of Israel's total agricultural produce and 6.3 per cent of manufactured goods.

Once, kibbutz children were brought up communally but now they remain with their parents until high-school age - 40 per cent of kibbutz children return after completing their military service.

Where once the kibbutzim focused solely on agriculture, they have now evolved, with many serving as tourist attractions while others provide computer data services, child care facilities and catering outlets.

Labour shortages mean that many kibbutzim now employ outside workers; Palestinians and, increasingly, Thais work in the settlements.

Kibbutzim rely on subsidies from the Israeli government. Following years of decline, they have been increasing in membership since 2003.

The median age of the kibbutz population is now 30, compared with 25.8 in 1989.

Load-Date: November 17, 2006



# Lurid details of sex scandal serve as diversion for war-weary Israelis

Ottawa Citizen

January 31, 2007 Wednesday

Early Edition

Copyright 2007 Ottawa Citizen, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 534 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Bloomberg News

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

# **Body**

JERUSALEM - In separate but similar incidents, Israeli President Moshe Katsav forcibly undressed two much younger <u>female</u> members of his staff and, despite verbal and physical attempts to resist him, forced the <u>women</u> to have sex with him, according to details of the alleged crimes made public for the first time yesterday.

Mr. Katsav's growing list of legal problems include a new demand yesterday from the attorney general that he be evicted from the presidential residence until the six charges against him for sex crimes and fraud announced last week are resolved.

The Israeli parliament voted yesterday to begin impeachment proceedings against Mr. Katsav in two weeks. Last week, a committee of parliament granted the president a three-month leave of absence so that he could defend himself from the charges. His seven-year term expires in July.

The two <u>women</u> who made the most serious allegations of sexual impropriety against Mr. Katsav claimed that Israel's 65-year-old ceremonial head of state came up to them from behind in their offices and groped their stomachs and buttocks as he placed his body against theirs.

Both alleged that they were then raped, although Mr. Katsav faces a rape charge in only one of the cases and indecent assault, sexual harassment and breach of trust for the other.

Allegations of sexual misconduct made against Mr. Katsav by eight other <u>women</u> have not resulted in charges. However, the Israeli president also faces separate charges of obstruction of justice and fraud.

In a dramatic nationally televised speech last week, Mr. Katsav vehemently denied the charges, shouting that he was the victim of a public lynching by the media and police.

Despite his claims of innocence, the Israeli media have begun to speculate that Mr. Katsav may be considering a plea bargain to do as little prison time as possible. If convicted on all counts, he could be jailed for as much as 16 years.

Israeli Attorney General Menachem Mazuz said he wanted Mr. Katsav out of the president's official residence because the <u>women</u> he allegedly attacked still worked there. Nevertheless, for the time being, he would continue to be paid and should be allowed to keep his government car, Mr. Mazuz said.

Lurid details of sex scandal serve as diversion for war-weary Israelis

The Katsav affair continues to divert Israelis' attention from the civil wars that have been brewing in Lebanon and Gaza.

A fresh truce which had begun early Tuesday in Gaza was broken a few hours later when Fatah gunmen killed a <u>Hamas</u> commander with a bullet to the head near the Egyptian border.

But the latest ceasefire, which came after 30 deaths in five days, produced enough of a sense of confidence that many ordinary Gazans left their homes to look for food for the first time since fighting broke out again last Thursday.

Also yesterday, U.S. President George W. Bush directed about \$86.4 million in U.S. aid to help build up the Palestinian security forces. The money, which is part of the State Department's budget, will go to support reform of the Palestinian civil security forces under the direct control of President Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the moderate Fatah party. White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said the money will be used exclusively for "non-lethal supplies and training."

# **Graphic**

Photo: AFP/Getty Images; The Israeli parliament voted yesterday to begin impeachment proceedings against President Moshe Katsav, above, in two weeks' time. The president denies charges of rape and fraud.;

Load-Date: February 2, 2007



# **Inside Today**

The Gazette (Montreal)

December 21, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

**Length:** 604 words **Byline:** The Gazette

# **Body**

Slayings of Fatah cops threaten to upset truce

Two Palestinian security force members were killed during fighting among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip early yesterday. Despite the violence, a renewed Palestinian effort to end the bloodshed in Gaza kept most gunmen off the street yesterday, and brought at least a brief respite after more than a week of often intense fighting between the main factions, *Hamas* and Fatah. Details, Page A22.

Bugs may be cause of obesity

Maybe it's germs that are making you fat. Researchers found a strong connection between obesity and the levels of certain types of bacteria in the gut. That could mean that someday there will be novel new ways of treating obesity that go beyond the standard advice of diet and exercise. Details, Page A23.

Police face Ipswich deadline

British police were given extra time yesterday to quiz two suspects over the murders of five prostitutes. Detectives are under pressure to make rapid progress in the interrogations of the men, since under British law they have only a few days before they must either charge or release them -- by tomorrow morning in one case. Details, Page A28.

Nez Rouge looking for drivers

Operation Nez Rouge is worried it won't have enough volunteers to drive party-goers home this holiday season. So the service, which transports revellers who don't want to risk getting behind the wheel, is calling for additional helpers to pitch in. Details, Page A6.

Groups push safety for addicts

In cities across Canada, community health centres reach out to drug users and assist them with their medical needs. Locally, CACTUS-Montreal and Spectre de rue promote safety among addicts by providing clean needles. Details, Page A6.

Coach benched over flag flap

#### Inside Today

The coach of a junior hockey team has been suspended for two games for asking his players to sign a Canadian flag destined for troops in Afghanistan. Jacques Beaulieu was also sanctioned for his comments about Saint John Sea Dogs left-winger Dave Bouchard, who didn't sign the flag and was then booted from the team. Details, Page A12.

U.S. won't share Arar file

Saying the information is too sensitive to share, a senior U.S. Homeland Security official said yesterday the Bush administration has no plans to tell the Canadian government why Maher Arar remains on a U.S. terrorist watch list. Details, Page A12.

**Business** 

Alstom Canada back in court

Alstom Canada fired another salvo yesterday in its court fight to stop Bombardier from starting work on a \$1.2-billion contract to build 336 subway cars for Montreal's metro system. Details, Page B1.

Sports

Klassen is top **female** athlete

Cindy Klassen, the Calgary long-track speed skater, has been named CanWest News Service's Canadian <u>female</u> athlete of the year. The award is the latest in a string of triumphs and tributes going back to the winter Olympics in February. Details, Page C1.

The march of the Penguins

The future of the NHL's Penguins in Pittsburgh is now in doubt following the state's rejection of a slot-machine casino application by Isle of Capri Casinos. The group had promised to build a \$290-million arena if it got a licence. Details, Page C2.

Arts & Life

Narcissism not Winslet's thing

Some stars can't get enough of reading - and believing - their own publicity. Kate Winslet is not among those prima donnas. She has gotten good reviews for her current films The Holiday and Little Children, but that's news to her. Details, Page D3.

Oscar could make his day

Clint Eastwood's new Japanese take on the Second World War, Letters from Iwo Jima, is earning more Oscar buzz than its month-old U.S. sibling, Flags of Our Fathers. Details, Page D3.

Load-Date: December 21, 2006



# The kidnap of this woman's husband sparked the latest war in the Middle East

The Sunday Times (London)

November 19, 2006

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Sunday Times Magazine; Pg. 62

**Length:** 4945 words **Byline:** Lesley White

# **Body**

But is the young Israeli soldier still alive, will his captors Hezbollah trade him, and will Israel pay the price? Lesley White meets a family on a quest for answers

Patience is not a quality normally associated with Israelis in downtown Tel Aviv, car horns blare, coffee vendors and hotel waiters are gruffly to the point but in a two-storey, whitewashed house in Nahariya, a small town 10 kilometres south of the Lebanese border, the sound of patience is deafening, pervasive, a sort of silent scream.

This is the home of Shlomo and Malka Goldwasser, parents of the kidnapped soldier Ehud, known as Udi, who was seized on Israeli territory by Hezbollah fighters on July 12 with a fellow reservist, Eldad Regev. Theirs is not a religious home: there are no scrolls of the Torah or menorah candelabrum on show, though an Israeli flag flutters from a downstairs window. "The only time I go to synagogue is to drink whisky with my good friend the rabbi," laughs Udi's father, Shlomo. But there are other symbols of belief scattered around his sitting room: stickers printed with "Bring Udi Home", posters, press packs and blue solidarity bracelets, not just campaigning tools but articles of faith.

Across the border, the black-turbaned Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and his followers are banking on the fact that, for Israelis raised on the Old Testament and Holocaust studies, it is morally imperative to bring Udi Goldwasser back, whatever dirty dealing it takes. Islamic mothers may accept their sons' martyrdom as suicide bombers; Jewish mothers like Miki Goldwasser, as she is known, prize life above all else. In the summer, Iranian-supplied Katyusha rockets rained down on her seaside town in a war sparked by the fate of her 31-year-old son, but on a sunny November morning, the Mediterranean sparkles, the Goldwassers' cat scavenges crumbs of cake, and builders undertaking their latest extension wander in and out. In the aftermath of disaster, normality has crept back in; yet you know instantly from the strained faces, the sack of supportive letters from around the world, that something is not right.

Their son is one of a holy trinity. Just a month before his abduction, another soldier, 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, was kidnapped in Gaza by <u>Hamas</u> fighters. The three young men have become symbols of their nation's frustration and outrage, its certainty that its enemies operate outside the moral sphere, and a stalled peace process. The Goldwassers have neither time nor will for reviewing the rights and wrongs of recent history: for them it's a waiting, sometimes a praying, but mostly a hoping game.

Udi Goldwasser's unit was ambushed as it patrolled the border in two armoured Humvees. Three soldiers were killed by Hezbollah's rocket-propelled grenades, and five more died when a tank trying to rescue them hit a mine. As the Israeli army reacted to the firing, the gunmen whisked their two prisoners over the border.

It is not in itself a sensational story (these young men were soldiers, not rabbis or doctors) but it precipitated a war in which 1,100 Lebanese and 160 Israelis died. "It would not even make a headline in the United States," says Shlomo, 59, a short, wiry man who speaks English carefully with an air of exhausted resignation. He has no interest in the logistics of the abduction, declined the army's offer to visit the location; wants to think only of the future. "This event is huge for us," he says. "But what lies behind it is huge for the world. Thank goodness for Bush and Blair for recognising the threat of Islamic extremism."

All the Goldwassers echo this fear in low, ominous voices. But they also know that the war launched against Lebanon in response to the kidnapping was not a crusade against "terror", nor a realistic way to secure their release; it was an ultimately lost opportunity for Israel to disarm an enemy stockpiling arms. "War was not the way to bring our son back," says Shlomo, a patriot who sees nothing wrong in teaching Hezbollah a lesson, but not while they are holding his son.

Today he and Miki look mildly stunned. There are no public tears, just a disbelief that this has happened to such an ordinary family. And yet all Israeli lives are unpredictable, buffeted in the tides of fragile Middle Eastern relations. It is a dangerous country in which to raise your sons, with national service and reservist duty required in one month in every year. "Maybe," says Miki, "but you never question it. It is our homeland."

Udi Goldwasser did not much care for politics, let alone the onward march of Zionism. In this year's March elections he voted for the Green party. He did his national service and his reserve duty because he believed them necessary. "Growing up he always saw my example," says Shlomo. "If a thing is your duty you have to do it. He didn't like it but he never skipped it."

The waiting has been harrowing for them, the ignorance of what the prime minister, Ehud Olmert, is doing or not doing to negotiate a release, even worse. When they say they are kept in the dark, you believe them. The sequence of dashed hopes has produced in the family what Udi's wife, Karnit, calls the "glad-sad" dichotomy; the war ends, but the hostages are not returned; the naval blockade is lifted, they do not appear, UN resolution 1701 addresses post-war priorities, and there is no word. "I believe to any problem there is a solution," says Shlomo, a former ship's captain and patriarch of a pragmatic family. "I don't criticise the government, but the bottom line is the results are zero."

On Yom Kippur the last Israeli soldier on Lebanese soil came home, but Udi did not return to his marital home in Haifa, nor to this tidy house where his parents now offer hospitality and memories to strangers in the hope that he will be thought of as a loved young man rather than a statistic. For Udi was nothing if not an individual. When his family moved to South Africa in 1987, he decided he didn't like it and returned to Israel to live with an aunt; there was no arguing with him. "I always said I raised him by remote control," smiles Shlomo. "He did what he thought was right."

On the morning of July 12, Shlomo was in Namibia on business, packing a suitcase for his return to Durban, where he works for a shipping company. On the CNN channel he saw that two Israelis had been kidnapped near Zar'it village, where he knew his eldest son was completing the last day of his tour as reservist. "CNN knew within half an hour after it happened because Hezbollah released their information immediately to the media. In Israel they didn't know for an hour and a half." By 10pm he had been informed that his son was probably kidnapped, rather than dead.

On his parents' return to Nahariya their younger son, Yair, a forthright police detective, put it to them straight. "I told them we could sink or swim as a family," he says, "that we had to keep going for Udi." The youngest brother, Gadi a dog handler was travelling in the Himalayas, but got home in two days. For we must not confuse patience, reluctance to make demands or challenge the official channels, with passivity.

Since July's events Shlomo and Karnit have travelled the world speaking to broadcasters and youth groups and foreign ministers, held rallies in remembrance of the missing soldiers, never stopped taking calls and having meetings that might ease the channels of communication with the abductors. "The way to do it is by building pressure from those Hezbollah respect," says Shlomo. "If I could speak to the Iranians it would be better, but they don't want to know. They do listen to the Russians, though, so we met with the mufti of Russia, the head of Muslims there."

The Goldwassers have filled the miserable weeks of waiting with their quests for a "sign of life" from his captors, into which all their suspended fury and depression and fear have been channelled. "I am so afraid to feel, I shut myself off," confides Miki. "I can't give into it, though, because I need to send him all my love and strength." Nobody knows if the family's efforts will help Udi, but they are certainly helping them. "None of us had ever done an interview," says Shlomo. "Now we're asked our opinion on world affairs. What do we know about releasing hostages or anything else! The Sunday Times can't bring my son back, but you can make sure he is not forgotten."

His message to Hezbollah? "I say to the guards of our son, not just his kidnappers, to be very careful because if they touch Udi, they will be blamed, not Hassan Nasrallah." His wife nods, a petite woman with glasses and a warmth that turns her into everybody's mother, pottering to and from her kitchen. She is the family archivist who has made photo albums for her three sons to be presented at their weddings, and she is annoyed today because she can't find Udi's. "It must be here somewhere." A distracted air in a highly practical woman is the only sign of her torment, that and the shadows beneath her eyes.

But she has been emboldened rather than cowed by her ordeal. "I told the chief of staff to his face that I blame the army. If there had been surveillance cameras on the border, Udi wouldn't have needed to be there." She looked Tony Blair straight in the eye and asked him to go to Lebanon and intercede with the prime minister, Fouad Siniora. "He was sympathetic and charming... but he was too busy."

Does she hate the men who took Udi? "Hezbollah are brainwashed," she answers. "They are taught to hate from tiny children, that their role is to wipe us from the map. How can I hate people if they can't help being what they are? I just want to get back to being a housewife. I am a potter but I can't touch the clay." Instead she holds her own private vigil, nurses her mementos: in a utility room is a stack of toys from her sons' childhoods, neatly stored Lego, the broken-stringed guitar he passed on to Gadi, a model plane. "All being saved for his own children," she says, matter-of-factly. Usually in robust health, she has recently been struck with a virus that has made her deaf in one ear, but nothing can stop her extolling the virtues of her eldest son. "A Polish mother talk about her son? Ha! Bribe me!"

Little Udi was the dream baby; never cried; could name any make of car at the age of three; taught himself to read at five; played piano so well his teacher thought he had learnt to read music when, he finally admitted, he was playing by ear; won his class competition at 10 but refused to be moved to a school for the brightest children. His father laughs: "Udi always wanted an easy life." No, no, defends Miki, "he just didn't want to be separated from the other kids." Then there is his sailing, his yacht skipper's licence, his scuba-diving with Yair off the coast a few minutes from their family home, his mountain-biking on Mount Carmel. Udi was the mature one, the son Miki could trust with the motorbike she denied his teenage brothers.

With her first-born there is a unique, almost telepathic bond. While he was motorbiking in Australia she had an overwhelming sensation that something was wrong. "That day I was crazy like hell." In fact, he had fallen from his bike and lost consciousness. On the morning of July 12, at home in her Durban apartment, she turned on her computer for news, read of the attack at Zar'it and started to cry. When assured by Karnit at Shlomo's request that Udi was fine, she still couldn't stop. "In Israel you hear these stories, and you are sad, but I'm not the sort of woman who cries all the time. That morning I just couldn't stop myself."

Half an hour's drive south is the Haifa flat of Udi and Karnit Goldwasser, part of an Israeli generation demanding a safe, normal life instead of ideology and strife. Always using the present tense, Karnit tells me that Udi wants to move to Tel Aviv for the jazz clubs and theatres. "He wants a lively life." She is 30, delicately beautiful, so skinny with worry that her gold wedding ring flies off her finger as she gesticulates. Her comforts here are their dog, a

former stray, and her array of cellphones, pagers, e-mail receivers... She is organised and precise, painstakingly looks up every elusive word on her electronic Hebrew-English Oxford dictionary while the phone tinkles intermittently. One call is from another of the injured soldiers in Udi's Humvee, Tomer, with whom she is regularly in touch.

Usually a keen cook, there is no food in her fridge. "My friend was so shocked, she said, 'Karnit, this isn't you,' " she confides. The daughter of an army officer turned air-traffic controller, she and Udi grew up in Nahariya, pupils at the same high school. They fell in love nine years ago, "soul mates" who knew they were meant to be together. She trusted him so much she would fall asleep against his back riding pillion on his Suzuki GS500. "I fell in love with him because of his mind. He is sharp and clever, he has educated me. Before him I didn't watch nature and history programmes, or see thoughtful movies." He is mentally strong, she insists: if he's alive he will be coping. "He'll know what to concentrate on inside his head, and what not to dwell on. He believes in God, but his prayers will be thinking of home and family, and of me."

They both attend the Technion institute of technology (an Israeli MIT), both embarked on master's degrees in environmental engineering; designing solutions for sewage, pollution, water systems. (As Shlomo smiles wryly, "Udi's interest is cleaning the world from shit. Good for him!") Between degrees they travelled for three months to southeast Asia, where they visited Cambodia's Angkor Wat. "Udi had seen what the Taliban had done to religious shrines in Afghanistan, and wanted to see this one before it was too late." Six years ago they moved into their flat, with its pale tiles and its simple furniture, its small neat rows of books and CDs, and right now the over-clean, empty feel of a home not much lived in.

Dominating the tiny sitting room is the picture of Udi used in their campaign, taken on his wedding day last October, happy and expectant, just before he saw his bride. Their marriage was postponed because neither wanted an orthodox ceremony the only sort fully recognised by the government which would have entailed lying to the authorities that she was a virgin and that they had not lived together. Besides, he told her he didn't need a ceremony or a ring to make him feel married. "He was married to me in his heart."

Finally, they married in a conservative ceremony in an Arabic house in the old Tel Aviv quarter of Jaffa, but like thousands of other couples a year must travel abroad for another wedding for their union to be completed. Udi wants to do it in New York, a city he intends to live in for a while. She talks confidently of their plans as if he were scheduled for release tomorrow, of the future father who wants a baby girl because they love their daddies more, and to whom he will teach all his interests. What if she likes different things? "He says, 'That's fine, tell me what it is and I will become an expert in it.' "

Alongside his studies, he worked in the Technion, taught children for tuition credits, took photos at weddings and bar mitzvahs. He never relished his army tours. "When he saw the hatred in the Palestinian children's eyes, it hurt him," remembers Karnit. "In Gaza, if there were children around he tried to hide his gun. Seeing how the Palestinian children were living affected him badly: the open sewage, the rubbish in the streets, the polluted water they were drinking without knowing it. He knew that only peace would sort out those problems, only peace can raise us up, not bring us down."

His last tour of duty was his first in the north, where his family assumed he would be safer. What he saw there was shocking and salutary for the product of a warm, comfortable home. "His friends tell me he never stopped talking about the infrastructure of Lebanon, how the country could be helped and improved. As part of a peace process, Udi would help build drains or what they needed in the poorest villages."

On the morning of the kidnapping, knowing that her husband would be home in the evening; she began cooking his favourite meat-filled pastries, learning of the attack on the radio news. She texted her husband: "Are you okay? Me and the cats and the dog are waiting for you." Udi's pies were eaten by the friends who gathered 60 by the end of the day as anxiety turned to panic, and then shock. At 3.30pm the army officer arrived with a doctor she did not require.

To eliminate Udi as an unidentified body, they requested a DNA sample, but she had washed everything in preparation for his homecoming, and the day he left his shampoo had spilt all over his toothbrush, making it too

clean to be of use. "I gave them a coat and asked for it back because he will need his winter coat, he loves it," she smiles. Preparing to return to Nahariya, where she spent much of her time, she packed up his cameras, afraid the empty flat might be burgled, then opened her wardrobe and selected a black outfit in case there was a funeral. "My heart told me he was alive, but my brain told me, maybe not. I am very practical." Her mother made her put the black clothes back; the army then informed her that the dead soldier was not Udi. "It's strange your world has fallen in, and then you are happy."

Karnit was supposed to finish her master's in October but has been unable to work on anything apart from Udi's release. "Udi is my job right now." She talks to people "who want to listen and people who don't want to listen". Later this month she will be addressing the dinner after the Technion lecture in London. It is in memory of the Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who was captured 20 years ago by south Lebanese militiamen, never to be confirmed dead or alive. Karnit's nightmare is a repeat scenario.

The prime minister, Ehud Olmert, who keeps a picture of the three missing soldiers on his desk in Jerusalem, returns her calls; sometimes she meets the former Israeli security chief Ofer Dekel, now working full time on the releases, in Tel Aviv. "You can't talk on the telephone." They appear to tell her nothing, however.

She had so far declined the help of counsellors and psychologists. "I'm going to see them when I know that Udi is coming back, so that I can prepare myself for him. I'll need the right tools to help him readjust, though we are a very strong, open couple and I'm sure he will be able to tell me everything." On the day of his return will she bake the pastries he missed in July? She offers one of the few happy smiles of our meeting. "Cooking? When Udi comes home I'm not going to spend time on cooking!"

What does Karnit Goldwasser want her government to do? Though Israel has a prodigious history of trading prisoners for hostages in May 1985 it released 1,150 prisoners in exchange for three Israelis captured in Lebanon she will not demand that. As for heroic rescue attempts, they are dangerous: in 1994 the Israeli hostage Nachson Waxman died in the attempt to release him. "I am asking all who are helping with the Lebanon reconstruction to help us get a sign of life, a letter from him, or even better a visit from an intermediary which would encourage him so much. I don't want them to ask for this as a condition of helping, but to keep asking while they are helping. So far we have had nothing."

In October she approached the Lebanese president, Emile Lahoud, in the UN general assembly, where she was a visitor. "After his speech about how poor they are and the problems they have, I told him I was the wife of Udi Goldwasser, the kidnapped soldier, and he tuned away from me and ran, muttering something in Arabic I didn't understand. I got the impression that he just couldn't cope." Kofi Annan promised he would help; Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, told her in the European parliament six weeks ago that he had intelligence that Udi was alive, the Italians have said the same, all of which means only, as Shlomo puts it, that "Hezbollah are planting the message that they are alive, for whatever reason".

A trading of prisoners remains the hostages' best chance; as "high value" assets, they are worth keeping alive. "He's not useful to them if he's dead." says Karnit. "And if he's alive, I believe they are taking care of him." In July, Hezbollah demanded the release of hundreds of Arab prisoners, but it is thought they will settle for the few Lebanese in Israeli jails. "If they want two prisoners for one," says Shlomo, "I say increase it to four to one. Whatever they want, double it. That is my view as a father."

By January he must return to South Africa and his job; Miki will stay in Israel until her son comes home. She tells me she believes he is surviving on the love she and Shlomo poured into him as a child. "He was brought up with love, he has his family, his wife who he loves to craziness, a reason to live, to have his baby girl." What will his doting Polish mother do when he walks though her front door? "I'm going to kiss him until he can't stand it any more... And then I'm going to kick him back to Hezbollah for all the worry he has caused me! He'll say that Hezbollah are a breeze compared to the treatment he got from his mother." In her weary laugh you hear the audacious spirit that keeps her going, that refuses to let go of the feisty humour her son loved.

The redemption of hostages is a core principle of Judaism, described as a "great bar mitzvah" in the rabbinical texts that equate life in captivity with starvation or death. Even for the secular, the knowledge of Jews denied their

The kidnap of this woman's husband sparked the latest war in the Middle East

freedom tears at the heart of a nation founded on self-preservation, where remembering past captivity is a civic duty, where the sense of "never again" fires all efforts to free its people.

"Our son is a strong man psychologically," reflects Shlomo, whose Latvian mother and Polish father came to the promised land in 1933, met on a kibbutz, and could never have imagined the legacy of bitterness inspired by their hopeful journeys. "If Udi is alive he will cope." Then he adds a thought which illuminates his family's courage, making you speechless for a moment. "My uncle was one of the first in and last out of Auschwitz. He was a shoemaker and was useful to the Germans. If he survived that horror and went on to live a good life, my son can survive whatever is happening to him."

#### THE DECADES OF ABDUCTION

Numerous Israeli soldiers have been kidnapped and murdered by enemy forces over the years. The fate of many remains unknown

DECEMBER 1973 Eli Lupo is kidnapped and killed after hitching a ride at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya.

JANUARY 1979 David Shamir is taken by Rafah- based terrorists and killed near the Gaza Strip.

NOVEMBER 1980 Avi Bromberg is kidnapped and murdered. His body is found near the Nahal training base.

JUNE 1982 Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz are captured by Syrian forces in the battle of Sultan Yacoub. Still missing in action (MIA).

MAY 1983 David Bukra is kidnapped at Beit Lid junction, then shot. His dismembered body is found in the West Bank.

APRIL 1983 Samir Assad is kidnapped in Sidon and thought to have been killed by an Israeli air raid while in captivity.

AUGUST 1984 Moshe Tamam is kidnapped and murdered on his way home to Havatzelet Hasharon. His body is found near Ma'aleh Datan.

NOVEMBER 1984 David Manos is kidnapped and murdered on the Lod-Petah Tikva road. His body is found two years later.

NOVEMBER 1984 Hadas Kedmi is kidnapped while hitchhiking. Her body is found at Carmel foothills 10 years later.

APRIL 1985 Akiva Shaltiel is kidnapped on the Petah Tikva-Rosh HaAyin road. His body is found near Beit Aryeh.

JUNE 1985 David Pelzan is kidnapped and killed. His body is found at Kissufim junction.

DECEMBER 1985 Moshe Levi is kidnapped and murdered. His body is found near Moshav Mazor.

FEBRUARY 1986 Yosef Fink and Rachamin Alsheikh are kidnapped in Lebanon by Hezbollah. Their bodies are returned to Israel in July 1996.

OCTOBER 1986 Ron Arad is captured by Lebanese Shi'ite militia when his plane goes down over Lebanon. Still MIA.

SEPTEMBER 1987 Hanoch Danman is kidnapped and murdered while hitchhiking near Akko. His body is found near Kfar Masaryk kibbutz.

FEBRUARY 1989 Avi Sasportas is kidnapped and shot by <u>Hamas</u> terrorists while hitchhiking at Hodaya junction. His body is found in May 1989.

The kidnap of this woman's husband sparked the latest war in the Middle East

MAY 1989 Ilan Saadon is kidnapped by *Hamas* terrorists. His body is found near Tel Aviv seven years later.

SEPTEMBER 1992 Alon Caravani is kidnapped and stabbed to death after hitchhiking with <u>Hamas</u> members in central Israel.

DECEMBER 1992 Nissim Toledano is kidnapped by <u>Hamas</u> militants in a bid to free their leader, Ahmad Yassin. His body is found in the occupied West Bank two days later.

OCTOBER 1993 Ehud Roth and Ilan Levi are kidnapped and murdered after hitching a ride in the Gaza Strip.

MARCH 1993 Yehoshua Friedberg is kidnapped and murdered by terrorists. His body is found near Jerusalem.

AUGUST 1993 Yaron Chen is kidnapped and murdered hitchhiking near Ramallah. His body is found in a burnt-out car.

APRIL 1994 Shachar Simani is murdered by <u>Hamas</u> terrorists disguised as Jews. His body is found north of Jerusalem.

JULY 1994 Aryeh Frankenthal is kidnapped and murdered after hitchhiking in Beersheba. His body is found the same day.

OCTOBER 1994 Nahshon Wachsman is kidnapped while hitchhiking. He is murdered by his captors when IDF special forces storm the West Bank safe house he is being held in.

SEPTEMBER 1996 Sharon Edri is murdered by <u>Hamas</u> while hitchhiking home to Moshav Zanoah. His body is found in a West Bank village.

AUGUST 1997 Guy Hever goes missing from his army base on the Golan border. He remains MIA.

OCTOBER 2000 Adi Avitan, Benny Avraham and Omar Sawaid are abducted by Hezbollah while patrolling Shebaa farms on Israel's border with Lebanon. In JANUARY 2004 their bodies are returned to Israel in a prisoner-exchange deal.

july 2003 Oleg Shaikhet is kidnapped and killed near Upper Nazareth.

JUNE 2006 Gilad Shalit is captured by Palestinian militants in Gaza. Still MIA.

JULY 2006 Ehud 'Udi' Goldwasser and Eldad Regev are abducted by Hezbollah while patrolling the Lebanese border. They are still MIA.

#### THE ROAD TO MASS FATALITIES

JUNE 24 Two Palestinian civilian brothers, Osama and Mustafa Abu Muamar, are abducted by the IDF in Al Shouka, near Rafah.

JUNE 25 Palestinian militants kidnap the Israeli soldier Corporal Gilad Shalit, 19, during a raid on an army post near the Gaza Strip, via a tunnel they have dug near Kerem Shalom. Two other IDF soldiers are killed and four wounded in the attack. Shalit suffers a shoulder wound and a broken left hand. Israel says it will do everything it can to retrieve the soldier.

JUNE 26 Shalit's captors issue a statement offering information about him if Israel agrees to release all *female* Palestinian prisoners and all Palestinian prisoners under the age of 18.

JUNE 28 Israeli forces enter Khan Yunis in Gaza to search for Shalit. An Israeli spokesman claims: "Israel did everything it could in exhausting all diplomatic options."

JUNE 29 The commander of the Israeli Southern Command, Aluf Yoav Galant, confirms Shalit is still in Gaza. Israel's minister of justice adds that Shalit is being held in southern Gaza. The military correspondent for the Israel Broadcasting Authority claims that Shalit is in Rafah, and still alive.

JULY 1 The Palestinians issue another demand, asking the Israelis to free 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in addition to all <u>women</u> and young prisoners as previously demanded, and to end their assault on Gaza. The BBC reports that Shalit may have received medical attention, possibly for stomach and shoulder wounds. This has been subsequently denied by other Palestinians. Israeli government authorities threaten that the "sky will fall" if Shalit is harmed.

JULY 3 The Palestinians issue a 24-hour ultimatum for meeting their demands, and threaten unspecified consequences if Israel refuses. Israel rejects it, stating "there will be no negotiations to release prisoners".

JULY 12 Hezbollah guerillas capture two more Israeli soldiers, 31-year-old Ehud Goldwasser and 26-year-old Eldad Regev, in a cross-border raid. Israel accuses Lebanon of an act of war. Hezbollah continues to insist on a prisoner exchange and warns against confrontation. Within hours, Israeli warplanes, tanks and gunboats are shelling southern Lebanon. Hezbollah fighters based in southern Lebanon retaliate by firing Katyusha rockets across the border with Israel. In southern Lebanon, Israeli troops encounter heavy resistance eight are killed and two others are injured. Israel calls up reserve troops as it pledges a swift and large-scale response to the Hezbollah attack.

JULY 13 Israel lays siege to Lebanon, bombing Beirut airport, blockading sea ports and declaring its air space closed, as the crisis over the two captured soldiers erupts into open warfare. Hezbollah responds by bombarding Israel with scores of rockets, some of which hit Haifa, Israel's third largest city.

JULY 18 Israeli air strikes continue. The number of Lebanese killed since the start of Israel's offensive reaches about 230, with 25 Israelis killed. The UN warns of a humanitarian disaster as Lebanese flee their homes, with air strikes on roads and bridges hampering efforts to help them. The offensive will not officially end for another seven weeks, by which time as many as 500 Hezbollah fighters and over 1,000 Lebanese civilians will have been killed. One hundred and sixty Israelis will have lost their lives. Meanwhile, the three captured Israeli soldiers stay in the hands of Hezbollah.

Load-Date: December 1, 2006



# <u>Israeli pullout from Gaza leaves community in ruins; More rockets are fired</u> across the border

The International Herald Tribune November 8, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 605 words **Byline:** lan Fisher

Dateline: BEIT HANUN, Gaza Strip

# **Body**

Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting.

\*\*\*

"My heart is bouncing," said Hiam Yazgi, 24, and for good reason: Palestinian militants had just shot off four homemade rockets, and the Israelis were rattling down shells in retaliation, crackingly close to Yazgi's toppled house, on Tuesday.

One resident of Gaza seemed unfazed, maybe because she had known only fighting in her short life: Yazgi gave birth to a daughter in the middle of the street, just three days ago, during the Israeli military operation to stop rocket fire from Gaza.

The older children flinched at every shell Tuesday. But young Fairouz, wrapped in a turquoise blanket, slept.

"This is our fate," Yazgi said.

In theory, Tuesday should have been quiet: Israeli tanks and soldiers withdrew from Beit Hanoun early in the day, saying their six-day operation to stop the rockets was successfully over. They said they had killed "dozens" of armed militants, recovered "large amounts" of weaponry and showed the Palestinians the price of rocket fire into Israel.

But Palestinians and the United Nations said that price was too high: In the first glimpse of Beit Hanoun since the beginning of the operation the largest in Gaza since July large areas were devastated.

At least 30 houses were destroyed, or nearly so, and another 100 damaged, a United Nations team that surveyed the damage reported. The stench of sewage wafted over streets churned up and sopping after Israeli bulldozers crunched through water mains. Scores of trees and light posts were uprooted. At least 52 Palestinians were dead. The Israelis stressed that most were fighters and Palestinians emphasized the civilian victims, including <u>women</u> and children.

A leader of a UN survey team said the extent of the damage left him "gravely concerned."

Israeli pullout from Gaza leaves community in ruins More rockets are fired across the border

"The scale of destruction that is now evident to anybody who wishes to go to Beit Hanoun underscores the impossibility of conducting large-scale military operations in intensely built-up areas without creating this result," said John Ging, operations director for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, which surveyed the damage.

Meanwhile, as Palestinian leaders worked to form a new national unity government, the violence continued elsewhere in Gaza. In scattered incidents, the Israeli military said it had hit as many as 10 Palestinian fighters. Media reports said at least eight people had been killed.

Among them were two people, one of them a woman, Nahla Shanti, killed when Israeli tank fire hit the house of Jamila Shanti, a Palestinian legislator from *Hamas*, the militant group that controls the Palestinian government.

The military said it had responded to two rocket-propelled grenades fired from the house. Shanti was reported in the house at the time but was not wounded. The dead woman was Shanti's sister-in-law.

"The Israelis leave one area and enter another," the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, complained, according to Reuters. "We have spoken to the American administration and to the Europeans that such a situation cannot help restore security and stability."

The Israeli operation was intended to stop the rocket fire, and while it was reduced, it did not stop. Just hours after the Israeli troops left Tuesday, four of the crude Qassam rockets sputtered up into the sky out of the destruction of Beit Hanoun, leaving behind trails of jagged black smoke and landing in the city of Ashkelon, about 10 kilometers, or 6 miles, north of Gaza. A fifth rocket landed in the Negev Desert, and there were no injuries, the Israeli military reported. Israel responded rapidly, hammering Beit Hanoun with artillery.

Load-Date: November 8, 2006



# Devastation is revealed after tanks pull out of siege town

The Times (London)

November 8, 2006, Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 38

Length: 648 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Beit Hanoun

# **Body**

Israeli tanks withdrew from Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip after a six-day siege yesterday, revealing the full scale of destruction during a raid in which more than 50 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed.

Palestinian agencies condemned the destruction of homes, orchards, water pipes and electricity cables during the raid, which was intended to curb militant rocket attacks.

Although most of the dead were gunmen, witnesses accused Israeli troops of killing up to 15 civilians, including one man who was shot dead after being interrogated and released with a note granting him safe passage.

When outsiders gained access yesterday they found the town's historic Nasr mosque almost flattened, except for one minaret. It was a legacy of last week's two day stand-off, in which 70 besieged Palestinian gunmen were freed by a *Hamas women*'s march.

**Women** queued at water trucks, afraid that the remaining water supply had been contaminated by sewage.

The raid left a residue of bitterness, even as Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian Prime Minister, and President Abbas resumed hitherto fruitless talks to create a national unity government. Karen AbuZayd, the commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, said her staff had been unable to deliver emergency relief until Saturday, the fourth day. "I think it is reprehensible," Ms AbuZayd said. "We are here as a humanitarian agency. There are certain laws of war, there are certain things that should be respected."

Other agencies said they were granted limited access earlier during the week long operation in the town of 43,000.

Naziq al-Kafarnah, the Mayor of Beit Hanoun, said the town had suffered its worst destruction since the 1967 Six-Day War. He put the cost of damage at \$10 million (£ 5 million).

The Israeli army insisted that its operation had targeted "terrorist organisations and terrorist infrastructure only, while making every effort to avoid harming civilians".

It said that units "targeted and hit" nine cells that were firing crude, but potentially deadly, Qassam rockets into Israel, killing dozens of armed gunmen. It also uncovered rocket-launchers, anti-tank missile launchers, grenades, explosive devices, Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunition and observation equipment.

Palestinians protested that Israeli troops held them prisoner in their homes while turning upper floors into snipers' nests, from one of which an innocent man was killed after being questioned and cleared.

#### Devastation is revealed after tanks pull out of siege town

Witnesses said that Mazen Shabat, 25, was released on Saturday from an Israeli interrogation centre in the agricultural college, but was killed by a sniper 20 minutes later as he walked home.

Relatives produced a handwritten Hebrew note found on his body dated November 4, 2006, reading: "Mazen Hani Shabat, ID number 906774211, was in an IDF questioning in the agricultural college. Please do not withhold him. Major Amir."

Recovering in hospital after surviving the incident, the dead man's cousin, Zaher Shabat, 32, told The Times: "We passed many different tanks on the way then got to some houses which had snipers, and they weren't so forgiving so they opened fire on us."

An Israeli military spokesman said that an initial investigation had proved unable to identify the case, and promised: "We will further investigate."

Peter Lerner, the Israeli military's head of co-ordination and liaison, said that it had good working relations with humanitarian groups and blamed "mishaps" on "the failure of the organisations to meet the timetable for entering Beit Hanoun".

Palestinians said such raids only increased fury at Israel. "Thirty to 40 Israeli soldiers took over our house, defecating in it and terrifying us," said Sumaya Abu Amsha, 30.

"My son is 4 and has a plastic toy gun. They broke it into pieces in front of him.

He started crying and said 'I wish it was a real gun'. Are they a real army? They are animals."

Load-Date: November 8, 2006



# **Critics' Choice**

The Sunday Times (London)
October 1, 2006

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Culture; Pg. 68

Length: 586 words

Byline: John Dugdale, Helen Stewart and Sarah Dempster

# **Body**

Get 'em off

Trinny And Susannah Undress (ITV1, 8pm)

The fashionistas decamp to ITV with a slightly different format from BBC's What Not to Wear, focusing on badly dressed couples so that they can stick their beaks into relationships as well as wardrobes. Well, up to a point. Having uncovered that one of their victims had an adulterous one-night stand, Trinny nervously steps in to remind her that she and Susannah deal in style makeovers, not marriage guidance, and returns the conversation to clothes just when things are getting interesting.

Familiar stuff

Grime Scene Investigation (BBC3, 8pm)

Rufus Hound fronts a jokier, blokier rip-off of How Clean Is Your House?, leading a team of sleuths dedicated to identifying the "griminal" in homes plagued by hygiene problems. First up are two housemates, one of whom is having trouble sleeping because his asthma becomes worse at night. As they own no fewer than five dogs, solving the case looks deceptively easy.

Bracing doc

Horizon (BBC2, 9pm)

BBC science programmes have become noticeably sunnier since the Beeb's deal with America's Discovery channel, and the drive to be blithe achieves a weird perfection with this upbeat programme that enjoys the subtitle The Survivor's Guide to Plane Crashes. Research suggests 90% are survivable, it reveals, and points to ways of enhancing your chances of escaping. As these tips are summarised at the end and the preceding material is dull, ignoring all but the last five minutes is recommended.

Tepid drama

The Outsiders (ITV1, 9pm)

This spy/action/adventure/love story is one big mess of television, but the fact that it stars that Heat magazine favourite Nigel Harman should guarantee it an audience. A gruesome medley of The Avengers, Bond, The Bourne

#### Critics' Choice

Identity, Spooks and Mission: Impossible, the 90-minute drama features Harman as Nathan Hyde, a man with a mysterious past. Tediously, he is drawn back into Minus 12, a shady non-governmental agency, by a foxy lady and a ludicrous subplot involving his daughter.

Best doc

This World (BBC2, 9.50pm)

Subtitled The Tea Boy of Gaza, this is a documentary about a hospital in Gaza, and an utterly compelling one. Unpaid since <u>Hamas</u> took power, staff at Shifa hospital endure shortages of drugs and equipment and the territory's lawlessness: armed militants from rival factions strut around its corridors and bullets fly in the car park. Mahmoud, the tea boy of the title, sells to patients, doctors and gunmen, and sees business declining as the economy slumps.

Eastern promise

Diary Of A Mail Order Bride (C4, 10pm); Diary Of A Mistress (C4, 11.05pm)

It is rather a waste that both these documentaries are going out in one evening, as this might reduce the audience for two thoughtful and informative pieces. Every year, more than 25,000 Russian <u>women</u> advertise for foreign men but, while they dream of an affluent lifestyle, the first programme suggests that they give up more than they gain. The second features Nell, who is mistress to three men and on the lookout for more, but she bristles when the director asks her the difference between her life and that of a prostitute.

Delightful

Ice T's Rap School (MTV, 10pm)

"Yo, wassup? I'm Ice-T, the original gangsta," drawls the rapper at the start of this new reality series, thereby alerting us to both the gist of the ensuing action and the girth of his ego.

In the first edition, the ageing T takes his adolescent pupils to the Bronx where, in a moment of delicious irony, he gets upset when one of his charges misuses the word "ghetto".

Load-Date: October 1, 2006



Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 30, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Windsor Star, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

Length: 1416 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

# **Body**

#### NORTH AMERICA

#### FOUR CHILDREN, MOTHER FOUND HANGING IN TEXAS

HUDSON OAKS, Texas - Three young girls and their mother were found hanged in a mobile home in central Texas but another child, an eight-month-old girl, survived after being discovered dangling by the neck, police said on Tuesday.

While the four deaths in the trailer park west of Fort Worth appeared to be a murder/suicide, Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said police were not saying anything definitive pending the results of autopsies to be performed on Wednesday.

He identified the mother as Gilberta Estrada, 25.

Fowler said there were no signs of struggle or trauma, suggesting that the mother had hanged her children and then taken her own life.

In a grisly twist, "the mother could have stopped this at any time ... her feet were on the floor," he said.

Fowler said she appeared to have leaned into the cloth that throttled her until she blacked out but could have pulled herself back.

All of the victims were found in a closet by Estrada's sister. Fowler said the dead girls were believed to be age five, three and two.

#### ANTI-WAR SYMBOL SHEEHAN DISILLUSIONED, GIVES UP

WASHINGTON - U.S. anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan has announced she no longer wants to be the public face of the movement against the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, a cause she spearheaded following the death of her soldier son.

Sheehan, who shot to fame when she camped out at President George W. Bush's Texas ranch in mid-2005 while he was holidaying there to protest the war, said she has become disillusioned with the struggle, which has ravaged her bank account, wrecked her marriage and strained her relationship with her surviving children.

"This is my resignation letter as the 'face' of the American anti-war movement," Sheehan wrote in a blog entry posted Monday -- the U.S. Memorial Day holiday to commemorate fallen soldiers.

"I am going to take whatever I have left and go home. I am going to go home and be a mother to my surviving children and try to regain some of what I have lost."

#### STEER CAPTURED AFTER 6 WEEKS ON THE LAM

MATTITUCK, N.Y. - An escaped steer's six-week romp through backyards, roadways and beaches ended when he was cornered and returned to his owner, authorities said.

The 270-kilogram bovine, named Moo, was captured around 5 p.m. Saturday. After appearing on a crowded beach, he led police officers and a veterinarian through sand, swampland and into a household backyard, where his escapade ended.

The animal was shot with a tranquilizer dart, said veterinarian Dr. John Andresen, and Moo was then taken back to Greenport, N.Y., farmer Joseph Barszczewski.

The farmer said Sunday that the steer -- secured with a rope -- seemed content in the company of a horse and a dog.

"They're already starting a very happy little group," Barszczewski said. "It looks good right now after a very ugly whole situation."

The chase began back in April when a newly arrived Moo broke through a metal fence, Barszczewski said. He had just bought the steer, or castrated bull, to raise and eventually slaughter.

Moo hunkered down in woods near Barszczewski's vegetable farm and then began roaming, covering a total of about 15 kilometres of eastern Long Island.

"He didn't charge," said Southold, N.Y., police Sgt. Raymond VanEtten. "He wasn't an aggressive-type animal. He just was on a mission not to get captured."

#### - - -

#### **MIDEAST**

#### OLMERT, ABBAS PLAN TALKS AS VIOLENCE DRAGS ON

GAZA - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are to meet next week to discuss the on-going violence that has seen terrorist rocket attacks on Israeli air raids in Gaza.

Abbas told a news conference Tuesday that he would meet Olmert on June 7 and a new truce between <u>Hamas</u> and Israel should be established.

In the latest violence, Israeli soldiers crossed into the Gaza Strip and killed two *Hamas* members near the border.

Several others were detained by the force for questioning, an Israeli army spokesman said.

The Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades said it believed the Israeli force had planned to seize one of its members from his home when it encountered the gunmen.

### EMPLOYEES OF CANADIAN SECURITY FIRM ABDUCTED

BAGHDAD - Car bombings killed at least 40 people in Baghdad on Tuesday, while five Britons were abducted in the capital by gunmen in police uniforms. Four of the kidnap victims were employees of a Canadian security firm.

The Britons were taken from an Iraqi government office in Baghdad and driven away in a 19-vehicle convoy filled with men in police uniforms who headed toward a Shiite stronghold in the capital, the British government and an Iraqi official said.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon reported the deaths of 10 more U.S. soldiers, raising the May toll to 112 and making it the deadliest month of the year for American troops in Iraq.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said the abduction at the Iraqi Finance Ministry office was carried out by men wearing police uniforms who showed up in 19 four-wheel drive vehicles of the type used by police.

The kidnappers drove off toward Sadr City, the Shiite Mahdi Army stronghold in northeastern Baghdad.

In London, a Foreign Office spokeswoman confirmed that the five people kidnapped were British.

Four of the victims were employees with the Montreal-based security firm GardaWorld.

- - -

#### **AFRICA**

#### BUSH SLAPS NEW SANCTIONS ON SUDAN, SEEKS UN ACTION

WASHINGTON - U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday tightened U.S. sanctions on Sudan over "genocide" in Darfur and pushed for a tough new UN Security Council resolution to punish the government in Khartoum.

"The people of Darfur are crying out for help, and they deserve it," he said. "I promise this to the people of Darfur: The United States will not avert our eyes from a crisis that challenges the conscience of the world."

China, a veto-wielding permanent council member and one of Sudan's main allies, criticized the sanctions even before Bush unveiled them. But Britain welcomed the plan, while France proposed a humanitarian corridor through neighbouring Chad to get aid to Darfur.

The violence in Sudan's western states has left at least 200,000 people dead and forced more than two million people from their homes, according to the United Nations. Sudan disputes those estimates, saying 9,000 people have died.

#### UK, LIBYA UNVEIL ENERGY, ARMS DEALS ON BLAIR TRIP

SIRTE, Libya - British Prime Minister Tony Blair hailed what he called Britain's transformed relations with onceisolated Libya after meeting Moammar Gadhafi on Tuesday and the two countries unveiled major energy and defence deals.

Libyan Prime Minister al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi said Libya would buy British missiles and air defence systems, in what would be the largest UK defence sale to the former outcast state since an international arms embargo on Tripoli ended in 2004.

British oil giant BP signed a major natural gas exploration agreement with Libya's state-owned National Oil Corporation with an initial exploration commitment of at least \$900US million.

Blair, making the second trip of his premiership to Libya, arrived in Gadhafi's home town of Sirte and was driven for 20 minutes to a tent in the desert to meet the veteran ruler, in power since he overthrew the monarchy in a 1969 coup.

"The relationship between Libya and Britain has completely transformed in the past three years," Blairtold reporters afterwards.

- - -

#### **MEXICO**

#### OLD HOMELESS PROSTITUTES IN MEXICO GET A HOME

MEXICO CITY - In need of cash to feed her 10 children, Carmen Munoz worked her street corner into the night. That's when she found out what befalls old prostitutes tossed aside by life and their families.

"It was very cold and I saw some cardboard boxes moving on the sidewalk. They were old prostitutes sleeping on the street, and right then and there I decided I had to do something about it," the former prostitute said.

With patience and determination, Munoz, now 59, set about convincing social groups and Mexico City authorities to let her use a dilapidated 18th century building that once housed a boxing museum, as a shelter for old prostitutes.

She left the life she took up at 22 to put food on the table and it took years of coaxing, but finally, in February 2006 Casa Xochiquetzal (the Aztec goddess of "public <u>women</u>") was opened under Munoz's management.

It is not pretty and is located in La Merced, one of Mexico City's most violent neighborhoods, where street walkers charge less than \$4US a session, but Munoz is proud and her tenants are grateful for the facility.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Serkan Senturk, Associated Press; CONQUEST CELEBRATED: The Turkish army's historical military band, Mehter, performs in Istanbul Tuesday during the 554th anniversary of the conquering of Istanbul by Turks.;

Colour Photo: Cindy Sheehan.;

Colour Photo: Mahmoud Abbas.;

Colour Photo: Moammar Gadhafi.;

Load-Date: May 30, 2007



Windsor Star (Ontario)
April 11, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Windsor Star, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B2; World Report

Length: 1472 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

# **Body**

#### **EUROPE**

#### CREWS SCRAMBLE TO AVERT ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

SANTORINI, Greece - Cleanup crews struggled to avert a major oil spill Tuesday on one of the Mediterranean Sea's most picturesque destinations after a sunken cruise ship leaked dozens of tonnes of oil off the resort island of Santorini at the start of the summer tourist season.

Greek engineers expressed hope they could prevent an environmental disaster as crews fought to siphon up fuel from the Sea Diamond, which went down Friday after hitting a submerged reef. A French passenger and his daughter were feared drowned and nearly 1,600 people -- including about 60 Canadian high school students -- were safely evacuated.

#### WAR CRIMES COURT CONVICTS 4 IN KILLING OF BOSNIANS

ROME - Serbs condemned Serbs in a Belgrade courtroom Tuesday, sending to prison four men from a paramilitary unit known as the Scorpions who were videotaped executing unarmed Bosnian Muslim youths as part of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

It was the first time a Serbian court confronted the events in Srebrenica, where nearly 8,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered in Europe's deadliest atrocity since the Second World War.

Serbia's War Crimes Court sentenced the four paramilitary fighters to prison terms ranging from five to 20 years for the murder of six Bosnian males, one just 16 years of age, in July 1995. In the videotape, which surfaced two years ago, the uniformed men can be seen smoking cigarettes and taunting the Bosnians, some bound and barefoot, as the fighters loaded captives into a truck, then later lined them up in a ditch and shot them in the back.

#### WOMAN LOSES RIGHT TO USE EX-FIANCE'S EMBRYOS

LONDON - A British woman lost her last chance of having a baby of her own Tuesday, after a European court ruled she cannot use frozen embryos made with her former fiance.

Natallie Evans broke down in tears at an emotional press conference in London, shortly after the ruling was handed down by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

"I am distraught at the court's decision today. It's very hard for me to accept that the embryos will now be destroyed and that I will never become a mother," said the 35-year-old, who had her ovaries removed due to cancer.

Her ex-fiance Howard Johnston, who withdrew his consent for the embryos to be used after the couple separated, voiced relief at the decision.

"I had hoped that common sense and the legal framework would hold up. I'm grateful and relieved that it has done so," he said.

But his lawyer admitted: "He accepts that some people might regard him as heartless for adopting the position that he has throughout the case."

#### ITALIAN TELEVISION AIRS FOOTAGE OF BEHEADING

ROME - An Italian television channel on Tuesday aired footage of the beheading of a driver of an Italian journalist, who was held for about two weeks by Afghanistan's Taliban militants until Kabul negotiated his release.

The RAI-1 channel beamed images of Italian journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo, his driver Sayed Agha and his interpreter Ajmal Nagshbandi, kneeling blindfolded before some gun-wielding militants.

It then showed Agha being beheaded following which a shaken Mastrogiacomo made an impassioned appeal to Italian authorities to "do something," while underlining that the situation was "very difficult."

The Taliban members have also beheaded Mastrogiacomo's interpreter, who was also a journalist.

The Italian journalist was freed on March 19 after Afghan President Hamid Karzai ordered the release of five Taliban prisoners under a controversial deal.

#### **NORTH AMERICA**

#### DISC WITH BONDAGE PHOTOS FOUND IN EX-ASTRONAUT'S CAR

ORLANDO, Fla. - A police search of former astronaut Lisa Nowak's car turned up bondage photos on a computer disc, British currency and pills, according to documents released Tuesday by prosecutors.

A judge last week agreed to unseal some of the documents in the Nowak's case. She is accused of trying to kidnap a rival for a space shuttle pilot's affections.

Nearly all of the 16 images found on the disc depicted bondage scenes, according to a forensic examination report by the Orlando Police Department. Some of the images showed a nude woman while others were drawings.

The documents did not make clear whether Nowak was the woman in the photos or who the discs belonged to.

#### COURT ALLOWS KEY TESTIMONY AT SPECTOR MURDER TRIAL

LOS ANGELES - Explosive testimony from a woman who claims Phil Spector once pointed a loaded gun at her head will be allowed at the legendary music producer's murder trial, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said the testimony of Devra Robitaille, a former employee of Warner Bros. Records, could provide evidence of a possible motive in the murder of Lana Clarkson.

The statuesque blonde former B-movie actress was found shot dead at Spector's mock-castle in Los Angeles on Feb. 3, 2003. Spector, 67, denies murder, claiming Clarkson committed suicide.

Prosecutors say Spector, famed for his work with The Beatles, Tina Turner and The Ronettes, killed Clarkson after meeting her for the first time only hours earlier at the Hollywood nightclub where she worked as a hostess.

Prosecutors last week filed a motion seeking to include Robitaille's testimony to show Spector has a history of violent behaviour against **women** whenever they try to leave him.

According to court documents, the gun ordeal happened when Spector tried to prevent Robitaille from leaving his home after a party.

"She heard something, turned and suddenly Spector was holding a large shotgun, or rifle, using both hands," prosecutor Alan Jackson wrote in a court document lodged last week.

"He placed the gun against her forehead. Spector, who was drunk, made some sort of joke and then said, 'Just so you know, I'll blow your (expletive) head off' or 'If you try to leave, I'll blow your (expletive) brains out.'"

#### HEALTH INSPECTOR QUITS IN RAT DROPPINGS CASE

NEW YORK - A New York City health department worker who gave a passing grade to a fast-food restaurant crawling with rats resigned before she could be fired Monday as the health commissioner acknowledged systemic flaws in the city's inspection system.

Cemone Thomas quit hours before city investigators released a scathing report accusing her of "gross dereliction" of her duties by underreporting a rodent infestation at a KFC/Taco Bell in Greenwich Village.

Thomas inspected the restaurant Feb. 22 and didn't cite all the rat droppings, which would have caused the restaurant to fail the inspection and could have forced it to close immediately, inspectors said.

The Department of Investigation report said evidence in the case suggested Thomas simply couldn't be bothered to do a more comprehensive report because she might have been trying to "avoid the additional time it would have taken for further enforcement steps."

#### **MIDEAST**

#### TURKISH JET HIJACKER GIVES HIMSELF UP IN ANKARA

ANKARA - A man hijacked a Turkish airliner carrying 180 passengers and crew on Tuesday but gave himself up to authorities after it landed in Ankara, television channels reported.

"The hijacker, of Turkish nationality, has given himself up to police and been taken into custody," transport ministry spokesman Ibrahim Sahin told journalists at Ankara.

The hijacker, Mehmet Goksin Gol, 39, was unarmed and had a police record for trafficking in drugs and possessing illegal weapons, media reports said.

Gol hijacked a Boeing 737-800 run by the private Turkish airline Pegasus flying from Diyarbakir, a Kurdish-majority city in south-eastern Anatolia, to Istanbul.

#### ISRAELIS SAY *HAMAS* PLANNED MASSIVE BOMB

JERUSALEM - Israeli authorities on Tuesday said they have arrested a ring of Islamic militants who planned to set off a massive car bomb in Tel Aviv over the Passover Jewish holiday.

A statement by the Shin Bet security agency said Tuesday that agents and troops arrested 19 members of the violent <u>Hamas</u> group from the West Bank town of Qalqiliya connected with the plot, in which a potential suicide bomber drove a car laden with 100 kilograms of explosive into the Tel Aviv area but did not detonate the charge.

The arrests took place in late March, but details were only cleared for publication on Tuesday, the day after the weeklong holiday ended.

#### ASIA

#### CHINESE HOSPITAL SERVES UP LETHAL BREAKFAST

BEIJING - A breakfast of porridge laced with rat poison killed a 77-year-old patient and left more than 200 other people ill at a major Chinese hospital, state media reported Tuesday.

The elderly woman who died had been admitted to the hospital in northeast China's Heilongjiang province on Friday suffering from heart problems but was instead killed by her toxic breakfast on Monday, the Xinhua news agency said.

The 202 other victims, who included patients, doctors and nurses, were in stable condition suffering nausea and diarrhea after eating the porridge at the hospital canteen, Xinhua said.

# **Graphic**

Colour Photo: Natallie Evans;

Colour Photo: Lisa Nowak;

Colour Photo: Mehmet Goksin Gol;

Load-Date: April 11, 2007



#### Israel ushers in Jewish New Year amid tensions along its borders

thespec.com
September 13, 2007 Thursday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A06

Length: 672 words

Byline: Sean Gaffney, The Associated Press

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

#### **Body**

Israelis ushered in the Jewish New Year last evening amid new fears of war after fresh rocket attacks by Palestinian militants in Gaza and reports of an Israeli air strike against Syria.

The Rosh Hashana holiday, followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur -- the Day of Atonement -- is traditionally a time for taking stock of spiritual and cultural values, and Israelis were in a thoughtful mood in the hours before the start of the holiday, which began at sunset. At the lively, open air Mahane Yehuda market in downtown Jerusalem, where shoppers scrambled to stock up on food before the two-day holiday, some Israelis expressed discontent with the government and frustration with the continued conflict with the Palestinians.

"I don't think you'll find any Israeli who's optimistic," said Ari Bouderhem, 47, owner of the Emil coffee shop. "It's not in our nature."

Bouderhem said holiday business was better than last year, which was marred by an inconclusive summer war with the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon. But he said he saw rough times ahead and "maybe a war."

Jewish families celebrate Rosh Hashana by eating apples and honey and other traditional foods symbolizing sweetness and prosperity.

The holiday this year falls on the same day as the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. So as Jews sit down for festive family dinners, Muslim families will also gather for a special meal ahead of their month of sunrise-to-sunset fasting.

In a routine measure, the Israeli military ordered a closure of Israel's borders with the West Bank and Gaza over the holiday, when packed synagogues, beaches and parks in Israel are seen as being particularly vulnerable to attack.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian rocket from Gaza struck an army base in southern Israel, wounding 40 soldiers, one critically. Israel's government has ruled out a large-scale military retaliation, a decision some Israelis questioned.

"Israeli authorities are apparently concerned that a military incursion into <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Gaza could undermine fledgling peace talks with the western-backed Fatah movement in control of the West Bank.

Israel ushers in Jewish New Year amid tensions along its borders

In a three-hour meeting Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to set up high-level working groups to outline a final peace deal before a proposed international conference in November.

Israelis also expressed concern about Syrian accusations, confirmed by Washington, that Israeli warplanes struck deep into Syrian territory last week. The wall-to-wall silence on the reports from the normally voluble Israeli government has fuelled worries about possible war as Israelis struggle to figure out what the planes were doing in Syria.

A poll published in the Maariv newspaper yesterday showed Olmert's approval rating was 3.2 on a scale of 10.

Two <u>women</u> -- Parliament Speaker Dalia Itzik and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni -- emerged as Israel's most popular politicians, with grades of 6.3 and 6.1, respectively.

The poll was conducted among 489 Israelis and had a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

Israel's population remained largely stable, with a total of 7.11 million citizens, compared with 6.99 million the year before, according to government data released Tuesday.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said the Jewish population at the end of 2006 was 5.39 million, versus 5.31 million in 2005, while there were 1.41 million Arab Israelis, compared with 1.38 million a year earlier. The Jewish year of 5768 also marks a year of agricultural sabbatical, known in Hebrew as "shmita."

The commandment requires Jewish farmers in Israel to let their fields rest every seventh year, just as Jews are required to rest every seventh day. In the past, the sabbatical prodded the Jewish state into strange arrangements with Palestinian farmers, and forced Jewish farmers and rabbis to devise creative loopholes that allow field work to continue without violating the letter of the law.

Israeli police stand near a rocket fired by Palestinian militants on a field near the city of Sderot yesterday.

## **Graphic**

Photo: Amir Cohen, Reuters,

Load-Date: September 13, 2007



#### Presidential candidates debate in N.H.

#### University Wire

September 27, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 Massachusetts Daily Collegian via U-Wire

Length: 673 words

Byline: By Derrick Perkins, Massachusetts Daily Collegian; SOURCE: U. Massachusetts

Dateline: HANOVER, N.H.

### **Body**

Differences over the Iraq War and Middle East policy dominated the Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate on Wednesday night, overshadowing domestic issues and questions of leadership ability in the run-up to the primaries.

While all the candidates supported the withdrawal of American servicemen and <u>women</u> in some fashion, former senator John Edwards criticized the phased withdrawal proposed by Senator Hillary Clinton.

"There are differences between us, and those differences need to be made aware. Good people have differences about this issue," Edwards said. "I heard Senator Clinton say on Sunday that she wants to continue combat missions in Iraq. To me, that's a continuation of the war. I do not think we should continue combat missions in Iraq."

The first to challenge Clinton in the debate, Edwards pledged to reduce the number of soldiers from 100,000 to around 50,000 immediately following his election as president, if troop levels remain at the amount projected by the Pentagon.

Clinton defended her statements, saying the continued threat of terrorism and the security of humanitarian aid workers required some continued military presence.

"There may be a continuing counter-terrorism mission, which, if it still exists, will be aimed at al-Qaida in Iraq," Clinton said. "It may require combat, special operations forces or some other form of that. But the vast majority of our combat troops should be out."

Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico challenged the assertions made by the other candidates that it is necessary to maintain American troops in Iraq and criticized Clinton's praise of the democratically-controlled Congress' effort to end the war.

"I have a fundamental difference with Senator Obama, Senator Edwards and Senator Clinton," he said. "Their position basically is changing the mission; my position in bringing all troops out of Iraq is to end the war."

According to Richardson, American troops could be completely withdrawn in one year by moving quickly through Kuwait and Turkey and abandoning light equipment in Iraq. Richardson said the presence of soldiers in the region is a destabilizing force and argued that diplomacy with Syria, Iran and other regional players was the only way to end the conflict.

Senator Barack Obama agreed that diplomacy was the only solution to the problems facing the United states in the Middle East, arguing for face-to-face diplomacy as the only way to stabilize the region.

#### Presidential candidates debate in N.H.

"We've got to talk to our enemies and not just our friends," Obama said. He added that the next president will have to engage in "personal diplomacy," although candidates and audience members alike differ on what that means.

Edwards differed slightly in opinion, instead calling for a policy of "sticks and carrots" for the Iranian people. Edwards praised Senators Joseph Biden and Christopher Dodd for voting against a resolution passed in the Senate on Wednesday which, according to Edwards, labeled the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization.

He criticized Clinton for voting in favor of the resolution and not learning her lesson for voting to use force in Iraq.

"I voted for this war in Iraq, and I was wrong to vote for this war. And I accept responsibility for that. Senator Clinton also voted for this war," Edwards said. "I have no intention of giving George Bush the authority to take the first step on a road to war with Iran."

The candidates arrived at a general consensus that diplomacy would ultimately bring an end to the strife in Iraq and stabilize the region. Both Richardson and Obama stressed the importance of bringing in other members of the international community to reduce tensions within the region.

"It's called diplomacy. It's called negotiation. It's called talking to Iran and Syria and trying to work out differences," he said. "You've got <u>Hamas</u> on one side, you've got Hezbollah, you've got Iran wanting to build nuclear weapons. But you do it through diplomacy. You do it through a Middle East peace process."

(C) 2007 Massachusetts Daily Collegian via U-WIRE

Load-Date: September 27, 2007



#### G2: Lost in showbiz: Off with their heads: the al-Qaida take on celebrity

The Guardian - Final Edition September 14, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN FEATURES PAGES; Pg. 2

**Length:** 582 words **Byline:** Marina Hyde

### **Body**

There are days when even the World's Most Wanted Man looks in the mirror and just feels like the world's most un wanted man. He stares at his grey beard, sighs wearily at a FedEx-ed package of cave-floor carpet samples Mullah Omar wants him to pick between, and thinks: is there some sharia law loophole that means I could hang out with Scarlett Johansson for a few days, as long we just laugh at funny little Japanese people together and don't get it on?

His heart says yes; logistical problems say no. But what is the point of all the senseless mass murder and crappy pieces to camera if he has no one to share them with? This week's Lost in Showbiz opens with a look at Osama bin Laden's belated midlife crisis, revealed to the world in his latest video, whose subplot was something about joining his "caravan of martyrs" but whose overriding message was: "I've been manscaped. Who wants to go to a karaoke bar?"

Studying that newly dyed beard, two shades up on the Pantone chart from Paul McCartney's hair, you can only draw one conclusion: an age-inappropriate woman inspired it. He's probably toying with quitting his job as al-Qaida's CEO. Maybe even learning to surf, you know?

Alas, the global jihadist movement has the ideological manoeuvrability of a supertanker, and so it is that a new book finds Osama's junior colleagues behind the curve. In Schmoozing with Terrorists, published this week, journalist Aaron Klein conducts interviews with several jihadists, during which he asks their opinions on various celebrities.

To summarise: holy warriors seem to have got pretty exercised about that kiss between Madonna and Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV video music awards. The one that Madonna declared she had explained to her daughter thusly: "I am the mommy pop star and she is the baby pop star. And I am kissing her to pass my energy on to her." (Great job, old girl! Unfortunately, Britney's downward spiral from there on in suggests you are in fact a succubus.)

Anyway, Abu Abdullah, a senior member of <u>Hamas</u>'s military wing, has a strategy for handling the ladies. "At the beginning," he tells Klein, "we will try to convince Madonna and Britney Spears to follow Allah's way." Um . . . dude, did you see this year's MTV awards? Britney can't even follow the backing track's way. The complex strands of the Qu'ran might be a stretch at this difficult stage in her journey.

But Abdel-AI, a like-minded leader of the Popular Resistance Committees, concurs: "If these two prostitutes keep doing what they are doing, we of course will punish them. I will have the honour - I repeat, I will have the honour - to be the first one to cut off the heads of Madonna and Britney Spears." Can you technically be anything other than

G2: Lost in showbiz: Off with their heads: the al-Qaida take on celebrity

the first person to cut off someone's head? Whatever. He goes on to say that <u>women</u> such as Madonna "must be 80 times hit with a belt".

I think I already saw that in the Express Yourself video.

Clearly, though, the positive news is that militants are becoming absurdly obsessed with celebrities, the opium of the west, and - like the rest of us - they will soon be so consumed by Lindsay's rehab visits and Paris's upskirt shots, that they will forget all about their day jobs.

In the meantime, does the book show that they respect any of our fine entertainment industry personalities? Well, there is the one . . . they love Mel Gibson. Yes, the jihadists have a lot of time for Mel. And I have to tell you that it isn't because they really liked his work in Mad Max.

Load-Date: September 14, 2007



# <u>THE NEW TERROR THREAT: TARGET EUROPE: COMMENTARY: Some</u> <u>converts do fall prey to the fanatics. But let us remember the many who do</u> <u>not</u>

The Observer (London)
September 9, 2007

Copyright 2007 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

# **The Observer**

Section: OBSERVER FOCUS PAGES; Pg. 27

**Length:** 699 words **Byline:** ED HUSAIN

#### **Body**

THE ATTEMPTED terrorist attack in Frankfurt last week and the alleged involvement of two German converts to Islam has caused many people to ponder what leads white Europeans to want to become mass murderers, as though this were somehow explicable if brown-skinned Muslims were involved. Leaving aside the short memory behind this mindset and its racist assumptions, there remains the question: why do some converts to Islam turn to terrorism?

With an increased interest in Islam and Muslims, many non-Muslims have turned to freely available literature, websites, satellite TV channels and Muslim institutions to understand Islam. Soon some fall prey to the well-funded proselytising projects of Saudi Arabia and various Islamist - not Islamic - organisations. And with this slowly comes the mindset of intolerance, misogyny, hatred for non-believers and a literalist reading of scripture.

I witnessed this first hand while living in Saudi Arabia and saw new European converts undergoing indoctrination at missionary institutions such as the University of Medina and being groomed for export to Europe. The al-Qaeda world view is alive and well in the classrooms and dormitories of these institutions.

As Jason Burke of The Observer has made abundantly clear, al-Qaeda is more than a fighting machine: it is an ideology, a certain theology, a deadly cocktail of aspects of Saudi Salafism and Egyptian Qutbite Islamism.

Contrary to popular opinion, al-Qaeda-inspired terrorists are not simpletons. They deliberately seek out and target sincere converts to Islam, particularly those who defy the 'terrorist stereotype' and thus avoid detection by security agencies. Richard Reid, the shoe bomber, and several spokesmen for extremist groups in Britain, are all converts to Islam, including Omar Brooks (aka Abu Izzaddeen), who shouted down John Reid last year.

Al-Qaeda videos have regularly featured the American Adam Pearlman, who is referred to as 'Azzam the American' and chillingly spoke about the 'echo of explosions and the slitting of the throats of the infidels'. Defying the perceived profile of terrorists is just not limited to speech and attempted terror.

# THE NEW TERROR THREAT: TARGET EUROPE: COMMENTARY: Some converts do fall prey to the fanatics. But let us remember the many who do not

<u>Hamas</u>, for example, has used elderly <u>women</u>, children and mothers as suicide bombers in an attempt to circumvent Israeli security measures. Palestinian terrorists went as far as strapping a donkey with explosives to attack Israeli checkpoints. The desperation of terrorism knows no bounds.

But converts have something to do with this too: it's not all about susceptibility to Wahabism and Islamism. In the early months and in some cases early years after conver sion to Islam, many undergo what long-standing Muslims refer to as 'convertitis': a tendency to be more Muslim than Muslims, a rigidity in religious observance. Fortunately, convertitis does heal and most new Muslims discover a religious balance, find acceptance among the Muslim community and flourish.

Most of us remember Germaine Lindsey, who was one of the four London suicide bombers on 7 July 2005, killing 52 people, mostly commuters - but how many remember Jermaine Jackson and his exemplary conduct in last year's notoriously messy Celebrity Big Brother? Germaine Lindsey, a convert, killed himself and others thinking he was doing his religious duty. Jermaine Jackson, also a convert, brought calmness and dignity to an otherwise scandalous exposure of modern Britain. His grace and composure, he says, came from Islamic teachings.

That sense of ease and harmony, while surrounded by chaos and confrontations, reflects, for me, the very essence of Islam. Others, such as Cat Stevens, or Yusuf Islam, also reflect the inner tranquillity that religion, observed accurately, instils.

Finally, as someone born and brought up as a Muslim, I owe my own rediscovery of orthodox, harmonious Islam to converts such as the Cambridge theologian TJ Winter and the American imam Hamza Yusuf Hanson.

The attempted terrorist attacks by a handful of converts to extremism should not blind us to the countless others who have become role-model Muslims, and are now leading the campaign to reclaim Islam from fanatics.

Ed Husain is author of The Islamist and a former member of Hizb ut-Tahrir

Load-Date: September 10, 2007



# Israel told to reroute part of barrier; Court ruling hailed: 'They demolished the Berlin Wall, we want to demolish the Bilin wall'

#### The Toronto Star

September 5, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA03

Length: 678 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BILIN, West Bank

#### **Body**

The Israeli Supreme Court ordered the government to reroute a section of its West Bank separation barrier yesterday, a defeat for the state after a two-year legal battle that turned this village into a flashpoint of opposition to the contentious structure.

Protesters gather every Friday in Bilin to protest against the barrier that cuts villagers off from their fields, and symbolically to oppose the whole project. Dozens of demonstrators - Israelis, Palestinians and foreigners - have been wounded in the clashes with Israeli forces.

After the ruling was announced, Palestinian villagers poured out of homes and schools and headed toward the fence, where several Israeli army jeeps gathered. "They demolished the Berlin Wall, we want to demolish the Bilin wall," they chanted. Men waving Palestinian flags burst into a traditional Arab dance and shouted, "Soldiers, go home."

Also yesterday, a senior Israeli official called for cutting off water, electricity and fuel to the Gaza Strip because of daily rocket barrages, and the defence ministry declared a state of emergency in Israeli communities near Gaza, a step sometimes taken before a military operation. The Israeli security cabinet will meet today to discuss the issue, officials said.

The developments came as Tony Blair began his first working visit in his new role as representative of the "Quartet" of Middle East mediators. The former British prime minister scheduled meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and was expected to stay about 10 days. He will report this month to the Quartet, which comprises the United States, Russia, the European Union and the UN.

Blair's mandate is limited to improving daily living conditions and government in the Palestinian areas, though many regional players believe he could play a pivotal role in wider peacemaking.

The barrier, a combination of concrete walls, fences, trenches and patrol roads, has sparked clashes since its construction began at the height of Palestinian-Israeli violence in 2002. Less than two-thirds of it has been completed.

Israel told to reroute part of barrier Court ruling hailed: 'They demolished the Berlin Wall, we want to demolish the Bilin wall'

Dozens of court cases like the Bilin appeal have held up construction or forced rerouting of completed sections. The high court usually rules in favour of easing hardships caused to Palestinians and moving the route closer to the "Green Line," the ceasefire line at the end of the 1948-49 war that followed Israel's creation.

The barrier is symbolic to both sides.

For Israel, it means cutting off the West Bank after seven years of conflict, during which dozens of suicide bombers walked across the line and blew themselves up in Israeli cities. It also marks the end of a nationalist dream to include the West Bank in Israel.

For Palestinians, the barrier represents an Israeli land grab, since its route incorporates about 8 per cent of the territory on the Israeli side, though rulings like yesterday's over Bilin have been steadily reducing that figure. Also, the barrier spells the end of freedom of movement of Palestinians in and out of Israel. Many Palestinians call it the "apartheid wall."

The Israeli government argued the original route was necessary to protect residents of the nearby Jewish settlement of Modiin Illit, but the court rejected that.

"We were not convinced that it is necessary for security-military reasons to retain the current route that passes on Bilin's lands," Chief Justice Dorit Beinish wrote. Bilin is 10 kilometres west of Ramallah, just inside the West Bank.

The judges ordered the government to come up with a new route in a "reasonable period of time."

The Israeli defence ministry, which has overseen construction of the barrier, said in a statement that it would "study the ruling and respect it."

Also yesterday, Israel was considering how to respond to daily rocket barrages from Gaza that have disrupted life in southern Israel. A rocket exploded next to a nursery school on Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister Haim Ramon called for cutting off vital supplies to Gaza as punishment for the green light *Hamas* has given Islamic Jihad and other militant groups to carry out the attacks.

### **Graphic**

Eliane aponte reuters Palestinian <u>women</u> celebrate yesterday in front of Israel's controversial barrier near the West Bank village of Bilin.

Load-Date: September 5, 2007



#### **Business briefs**

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) August 16, 2007, Thursday

Copyright 2007 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P2C

Length: 657 words

#### **Body**

W.Va. libraries to get \$599,478 in fed grants

Libraries in all West Virginia counties will receive federal money to assist in gaining access to the Internet.

U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller announced Wednesday that the West Virginia Library Commission is being awarded \$599,478 in E-Rate grants.

It will be up to the commission to decide how the money will be distributed, said Rockefeller's spokesman Steven Broderick.

Rockefeller co-authored the E-Rate program a decade ago. The program provides discounts to schools and libraries for telecommunication services.

Since the program's inception, West Virginia has received nearly \$85 million in funding, including more than \$7 million this year to help schools and libraries pay the cost of linking to the Internet.

Earlier this year, schools and libraries in Southern West Virginia shared in more than \$500,000 in E-Rate grants.

Fallen shock jock Imus could make comeback

NEW YORK - A radio comeback for Don Imus seemed unthinkable at the height of the uproar caused by his sexist and racist comments on air about the Rutgers **women**'s basketball team.

The veteran talk-show host was skewered by politicians and advocacy groups and flayed in the media for referring to the players as "nappy-headed hos" on his nationally syndicated CBS Radio program. He became the target of protests led by the Rev. Al Sharpton and was eventually fired.

Industry experts say broadcast executives can have a very short memory if it means boosting ratings - which Imus can still deliver.

"We are in a society where celebrity is the most important part of fame. Whether it's for good or for bad - that doesn't seem to translate in corporate America's unending quest for ratings," said Michael Harrison, founder of the trade publication Talkers magazine. "He's more valuable now than before the controversy."

Imus reached a settlement Tuesday with CBS Radio that pre-empts his threatened \$120 million breach-of-contract lawsuit against CBS, the company and Imus' attorney said in a statement Tuesday.

#### **Business briefs**

The announcement essentially makes Imus a free agent, and broadcast industry experts say he will be back on the air soon enough.

Feds investigate Lexus on acceleration reports

DETROIT - The federal government has upgraded an investigation into the 2007 Lexus ES 350 sedan after at least 12 people were injured when the vehicle accelerated without warning.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a report issued this week that an all-weather floor mat can trap the throttle pedal when it's not properly secured, resulting in unwanted acceleration.

Toyota Motor Corp. told NHTSA it sent a mailing to ES 350 owners in late April warning them about improper installation of the all-weather floor mat. The mat should be secured with clips and shouldn't be placed over the standard floor mat. Toyota also said it changed the labeling on the floor mat.

NHTSA is now deciding whether Toyota's actions were sufficient. Vehicle investigations can lead to product recalls. There are 98,454 ES 350 sedans on the road.

Japanese business park in West Bank planned

JERICHO, West Bank - Japan's foreign minister launched plans Wednesday for a joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial park in the West Bank that he said would promote peace in the region through prosperity.

The Japanese initiative comes amid a flurry of new diplomatic activity to bolster moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after the June takeover of the Gaza Strip by the rival Islamist group <u>Hamas</u>. The international community has tried to strengthen Abbas' West Bank-based administration with both financial aid and efforts to jump-start peace talks between his government and Israel.

Plans for the park in the city of Jericho include factories and canneries, a new commercial bridge over the Jordan River and an airport for Palestinian goods on the Jordanian side of the border, said Ahmed Sobeh, the deputy Palestinian foreign minister.

Compiled from wire reports

Load-Date: August 16, 2007



# A desolate maze divides two worlds; Few make the trek along a surreal corridor that separates Israel drom poverty-stricken Gaza

The Toronto Star

July 4, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA03

Length: 616 words

Byline: Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

Dateline: EREZ CROSSING, Israel-Gaza border

### **Body**

For those interested in paying a visit to Gaza these days - not exactly a clamouring throng - this surreal crossing point on the Palestinian territory's northern boundary with Israel is just about the best way in.

In fact, it is just about the only way in.

First, you drive south from the Israeli town of Ashkelon, until you see ahead of you a huge metallic structure that looks a lot like a modern airport terminal, except that there are no airplanes here or much of anything else. A clutch of very optimistic taxi drivers kibitz at the edge of a parking lot, one of several, all of which are almost perfectly empty.

The border with Gaza is mostly closed, after all. Only the occasional journalist on assignment - or a fretful Gazan returning home - is allowed to negotiate the crossing at Erez these days, on account of the ferocious internecine fighting last month that left nearly 200 people dead and saw the radical Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> take power in the Gaza Strip.

The heavily guarded border here divides Israel, where the per capita daily income is more than \$60, from the smaller of the two Palestinian territories, where the corresponding figure comes to less than \$2.

But that's money talking, or trying to. Conflict speaks in a different tongue, and it's a rare day that someone on one side of the frontier doesn't try to kill someone on the other side in a slow-burning battle that has been smouldering and flaring for years.

The truth is, boundaries like this one are not supposed to exist, not in this world, not in any other. But they do exist tracing those few cartographic fault lines on the planet where wealthy nations dwell smack-dab beside the poorest of the poor.

Usually, such disparate realities are separated by buffers, by bodies of water or by intermediate territories. But, in a few volatile locations - the frontier between Mexico and the United States is another example that comes to mind - the first world collides headlong with what used to be called the third.

In the case of Israel and Gaza, the economic disparities are complicated by a seemingly intractable dispute over land, religion, and the accumulated torments of the past.

A desolate maze divides two worlds Few make the trek along a surreal corridor that separates Israel drom poverty-stricken Gaza

Inevitably, it seems, such circumstances lead to walls, and it is tempting sometimes to think of Israel as the world's largest gated community.

But there are walls, and there are walls.

And then there is Gaza.

To get there these days, there is no need to line up. You simply wait in the cavernous Israeli emigration hall until a customs agent finally materializes to attend to you - the sole traveller here.

You proffer your documents, and the agent stamps you out.

Next, you walk through a futuristic maze of hallways that leads to a bank of solid steel doors, one of which slides silently open, allowing you to venture into the stifling coastal heat of something that is not yet quite Gaza - a long and narrow corridor that snakes southward and becomes steadily more decrepit as you proceed.

Soon, there are breaches in the walls, large gaps in the ceiling, mysterious holes in the ground. The piles of garbage get deeper and deeper. A man waves you through a battered gate. You negotiate a turnstile. Several **women** in black robes and veils huddle on a bench to your left. You pass them by and eventually reach a cluster of young men idling in the sparse shade where this strange work of architecture finally ends.

You edge past them without a word and emerge into a treeless wasteland of razed concrete buildings, flattened by war, where a local contact awaits you in the passenger seat of a superannuated Mercedes taxi that is parked upon a patch of dirt.

"Welcome to Gaza," he says.

You climb into the back, and the car spirits you away.

# **Graphic**

ADEL HANA AP File Photo A Palestinian carries a child to the Erez Crossing in northern Gaza. The building in the background was destroyed when Israel pulled out in 2005.

Load-Date: July 4, 2007



### Tuesday - Critic's View

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 28, 2007 Thursday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 The Age Company Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GREEN GUIDE; Preview; Pg. 46

**Length:** 655 words **Byline:** Debi Enker

#### **Body**

Cutting Edge: Years of Blood

SBS, 8.30pm

This two-part account of a bloody chapter in recent Middle East history begins and ends in 2006, with Israel's invasion of Lebanon following attacks by Hezbollah and the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers. In between, the documentary, produced and directed by Dan Setton, focuses on the second Palestinian intifada in 2000 and its aftermath, and on the cycle of violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Essentially a chronology of key events, Setton's film operates at two levels, his cameras at work on the front lines as well as in the offices of power. On the battle-scarred streets overseen by the Palestinian Authority and at the sites of suicide bombings in Israel, the images captured are confronting: gunfights, bleeding bodies filmed where they've fallen, the shock and grief of survivors.

Setton also gains access to a range of highly placed government, military and diplomatic officials who offer their perspectives on events, on the impact of the suicide bombings in Israel, on the unforeseen consequences of the Israeli strategy of targeted killings of suspected terrorists in the occupied territories, on the isolation and diminishing influence of Yasser Arafat and his Fatah party, alongside the rising power of *Hamas*. Interviewees include Yasser Abed-Rabbo, the Palestinian Minister of Information, General Moshe Yaalon, chief of staff in the Israeli army from 2002-2005, Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, Dan Kurtzer, the US ambassador to Israel 2001-2005, and Terje Larsen, the UN's envoy to the Middle East. The picture that emerges is a sad history of hostility and mistrust, an inexorable pattern of vicious attack inevitably followed by more aggressive counterattack. SBS will screen the first chapter at 8.30pm then the second at 10pm.

Desperately Keeping Sheila

SBS, 7.30pm

In 2004, SBS decided to do its bit to help the rural crisis by producing a dating game show. There was a shortage of <u>women</u> in the outback and men who lived on the land were lonely, so SBS announced it would "redress the balance" with Desperately Seeking Sheila. The reality-TV series transported an array of eligible Australian and British <u>women</u> to Perth to meet a selection of keen bachelors, a few of them farmers. The idea was that some of these hopefuls might decide to get together and break the romance drought. There were high hopes and breathless accounts of first impressions, and several optimistic couples emerged from the process. Channel Nine liked the

idea so much it recently announced its intention to make its own version, The Farmer Wants a Wife. With this companion piece, SBS returns to WA to see how the couples are faring; in many ways, this is a more interesting exercise. Instead of dwelling on corny dating rituals and taking an interest in people's discomfort, nervousness or fanciful expectations, this hour-long offering looks at what happens after people make a commitment to each other: at the compromises involved, at how they cope with disappointment, at the trust and intimacy that can come with facing adversity together. So find out what happened to lan the yabby farmer and Katy the photographer, to Mike and Ali, and to Shane, who decided to try Nicky after being burned by Georgia. But also find out what happens when the candlelight dinners end and real life begins.

**NCIS** 

Channel Ten, 8.30pm

Currently one of Ten's most popular programs, NCIS has lightened up a lot. What began as a rather dour account of the work of the naval crime investigation squad four seasons along features a lot more humour. There's playful banter between the team members and a certain relish in their eccentricity even as the businesslike boss Gibbs (Mark Harmon) continues to lead his team with no-nonsense precision. "Cover Story", a clumsy riff on the place where true crime meets fiction, fits the pattern of lightening up the show, although it's hardly a standout episode.

#### Graphic

PHOTO: Years of Blood captures images of the shock and grief of survivors of the Middle East's recent troubles.

Load-Date: July 19, 2007



#### Extremists pick professionals' brains - TERROR ARRESTS

The Australian (Australia)
July 5, 2007 Thursday
All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2007 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 697 words

Byline: Michael Binyon

### **Body**

The Times

London

MEDICINE and engineering have long been the two most prestigious professions for Muslims, and some of the Arab world's most famous writers and politicians have studied these disciplines.

But so too have its most notorious extremists, including Osama bin Laden, who trained as an engineer, and Ayman al-Zawahiri, his deputy, who qualified as a doctor.

In Egypt, the top echelons of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood have long been full of doctors, engineers and geologists, while *Hamas*, the Palestinian Islamist party, is also dominated by such professionals, many of whom studied in Egypt.

Recruiting such pillars of the community -- who are often driven by strong ambition and convictions and may also be easily swayed by political extremism -- has therefore been a prime aim of al-Qa'ida.

It has sought, especially, to radicalise Muslim medical and engineering students overseas, where they are often perplexed by a liberal culture, isolated from their families and more easily indoctrinated.

Many, especially those from poor families, are proud of their achievements and believe that they have a right to be heeded.

In many Middle Eastern countries, doctors, as leaders in their communities, are sucked into politics and become radicalised when they run into the inevitable corruption and frustrations.

George Habash, a doctor and the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was a classic example and was among the most extreme of the Palestinian militants in the 1970s and 80s.

The strategy of seeking out recruits among those who may be seen as "Westernised" is the brainchild of al-Zawahiri. Several senior figures in the terrorist organisation have been recruited as students, including Omar Sheikh, the former London School of Economics student involved in the abduction and murder of journalist Daniel Pearl.

#### Extremists pick professionals' brains - TERROR ARRESTS

The involvement of at least six doctors and medical students in the London and Glasgow bomb plots has come as a double shock to most Muslims. Not only does it besmirch their religion by associating it with terrorism, it also insults the pride that Muslims take in the achievements of their golden age, especially in the fields of medicine, surgery and pharmacology. Medicine owes more to Islam than to any other religion or philosophy.

It was the great Muslim physicians of Spain and the Middle East who laid the foundations for today's science; it was the writings and medical observations of scholars such as Ibn Rushd (Averroes, as he was known in Europe) and Ibn Sina (Avicenna) that led directly to the medical advances of the past nine centuries.

Today, medicine remains one of the most admired professions for a young Muslim man -- and, increasingly, for **women**.

Ambitious families encourage their children to aim for a career in medicine. The result is that all Muslim countries that have become rich have made the provision of universal health care a top priority, and in many countries there are now more medical graduates than jobs available.

This is why doctors trained in the Middle East (especially in Iraq) are among the largest group of emigrants to Europe, where they know they can find work. Some become disillusioned and radicalised by the contrast between their own privileged lifestyle and the frustrations of the poor. Others may inherit a world of learning but focus their intellect on radicalism.

Al-Zawahiri, probably now the most influential figure in al-Qa'ida, comes from a large family of doctors, trained as a psychologist and pharmacologist in Egypt, holds a master's degree in surgery and worked as a pediatrician in Egypt. Yet even while studying, he was already active in the Muslim Brotherhood.

Overwhelmingly, however, Muslim physicians reject extremism. Abdullah Shehu, a member of the British Muslim Doctors and Dentists Association, categorically rejected any link with violence. "It is completely contrary to the teachings of both medicine and Islam," he said yesterday.

The pride Muslims take in their past is universal. And this may account for the strength of condemnation by the Muslim Council of Britain as well as Muslims overseas, of terrorism perpetrated by doctors. It is a stain on the Islamic heritage.

Load-Date: July 4, 2007



# CONTINUATION: 'I was bleeding on the back seat. The soldier looked at the blood and laughed'; CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Independent (London)

December 23, 2006 Saturday

Fourth Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: CHRISTMAS APPEAL / NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1459 words

#### **Body**

them we couldn't wait until the morning. I was bleeding very heavily on the back seat. One of the soldiers looked down at the blood and laughed. I still wake up in the night hearing that laugh. It was such a shock to me. I couldn't understand."

Her family begged the soldiers to let them through, but they would not relent. So at 1am, on the back seat next to a chilly checkpoint with no doctors and no nurses, Fadia delivered a tiny boy called Mahmoud and a tiny girl called Mariam. "I don't remember anything else until I woke up in the hospital," she says now. For two days, her family hid it from her that Mahmoud had died, and doctors said they could "certainly" have saved his life by getting him to an incubator.

"Now Mariam is at an age when she asks me where her brother is," Fadia says. "She wants to know what happened to him. But how do I explain it?" She looks down. "Sometimes at night I scream and scream." In the years since, she has been pregnant four times, but she keeps miscarrying. "I couldn't bear to make another baby. I was convinced the same thing would happen to me again," she explains. "When I see the [Israeli] soldiers I keep thinking - what did my baby do to Israel?"

Since Fadia's delivery, in 2002, the United Nations confirms that a total of 36 babies have died because their mothers were detained during labour at Israeli checkpoints. All across Bethlehem - all across the West Bank - there are **women** whose pregnancies are being disturbed, or worse, by the military occupation of their land.

In Salfit, on the other side of the West Bank, Jamilla Alahad Naim, 29, is waiting for the first medical check-up of her five-month pregnancy. "I am frightened all the time," she says. "I am frightened for my baby because I have had very little medical treatment and I cannot afford good food ??? I know I will give birth at home with no help, like I did with Mohammed [her last child]. I am too frightened to go to hospital because there are two checkpoints between our home [and there] and I know if you are detained by the soldiers, the mother or the baby can die out there in the cold. But giving birth at home is very dangerous too."

Hindia Abu Nabah - a steely 31-year-old staff nurse at Al Zawya Clinic, in Salfit district - says it is "a nightmare" to be pregnant in the West Bank today. "Recently, two of our pregnant patients here were tear-gassed in their homes

??? The <u>women</u> couldn't breathe and went into premature labour. By the time we got there, the babies had been delivered stillborn."

Many of the medical problems afflicting pregnant <u>women</u> here are more mundane than Jamilla's darkest fears: 30 per cent of pregnant Palestinians suffer from anaemia, a lack of red blood cells. The extreme poverty caused by the siege and now the international boycott seems to be a key factor. The doctors here warn grimly that as ordinary Palestinians' income evaporates, they eat more staples and fewer proteins - a recipe for anaemia. There is some evidence, they add, that <u>women</u> are giving the best food to their husbands and children, and subsisting on gristle and scraps. The anaemia leaves <u>women</u> at increased risk of bleeding heavily and contracting an infection during childbirth.

Earlier this year, conditions for pregnant <u>women</u> on the West Bank - already poor - fell off a cliff. Following the election of <u>Hamas</u>, the world choked off funding for the Palestinian Authority, which suddenly found itself unable to pay its doctors and nurses. After several months medical staff went on strike, refusing to take anything but emergency cases. For more than three months, the maternity wards of the West Bank were empty and echoing. Beds lay, perfectly made, waiting for patients who could not come.

In all this time, there were no vitamins handed out, no ultrasound scans, no detection of congenital abnormalities. Imagine that the NHS had simply packed up and stopped one day and did not reopen for 12 weeks, and you get a sense of the scale of the medical disaster.

Some <u>women</u> were wealthy enough to go to the few private hospitals scattered across the West Bank. Most were not. So because of the international boycott of the Palestinians, every hospital warns there has been an unseen, unreported increase in home births on the West Bank. I found Dr Hamdan Hamdan, the head of maternity services at Hussein Hospital, Bethlehem, pacing around an empty ward, chain-smoking. "This ward is usually full," he said. "The <u>women</u> who should be in this hospital - what is happening to them?"

They have been giving birth in startlingly similar conditions to those suffered by Mary 2,000 years ago. They have delivered their babies with no doctors, no sterilised equipment, no backup if there are complications. They have been boycotted back into the Stone Age. The strike ended this month after the PA raised funds from Muslim countries - but the effects of stopping maternity services are only now becoming clear. Hindia Abu Nabah says: "There is a clear link between the deteriorating health situation and the international boycott.

Amid this horror, one charity has been supporting pregnant Palestinian <u>women</u> even as their medical services fell apart.

Merlin - one of the three charities being supported by the Independent Christmas Appeal - has set up two mobile teams, with a full-time gynaecologist and a paediatrician, to take medical services to the parts of the West Bank cut off by the Israeli occupation. They provide lab technicians and ultrasound machines - the fruits of the 21st century.

I travelled with the team to the Salfit region - scarred by Israeli settlements pumping out raw sewage on to Palestinian land - to see <u>women</u> and children desperately congregating around them seeking help. Amid the dozens of nervous <u>women</u> and swarms of sickly children, Rahme Jima, 29, is sitting with her hands folded neatly in her lap. She is in the last month of her pregnancy, and this is the first time she has seen a doctor since she conceived. "The nearest hospital is in Nablus, and we can't afford to pay for the transport to get there through all the checkpoints," she says, revealing she is planning - in despair - to give birth at home. Even if she had the cash, she says she is "too frightened of being detained at the checkpoint and being forced to give birth there". She sighs, and adds: "I will be so relieved to finally be seen by a doctor, I have been so worried." But when she returns from seeing the doctor, she says: "I have anaemia, and they have given me iron supplements," supplied by Merlin. She can't afford to eat well; she lives with her husband and four children in a room in her mother-in-law's house, and her husband, Joseph, has been unemployed since his permit to move through the checkpoints expired. "The doctor says I should have been seen much earlier in my pregnancy. My baby will probably be born too small."

CONTINUATION: 'I was bleeding on the back seat. The soldier looked at the blood and laughed' CHRISTMAS APPEAL

All the problems afflicting these 21st century Marys are paraded in Merlin's clinic. One terrified, terrorised mother after another presents herself to the specialists here, and leaves clutching packs of folic acid, calcium, iron and medicine. Dr Bassam Said Nadi, the senior medical officer for this area, says: "I thank Merlin for the specialist care they have brought. Not long ago, we didn't even have petrol in our cars. Alongside other organisations, they are helping us survive this terrible period in our country's history."

Merlin can only maintain these mobile clinics with your help. Leaning in the doorway of her bare clinic, Hindia Abu Nabah says: "Tell your readers that we need their help. There are no *Hamas* or Fatah foetuses. They don't deserve to be punished. I couldn't stand to look another anaemic woman in the eye and tell her that her baby will be underweight or malformed and we don't have iron supplements to give her. I can't go back to that. I can't."

#### **Helping in hotspots**

The Independent Christmas appeal has raised £157,296 so far - double the amount achieved at this point last year. This includes £114,000 raised by our Christmas auction - the top bid of which was £14,000 for a drawing lesson with Tracey Emin. There has also been a record number of donations with readers responding with enormous generosity to our appeal which centres on charities working in Gaza and the West Bank as well as in 40 other countries. One reader made a one-off donation of £5,000. Our three charities this year are: Merlin, which provides relief in disaster zones but also long-term projects in hotspots such as Afghanistan (<a href="www.merlin.org.uk">www.merlin.org.uk</a>); The Welfare Association, which supports emergency and development projects in Palestinian communities. (<a href="www.merlin.org.uk">www.merlin.org.uk</a>); and Anti-Slavery International, which combats modern forms of slavery (<a href="www.antislavery.org">www.antislavery.org</a>).

Load-Date: December 23, 2006



#### Guardian Weekly: The Week: The roundup

Guardian Weekly April 27, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

# *The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 660 words

#### **Body**

#### **Americas**

The Canadian coastguard is sending its heaviest icebreakers to try to free about 450 seal hunters whose boats have been trapped off northern Newfoundland by the worst ice conditions in 15 years.

Woolmer inquest faces delay

The inquest into the apparent murder of the Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer in Jamaica has been postponed because of "significant developments" in the investigation.

#### Europe

Soldiers jump bail in Chechen case

Three special forces servicemen who were being prosecuted for allegedly massacring a group of Chechen civilians in one of Russia's highest-profile criminal trials have gone on the run days before proceedings were expected to draw to a close.

Three killed at Turkish publisher

Two Turkish Christian converts and a German man were killed in a publishing house that prints Bibles, in the latest attack on religious minorities in Turkey. The murders occurred in the nationalist town of Malatya, home to Mehmet Ali Agca, who shot and wounded Pope John Paul II in 1981.

Baggage handler stuck in the hold

An Aer Lingus passenger plane from Dublin to New York had to abort its take-off after air traffic controllers alerted the pilots that a baggage handler was trapped in the hold.

Photos humiliate Berlusconi

Silvio Berlusconi's stormy marriage looked as though it was in trouble again as an Italian magazine announced that it would publish photographs of the media tycoon and former prime minister relaxing with five young <u>women</u> at his Sardinian villa.

Guardian Weekly: The Week: The roundup

Asia/Pacific

Richest woman in battle of wills

A protracted legal battle for the fortune of Asia's richest woman, Nina Wang, is looming after it emerged that she had ignored her family and charitable interests in a revised will and left her estimated \$4.8bn fortune to her feng shui master.

Deaths at China steel plant

At least 32 people were killed when an industrial ladle broke free and spilled tonnes of molten metal on them at a steelworks in the northeastern Chinese province of Liaoning.

Nagasaki mayor killed

The mayor of Nagasaki, Iccho Ito, was shot dead in an attack that police blamed on an organised crime chief apparently enraged that his car was damaged at a construction site. The shooting was rare in Japan, where handguns are banned.

Australian girls found hanged

A week-long search for two missing teenage girls ended when the bodies of Stephanie Gestier and Jodie Gater were found hanging from a tree in bushland east of Melbourne after an apparent suicide pact.

Hopes fade for 'ghost yacht' crew

Rescuers searching off the coast of northeast Queensland for three experienced yachtsmen, who vanished from their boat as it cruised north of the Whitsunday Islands, said hopes were fading of finding them.

Africa

Rolls-Royce pulls out of Sudan

Rolls-Royce, which makes equipment to pump oil, will stop doing business in Sudan, citing concerns about the crisis in Darfur. The move comes amid fresh pressure on Sudan to accept an enhanced peacekeeping force in Darfur to supplement an African Union mission that has been unable to stem years of violence.

Kidnapped Ethiopians freed in Eritrea

Ethiopian authorities announced that eight nationals kidnapped last month with a group of European travellers in a remote northern desert region have been released in neighbouring Eritrea.

Middle East

Iran opens dam amid concern

Iran has opened a dam on the Sivand river 830km south of Tehran, despite concern that flooding could harm 130 ancient Persian archaeological sites.

Egypt makes Israel spy claims

Egyptian authorities have charged Mohamed Saber Ali, a nuclear engineer employed by the state atomic energy body, with spying for Israel, along with an Irish man and a Japanese man who remain at large.

Palestinian minister tries to guit

#### Guardian Weekly: The Week: The roundup

The new Palestinian government hit its first crisis when the interior minister, Hani al-Qawasmi, tried to resign because of the failure to tackle the growing lawlessness in the Gaza strip. The <u>Hamas</u> prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, rejected the resignation.

Load-Date: May 3, 2007



#### Olmert and Abdullah: In Pursuit of a Mirage

New York Sun (Archive) April 2, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 6

Length: 686 words

**Byline: YOUSSEF IBRAHIM** 

### **Body**

Prime Minister Olmert is misleading his country when he speaks of a Saudi peace plan for Israel and the Palestinian Arabs that does not exist and of meetings with Saudi leaders that no one, least of all the Saudis, has proposed.

Similarly, Secretary of State Rice's latest round of shuttle diplomacy, during which she crisscrossed the Middle East in pursuit of her own nonexistent peace plan, confirms that America's foreign policy is running on empty.

America is facing some pretty serious problems in the Middle East: a war on Islamic terror; the Iraqi mess; Iran's quest for nuclear weapons; oil prices rising on the Iranian capture of British sailors; and the disintegration of Afghanistan.

For Ms. Rice to push all these existential challenges aside in favor of bridging gaps between a nonexistent Palestinian Arab entity and an Israeli prime minister whose approval rating is hovering around 20% is disingenuous - particularly as she is doing so based on a pie-in-the-sky Saudi peace plan.

Even before the Arab League summit last week in Riyadh, which revived the same lame 2002 Saudi peace proposal - under which the Arab states would officially recognize Israel in exchange for the "right of return" of some 4 million Arabs who left Palestine in 1948 - Mr. Olmert was sounding giddy.

Desperate for some success after his disastrous conduct of last summer's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Israeli leader said in multiple interviews that he looked "very favorably" on the "active role" Saudi Arabia is playing in the Arab-Israeli dispute. He told Time magazine on Thursday that the Saudi king, Abdullah, would be "very surprised" to hear his opinion of the Saudi peace plan.

But King Abdullah has never proposed a meeting with Mr. Olmert. In fact, Saudi officials, including the foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, have made it very clear that this is a take it or leave it proposition that includes nothing up close and personal - no handshakes and no face-to-face meetings.

The Saudis and other Arabs believed, quite correctly, that there was no way the Israelis, including the optimistic Mr. Olmert, could accept a plan that would threaten the Jewish character of Israel with a sudden infusion of Muslim Palestinian Arabs.

As this delusional peace talk was being bandied about, Israeli security and military officials were warning that <u>Hamas</u> is building up arms, rockets, fighters, and ammunition in Gaza, complete with Iranian training in Hezbollah-style guerrilla warfare, which Israel was introduced to last summer in Lebanon - in the war Mr. Olmert lost.

#### Olmert and Abdullah: In Pursuit of a Mirage

Meanwhile, at the Arab League summit in Riyadh, a group of Arab leaders who should have shown great concern about a resurgent Iran, a huge war in Iraq, Sunni-Shiite bloodletting, and a looming civil war in Lebanon instead found nothing better to do than focus on an impossible plan for peace with Israel - a peace they do not wish to see.

There is a lot to be said here for the power of delusion among Arabs, Americans, and Israelis. The only people who seemed properly focused on reality were the Muslim fundamentalists and their preachers.

In a debate broadcast March 20 on Lebanon's New TV, three prominent Arab fundamentalist leaders debated the merits of suicide bombings and the killing of civilians.

The most prominent among them, Sheik Gamal al-Banna of Egypt, said, "Martyrdom operations in Palestine, in particular, are justified." He explained that in Israel, there is no such thing as a civilian, as all Israelis, including **women** and children, are part of a military society.

Sheik Banna, who is a major theoretician for the genocidal Muslim Brotherhood, said: "When I say 'soldiers,' the entire Israeli people is recruited. The **women** are the most vicious of them all. Therefore, this is justified."

He also said suicide bombers are heroes and martyrs. "I consider this to be martyrdom," he said. "Even if they harm a woman, all the <u>women</u> serve in the army. All the men serve in the army. Only the small children remain, and the fact is that these are only very rarely harmed. I believe that these are martyrdom operations, and are necessary."

Load-Date: April 2, 2007



# <u>PELOSI VISIT TO SYRIA IRKS BUSH; SPEAKER'S TRIP IS LATEST MOVE BY</u> DEMOCRATS TO ASSERT INFLUENCE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 4, 2007 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD; Pg. A-1

Length: 646 words

Byline: ZEINA KARAM, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: DAMASCUS, Syria

#### **Body**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi mingled with Syrians in a market and made the sign of the cross at a Christian tomb yesterday in a visit to hard-line Syria that was criticized by President Bush.

Mr. Bush said the visit sends mixed signals to Syria's government, which his administration accuses of supporting terrorism. The United States says Syria allows Iraqi Sunni insurgents to operate from its territory, backs the Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> militant groups and is trying to destabilize the Lebanese government. Syria denies the allegations.

Ms. Pelosi's visit to Syria was the latest challenge to the White House by congressional Democrats, who are taking a more assertive role in influencing policy in the Middle East and the Iraq war. The Bush administration has resisted calls for direct talks to help ease the crisis in Iraq and make progress in the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

Soon after Ms. Pelosi's arrival in Damascus, Mr. Bush criticized her visit. "A lot of people have gone to see President Assad, ... and yet we haven't seen action. He hasn't responded," he told reporters at a Rose Garden news conference. "Sending delegations doesn't work. It's simply been counterproductive."

Ms. Pelosi, D- Calif., did not comment on Mr. Bush's remarks before heading from the airport to Damascus' historic Old City. She was scheduled to meet President Bashar Assad today.

Wearing a flowered head scarf and a black abaya robe, Ms. Pelosi visited the 8th-century Omayyad Mosque, shaking hands with Syrian *women* inside and watching men in a religion class sitting cross-legged on the floor.

She stopped at an elaborate tomb, said to contain the head of John the Baptist, and made the sign of the cross. About 10 percent of Syria's 18 million people are Christian.

At the nearby outdoor Bazouriyeh market, Syrians crowded around, offering her dried figs and nuts and chatting with her. She strolled past shops selling olive oil soaps, spices and herbs and, at one point, bought some coconut sweets and eyed jewelry and carpets.

# PELOSI VISIT TO SYRIA IRKS BUSH SPEAKER'S TRIP IS LATEST MOVE BY DEMOCRATS TO ASSERT INFLUENCE

Democrats have argued that the United States should engage its top rivals in the Mideast -- Iran and Syria -- to make headway in easing crises in Iraq, Lebanon and the Israeli-Arab peace process. Last year, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group recommended talks with the two countries.

Mr. Bush rejected the recommendations. But in February, the United States joined a gathering of regional diplomats in Baghdad that included Iran and Syria for talks about Irag.

Visiting Monday in neighboring Lebanon, Ms. Pelosi shrugged off White House criticism of her trip to Syria, noting that Republican lawmakers on Sunday met with Mr. Assad without comment from the Bush administration. "I think that it was an excellent idea for them to go," she said. "And I think it's an excellent idea for us to go as well."

She said she hoped to rebuild lost confidence between Washington and Damascus, and will tell Syrian leaders that Israel will talk peace with them only if Syria stops supporting Palestinian militants. She has said she will also talk to the Syrians about Iraq, their role in Lebanon and their support for the Hezbollah militant group.

"We have no illusions, but we have great hope," said Ms. Pelosi, who met earlier yesterday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Relations between the United States and Syria reached a low point in early 2005, when Washington withdrew its ambassador to Damascus to protest the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Many Lebanese blamed Syria -- which had troops in Lebanon at the time -- for the assassination. Damascus denied involvement.

Washington has since succeeded in largely isolating Damascus, with its European and Arab allies shunning Mr. Assad. The last high-ranking U.S. official to visit Syria was then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in January 2005.

### Graphic

PHOTO: Hussein Malla/Associated Press: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enters inside the historic Omayyad Mosque during her tour of downtown Damascus, Syria, yesterday.

Load-Date: April 4, 2007



# Tapping Ahmadinejad's Egg: What America and the world can do to crack the Iranian threat

Western Standard (Alberta)

March 12, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Western Standard All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 34; Iran

Length: 676 words

Byline: Victor Davis Hanson, Western Standard

#### **Body**

We all know the Iranian M.O.--nuclear proliferation, Holocaust denial, threats to wipe out Israel, vicious anti-western rhetoric, lavish sponsorship of terrorists attacking Israel, and destabilizing Lebanon.

If that were not enough, we now learn Iran has been sending agents into Iraq to destroy the fledgling democracy and supplying sophisticated roadside bombs to blow up Americans. Lunatic state-run media boast that Iran will kidnap American soldiers, shut down the Straits of Hormuz, send out global jihadists, and raise the price of oil.

Most international observers agree on two things: we should not yet bomb Iran, and it should not get the bomb. Yet the former forbearance could well ensure the latter reality.

What, then, should the United States do, other than keep offering meaningless platitudes about "dialogue"?

Imagine Iran is a hard-boiled egg with a thin shell. We should tap it lightly wherever we can--until tiny fissures join and shatter the shell.

We can begin by pushing international accords and ratcheting up weak UN sanctions. Even if they don't do much to Iran, the resolutions seem to enrage Ahmadinejad. And when he rages at the UN, he loses further support, especially in the Third World.

We should start another fissure by prodding the European Union, now Iran's chief trading partner, to be more resolute in pressuring Iran. Britain, France and Germany failed to stop Iran's nuclear proliferation. But out of that setback came a realization among Europeans that a nuclear-tipped missile from theocratic Iran could soon hit Europe as easily as it could Israel. Europeans should adopt a complete trade embargo to prevent Iranian access to precision machinery and high technology otherwise unobtainable from mischievous Russia and China.

Americans should continue to support Iranian dissidents. We need not encourage dissidents to go into the street, where they could be shot. We can offer them media help and access to the West. Americans can highlight the plight of **women**, minorities and liberals in Iran-- just the groups that so appeal to the elite western left.

And we should announce in advance that we don't want any bases in Iran, we don't want its oil, and we won't send American infantry there. That would pre-empt tired charges of imperialism.

Tapping Ahmadinejad's Egg: What America and the world can do to crack the Iranian threat

The U.S. also must stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. The last thing Iran wants is a democratic and prosperous Middle East surrounding it, which could galvanize Iranian popular opinion and in time overwhelm the mullahs.

At the same time, we need to remind the Gulf monarchies that a nuclear Shiite theocracy is far more dangerous to them than either the U.S. or Israel--and that America's efforts to contain Iran depend on their own to rein in Wahhabis in Iraq.

We must continue to make clear that Israel is a sovereign nation with a right to protect itself. Sixty years after the Holocaust, no Israeli prime minister will sit idly by while seventh-century theocrats grandstand about wiping out Israel.

Let's also keep our distance and moderate our rhetoric. There's no reason to frighten average Iranians--who may share our antipathy to their country's regime--or to make therapeutic pleas to talk with those leaders in bunkers whom we know are our enemies.

Finally, and most importantly, Americans must conserve energy, gasify coal, diversify fuels, drill more petroleum and invent new energy sources. Only that can collapse the world price of petroleum.

When oil is priced at \$60 a barrel, Ahmadinejad is a charismatic Third World benefactor throwing cash to every thug who wants a roadside bomb or shoulder-fired missile--and has plenty of money to buy Pakistani, North Korean or Russian nuclear components. But when oil is \$30 a barrel, Ahmadinejad will be despised by his own masses, who will become enraged as state-subsidized food and gas skyrocket, and scarce Iranian petrodollars are wasted on Hizb'allah and *Hamas*.

None of these taps alone will fracture Iran and stop it from going nuclear. But all of them together might well crack Ahmadinejad's thin shell before he gets the bomb.

Load-Date: March 12, 2007



# <u>Israeli police commissioner steps down; Panel criticized him over 1999</u> crime case

The International Herald Tribune February 20, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 644 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline: JERUSALEM** 

### **Body**

The Israeli police commissioner resigned after an investigative committee severely criticized his actions in a 1999 case involving an Israeli crime family.

The commissioner, Moshe Karadi, whose term expires in August, said Sunday that he was resigning immediately to "set a personal example" and spare the police the harm of a scandal. He insisted that the allegations against him were untrue.

Avi Dichter, the minister for public security, said he was accepting the resignation and would appoint Yaakov Ganot, the current head of the Prison Service, as the new police commissioner. Dichter said he would also remove the deputy police commissioner, even though he was not mentioned in the report, and offer him Ganot's job.

"The police must and can become better," Dichter said.

While the case is an old one, the resignation of Karadi is the latest scandal in an Israel reeling from accusations of illegal behavior among those in high office. The cases range from a possible rape charge against the current president, Moshe Katsav, to allegations of corruption by the current prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and by his suspended office director, currently under house arrest as part of a burgeoning investigation into the tax authority. The finance minister, Abraham Hirchson, is being investigated in another case involving embezzlement at a nonprofit organization.

Olmert's predecessor, Ariel Sharon, was widely suspected of political corruption and Sharon's son, Omri, has been sentenced to jail, although he is free because his father is in a coma.

Last month, Haim Ramon, a former justice minister, was found guilty by a court of indecent behavior, for kissing a young <u>female</u> soldier against her will. Allegations of illegal behavior have been made against top religious figures as well.

While the spate of investigations is seen by many here as a backlash against a tradition of political corruption, especially in fund-raising, the country's gloomy introspection has been worsened by the army's performance during the war against Hezbollah last summer.

The chief of staff of the Israeli military resigned last month over failures during the war, and three Israeli soldiers captured by *Hamas* and Hezbollah remain in captivity.

A three-member investigating panel found in a report issued Sunday that in 1999, when he was head of Israel's southern district, Karadi failed to pursue an investigation into close ties between police officers and a crime family in the south.

In 1999, a suspected crime boss, Pinchas Buhbut, was murdered while in a hospital by a uniformed policeman working for a rival crime family, the Perinians. Buhbut was recovering from an assassination attempt and was supposed to be under police guard.

A year later, three months after he had left the police, the murderer, Tzachi Ben-Or, was arrested for a robbery and offered to testify. His offer was declined, and a judge, not informed of the Buhbut murder, released him to house arrest. Ben-Or later fled the country and was murdered himself, in Mexico in 2004.

Karadi was accused by the investigators of promoting a police commander in the southern district who was suspected of hushing up the case for the Perinian family.

The whole affair only came to light in August 2005, when it was cleared for publication.

Only one of the three committee members demanded that Karadi resign immediately; the two others decided that, because his record as police commissioner was clean, he could finish his term.

But Karadi's term has been marked by some embarrassments, including charges of police brutality during the pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza in 2005, failures to solve some murders and the escape of a convicted serial rapist, Benny Sela, from police custody. While finally recaptured, Sela's days on the run became a hot topic on Israeli news programs and talk shows, which made fun of the police.

Load-Date: February 25, 2007



#### **Inside Today**

The Gazette (Montreal)
February 7, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 680 words

Byline: The Gazette

#### **Body**

Abbas fears civil war if Saudi summit fails

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah (right) brought the two main Palestinian leaders to Mecca, Islam's holiest city, yesterday to try to end their bloody conflict and complete a power-sharing deal on a coalition government. Before Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas left for the talks with <u>Hamas</u> leader Khaled Mashaal (left), he warned that failure in Mecca "would mean the deterioration of the internal situation and ignite civil war." Details, Page A16

Astronaut held in kidnap plot

Astronaut Lisa Nowak, 43, a married mother of three who flew on a space shuttle in July, was charged yesterday with attempted murder, accused of hatching an extraordinary plot to kidnap Colleen Shipman, who she believed was romantically involved with William Oefelein, a space shuttle pilot. Details, Page A16

Iraqi PM raps security delays

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki criticizes the slow start to a long-awaited Iraqi takeover of Baghdad security operations, noting that insurgents are taking advantage of the delay to kill as many people as possible. Details, Page A21

Scam artist defends partner

Former Royal Bank financial adviser Brian Thicke, who has already pleaded guilty to 16 counts of fraud, testified in his longtime friend Kevin McKenzie's defence yesterday, saying Thicke was calling the shots in an investment scam. Details, Page A6

Laval offers discount land

Laval has received more than 7,000 inquiries regarding its initiative to award through lottery 77 housing lots at bargain basement prices to young families looking to own their own homes. Details, Page A8

Turner crosses to Liberals

Admitting he's a "pain," frank-talking

#### Inside Today

former Conservative MP Garth Turner joined Liberal leader Stephane Dion yesterday to announce he has switched parties. Details, Page A12

Abandoned baby's mom found

Described by police as "confused, upset and isolated," the 18-year-old mother of a newborn baby abandoned on a Saskatoon doorstep has been found. Details, Page A12

**Business** 

U.S. rules cost job: activists

Controversial U.S. security rules - combined with Venezuela's anti-U.S. stance

- have cost a Venezuelan-born aerospace technician a future at Bell Helicopter

Textron Canada Ltd., anti-discrimination activists say. Details, Page B2

Hackers stage huge Net attack

Hackers briefly overwhelmed at least three of the 13 computers that help manage global computer traffic yesterday in one of the most significant attacks against the Internet since 2002. Details, Page B7

**Sports** 

Canadians just miss podium

Canadians came this close to medals at the Alpine Ski World Championships in Sweden, with Britt Janyk of Whistler, B.C., fourth in the *women*'s super-G.

In the men's super-G, Mont Tremblant's Erik Guay was sixth, a mere 3/100ths of a second out of third. Details, Page C3

Soccer teams pressure Italy

Italian soccer teams are pressuring the government to resume play with fans in the stands, but the interior minister is firm on his plan to bar spectators from stadiums deemed unsafe. Details, Page C3

Arts & Life

Furtado, Talent in Juno hunt

While pop queen Nelly Furtado and punk dynamos Billy Talent lead the pack of Juno nominees with five nods apiece, there are several local acts in the running, including Gregory Charles, Malajube, Patrick Watson and Sam Roberts. Details, Page D5

Celebrating Quebec cinema

The Rendez-vous du cinema quebecois

celebrates its 25th anniversary this year with a line-up of 250 Quebec films as well as classes, art exhibits and lots of parties. Details, Page D5

- Today's columnists

"The Herouxville code is intended as a repudiation of other people, specifically Muslims."

BAGNALL, Opinion, A25

#### Inside Today

PEGGY CURRAN on tuition fees:

Quebec in no rush to take on students. MONTREAL, A6

L. IAN MacDONALD on Quebec election call:

Everything's set for Charest to pull trigger. OPINION, A25

PETER HADEKEL's En Ville:

"Experts" still bullish on Internet stocks. BUSINESS, B1

BILL BROWNSTEIN on Gerald Tremblay:

After retreat, mayor still needs to clean up his act. LIFE, D4

LESLEY CHESTERMAN's Eater's Digest:

Mmm, no wonder Grandma loves daffodil cake. LIFE, D2

### **Graphic**

Photo: (Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah (right) Khaled Mashaal (left);

Load-Date: February 7, 2007



#### Violence must end

University Wire

January 29, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The Stanford Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 730 words

Byline: By Roei Kashi, The Stanford Daily; SOURCE: Stanford

Dateline: STANFORD, Calif.

### **Body**

As of Saturday, 25 militants and civilians were killed in Gaza and the West Bank, including innocent <u>women</u> and children, this weekend alone. Fifty more were wounded. More than 20 were kidnapped. In the last weeks, personal vendettas were carried out: little girls were slaughtered in front of their parents, just before their parents themselves were brutally executed.

This time the Israeli army is not responsible. The Israeli army does not carry out such atrocities as killing children intentionally and deliberately, in cold blood in front of their parents. This time it is the brutality of Islamic fanatics. The war between Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> has taken new dimensions, never seen before in the territories under the political control of the Palestinian Authority. Why? How did the world, the PA, Israel, the Muslim community and students groups on U.S. campuses allow this to happen?

"Students groups on U.S. campuses?" you may wonder. This is not the case.

Finkelstein's talk on Thursday, organized by CJME and SCAI and supported by Muslim leaders on campus, has made me realize how these students groups not only hinder peace, but are also indirectly responsible for the ongoing violence. On Thursday night, Finkelstein's controversial statements received much applause from the pro-Arab, pro-Palestinian, mainly Arab audience. When he condemned the construction of the security fence as illegal, many cheered and clapped. When he supported the use of the word apartheid to describe Israel he was loudly acclaimed. He even received deafening applause when he deemed the Holocaust as not unique and asserted that the Jews use the "Holocaust Industry" to promote their agenda. However, in the Q&A session that followed someone asked whether Finkelstein's arguments can "lead to the conclusion that all of Israel is occupied territory?" Again, much applause. However, when Finkelstein concluded that the final objective of the Palestinians should be a two-state solution, living side by side in peace and prosperity, I was the only one who clapped. I noticed the angry looks of the few Arabs who sat before me. They clearly did not support a two-state solution. I wondered then, how SCAI and CJME define peace? A one-state solution with an Arab majority (i.e. Israel's destruction)? If not, why don't you promote the idea of a two-state solution to your audience?

CJME, SCAI, and other Muslim-led groups on campus have hardly organized events denouncing Islamic violence as a mean to an end. They have hardly organized an introspective event highlighting Palestinian culpability that inflames and contributes to the ongoing hatred between Israelis and Palestinians. They have never organized an event attempting to fight the pervasive phenomena of suicide bombers, widespread Nazi-like propaganda in Arab media and anti-Semitic incitement in mosques and other religious activities. Rather, they choose to focus only on

#### Violence must end

Israel's faults, exaggerating and often even distorting facts in order to further incite and antagonize their mainly Arab audience.

Thus, the Arab world, including student groups at universities, indirectly nurtures violence. Violence is the main instrument Palestinian society as a whole (particularly teens) is familiar with in order to advance its goals. And now, this violence is backfiring. It is being used internally -- not only hurting innocent Israeli civilians but also hurting their innocent Palestinian brothers. I can only hope that recent events in Gaza will drive the Muslim community at Stanford to act on this issue.

Moreover, I found the current beliefs among Arab students at Stanford very disturbing. Unlike many comments I received, as both an Israeli and a human being, I am NOT happy with any bloodshed, whether Israeli or Palestinian. On the contrary, I am extremely disturbed that in my country's backyard our cousins in fate are turning against each other. I cannot comprehend how and why Arab and Muslim students think that I, or any other Israeli, would celebrate any bloodshed. This belief is the product of their anti-Israeli propaganda. By attempting to portray the Israelis as a violent war machine whose sole purpose is to kill Palestinians, Muslim student groups have indoctrinated themselves with the belief that Israelis celebrate Palestinian bloodshed. Nothing could be further from the truth.

(C) 2007 The Stanford Daily via U-WIRE

Load-Date: January 29, 2007



# Al-Qaida No. 2 attacks leaders of Egypt, Yemen, Palestinians in Web message

Pittsburgh Tribune Review
January 1, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 Tribune Review Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Length: 706 words

Byline: The Associated Press

#### **Body**

CAIRO, Egypt - Al-Qaida's deputy leader has criticized Palestinian and other Arab leaders, accusing them of betraying Islam and collaborating with the United States and Israel, according to an Internet statement posted in his name Monday.

The statement, purportedly from Ayman al-Zawahri, congratulated Islamic holy warriors around the world on the feast of Eid al-Adha and on "the defeat of the Americans and their crusader allies in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The message could not immediately be authenticated, but it appeared on two Islamic Web sites known for publishing militant material.

The most communicative of al-Qaida's leaders, al-Zawahri appeared to be trying to encourage militants — those fighting and those in prison — but his message offered nothing in the way of new ideas or policies.

Referring to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and a senior member of his Fatah party, al-Zawahri asked: "How is it possible for Mahmoud Abbas to be a brother of ours, or for Mohammed Dahlan to be a brother of ours, when they have grown fat on the bribes of the Jews and gifts of the Americans?"

Senior Abbas aide Saeb Erekat called the statement "absolutely unacceptable," and predicted it would not influence Palestinians.

Al-Zawahri, who issued 14 taped statements last year, has often told the Palestinians what they should be doing, but is not known to have an impact. The leading Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> has distanced itself from al-Qaida, saying its struggle is against Israel, not the West at large.

It was not clear when the statement was written. It only gives the date "December 2006" and its Islamic calendar equivalent.

The statement did not mention events of the past few days that have made headlines around the Arab world, such as the execution of Saddam Hussein on Saturday and the Ethiopian forces' entry into the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

In fact, the statement appears to be ignorant of the defeat of the Islamic militia, the Union of Islamic Courts, which was driven out of Mogadishu by the Ethiopians. "I also congratulate my Muslim brothers in Somalia and encourage them to be firm in defense of the honor of Islam," al-Zawahri says.

#### Al-Qaida No. 2 attacks leaders of Egypt, Yemen, Palestinians in Web message

Al-Zawahri accuses the Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and Yemeni governments of serving the interests of the United States, adding that Washington "bombs the Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq," and orders Arab leaders to pump their oil wells dry and sell crude petroleum "at the cheapest of rates to consume the nation's treasure."

Al-Zawahri tossed out insults to various leaders, making no effort to substantiate his allegations. He called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "bribe-taker," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a "traitor," Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh an "agent of America," and he accused New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman of being a "fanatical Zionist."

He praised the al-Qaida-linked insurgents in Saudi Arabia, which he described as "the American state of al Saud," and attacked the initiative of Saudi King Abdullah, which offered Israel full diplomatic relations in return for full withdrawal from Arab lands.

Shortly before the plan was adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002, Friedman wrote that he had discussed the idea with the then-Crown Prince Abdullah.

Al-Zawahri said the plan, "which the fanatical Zionist Thomas Friedman dictated to (Abdullah)," orders Saudi citizens to "recognize Israel and abandon Palestine."

He encouraged Muslim <u>women</u> to continue wearing head scarves despite the "fierce crusade" against them. A scarved woman is "a soldier in the battle of Islam against the Zionist crusade" and "she should know that the hijab (head scarf) — a symbol of her modesty and purity — tears (Westerners) apart inside because it exposes the depravity of their civilization," he said.

Al-Zawahri did not mention al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who has not issued a video or audio message for six months, but he praised the leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, whose anti-Western forces have staged a comeback since they were driven from power in Afghanistan in 2001. He called Omar "the commander of the faithful."

The text of the statement appeared in English, translated by the al-Qaida media production house, al-Sahab.

Load-Date: January 1, 2007