

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:11:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223358221

Documents (100)

1. [Hamas suspends attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [Hamas halts Israel bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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3. [HAMAS TO HALT SUICIDE ATTACKS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [CHARITY WORK HAS MADE HAMAS INFLUENTIAL AMONG PALESTINIANS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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5. [Hamas activists killed:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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6. [Hamas outrage at porn site payoff](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

7. [HAMAS CALLS HALT TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

8. [Israeli helicopters kill Hamas activists](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

9. [HAMAS SAYS IT IS SUSPENDING SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

10. [ISRAELI RAID KILLS HAMAS TERROR GROUP LEADER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [New Clashes in Gaza; Hamas to Limit Suicide Attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

12. [Hamas reins in its suicide bombers: Militants agree to avoid confrontation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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13. [MIDEAST FLARE-UP: NEWS ANALYSIS A New Mideast Battle: Arafat vs. Hamas](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [New hope for truce as Hamas calls halt to attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [Hamas calls halt to suicide bombings; Attacks suspended amid Palestinian infighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [Hamas halts suicide attacks: Six killed in gun fight between militants, Palestinian police](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [Israelis bomb Gaza police ; Palestinians battle Hamas](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [Hamas killer had planned wedding](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [Israel goes on alert as Hamas seeks revenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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20. [ISRAELI RAID KILLS 8 AT HAMAS OFFICE; 2 ARE YOUNG BOYS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [HAMAS HALTS ATTACKS Skeptical Israelis doubt restraint will last](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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22. [Israelis strike Hamas site; 4 die](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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23. [Islamic militants announce halt to suicide attacks; Hamas: Six Palestinians die in refugee camp fight](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
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24. [Palestinians call for Israel to make next move Hamas to suspend suicide bombings, mortar attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [Hamas militant a Scarlet Pimpernel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
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26. [Hamas Group Vows to Up the Ante in Attacks on Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Dec 31, 2001

27. [ISRAELI WARPLANES BOMB POLICE POST IN GAZA ; ATTACK FOLLOWS CLASH BETWEEN HAMAS BACKERS, PALESTINIAN POLICE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

28. [Two top Hamas activists killed in Israeli offensive](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

29. [PALESTINIANS VOW TO AVENGE MILITANT / ISRAEL DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HAMAS BOMB MAKER'S DEATH. ANGRY MARCHERS CLASHED WITH TROOPS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

30. [Suicide bomber kills 3; Suspicion falls on Hamas, Islamic Jihad](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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Dec 31, 2001

31. [ISRAELI SECURITY FORCE KILLS TWO TOP HAMAS TERRORISTS / THE PAIR OF BROTHERS DIED AS AGENTS STORMED A WEST BANK FARMHOUSE. ISLAMIC MILITANTS VOWED REVENGE.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

32. [DEADLIEST CONFLICT DAY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE; GRIEF-STRICKEN: PALESTINIAN MOURNERS CALL FOR RETALIATION AS VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN WEST BANK The bodies of slain Palestinians who had been killed in an Israeli attack are carried for their funeral in the West Bank town of Nablus.; Thousands of enraged Palestinians attended the funeral after Israeli forces killed eight people in an attack on Hamas headquarters in Nablus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

33. [Clashes in Gaza Strip kill six; Palestinian unity disintegrates in refugee camp](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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34. [ISRAELIS ATTACK WITH TANKS, SUSPEND TALKS AFTER RAID BY HAMAS; PALESTINIAN GUNMEN FIRE ON FESTIVAL AT JEWISH HOLY SITE, WOUNDING TWO](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

35. [CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM: SIX KILLED AS ARAFAT HUNTS DOWN MILITANTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

36. [Silly Question: Support the Palestinian Authority or Hamas?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

37. [Middle East slips deeper into conflict](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

38. [Muslim website hacked - MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

39. [Dirty war invades cyberspace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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40. [School with a cause An Islamic fundamentalist group is winning the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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41. [ISLAMIC MILITANTS GO ON TRIAL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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42. [NETANYAHU'S WAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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43. [Israeli missile attack threatens fresh violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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44. [Israel Attacks Again in Gaza; Arafat Condemns U.S.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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45. [IMAD WAS A DEVOUT AND SINGLE TEENAGER - THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR A SUICIDE BOMBER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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46. [UNEASY PEACE AS MOURNERS FORM HUMAN CHAIN TO STOP TERRIBLE TOLL OF DEATH FROM RISING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

47. [ARAFAT CALLS FOR END TO ARMED ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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48. [As Palestinians bury 8, Israel says raids on militants to go on](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

49. [The secret world of suicide bombers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

50. [Hamas threatens to wage deadliest bombing campaign](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

51. [Troubles in Tel Aviv aviv aviv](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

52. [*Palestine 's latest suicide bomber an ideal recruit*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

53. [*Palestinians bury dead amid chaos: Flurry of protests, attacks continue against Israeli targets*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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54. [*SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS THREE IN STREET*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [*Missiles kill 4 in Bethlehem*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [*Chronology*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. [*MOURNING PALESTINIANS PROTEST MISSILE ATTACKS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [*After a Long, Slow Climb to Respectability, a Muslim Charity Experiences a Rapid Fall*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [*Four die in Israeli town bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [*Mourners cry for revenge*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [*Mideast slides toward brink of wider conflict: Israel vows to target militants*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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62. [IN GOD'S NAME](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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63. [THE BOMBER; Young man who had everything to live for](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [4 dead, 2 injured in shooting;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [Israeli forces kill four, tanks enter West Bank](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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66. [Proliferating Islamic groups worry Israelis: Analysis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [Protests, funerals follow violence; Flurry: Palestinians mourn 8 killed in an airstrike, while Israel dismisses criticism of attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [SUSPECT IN GRENADE ATTACK ADMITS TO OTHER ACTS, ISRAEL SAYS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [Tension escalates Israel criticised as Palestinians bury dead](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [GET RID OF YASSER FOR PEACE IN HOLY LAND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [ISRAELI RAID FLATTENS PALESTINIAN POLICE BUILDINGS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [Palestinian crowd enraged by killings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [Israel braces for revenge attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [PALESTINIANS RETALIATE AFTER 16 ARE KILLED OVER TWO VIOLENT DAYS; CONFRONTATIONS, PROTESTS, ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAELI TARGETS ESCALATE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [Peacemaking Needs Help From Arab Governments, Too](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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76. [Palestinian leaders urge restraint; Fear suicide bombings will invite retaliation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [BORING BUT IMPORTANT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [Israeli Forces Kill 3 Suspected Terrorists](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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79. [WORLD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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80. [Suicide bombings spark 'martyr' talk](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [ISRAEL VOWS TO CONTINUE POLICY OF ASSASSINATIONS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [TWO MEN, TWO VIEWS OF THE FUTURE FOR PALESTINIANS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [*The race to find suicide bombers: Israel fears more martyrs are set to unleash their fury*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

84. [*Palestinians vow revenge at mass burial of raid victims*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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85. [*Angry Israel flies Jewish flag over Palestinian seat of power*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

86. [*Palestinians bury their dead as Israel awaits backlash;*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. [*Israelis in race to find more suicide bombers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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88. [Israel sends in fighter jets to avenge restaurant bloodbath](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [17 dead as vengeance grips the Middle East](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

90. [PORTRAIT OF A SUICIDE BOMBER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

91. [Bloody revenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

92. [Peres and Arafat plan weekend talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

93. [Briefly](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

94. [Killings threaten peace deal * MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

95. [Radio: Radio review: Talk of the devil](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

96. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Middle East Conflict](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

97. [Palestinians die as West Bank simmers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to Dec 31, 2001

98. [Mall bombing triggers deadly day in Mideast; After a suicide bomber killed 5 Israelis, Israel struck back with F-16s. The day's toll: At least 16 dead, 137 wounded.<](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to
Dec 31, 2001

99. [ISRAELIS RETALIATE FOR SETTLEMENT RAID; TANKS FLATTEN OUTPOSTS; 6 PALESTINIANS
KILLED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to
Dec 31, 2001

100. ['PREPARE THE COFFINS'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to
Dec 31, 2001

Hamas suspends attacks

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

December 21, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 836 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- The Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday a suspension of suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, boosting chances for a U.S.-brokered truce to take hold. In internal Palestinian fighting, five people were killed when a militant's funeral turned into a gunbattle.

The **Hamas** announcement came after two days of clashes between Palestinian police -- who have been trying to enforce a cease-fire -- and supporters of **Hamas** and the smaller Islamic Jihad group. In all, six Palestinians have been killed and 94 hurt in internal confrontations since Thursday, doctors said.

Hamas said in a leaflet faxed to news agencies that it ordered the attacks suspended "until further notice" to preserve Palestinian unity. The announcement was seen as a victory for beleaguered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been under intense U.S. and European pressure to prevent attacks on Israel.

It was the first time **Hamas** had made such a promise in the 15 months of fighting. But the **Hamas** decision only referred to stopping suicide attacks in Israel, not in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The ban on mortar fire extended to both Israel and the Palestinian territories, according to the leaflet.

A senior Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the **Hamas** announcement was a result of negotiations between leaders of the group and senior Palestinian Authority officials that ended early Friday.

Israel's reaction was guarded. In the past 15 months of fighting, scores of Israelis have been killed in attacks by Islamic militants, including 36 this month.

"What's positive? That they stop terror activities in one place, but keep murdering **women** and children somewhere else?" said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "As long as the terror activities continue ... we will implement our right of self-defense, and we will act against them with all our might."

It was not clear whether Islamic Jihad would also suspend attacks. Abu Imad Rifai, the Islamic Jihad representative in Lebanon, said his group would continue suicide attacks against Israel.

Despite the **Hamas** announcement, tensions were running high in Gaza.

In the Jebaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, thousands of mourners on Friday joined the funeral procession of a 17-year-old Islamic Jihad supporter killed Thursday in a gunbattle with Palestinian police. "Resistance will continue despite the sacrifices," the crowd chanted as dozens of gunmen fired in the air.

Hamas suspends attacks

When the funeral procession passed a police station, gunmen opened fire at officers inside, drawing return fire. Five Palestinians were killed and 55 hurt in the exchange, doctors said. At least two of those killed were Islamic Jihad activists, Palestinian security officials said. Frantic bystanders, including a woman holding an infant swaddled in a blanket, ran for cover or crouched down behind cars.

Earlier in the day, about 400 Hamas supporters marched on a police station in the Dir al-Balah refugee camp in central Gaza, throwing rocks and bottles. Police fired in the air to repel the demonstrators.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarem, Palestinian police prevented militants from Arafat's Fatah movement from firing at Israeli soldiers, and the militants fired at the police instead, the Palestinian governor said. Two people were wounded as they tried to separate the two sides, he said.

In Gaza City, confrontations erupted over police attempts to arrest Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader, who said Friday he would not surrender. Late Thursday, hundreds of Hamas backers confronted police wielding clubs and shields outside the Gaza City home where Rantisi has been staying.

A riot was averted when the police withdrew, as officials tried to persuade Rantisi to surrender. Arafat's representatives offered Rantisi a house arrest arrangement like the one imposed on Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, officials said. Fatah secretary Ahmed Hillas, handling the contacts, was confident a deal could be worked out. "We are all in the same boat," he said.

Arafat renewed his truce call in a speech Sunday. He referred to suicide bombings and other operations against Israel as "terrorist activity" for the first time. Arafat's speech pitted his security forces against the activists, including some affiliated with Arafat's Fatah. Arafat has always moved carefully in confronting his rivals, fearing a civil war.

However, Israeli officials remained skeptical of Arafat's intentions. Government officials said Arafat was doing just enough to win back sympathy from the United States and Europe, which have heaped criticism on the Palestinian leader for failing to stop the violent extremists.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said envoy Anthony Zinni would return to the region only "when his presence can be effective in moving toward a durable cease-fire." Zinni left last weekend after three weeks of fruitless truce talks marred by bloody Palestinian attacks and harsh Israeli reprisal raids.

Load-Date: December 21, 2001

Hamas halts Israel bombing

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

December 22, 2001 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 477 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- For the first time in 15 months of fighting, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday that it is suspending suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, improving chances for a U.S.-led truce to take hold.

Despite that promise, tensions between militants and Palestinian police trying to enforce a ceasefire continued to run high. Six Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded Friday in a gun battle in a Gaza refugee camp.

Israel dismissed the **Hamas** announcement as a tactical move aimed at easing international pressure on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them. He (Arafat) wants several days of quiet so that public opinion will be on his and the Palestinian Authority's side," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

Despite the **Hamas** moratorium, the potential for violence remained high. The smaller Islamic Jihad group announced from Lebanon that it was not suspending attacks, and the **Hamas** decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip where some 200,000 Jewish settlers live.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel would continue to retaliate harshly for attacks.

Islamic militants have killed scores of Israelis since September 2000, including 37 this month alone. In all, more than 840 people have died on the Palestinian side and more than 240 on the Israeli side.

Last weekend, Arafat renewed his call for a truce with Israel, demanding a halt to suicide and mortar attacks. **Hamas** initially resisted, and a senior Palestinian official said Friday's announcement was a result of protracted negotiations between **Hamas** and the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat's crackdown on militants, his security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some **Hamas** offices and mortar factories, has been accompanied by bloody confrontations.

Since Thursday, seven Palestinians have been killed and at least 94 hurt in gun battles between militants and Palestinian police.

Hamas halts Israel bombing

The deadliest fight erupted Friday in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City during the funeral of an Islamic Jihad supporter.

As thousands of mourners passed the local police station, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers who returned fire. The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp to stop shooting.

In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars. One women held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene. An older man carried a boy, who appeared to be about 10 years old and was screaming in pain from a bullet wound in the leg.

In all, six Palestinians were killed in Jebaliya, including at least two Islamic Jihad gunmen, and about 55 people were wounded, doctors said.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; In preparation for Christmas celebrations, a Palestinian municipality worker makes the final touches while decorating the roof of a building with Christmas foliage in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. On the left is a line of Palestinian flags. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

End of Document

HAMAS TO HALT SUICIDE ATTACKS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

December 22, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: Front Page; Pg. a1

Length: 680 words

Byline: IBRAHIM BARZAK, Associated Press writer

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- For the first time in 15 months of fighting, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday that it is suspending suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, improving chances for a U.S.-led truce to take hold.

Despite that promise, tensions between militants and Palestinian police trying to enforce a cease-fire continued to run high. Six Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded Friday in a gun battle in a Gaza refugee camp.

Israel dismissed the **Hamas** announcement as a tactical move aimed at easing international pressure on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them. He (Arafat) wants several days of quiet so that public opinion will be on his and the Palestinian Authority's side," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

The U.S. State Department also expressed doubt, saying the Palestinian Authority should dismantle the ability of terrorist groups to launch attacks against Israel.

Later, there were indications that the smaller Islamic Jihad movement might join **Hamas** in suspending attacks.

"The Islamic Jihad desires to work in order to protect the Palestinian national interest," Nafez Azzam, one of the group's top leaders, said today. "Islamic Jihad will work to fulfill this commitment to national unity."

Asked if this meant that the suicide bombings against Israel would cease, Azzam said that this was a decision for the group's military wing, but added that "as a politician I believe we have to work to protect our national unity. We are passing a very difficult period and should be aware of everything happening." Despite the **Hamas** moratorium, the potential for violence remained high. The **Hamas** decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where some 200,000 Jewish settlers live.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel would continue to retaliate harshly for attacks.

Islamic militants have killed scores of Israelis since September 2000, including 37 this month alone. In all, more than 840 people have died on the Palestinian side and more than 240 on the Israeli side.

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HAMAS TO HALT SUICIDE ATTACKS

Arafat's crackdown on militants his security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some **Hamas** offices and mortar factories has been accompanied by bloody confrontations. Since Thursday, seven Palestinians have been killed and at least 94 hurt in gun battles between militants and Palestinian police.

The deadliest fight erupted Friday in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City during the funeral of an Islamic Jihad supporter. As thousands of mourners passed the local police station, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers who returned fire.

The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp to stop shooting.

In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars. One **women** held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene.

An older man carried a boy, who appeared to be about 10 years old and was screaming in pain from a bullet wound in the leg.

In all, six Palestinians were killed in Jebaliya, including at least two Islamic Jihad gunmen, and about 55 people were wounded, doctors said. Reporters, who are normally granted free access to hospitals after Israeli attacks, were barred from speaking to the wounded.

The **Hamas** announcement, faxed to news agencies, said attacks were being suspended "until further notice." A **Hamas** leader in Gaza, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who has eluded several Palestinian police attempts to arrest him, said Friday that the Palestinians retained the right "to respond to Israeli crimes," suggesting the moratorium would be called off in the event of Israeli military strikes.

Load-Date: December 23, 2001

CHARITY WORK HAS MADE HAMAS INFLUENTIAL AMONG PALESTINIANS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 14, 2001 Friday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 413 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: HEBRON, WEST BANK

Body

In a large auditorium, women lined up to collect handouts of clothes, shoes and food - holiday gifts that they could not afford for the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Their benefactor: a charity run by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

For the many impoverished Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, this is the face of Hamas. The influence that Hamas gains from its network of schools, clinics and welfare offices is one reason Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has been hesitant to crack down on the group.

Hamas has been waging a terrorist offensive against Israel with a series of attacks that has killed 36 Israelis and wounded dozens in the last two weeks.

Succumbing to mounting pressure from the United States, Arafat said Wednesday that he had ordered all Hamas institutions closed, although without specifying what would be targeted.

Yet Arafat's long-standing reluctance to confront Hamas, his main political rival, became quickly apparent Thursday when his aides said the crackdown was on hold as long as Israel continued its airstrikes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian policemen cannot be expected to chase Hamas while police facilities come under Israeli fire, the officials said.

Hamas, which with the militant Islamic Jihad has carried out dozens of terrorist attacks since the mid-1990s, is an elusive target.

The group does not have headquarters or offices, its gunmen and bomb makers operate in deepest secrecy, and Hamas loyalists running the charities are careful not to acknowledge their affiliation openly. Even Israel, despite its detailed intelligence information, has been unable to strike at Hamas directly, for lack of targets.

If Arafat moves against Hamas, he probably would meet stiff popular opposition among Palestinians.

Support for Arafat's Fatah faction is on the decline, dropping from 38 percent in March 1999 to almost 29 percent in November this year, according to the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion. Meanwhile, support for Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group has risen to 27 percent, up from 17 percent a year ago, according to a Shekaki survey last month.

CHARITY WORK HAS MADE HAMAS INFLUENTIAL AMONG PALESTINIANS

Hamas has become the main welfare provider at a time when more than half the 3 million Palestinians live in poverty. Arafat's government is broke and stopped making welfare payments several months ago. Foreign donors avoid dealing with the corruption-ridden Palestinian Authority and channel millions of dollars in aid directly to **Hamas**-controlled charities.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - Palestinian refugee children, masked in robes with mock belts of explosives, parade in the Ain el-Helweh refugee camp near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon on Sunday in tribute to **Hamas** suicide bombers.

Load-Date: December 14, 2001

End of Document

Hamas activists killed;

Irish News
July 18, 2001

Copyright 2001 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 482 words

Body

AN ISRAELI helicopter fired missiles at a farm in Bethlehem yesterday, killing three people, according to Palestinian security sources.

Palestinian gunmen returned fire from the ground, according to one of the security sources.

Two of the dead identified by security sources were known **Hamas** activists: Omar Saadeh and Taha Aruj. Also killed was Omar Saadeh's cousin Mohammed Saadeh. A fourth person was admitted to hospital in critical condition, hospital sources said.

According to security sources the raid killed a **Hamas** terror group commander who was planning a "massive attack" on the Jewish Olympics.

Two helicopters launched missiles at a breeze block chicken coop, killing four people including two senior **Hamas** activists, the latest in a steady upward spiral of violence that has all but buried a ceasefire.

Their principal target was Omar Saadeh, the head of the **Hamas** military wing in Bethlehem, said the Israeli army.

Military sources said Saadeh was planning a "massive attack" during the closing ceremony of the Maccabiah Games, the Jewish Olympics, which opened on Monday in Jerusalem under tight security and are to run for eight days at venues around the country.

Israeli officials have said they gave lists of militants over to the Palestinians and demanded their arrest. If no action was taken, the Israelis warned, they would move against them.

The Palestinians have denied receiving the lists.

Blood stained the concrete floor of what had been a breeze block chicken coop. The building was obliterated; some of the hundreds of people who gathered at the site afterward pulled dead chicks from the debris.

Just 15 feet away, a shed was untouched.

A battered fridge, plastic bottles, and straw floor mats littered the area.

Uniformed Palestinian security officials tried to keep people from approaching too closely. **Women** cried on the front steps of a nearby house.

Hamas activists killed;

"There must be a solution or the uprising will continue, " said Wissam Ibrahim, a 19-year-old neighbour. "We knew this was a possibility and it could happen to others - this is not the first time."

Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub denounced the Israeli attack, calling it a "massacre against Palestinian civilians."

Earlier, the Islamic Jihad, another militant group that sent a suicide bomber into Israel on Monday and killed two soldiers, defied an order by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to stop attacks inside Israel.

Arafat had issued the warning against militant attacks inside Israel during a late-night meeting with faction leaders including representatives of Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**.

Abdullah Shami, an Islamic Jihad spokesman in Gaza, said the Palestinian Authority "understands very well the feeling of anger in the Palestinian street."

"No power in the world can stop the resistance operations that come as a reaction to the Israeli aggression. We have nothing more to lose, " Shami said.

Load-Date: September 27, 2001

End of Document

Hamas outrage at porn site payback

The Australian

March 8, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 242 words

Body

GAZA: Hackers invaded the internet site of the Muslim militant group Hamas and made it show pornography, after the fundamentalist organisation claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed three Israelis.

Web surfers trying to access www.hamas.org yesterday were rerouted automatically to a pay-for-view pornography site offering fare ranging from "kinky co-eds" to "Latina fetish".

Reuters

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the political wing of Hamas, accused Israeli intelligence of being behind what appeared to be the latest attack in an Israeli-Arab cyberwar that has been raging on the sidelines of the five-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"I'm telling them to die of their own fury," Shiekh Yassin said. "They are trying to disfigure the image of Islam and Muslims.

"These are the people who are shedding our blood and massacring our people every day, so it is not difficult for them to do something like this."

Meanwhile, Hamas's military wing, the Izz el-deen al-Qassam brigade, said one of its members, 23-year-old Palestinian Ahmed Omar Aliyan, carried out Sunday's suicide bombing in the Israeli seaside town of Netanya. The bomber and two Israeli women and a man were killed in the morning peak-hour blast that triggered a security alert across Israel.

No one claimed responsibility for hacking into Hamas's website. The site usually carries information about the group, which is opposed to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Load-Date: November 27, 2001

HAMAS CALLS HALT TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 22, 2001 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 1345 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Six Palestinians were killed and dozens injured yesterday in clashes with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's police in the Gaza Strip, even as the militant group **Hamas** said that to preserve Palestinian unity it was halting suicide attacks within the boundaries of pre-1967 Israel.

Palestinian unity disintegrated yesterday in the Jabaliya refugee camp, where masked gunmen traded shots with masked policemen in the worst violence among the Palestinians themselves since 1994.

As religious authorities appealed for calm over the loudspeakers of a mosque, bleeding youths were rushed through the chaotic streets to waiting ambulances. More than 80 Palestinians were injured, hospital officials said.

It was the third day of clashes in Gaza, provoked by Arafat's effort to satisfy Israeli and international demands that he stop attacks on Israel by dismantling organizations that advocate terrorism. As it acts against Islamic militants, the Palestinian police force is increasingly viewed in the refugee camps as an Israeli proxy.

"Arafat is a spy for Israel now," said one 17-year-old who was throwing stones at the police compound in Jabaliya. "He's not a Muslim -- he's Jewish. Israel and the Palestinian Authority, they are the same to us."

The **Hamas** decision, which also applied to mortar attacks against Israelis, appeared to be a short-term maneuver to relieve some of the military and diplomatic pressure on Arafat. **Hamas** did not say it was dropping its opposition to a negotiated settlement with Israel.

(Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian group responsible for suicide bombings, decided yesterday to suspend suicide attacks inside Israel until the movement's leadership chose a further course of action, Reuters reported.)

But while **Hamas** leaders were trying to blur Arafat's dilemma, the adherents of extremism threw it into stark relief. Arafat appears to be running out of room between the demands of the Bush administration, the United Nations and European countries that he stamp out violence against Israel and the demands made in the Palestinian street that it continue.

Many Palestinians believe that without the threat of attack, Israel will not leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lands it conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

HAMAS CALLS HALT TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

The **Hamas** decision was reached after a meeting late Wednesday in Gaza City between leaders of the group and representatives of other Palestinian factions, including Arafat's Fatah organization.

Israeli officials rejected the **Hamas** announcement as improperly distinguishing between Israelis on each side of the disputed boundaries with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The decision, announced in a statement faxed to news agencies, appeared to imply that soldiers and settlers living in those areas were still fair game.

Israeli chief of staff Shaul Mofaz said in a speech yesterday, "We have to ask ourselves, 'Is this a turning point, and does this mean no more violence and no more terror and a return to the negotiating table?' And the answer is no."

Dore Gold, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the development had no implications for Israel's demands of Arafat. "As far as Israel is concerned, the Palestinian Authority has an obligation to no longer harbor or give shelter to international terrorist organizations, and that hasn't changed one iota," he said.

Arafat met with his Cabinet last night, which then issued a statement welcoming the "important statement" of **Hamas** and condemning the violence in recent days in Gaza as "an attack on the national interest, on the Palestinian national entity and on law and order."

After 26 people were killed in three **Hamas** bombings at the beginning of December, Arafat came under intense pressure to act against the group, whose popularity rivals his own. But on Dec. 12, a **Hamas** bomb-and-gun attack killed 10 Israelis in the West Bank, prompting the Israeli government to declare that Arafat had made himself "irrelevant" and break off all contact with him.

Despite that stance, Israel has resumed its contacts with Arafat's security lieutenants and has continued to regard him as responsible for reigning in **Hamas**. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters that Arafat's Palestinian Authority had "started really to act more seriously."

In a speech Sunday night, Arafat called for an immediate cease-fire, referring specifically to "the suicide attacks, which we have always condemned." He also rejected "the launching of mortar rockets that have no goal but give the justification for Israeli attacks against our people, children and **women**."

Since then, forces of Arafat's Palestinian Authority have stepped up their efforts against **Hamas**, closing its offices and arresting some of its members. But when police in Gaza City attempted Wednesday night to arrest Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, widely seen as one of **Hamas**' most powerful leaders, they were driven back by a crowd throwing rocks and firing in the air.

Hamas supporters clashed again with police Thursday night, as leaders of all the Palestinian factions met in Rantisi's home. He was still in his home yesterday, defying orders for his arrest.

In its statement, **Hamas** said its fighters must comply with its decision to suspend some attacks "until God deems otherwise." It said it had reached the decision "for the sake of the unity of our Palestinian people and in order to protect the path of jihad to achieve freedom and independence."

In explaining the decision, Rantisi, a pediatrician, yesterday said suicide bombings and mortar attacks "created a kind of tension in the Palestinian street."

"**Hamas** is a responsible movement," he said. "Therefore, it took into consideration keeping the unity of the Palestinian people." He emphasized that **Hamas** planned to "stop these forms of resistance" only "for a while."

In Jabaliya refugee camp, violence erupted during the funeral procession for a 17-year-old Palestinian killed Thursday night when police stopped a group attempting to fire mortar bombs at a Jewish settlement. On a bright, crisp day, as they marched through the streets of Jabaliya, the mourners chanted, "Arafat is a traitor."

The funeral procession, organized by Islamic Jihad, converged in front of a police compound with a demonstration in support of **Hamas**. Witnesses said members of Islamic Jihad fired in the air, and then some in the crowd began

HAMAS CALLS HALT TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

hurling stones and firing at two police buildings, which were once controlled by Israeli forces. From the buildings, masked policemen fired back. The fighting lasted four hours.

Among the rioters were Hamas members who said they had no intention of abiding by even a limited cease fire. "The Authority is over," one Hamas member shouted through a megaphone. "And the power is in the hands of the mujahideen."

One onlooker who identified himself as a policeman said he had stopped wearing his uniform a week ago, partly out of shame. "I'm scared, too; I'm scared for my people," he said. "My brother is Hamas, and I work for the police. It's a hard situation."

One mosque blared calls for an end to the violence. Citing verses in the Koran, the appeals noted that it was forbidden for one Muslim to kill another.

Only one of the dead was immediately identified. He was Abed al Aziz al-Sawarka, 17, said to be a close friend of the youth killed Thursday night.

With Israeli forces operating freely in Palestinian-controlled territory and Israeli tanks within 200 yards of his compound, Arafat has been a virtual prisoner in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Since 1995, Arafat, a Muslim, has gone to Bethlehem for mass on Christmas eve, and Palestinian officials said he planned to do so again this year. But Israeli officials said he would need their permission and indicated that it would not be forthcoming.

Sharon spokesman Ranaan Gissin said Arafat had not fulfilled his promise to arrest the Palestinian gunmen who killed Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi on Oct.17. "People go on vacation on holidays, if they worked throughout the year," he said. "He hasn't done the job, so he's got the holiday to complete it."

Graphic

PHOTO: Elizabeth Dalziel/Associated Press: Palestinians scramble for cover after a gunfight broke out yesterday between Palestinian Authority police and members of the Islamic Jihad militant group during a funeral procession in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. The shooting injured a 12-year-old boy.

Load-Date: December 27, 2001

Israeli helicopters kill Hamas activists

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 18, 2001 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: International; Pg. D8; News

Length: 452 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Two Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a Palestinian farm Tuesday, killing four people, including two senior **Hamas** activists, the latest in a stream of violence that has crumbled a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire.

The helicopter attack obliterated a farm building near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

The Israeli military said the strike targeted the head of the military wing of the Islamic group **Hamas** in Bethlehem and that it prevented an attack in Israel.

Associated Press

Palestinian security sources identified two of the dead as Omar Saadeh -- said to be the military wing's chief -- and Taha Aruj, another senior **Hamas** activist.

Another of the dead was a cousin of Saadeh. Doctors at a hospital in nearby Beit Jalla reported the fourth death but did not identify the victim. Ten others were injured in the strike.

Israeli military sources said **Hamas** was planning an attack during the closing ceremony of the Maccabiah Games, often called the Jewish Olympics, which opened Monday in Jerusalem under tight security and are to run for eight days at various venues.

Hundreds of people gathered at the demolished building, some of them pulling dead chicks from the debris while Palestinian police tried to keep people back.

Women cried on the front steps of a nearby house.

A battered refrigerator, plastic bottles and straw floor mats littered the area.

"There must be a solution or the uprising will continue," said Wissam Ibrahim, a 19-year-old neighbour. "We knew this was a possibility and it could happen to others -- this is not the first time."

Israel has criticized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for not jailing militants it says are responsible for attacks. Israel has acknowledged assassinating suspects in Palestinian areas, in a policy widely condemned by Arab and western governments.

Also Tuesday, Palestinians fired a mortar shell from the town of Beit Jalla at Gilo, a Jewish neighbourhood in a disputed part of Jerusalem. No one was hurt.

Israeli helicopters kill Hamas activists

Up to now the largely ineffective mortar attacks have been confined mostly to the Gaza Strip area. There have been frequent exchanges of gunfire between Beit Jalla and Gilo, but they stopped in recent weeks after unofficial European monitors took up positions there.

Arafat issued a stern warning to the Palestinian militant groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad in a meeting late Monday, telling them that any further attacks inside Israel would lead to arrests of their members, a Palestinian security official said on condition of anonymity.

But Abdullah Shami, a Jihad spokesperson in Gaza, was defiant afterward.

"No power in the world can stop the resistance operations," he said. "We have nothing more to lose."

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

End of Document

HAMAS SAYS IT IS SUSPENDING SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 22, 2001 Saturday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 596 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

* The move may improve the chances of the U.S.-led peace initiative.

For the first time in 15 months of fighting, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday that it was suspending suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel. The move appeared to improve chances for a U.S.-led truce to take hold.

Israel dismissed **Hamas**' announcement as an effort to ease international pressure on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

The State Department also expressed doubt, saying the Palestinian Authority should dismantle the ability of terrorist groups to launch attacks against Israel.

The potential for violence remained high. **Hamas**' decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where some 200,000 Jewish settlers live.

Later, there were indications that the smaller Islamic Jihad movement also might join **Hamas** in suspending attacks.

"The Islamic Jihad desires to work in order to protect the Palestinian national interest," said Nafez Azzam, one of the group's leaders. "Islamic Jihad will work to fulfill this commitment to national unity."

Asked if this meant that the suicide bombings against Israel would cease, Azzam said that this was a decision for the group's military wing. But he added that "as a politician I believe we have to work to protect our national unity. ... We are passing a very difficult period. ...

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel would continue to retaliate harshly for attacks.

Last weekend, Arafat renewed his call for a truce with Israel and demanded a halt to suicide and mortar attacks. **Hamas** initially resisted, and a senior Palestinian official said Friday's announcement was a result of protracted negotiations between **Hamas** and the Palestinian Authority.

HAMAS SAYS IT IS SUSPENDING SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL

Arafat's security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some Hamas offices and mortar factories. The crackdown has involved bloody confrontations. The deadliest fight erupted Friday in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City during the funeral of an Islamic Jihad supporter.

As thousands of mourners passed the police station, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers who returned fire. The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals for calm from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp.

In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars. One women held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene. An older man carried a boy, who appeared to be about 10 years old and was screaming in pain from a bullet wound in the leg.

Six Palestinians are killed

Six Palestinians were killed in Jebaliya and some 55 people were wounded, doctors said. Among the dead were at least two Islamic Jihad gunmen. Friday's death toll was the second-highest as a result of internal fighting since the Palestinian Authority was set up in 1994.

Hamas' announcement, faxed to news agencies, said attacks were being suspended "until further notice." A Hamas leader in Gaza, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said Friday that the Palestinians retained the right "to respond to Israeli crimes." He has eluded several Palestinian police attempts to arrest him.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Friday that Hamas' move puts the ball in Israel's court. Erekat said he now expects Israel to stop pre-emptive strikes on suspected Palestinian militants and lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages.

Notes

NATION / WORLD

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - A Palestinian militant runs toward the Palestinian Authority's police headquarters during a gunbattle on Friday between the police and members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Jebaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The battle left six dead.

Load-Date: December 23, 2001

ISRAELI RAID KILLS HAMAS TERROR GROUP LEADER

Birmingham Post

July 18, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 9

Length: 236 words

Body

An Israeli helicopter missile attack yesterday killed a Hamas terror group commander who was planning a 'massive attack' on the Jewish Olympics, said military sources.

The pilots targeted a small farm building in Bethlehem and killed three people, including two senior Hamas activists long wanted by Israel.

Israeli military sources said the strike was on a Hamas commander who was 'planning a massive attack' for the closing ceremony of the eight-day Maccabiah Games, which began on Monday and brought more than 3,000 Jewish athletes to Israel.

Palestinian gunmen returned fire from the ground, according to a Palestinian security source.

The dead were identified as: Omar Saadeh, his cousin Mohammed Saadeh and Taha Aruj. Omar Saadeh and Aruj were senior Hamas activists who Palestinian sources said were wanted by Israel.

A fourth person was in hospital in critical condition.

Israel, which has criticised the Palestinians for failing to arrest people it considers terror suspects, has a policy of targeted killings. The policy has been widely condemned by Arab and Western governments.

Blood stained the concrete floor of what had been a cinderblock building largely used to house chickens.

The building was obliterated. Some of the hundreds of people who gathered afterwards pulled dead birds from the debris.

As women cried, local man Wissam Ibrahim said: 'There must be a solution or the uprising will continue.'

Load-Date: July 18, 2001

New Clashes in Gaza; Hamas to Limit Suicide Attacks

The New York Times

December 22, 2001 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1140 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 21

Body

Six Palestinians were killed and dozens injured today in clashes with Yasir Arafat's police in the Gaza Strip, even as the militant group **Hamas** said that to preserve Palestinian unity, it was halting suicide attacks within the borders of pre-1967 Israel.

Palestinian unity disintegrated today in the Jabaliya refugee camp, where masked gunmen traded shots with masked policemen in the worst Palestinian-on-Palestinian violence since 1994.

As religious authorities appealed for calm over the loudspeakers of a mosque, bleeding youths were rushed through the chaotic streets to waiting ambulances. More than 80 Palestinians were injured, hospital officials said.

It was the third day of clashes in Gaza, provoked by Mr. Arafat's effort to satisfy Israeli and international demands that he stop attacks on Israel by dismantling organizations that advocate terrorism. As it acts against Islamic militants, the Palestinian police force is increasingly viewed in the refugee camps as an Israeli proxy.

"Arafat is a spy for Israel now," said one 17-year-old who was throwing stones at the police compound in Jabaliya. "He's not a Muslim -- he's Jewish. Israel and the Palestinian Authority, they are the same to us."

The **Hamas** decision, which also applied to mortar attacks against Israelis, appeared to be a short-term maneuver to relieve some of the military and diplomatic pressure on Mr. Arafat. **Hamas** did not say it was dropping its opposition to a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian group responsible for suicide bombings, also decided to suspend suicide attacks inside Israel until the movement's leaders chose a further course of action, Reuters reported.

But while **Hamas** leaders were trying to blur Mr. Arafat's dilemma, the adherents of extremism threw it into stark relief. Mr. Arafat appears to be running out of room between the demands of the Bush administration, the United Nations and European countries that he stamp out violence against Israel and demands among Palestinians that it continue.

Many Palestinians believe that without the threat of attack, Israel will not leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories it conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

New Clashes in Gaza; Hamas to Limit Suicide Attacks

The **Hamas** decision was reached after a meeting late Wednesday in Gaza City between leaders of the group and representatives of other Palestinian factions, including Mr. Arafat's Fatah organization.

Israeli officials rejected the **Hamas** announcement as improperly distinguishing between Israelis on each side of the disputed boundaries with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The decision, announced in a statement faxed to news agencies, appeared to imply that soldiers and settlers living in those areas were still fair game.

Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, chief of staff of the Israeli Army, said in a speech today: "We have to ask ourselves, is this a turning point and does this mean no more violence and no more terror and a return to the negotiating table? And the answer is no."

Dore Gold, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the development had no implications for Israel's demands. "As far as Israel is concerned," he said, "the Palestinian Authority has an obligation to no longer harbor or give shelter to international terrorist organizations, and that hasn't changed one iota."

Mr. Arafat met tonight with his cabinet, which issued a statement welcoming the "important statement" of **Hamas** and condemning the violence in recent days in Gaza as "an attack on the national interest, on the Palestinian national entity and on law and order."

After 26 people were killed in three **Hamas** bombings at the beginning of December, Mr. Arafat came under intense pressure to act against the group, whose popularity rivals his own. But on Dec. 12 a **Hamas** bomb and gun attack killed 10 Israelis in the West Bank, prompting the Israeli government to declare that Mr. Arafat had made himself "irrelevant" and break off all contact with him.

But Israel has resumed contacts with Mr. Arafat's security lieutenants and has continued to regard him as responsible for reining in **Hamas**. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters that Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority had "started really to act more seriously."

In a speech on Sunday night, Mr. Arafat called for an immediate cease-fire, referring specifically to "the suicide attacks, which we have always condemned." He also rejected "the launching of mortar rockets that have no goal but give the justification for Israeli attacks against our people, children and **women**."

Since then, Palestinian Authority forces have stepped up their efforts against **Hamas**, closing its offices and arresting some of its members. But when the police in Gaza City tried on Wednesday night to arrest Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, widely seen as one of **Hamas**'s most powerful leaders, they were driven back by a crowd throwing rocks and firing in the air.

Hamas supporters clashed again with the police on Thursday night as leaders of all the Palestinian factions met in Dr. Rantisi's home. He was still in his home today, defying orders for his arrest.

In its statement, **Hamas** said it had reached the decision "for the sake of the unity of our Palestinian people and in order to protect the path of jihad to achieve freedom and independence."

Dr. Rantisi said: "**Hamas** is a responsible movement. Therefore it took into consideration keeping the unity of the Palestinian people." He emphasized that **Hamas** planned to "stop these forms of resistance" only "for a while."

In the Jabaliya refugee camp, violence erupted during the funeral procession for a 17-year-old Palestinian killed on Thursday night when the police stopped a group trying to fire mortar bombs at a Jewish settlement. On a bright, crisp day, as they marched through the streets of Jabaliya, the mourners chanted, "Arafat is a traitor."

Among the rioters were members of **Hamas** who said they had no intention of abiding by even a limited cease-fire. "The Authority is over," one **Hamas** member shouted through a megaphone. "And the power is in the hands of the mujahdeen."

With Israeli forces operating freely in Palestinian-controlled territory and Israeli tanks within 200 yards of his compound, Mr. Arafat has been a virtual prisoner in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

New Clashes in Gaza; Hamas to Limit Suicide Attacks

Mr. Arafat, a Muslim, has gone to Bethlehem for Mass on Christmas Eve since 1995, and Palestinian officials said he planned to go this year. But Israeli officials said he would need their permission and indicated that it would not be forthcoming.

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Prime Minister Sharon, said Mr. Arafat had not fulfilled his promise to arrest the Palestinian gunmen who killed Israel's tourism minister, Rehavam Zeevi, on Oct. 17. "People go on vacation on holidays if they worked throughout the year," Mr. Gissin said. "He hasn't done the job, so he's got the holiday to complete it."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A girl waved an Islamic Jihad flag near a burned police car during a clash in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza. (Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: December 22, 2001

End of Document

Hamas reins in its suicide bombers: Militants agree to avoid confrontation

The Guardian (London)

June 14, 2001

Copyright 2001 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 758 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Gaza

Body

Hamas, the group whose suicide bombers have brought carnage to the heart of Israel, gave its tacit support to the tentative ceasefire between the Israelis and the Palestinians yesterday.

The Islamic militant organisation told the Guardian that it would not unleash more suicide bombers on Israel so long as its troops did not kill Palestinian civilians - an undertaking that greatly increases the prospects that this fragile truce may hold and wind down the eight months of bloodshed.

"As long as the Israelis do not murder Palestinian civilians we will not attack civilians on the other side," Abdel Aziz Rantissi, the second most senior figure in **Hamas**, said yesterday. "But if they continue to kill our kids, women, and youth, and (continue) assassinating activists, we will attack anywhere."

The prospect of a reprieve from **Hamas** suicide attacks, even though it was cloaked in the usual high-blown rhetoric about continuing the struggle against the occupation, is crucial to the success of the agreement achieved by the CIA director, George Tenet. It seeks to consolidate separate ceasefire undertakings by the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

The armed wing of **Hamas**, Izzedin al-Qassem, is thought to have 300 members. It has claimed responsibility for all but one of the 13 suicide attacks in Israel since September. On the crumbling walls of Gaza's refugee camps, the graffiti of exploding buses tells it all: **Hamas** is on the march again.

Yesterday's ceasefire is the unintended - by **Hamas** - fallout from the deadliest of its attacks, the June 1 suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv disco which killed 20 Israelis.

The ceasefire terms are deeply humiliating to Mr Arafat and set him against his angry people, who have lost 500 of their own and suffered months of economic siege and agricultural destruction with no tangible gains.

But **Hamas** says it will not bring about the immediate collapse of the truce, thus avoiding a confrontation with Mr Arafat's security forces. Its decision rests on the calculation that the ceasefire will collapse of its own accord.

"We have declared very firmly we are against any kind of clash with our brothers in the Palestinian Authority," Dr Rantissi said.

"It is a kind of red line no one can go through."

Hamas reins in its suicide bombers: Militants agree to avoid confrontation

In return for holding back its suicide bombers - it claims to have at least three more in the wings - Hamas seems to have extracted a promise from Mr Arafat's administration not to arrest their men, at least in the Gaza Strip. The immunity demonstrates its hold over the administration.

The uprising in Gaza has been fought under a loose-knit but united command coordinating the militias of Mr Arafat's Fatah movement, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and other small armed factions in shooting and mortar attacks on Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlements.

This and Hamas's popularity makes it hard for the Palestinian Authority to act against its fighters.

Israel insists that Mr Arafat's police must round up at least some of the 400 militants released from its jails in the early days of the intifada, and the ceasefire is reported to call for the arrest of 20 explosives experts in the West Bank.

But the Palestinian policemen are not moving against them.

That means Israel is unlikely to get its hands on the most wanted Hamas bombers: Mohammed Deif, who heads the military wing in Gaza, and Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, the target of the F-16 bombing raid in Nablus last month which killed 11 Palestinian policemen.

Nor do Hamas's political opponents in Fatah want them jailed - especially at Israel's behest.

"What do I think of the ceasefire? It can go to hell," said Fayez Abu Shamala, deputy mayor of Khan Yunis, and a Fatah leader.

"What I am telling you now is the thoughts of 90% of the people who are suffering now because of the Oslo agreement signed by Mr Arafat. The tragedy now is that Fatah does not lead the people now."

Hamas has made good use of the vacuum. An opinion poll published in April by a Palestinian academic in Jerusalem, Ghassan Khatib, found that popular support for Hamas had risen from 12% to 19% since the intifada began. It also found that 73% of Palestinians supported suicide bombings.

The change of circumstance is all the more striking because Hamas had been decimated by Israeli attacks and was caught unawares by the uprising last autumn, according to Israeli intelligence reports.

An Israeli security official said: "Hamas are still trying to build a new infrastructure right now."

Load-Date: June 14, 2001

MIDEAST FLARE-UP: NEWS ANALYSIS; A New Mideast Battle: Arafat vs. Hamas

The New York Times
December 6, 2001 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1469 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 5

Body

After 14 months of conflict here, the radical group Hamas has gathered such strength that it has as much claim as Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction to represent the Palestinian mainstream. Maybe more.

Today, the two organizations squared off. Mr. Arafat put Hamas's spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, under house arrest in Gaza, a move that brought hundreds of Hamas supporters into the street to protest. The arrest of Sheik Yassin, who is paralyzed, was largely symbolic but was not appreciated by Hamas, and it may or may not presage a broader assault.

After the killing of 25 Israelis over the weekend in three Hamas suicide bombings, Israel stepped up its demands that Mr. Arafat crush the organization. He effectively accepted that mission on Sunday, declaring a state of emergency as his security lieutenants promised a crackdown on Hamas and another radical group, Islamic Jihad, which carried out a suicide bombing today in Jerusalem that wounded three Israelis.

Then, to no one's surprise, Mr. Arafat dragged his feet.

But as Israel mounted a fierce military campaign to threaten and embarrass Mr. Arafat by striking at emblems of his authority, a growing international coalition lined up to hold him to his promise.

Now Mr. Arafat appears to be starting the test of power that Israel has sought, matching his dwindling support against the growing strength of an organization whose strategy for confronting Israel is more popular than the one he officially advocates.

Even if Israel were to topple the longtime Palestinian leader, Hamas is not yet in a position to take over immediately in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is not to say, however, that Hamas is to be trifled with.

The United States views Hamas in simple terms -- as a terrorist group. But its power has grown steadily, for reasons that illustrate how ugly this conflict became while the Bush administration focused elsewhere.

MIDEAST FLARE-UP: NEWS ANALYSIS A New Mideast Battle: Arafat vs. Hamas

As of early October, support among Palestinians for the Islamist groups had risen to 31 percent, up from 23 percent in September 2000, according to a poll by Dr. Nader Said of Bir Zeit University in Ramallah, in the West Bank. Among Islamist groups, Hamas is the heavyweight.

The same poll, which had a margin of error of three percentage points, showed that support for Mr. Arafat's Fatah organization had dropped to 20 percent, from 33 percent. Such polling has consistently shown that many Palestinians are uncommitted as yet to either group and are still persuadable.

In general, Hamas tends to do disproportionately well among women, who appreciate its schools and other services, Dr. Said said.

Hamas also appears to be doing well with young people. In student council elections last month at Al Najah University in Nablus, on the West Bank, Hamas and its Islamic allies overwhelmed Fatah, 60 percent to 34 percent. Palestinian analysts took note of the result because it was the first student election held during the uprising.

Hamas's promotion of Islam and its schools and health clinics have all contributed to its rising strength. But the greatest source of its popularity is this: Its suicide bombers kill Israelis.

Palestinians argue that the Israeli military kills civilians. Israelis counter that, unlike suicide bombers, they do not kill civilians on purpose. Most Palestinians do not value that distinction.

It is hard for those who have not experienced it to understand the rage felt even by elite Palestinians over their treatment by Israeli soldiers -- who are acting, the Israelis say, out of fear for their own citizens' security.

"It's not the primitive colonial model, where you use large-scale killing of the population," said Saleh Abdel Jawad, a professor of political science at Bir Zeit. "It's not this at all. It's a system that suffocates you slowly, slowly. It paralyzes your life, daily. And the people arrive to the point of explosion, and they cannot explode. And then one of the suicide bombers explodes instead of them."

He offered himself as an example, describing the humiliation and anger he felt after being held at a checkpoint in the baking sun for an hour and a half for no reason that he could see: "I remember myself, despite the fact that for 20 years already I don't believe in violence -- hate violence. In my daydream there was this feeling that I want to get down from the car and grab the soldier and kill him -- the feeling of impotency in front of this pressure."

Surveys of Palestinians show that in the long term, most favor a two-state solution to the standoff with Israel, the approach that Mr. Arafat has also formally accepted. That puts them at odds with Hamas, which wants a two-stage solution: Drive the Israelis out of the West Bank and Gaza, then drive them out of the Middle East.

But in the short term, Hamas is winning the argument over strategy and tactics. Most Palestinians do not support the cease-fire Mr. Arafat keeps insisting he wants, and many of them approve of the suicide bombings, which he condemns repeatedly -- if, by Israeli lights, insincerely.

"This is not like 1996," said Muhammad Ghazal, a political leader of Hamas. That year, after a wave of suicide bombings, Mr. Arafat rounded up 600 Hamas militants and even replaced preachers in Gaza mosques with his own more conciliatory men. But in 1996, peace negotiations were going somewhere.

"There were a lot of promises for Arafat," said Mr. Ghazal, adding with evident satisfaction that now, "We lost all our support for a peaceful solution for our struggle."

Palestinians have drawn a lesson from Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, after 22 years' occupation there. Israel presented that decision as common sense, but many Palestinians concluded that the war of attrition conducted by Hezbollah guerrillas had forced Israel to run.

Militants from Hamas and other organizations -- including Mr. Arafat's own Fatah, which is largely secular -- argue that only that approach will push the Israelis out of the West Bank and Gaza. Yet Mr. Arafat keeps insisting that he wants a cease-fire.

MIDEAST FLARE-UP: NEWS ANALYSIS A New Mideast Battle: Arafat vs. Hamas

Islamic Jihad, which Israelis say is financed by Iran, is seen as far less organized and sophisticated than Hamas, which is backed by donors in Persian Gulf states and by some American organizations.

With its roots in Egypt in the Muslim Brotherhood, the organization that became Hamas was nonviolent and charitable until the first intifada broke out in 1987. Fearful of losing his following to militant organizations, Sheik Yassin formed Hamas, an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement that means "Zeal." The new organization had a military wing.

Rather than following a steady line, reflecting the growth of its social-services network, the popularity of Hamas has tracked the ebb and flow of conflict with the Israelis. It is no coincidence that its popularity has climbed during the past year as peace talks collapsed.

But Dr. Said, of Bir Zeit University, called the new support for Hamas precarious. "Most of it is very soft support," he said, an assessment echoed by Israeli analysts.

Asked if Hamas would take over if Mr. Arafat fell, Boaz Ganor, director of the International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, replied: "Conceivable? The answer is yes. Probable? The answer is no."

He predicted a period of chaos, followed by the formation of a three-part coalition of Mr. Arafat's old guard, young leaders of this uprising and Hamas.

Who might emerge as the foremost Hamas leader is anyone's guess. Its officials are divided between political leaders, who are known, and military ones, who generally remain anonymous until Israel hunts them down and kills them. Of the political leaders, the most prominent are Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi and Mahmoud al-Zahar. The political leaders claim not to know about military operations, a claim Israelis dispute.

Palestinian and Israeli analysts say that while its Islamic message is part of the appeal of Hamas, most Palestinians would reject the restrictions of a fundamentalist regime.

"They would regard that as a repressive regime if it were ever imposed on them," said Martin Kramer, an expert on Islamic politics at Tel Aviv University. "I think a lot of the increase you hear about in support for Hamas these days is really a flirtation. It's not a shift in allegiance."

Khalil Shikaki, a noted Palestinian pollster, predicted that if the conflict continued, Hamas would become the dominant organization within two years. "People want nothing short of revenge, blood, more of it," he said, "and under these conditions, the ones who give them blood are the ones they will give their support."

But if a crackdown on Hamas is followed by hope for peace, that attitude is likely to change fast. "This is temporary," Mr. Shikaki said of the blood lust he described. "Once the reason for it is gone, then support for it is gone."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: At a Ramallah checkpoint on the West Bank yesterday, an Israeli soldier ordered a young Palestinian not to pass. Yasir Arafat responded to demands that he curb terrorism by arresting Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, which took responsibility for weekend attacks that killed 25. (Photographs by Reuters)(pg. A16)

MIDEAST FLARE-UP: NEWS ANALYSIS A New Mideast Battle: Arafat vs. Hamas

End of Document

New hope for truce as Hamas calls halt to attacks

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

December 22, 2001 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; NEWS

Length: 461 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

The Islamic rebel group **Hamas** yesterday announced a suspension of suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, boosting chances for a U.S.-brokered truce to take hold.

In internal Palestinian fighting, five people were killed when a rebel's funeral turned into a gunbattle.

The **Hamas** announcement came after two days of clashes between Palestinian police -- who have been trying to enforce a ceasefire -- and supporters of **Hamas** and the smaller Islamic Jihad group. In all, six Palestinians have been killed and 94 hurt in internal confrontations since Thursday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas said in a leaflet faxed to news agencies that it ordered the attacks suspended "until further notice" to preserve Palestinian unity.

The announcement was seen as a victory for beleaguered Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who has been under intense U.S. and European pressure to prevent attacks on Israel.

It was the first time **Hamas** had made such a promise in the 15 months of fighting.

Arafat had renewed his truce call in a speech last Sunday. For the first time, he referred to suicide bombings and other operations against Israel as "terrorist activity."

Arafat's speech pitted his security forces against the activists, including some affiliated with Arafat's Fatah. Arafat has always moved carefully in confronting his rivals, fearing a civil war.

However, the **Hamas** decision only referred to stopping suicide attacks in Israel, not in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving open the possibility of further violence. The ban on mortar fire extended to both Israel and the Palestinian territories, according to the leaflet.

A senior Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the **Hamas** announcement was a result of negotiations between leaders of the group and senior Palestinian Authority officials that ended early yesterday.

It was not clear whether Islamic Jihad would also suspend attacks. Abu Imad Rifai, the Islamic Jihad representative in Lebanon, said his group would continue attacks against Israel.

New hope for truce as Hamas calls halt to attacks

Israel's reaction was guarded. In the past 15 months of fighting, scores of Israelis have been killed in attacks by Islamic rebels, including 36 this month.

"What's positive? That they stop terror activities in one place, but keep murdering women and children somewhere else?" said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"As long as the terror activities continue, we will implement our right of self-defence, and we will act against them with all our might."

Israeli officials remained skeptical of Arafat's intentions. Government officials said Arafat was doing just enough to win back sympathy from the United States and Europe, which have heaped criticism on the Palestinian president for failing to stop the violent extremists.

Load-Date: January 1, 2002

End of Document

**Hamas calls halt to suicide bombings;
Attacks suspended amid Palestinian infighting**

Western Daily Press

December 22, 2001

WP LATE CITY

Copyright 2001 Bristol United Press

Section: News :999 :Terrorism, Pg.12

Length: 349 words

Byline: a Special Correspondent

Body

GAZA CITY: The Islamic militant group **Hamas** yesterday suspended suicide bombings in Israel, boosting chances for a truce to take hold, but internecine fighting pushed Palestinians nearer to civil war.

Five Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded when they turned on each other during the funeral of a 17-year-old youth killed in a battles on Thursday in a Gaza refugee camp.

As thousands of mourners passed the local police station in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers who returned fire.

The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp to stop shooting. In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars.

One **women** held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene. An older man carried a boy screaming in pain from a bullet wound.

At least two of the dead were Islamic Jihad gunmen, and about 55 people were wounded, doctors said.

The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's crackdown on militants - his security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some **Hamas** offices and mortar factories - has been accompanied by bloody confrontations.

Since Thursday, six Palestinians have been killed and at least 94 hurt in gun battles between militants and Palestinian police.

The death toll yesterday was the second highest as a result of internal fighting since the Palestinian Authority was established in 1994.

Israel dismissed the **Hamas** announcement of a cessation of attacks as a tactical move aimed at easing international pressure on Arafat to crack down on militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them. He wants several days of quiet so that public opinion will be on his and the Palestinian Authority's side, " said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

Hamas calls halt to suicide bombings; Attacks suspended amid Palestinian infighting

Despite the **Hamas** moratorium, the potential for violence remained high. The smaller Islamic Jihad group announced that it was not suspending attacks, and the **Hamas** decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip .

Load-Date: December 22, 2001

End of Document

**Hamas halts suicide attacks: Six killed in gun fight between militants,
Palestinian police**

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

December 22, 2001 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: International; Pg. C11; Crime

Length: 526 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- For the first time in 15 months of fighting, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday that it is suspending suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, improving chances for a U.S.-led truce to take hold.

Despite that promise, tensions between militants and Palestinian police trying to enforce a ceasefire continued to run high. Six Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded Friday in a gun battle in a Gaza refugee camp.

Associated Press

Israel dismissed the **Hamas** announcement as a tactical move aimed at easing international pressure on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them. He (Arafat) wants several days of quiet so that public opinion will be on his and the Palestinian Authority's side," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

Despite the **Hamas** moratorium, the potential for violence remained high. The smaller Islamic Jihad group announced from Lebanon that it was not suspending attacks, and the **Hamas** decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip where some 200,000 Jewish settlers live.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel would continue to retaliate harshly for attacks.

Islamic militants have killed scores of Israelis since September 2000, including 37 this month alone. In all, more than 840 people have died on the Palestinian side and more than 240 on the Israeli side.

Last weekend, Arafat renewed his call for a truce with Israel, demanding a halt to suicide and mortar attacks. **Hamas** initially resisted, and a senior Palestinian official said Friday's announcement was a result of protracted negotiations between **Hamas** and the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat's crackdown on militants, his security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some **Hamas** offices and mortar factories, has been accompanied by bloody confrontations.

Since Thursday, seven Palestinians have been killed and at least 94 hurt in gun battles between militants and Palestinian police.

The deadliest fight erupted Friday in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City during the funeral of an Islamic Jihad supporter.

Hamas halts suicide attacks: Six killed in gun fight between militants, Palestinian police

As thousands of mourners passed the local police station, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers who returned fire. The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp to stop shooting.

In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars. One women held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene. An older man carried a boy, who appeared to be about 10 years old and was screaming in pain from a bullet wound in the leg.

In all, six Palestinians were killed in Jebaliya, including at least two Islamic Jihad gunmen, and about 55 people were wounded, doctors said.

Friday's death toll was the second-highest as a result of internal fighting since the Palestinian Authority was established in 1994.

The Hamas announcement, faxed to news agencies, said attacks were being suspended "until further notice."

Graphic

Photo: AP Photo; A Hamas member stops fellow demonstrators from entering Yasser Arafat's office Friday in Ramallah

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

Israelis bomb Gaza police ; Palestinians battle Hamas

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

December 07, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P7C

Length: 887 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak The Associated Press

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli warplanes bombed a police post in Gaza early today, keeping pressure on Yasser Arafat to arrest suspected terrorists. The attack came hours after 1,500 **Hamas** supporters battled Palestinian riot police to protest Arafat's crackdown.

At Shifa Hospital, doctors were treating at least 20 people injured in the strike, including 18 police and two civilians - a man and his son on their way to a morning prayers. Medical workers said the injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

The Israeli army said in a statement that the attack targeted the "Palestinian security apparatus that supports and aids terrorist operations. The army will continue its operations in order to defend the safety of Israeli citizens and soldiers."

Two buildings were destroyed - one a police dormitory, the other office space, including that of a **women's** police division.

"This new Israeli crime came while the Palestinian police are exerting maximum efforts to safeguard security," a police statement said.

Thursday's protest was a violent backlash to an intensified roundup of Islamic militants. It came as a U.S. envoy and the Egyptian foreign minister shuttled between Israel and the Palestinian territories, trying to stop more than a year of Palestinian-Israeli clashes and bring about a truce.

Arafat faces pressure from the United States and continued strikes by Israel if he fails to stop militants who have carried out a wave of deadly attacks.

Though Arafat said his forces have arrested 180 militants, Israeli officials said earlier that the leaders of violent groups remain at large.

"Very few of the people arrested were important," Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Army Radio.

The United States was also skeptical of Arafat's sweeps.

"The president remains deeply concerned that Palestinian jails ... are still built with bars in front with revolving doors at the back," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Israelis bomb Gaza police ; Palestinians battle Hamas

Palestinians insisted their efforts were sincere and for their own good.

"The Americans did not impose anything on us," said West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub. "We know exactly what our interests are and what our duty is."

Arafat said Thursday that the United States had given him a list of 33 militants, and most of them had been arrested. He said police were looking for the others.

The United States has been trying to cool the Mideast conflict to keep it from interfering with its operation in Afghanistan.

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington, Arafat has been trying to distance himself from Islamic militants.

Arafat met Thursday with U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher. Both diplomats also saw Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Violence lent urgency to the talks. Two Palestinian suicide bombing attacks killed 25 in Israel last weekend, and Israeli retaliatory attacks on Monday and Tuesday targeted Arafat's headquarters and security offices, killing two people and injuring more than 100.

"We know there is a warning of some more suicide bombers trying to enter Israel," Peres said after meeting with Maher. Peres said Israel was giving Arafat time to move against the militants, but stressed the urgency of the situation, saying: "Another bomb will really make the situation impossible."

Maher's visit was a sign of the seriousness of the crisis.

Egypt has shunned high-profile ties with Israel since Sharon became prime minister in March, and Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Israel last year because of the violence.

"I cannot say we see eye-to-eye because there are still points of difference," Maher said after meeting with Peres. Egypt, like the Palestinians, has consistently blamed Israel for more than a year of violence.

The weekend suicide bomb attacks and the retaliatory airstrikes spurred Arafat into action against the militant **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad groups, moves he had avoided for fear of setting off a Palestinian civil war.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinian police posted officers outside two mosques late Wednesday, checking the identity cards of worshippers against a list of wanted people. No arrests were made, but police said they found several pounds of explosives in the Nablus hide-out of a **Hamas** militant.

Yassin was placed under house arrest Wednesday, sparking angry resistance from **Hamas** supporters. More than 1,500 protesters clashed Thursday with Palestinian police, who set up checkpoints around his Gaza City home.

Both sides occasionally fired automatic weapons in the air, and there was a brief exchange of fire in which a **Hamas** supporter, Mohammed Silmi, 21, was killed.

In the West Bank towns of Qalqilya, Tulkarem, Nablus and Jenin, Palestinian police entered dozens of suspected **Hamas** activists' homes overnight, only to find they had fled. The night ended with just one arrest, Nablus security officials said.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a **Hamas** leader who has gone underground, posted a message to wanted men on a **Hamas** Web site, saying they should not turn themselves in.

In another incident, Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian after mortar shells landed on Jewish settlements in Gaza. The Israeli military said the Palestinian was involved in firing the mortars, but Palestinians said the killing was unprovoked.

Israelis bomb Gaza police ; Palestinians battle Hamas

AP-ES-12-06-01 2222EST

Load-Date: December 7, 2001

End of Document

Hamas killer had planned wedding

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

December 3, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 268 words

Byline: MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

Body

A SUICIDE bomber who blew himself up on an Israeli bus last night was a 21-year-old plumber who had become engaged six weeks ago and was preparing for his wedding, his stunned father said today.

Muhyi Habashi said he had no idea his son, Maher, had been recruited by the Islamic group, Hamas.
MATP

One of the assailant's younger brothers broke down in tears and had to be restrained while his mother sat in a room surrounded by grieving women, clinging to one of her four daughters.

Outside the house, Hamas members fired guns in the air in celebration.

Maher Habashi last night boarded a bus in the northern Israeli port city of Haifa, paid the fare of five shekels (\$A2.90) and then within seconds set off the nail-studded explosives strapped to his body.

The blast killed Habashi and 15 bus passengers and bystanders, police said.

It is estimated that about 40 people were wounded.

The elder Mr Habashi, a municipal worker in Nablus, was told of his son's violent death when he returned home from evening prayers to join the family for their meal.

Mr Habashi was stunned as neighbours and friends came to congratulate him.

"Maher got engaged one-and-a-half months ago and we were getting ready for his wedding," Mr Habashi said, crying and holding on to relatives for support.

Hundreds of Palestinians filled Mr Habashi's home and spilled out into the street, most coming to offer their congratulations and others their sympathies.

"Everybody feels bad when they lose their son," said Mr Habashi's cousin, Adel, 45, a school teacher.

"But we are proud of him, you should be proud of him," he told Mr Habashi.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

Hamas killer had planned wedding

End of Document

Israel goes on alert as Hamas seeks revenge

The Times

April 3, 1998, Friday

Copyright 1998 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 527 words

Byline: Christopher Walker

Body

Bombmaker's funeral inflames comrades' anger, Christopher Walker writes

JEWISH population centres were placed on maximum alert yesterday against suicide attacks as thousands of enraged Palestinians chanting "Revenge, revenge" buried the Hamas bombmaker they claim was assassinated by Israeli agents.

"We want to hear explosions in Tel Aviv. Blow them up, blow them up," exhorted Arab women, slapping themselves in grief as the body of Muhyideen al-Sharif, 32, his scorched face and upper body exposed, was carried through the streets of the Palestinian self-rule city of Ramallah for an Islamic martyr's burial.

"Dear, dear Qassam, hit Tel Aviv," chanted the crowd as Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority police kept their distance. The mourners were referring to Izz el-Deen al-Qassam, the military wing of Hamas preparing revenge attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and abroad.

Hamas rejected Israeli denials of any involvement in Sharif's killing on Sunday and said that retaliation would "be quicker than anyone can imagine". The group added: "The Zionists must watch the earthquake reaction."

Senior Israeli security officials anticipated a series of attacks. "We know a Hamas reaction will come. The question is when and where," one Israeli source said.

Yesterday's funeral swiftly turned into one of the biggest Hamas shows of force for many months. Supporters of the militant group in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip said one immediate response to the killing of the bombmaker - who had been in hiding since 1995 - had been a stream of new volunteers for suicide bombings.

They, like Sharif, are promised a place in paradise with 72 virgin brides and spaces reserved for members of their families.

Marchers, who clashed with Israeli forces guarding a nearby Jewish settlement, carried green Islamic flags. They jostled for a chance to touch the body of the man who was blamed by Israel for masterminding suicide attacks that claimed 78 Jewish lives.

By nightfall there were reports of fierce clashes between Palestinians and Israelis in at least six different parts of the West Bank. An Arab stabbed a Jew in annexed east Jerusalem. At least 20 Palestinians were wounded. Many more mass protests are planned after prayers today.

Israel goes on alert as Hamas seeks revenge

The **Hamas** leaflet vowed that revenge would be even bloodier than in 1996 when Sharif's predecessor, Yahya Ayyash, "The Engineer", was killed in the Gaza Strip by a booby-trapped mobile telephone.

"They (the Israelis) paid with 60 coffins for Ayyash," the leaflet said, "and we are telling them now to prepare for more."

Palestinian lawmakers loyal to Mr Arafat added fuel to the fire by openly accusing Israel of killing Sharif, whose body was found near a car that blew up in Ramallah. However, the exact circumstances of the death remained in dispute. Palestinian police claimed that he was killed by three bullets about three hours before the explosion, while Israeli security sources insisted that he had died in "a work accident" when a **Hamas** bomb had exploded prematurely.

With the Easter and Passover holidays only days away, thousands of extra soldiers and policemen tightened controls at West Bank roadblocks.

Load-Date: April 3, 1998

End of Document

ISRAELI RAID KILLS 8 AT HAMAS OFFICE; 2 ARE YOUNG BOYS

The New York Times
August 1, 2001 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1194 words

Byline: By CLYDE HABERMAN

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank, July 31

Body

Eight Palestinians, including two small boys, were killed today when Israeli Army helicopters fired missiles into the offices here of the militant Islamic group Hamas, igniting fury on the street and demands for swift revenge.

It was the deadliest incident in the Middle East conflict since a supposed cease-fire went into effect seven weeks ago. Combined with an explosion north of Nablus that killed six Palestinians on Monday and shootings in the Gaza Strip that took two more lives today, 16 people have died in the last two days, all of them Palestinians.

The violence continued into the night with reports of two Palestinian drive-by shootings that wounded five Israelis, one gravely, in the West Bank. There were also heavy exchanges of gunfire on Jerusalem's southern rim, a frequent flash point that had been quiet in recent days.

Taken together, the events suggested that the bloodshed, now in its 11th month, is not about to end any time soon.

Once again, Israelis and Palestinians blamed each other for sabotaging hopes for peace. Efforts led by the United States to put some kind of monitoring mechanism in place have yet to yield results. As for the cease-fire, brokered by the Americans in mid-June, there has been not a day when it could truly begin to take root.

The dead today included the two boys, brothers who were hit by debris as they happened to pass by when the attack occurred, and two local Hamas leaders who were the Israelis' intended targets.

The army appeared to have been aiming in particular to kill Jamal Mansour, who had been arrested many times by Israel and the Palestinian Authority and who was said by the Israelis to have been behind major terrorist bombings.

The office of Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, issued a statement after the attack saying Mr. Mansour and the other senior Hamas figure, Jamal Salim, "were in the process of planning further terrorist acts." The army acted to prevent them, the statement said, though adding its regret about the death of the two boys, Bilal Abu Khader, 7, and his brother Ashraf, 5.

Hamas leaders warned that Israel would pay for what happened today, and their threats intensified nervousness among Israelis, who were already on high alert for terrorist bombs.

ISRAELI RAID KILLS 8 AT HAMAS OFFICE; 2 ARE YOUNG BOYS

In the devastated Hamas offices here, three floors up from the street, young women from the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees picked carefully through blood-soaked rubble, collecting body parts. They had to wade across a thick carpet of paper, twisted furniture, upended chairs and shattered computer terminals.

On the streets of Nablus there was unbridled rage.

"This is not seen as just an action against Hamas," said Muhammad Amudi, a Nablus resident who was standing across the street from the newly charred and pockmarked building on Assika Road where the Hamas offices had been. "It's an act against the Palestinian people. When something like this happens, people don't think Hamas or Fatah or Islamic Jihad. They think all our people are targeted."

Qassem Shamoot, who runs a computer store on the ground level of the seven-story building that was hit, saw at first hand the precision of the Israeli helicopters. The damage was relatively light on all floors except the one where Hamas used to be. Nevertheless, Mr. Shamoot said, everything shook, himself included, when the missiles struck.

"I wanted to leave my store, but I didn't know what happened," he said. "There was all this dust, and I couldn't see. So I felt my way along the wall to find my way out."

"But when I got out," he said, "I saw the two kids lying on top of each other." Mr. Shamoot placed his right hand on top of his left to illustrate how he had found young Bilal and Ashraf.

"I lost control," he said. "I started screaming 'God is great, God is great,' and called to people to bring us ambulances."

Next to him stood Ghassan Khadair, who broke in to say, "Sharon claims Palestinians are terrorists, but this shows he is the terrorist. He should pay a price for it."

Besides the eight people who were were killed, who included office workers and two journalists, six people were said to have been seriously wounded.

A sign outside the front door, still intact, identified the place as the Palestinian Center for Studies and Media. "These people were sitting safely in their office," said Ahmed Saker, identifying himself as a Hamas member. "It was an office for study."

"Jamal Mansour was arrested by the Israelis more than 13 times," Mr. Saker said. "They deported him to Lebanon once. That should have been enough for the Israelis to know who Jamal Mansour was. If he was Hamas military, they never would have released him."

But Israel insists that Mr. Mansour did indeed have Israeli blood on his hands. Television reporters who cover such matters said tonight that security officials had told them that the Nablus office had played a role in several bombings, including one at a Tel Aviv disco in early June that killed 22 Israelis.

The Israeli pattern in recent months of targeting specific people for death has outraged Palestinians. Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian Authority's security chief in the West Bank, called the policy barbaric, and some international human rights groups have added their condemnation.

But the Israeli government defends the tactic as a life-saving one for Israelis, made necessary by the conflict.

Several times now, Israel has readily acknowledged killing Hamas figures. It has been noticeably more circumspect in the deaths of people belonging to the Fatah faction of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chairman, including the six who died in the explosion on Monday.

In those incidents -- and there have been several -- the Israelis tend to deny any involvement, despite Palestinian charges of assassination. Typically, as was the case on Monday, Israel attributes Fatah deaths to "work accidents," a euphemism for people blowing themselves up by mistake while piecing bombs together.

ISRAELI RAID KILLS 8 AT HAMAS OFFICE; 2 ARE YOUNG BOYS

The Israeli killing policy was vigorously defended today by Ephraim Sneh, the transportation minister and a former army commander in the West Bank.

"Anyone who thinks that the war against terrorism is a Ping-Pong war simply doesn't understand it," Mr. Sneh told the army radio station. "You must also make pre-emptive strikes. As soon as you know about terrorists preparing an attack, it is your duty to strike them first."

In Amman, Jordan, Reuters reported that Mr. Arafat had called the killings today "a very dangerous conspiracy to liquidate our cadets." Once again, he urged world leaders to send international observers to the Palestinian territories.

But some high-ranking Israelis have begun to say in increasingly blunt terms that Mr. Arafat is the problem. The army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, said at a news conference today that Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority had given "a green light" to terrorist attacks, and "these have accelerated of late."

"I think that anyone who sees the data realizes that the Palestinian Authority has become a terrorist entity," the general said. "I don't think there is anyone who would dispute that today in light of the data, and this should be said loudly."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Two of the top leaders in the West Bank of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, Jamal Mansour, above left, and Jamal Salim, were among eight Palestinians, including two small boys, who were killed yesterday when Israeli Army helicopters fired missiles into the organization's offices, at left. (Associated Press); (Agence France-Press)(pg. A6)

Load-Date: August 1, 2001

End of Document

HAMAS HALTS ATTACKS *Skeptical Israelis doubt restraint will last*

Daily News (New York)

June 5, 2001, Tuesday

FOUR STAR EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 494 words

Byline: By TOM GROSS in Tel Aviv and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS With Michael Saul

Body

The Palestinian terror group behind the suicide bombing that killed 20 young people at a Tel Aviv disco agreed yesterday to halt its attacks on Israel. But **Hamas**' sudden decision to honor Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's ceasefire call was met with deep skepticism by Israelis.

Secretary of State Powell, in a telephone call to Arafat, urged the Palestinian leader to arrest all the culprits involved in Friday's bloody attack.

"Clearly, people that are wanted on charges, that have not been brought to justice, should be arrested and brought to justice," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

In New York, Israeli President Moshe Katsav said Arafat must prove that he can enforce his ceasefire. "It's not enough to announce it - he should implement it," he said. "We are not ready to sacrifice our youngsters, our children, our babies, our **women**, our old people for this man with such a brutal attitude toward us."

Arafat declared the ceasefire two days ago to forestall a retaliatory attack by Israelis for the suicide bombing.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also demanded that Arafat rearrest the Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** terrorists he freed from Palestinian jails when the militants launched their violent uprising against Israel in September.

Arafat has not publicly agreed to do so. But there were unconfirmed reports on Palestinian television last night that two men suspected of playing a role in the suicide bombing were nabbed in the West Bank town of Kalkilya.

Earlier, **Hamas** and Arafat's Fatah group said in a statement that Israel would be given a chance to show that it has stopped its policy of "assassinations and destruction."

Hamas said it would halt all attacks on Israel as of midnight.

The group's declaration came on a day when Arafat's ceasefire was threatened by a fierce gun battle in Gaza that left a dozen Palestinian gunmen and three Israeli soldiers wounded.

Despite that outburst of violence, Boucher said, observers have noted "some reduction in the level of violence" since Arafat's ceasefire call.

HAMAS HALTS ATTACKS Skeptical Israelis doubt restraint will last

But an Israeli Army officer with close ties to the intelligence services scoffed at that. "The number of shooting incidents frequently drops after a major terror attack as leading terrorists go underground for fear of an Israeli reprisal," he told the Daily News.

Israelis are deeply suspicious of **Hamas** and have little faith that Arafat can rein in Palestinian radicals.

"It seems Arafat's talk of a ceasefire is purely a short-term tactical maneuver," the officer said.

Arafat has not tried to muzzle the Palestinian propaganda machine that continues to incite demonstrators to attack Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza. A new poll found that more than 76% of Palestinians support suicide attacks against Israelis.

Meanwhile, two more victims of Friday's bomb attack were buried yesterday - 15-year-old Katherine Kastaniyada, who emigrated to Israel from Colombia nine years ago, and Liana Sakiyan, 16, who was born in Russia.

Load-Date: June 5, 2001

End of Document

Israelis strike Hamas site; 4 die

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

July 17, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 749 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM -- Two Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a Palestinian farm Tuesday, killing four people, including two senior Hamas activists, the latest in a steady stream of violence that has crumbled a U.S.-sponsored cease-fire.

The helicopter attack obliterated a farm building near the West Bank town of Bethlehem. The Israeli military said the strike targeted the head of the military wing of the Islamic group Hamas in Bethlehem and that it prevented an attack in Israel.

Palestinian security sources identified two of the dead as Omar Saadeh -- said to be the military wing's chief -- and Taha Aruj, another senior Hamas activist.

Another of the dead was a cousin of Saadeh. Doctors at a hospital in nearby Beit Jalla reported the fourth dead but did not identify the victim. Ten others were injured in the strike.

Israeli military sources said Hamas was planning an attack during the closing ceremony of the Maccabiah games, often called the Jewish Olympics, which opened Monday in Jerusalem under tight security and are to run for eight days at venues around the country.

Israel has criticized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for not jailing militants it says are responsible for attacks. Israel has acknowledged assassinating some suspects in Palestinian areas, in a policy widely condemned by Arab and Western governments.

Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub denounced the Israeli attack, calling it a "massacre against Palestinian civilians." Also Tuesday, Palestinians fired a mortar shell from the town of Beit Jalla at Gilo, a Jewish neighborhood in a disputed part of Jerusalem. No one was hurt. Up to now mortar attacks have been confined mostly to the Gaza Strip area. There have been frequent exchanges of gunfire between Beit Jalla and Gilo, but they stopped in recent weeks after unofficial European monitors took up positions there.

Arafat issued a stern warning to the Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad in a meeting late Monday, telling them that any further attacks inside Israel would lead to arrests of their members, the Palestinian security official said on condition of anonymity.

Abdullah Shami, a Jihad spokesman in Gaza, was defiant afterward.

Israelis strike Hamas site; 4 die

"No power in the world can stop the resistance operations that come as a reaction to the Israeli aggression. ... We have nothing more to lose," he said. He did not specify whether Jihad would limit its operations to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of people gathered at the demolished building, some of them pulling dead chicks from the debris while Palestinian police tried to keep people back. **Women** cried on the front steps of a nearby house. A battered refrigerator, plastic bottles, straw floor mats littered the area.

"There must be a solution or the uprising will continue," said Wissam Ibrahim, a 19-year-old neighbor. "We knew this was a possibility and it could happen to others -- this is not the first time."

With incidents of violence escalating, the cease-fire negotiated by CIA director George Tenet last month appeared to be collapsing. It never fully took hold, and each side accuses the other of violating it.

On Monday, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed two Israeli soldiers outside a train station in the northern town of Benyamina in an attack claimed by Islamic Jihad. Three Israelis were seriously hurt.

In response, Israeli tanks shelled Palestinian police posts in two West Bank towns, Jenin and Tulkarem. One of the shells hit a power transformer in Tulkarem, causing a blackout, witnesses said. There were no reports of injuries.

Early Tuesday, a 10-year-old Palestinian girl was struck in the head by a stray bullet while sleeping in her bed in the West Bank village of Dura, according to Sabeh al-Sharif, the girl's aunt. Palestinian security officials said there had been an exchange of fire between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians in the area.

Marwa al-Sharif was in critical condition, said hospital officials in nearby Hebron.

Scuffles between Palestinians and Israeli police wielding batons also broke out Tuesday outside Orient House, the main Palestinian offices in east Jerusalem, when Israeli police barred about 30 people from making a memorial procession to the grave of Faisal Hussein.

"We see there is something called Israeli security measures that can prevent every peaceful event," said Hussein's son, Abdel Kader Hussein, who was leading the procession. Faisal Hussein was the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem until his May 31 death from a heart attack.

Load-Date: July 17, 2001

Islamic militants announce halt to suicide attacks; Hamas: Six Palestinians die in refugee camp fight

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

December 22, 2001 Saturday

Copyright 2001 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. b6

Length: 838 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

For the first time in 15 months of fighting, the Islamic militant group **Hamas** announced Friday that it is suspending suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel, improving chances for a U.S.-led truce to take hold.

Despite that promise, tensions between militants and Palestinian police trying to enforce a cease-fire continued to run high. Six Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded Friday in a gun battle in a Gaza refugee camp.

Israel dismissed the **Hamas** announcement as a tactical move aimed at easing international pressure on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants.

"**Hamas** is doing what Arafat wants from them. He (Arafat) wants several days of quiet so that public opinion will be on his and the Palestinian Authority's side," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official.

Despite the **Hamas** moratorium, the potential for violence remained high. The smaller Islamic Jihad group announced from Lebanon that it was not suspending attacks, and the **Hamas** decision does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip where some 200,000 Jewish settlers live.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel would continue to retaliate harshly for attacks.

Islamic militants have killed scores of Israelis since September 2000, including 37 this month alone. In all, more than 840 people have died on the Palestinian side and more than 240 on the Israeli side.

Last weekend, Arafat renewed his call for a truce with Israel, demanding a halt to suicide and mortar attacks. **Hamas** initially resisted, and a senior Palestinian official said Friday's announcement was a result of protracted negotiations between **Hamas** and the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat's crackdown on militants - his security forces have arrested dozens of suspects and shut down some **Hamas** offices and mortar factories - has been accompanied by bloody confrontations. Since Thursday, seven Palestinians have been killed and at least 94 hurt in gun battles between militants and Palestinian police.

The deadliest fight erupted Friday in the Jebaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City during the funeral of an Islamic Jihad supporter. As thousands of mourners passed the local police station, gunmen in the crowd shot at officers

Islamic militants announce halt to suicide attacks; Hamas: Six Palestinians die in refugee camp fight

who returned fire. The battle went on for more than an hour, despite appeals from mosque preachers and the head of Islamic Jihad in the camp to stop shooting.

In the chaos, bystanders ran in all directions, some seeking cover behind cars. One women held her baby, swaddled in a blanket, close to her chest as she fled the scene. An older man carried a boy, who appeared to be about 10 years old and was screaming in pain from a bullet wound in the leg.

In all, six Palestinians were killed in Jebaliya, including at least two Islamic Jihad gunmen, and about 55 people were wounded, doctors said. Reporters, who are normally granted free access to hospitals after Israeli attacks, were barred from speaking to the wounded. Friday's death toll was the second-highest as a result of internal fighting since the Palestinian Authority was established in 1994.

Ayoub Katari, a 42-year-old Jebaliya resident, watched the fighting with disdain. "These bullets should target the enemy and not each other," Katari said over the crackle of gunfire. "Both sides are mistaken."

The Hamas announcement, faxed to news agencies, said attacks were being suspended "until further notice." A Hamas leader in Gaza, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who has eluded several Palestinian police attempts to arrest him, said Friday that the Palestinians retained the right "to respond to Israeli crimes," suggesting the moratorium would be called off in the event of Israeli military strikes.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Friday that the Hamas move puts the ball in Israel's court. Erekat said he now expects Israel to stop pre-emptive strikes on suspected Palestinian militants and to lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages.

Israel has refrained from air strikes and killings of suspected militants since Arafat's speech Sunday. However, Israeli leaders remained skeptical of Arafat's intentions.

"The central question we need to ask is whether the Palestinians have made a strategic decision that says, 'No more terror and a return to negotiations.' The answer is no," Israel's armed forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, said Friday.

Arafat acted after coming under intense pressure from Europe and the United States to do more to prevent attacks on Israelis and after Israel's government declared last week that he was "irrelevant" to its fight against terrorism.

It was not immediately clear whether the Hamas announcement would help revive a truce mission by U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, who left the region last weekend after three weeks of fruitless talks.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Thursday that Zinni would return to the region only "when his presence can be effective in moving towards a durable cease-fire."

Load-Date: March 12, 2002

Palestinians call for Israel to make next move Hamas to suspend suicide bombings, mortar attacks

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

December 22, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P8C

Length: 783 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

JERUSALEM - Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat says a decision by Islamic militant group Hamas to suspend suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel leaves the next step in the quest for Mideast peace up to Israel.

Erekat said he told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in a telephone conversation on Friday that he now expected Israel to stop its pre-emptive strikes on suspected Palestinian militants and to lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages.

"The ball now is in the Israeli court to stop all acts of aggression, to stop the policy of assassinations, to lift the closure and to return to the negotiating table," he said.

Israel's reaction to the Hamas decision was guarded. In the past 15 months of fighting, scores of Israelis have been killed in attacks by Islamic militants, including 36 this month.

"What's positive? That they stop terror activities in one place, but keep murdering women and children somewhere else?" said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "As long as the terror activities continue ... we will implement our right of self-defense, and we will act against them with all our might."

The Hamas announcement, seen as boosting chances for a U.S.-brokered truce to take hold, came at a time of renewed internal Palestinian fighting in which six people were killed in a gun battle in a Gaza refugee camp.

It followed two days of clashes between Palestinian police - who have been trying to enforce a cease-fire - and supporters of Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group. In all, six Palestinians have been killed and 94 hurt in internal confrontations since Thursday, doctors said.

Hamas said in a leaflet faxed to news agencies that it ordered attacks in Israel suspended "until further notice" to preserve Palestinian unity. The announcement was seen as a victory for beleaguered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who has been under intense U.S. and European pressure to prevent attacks on Israel.

It was the first time Hamas had made such a promise in the 15 months of fighting.

Palestinians call for Israel to make next move Hamas to suspend suicide bombings, mortar attacks

However, the Hamas decision only referred to stopping suicide attacks within Israel's borders, not in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving open the possibility of further violence against Jewish settlers and soldiers there. The ban on mortar fire extended to both Israel and the Palestinian territories, according to the leaflet.

A senior Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Hamas announcement was a result of negotiations between leaders of the group and senior Palestinian Authority officials that ended early Friday.

There were also indications that the smaller Islamic Jihad movement might join Hamas in suspending attacks.

"The Islamic Jihad desires to work in order to protect the Palestinian national interest," Nafez Azzam, one of the group's top leaders, told The Associated Press early Saturday. "Islamic Jihad will work to fulfill this commitment to national unity."

Asked if this meant that the suicide bombings against Israel would cease, Azzam said that this was a decision for the group's military wing, but added that "as a politician I believe we have to work to protect our national unity... We are passing a very difficult period and should be aware of everything happening."

The Palestinian cabinet, meeting Friday night in the West Bank town of Ramallah, issued a statement welcoming the Hamas move as an important contribution to national unity.

The U.S. State Department expressed reservations, saying the Palestinian Authority should dismantle the ability of terrorist groups to launch attacks against Israel.

Despite the Hamas announcement, internal tensions were running high. In the Jebaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, thousands of mourners on Friday joined the funeral procession of a 17-year-old Islamic Jihad supporter killed Thursday in a gun battle with Palestinian police.

When the funeral procession passed the local police station, gunmen opened fire at officers inside, drawing return fire. Six Palestinians were killed and over 50 hurt in the exchange, doctors said. At least two of those killed were Islamic Jihad activists, Palestinian security officials said.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarem, Palestinian police prevented militants from Arafat's Fatah movement from firing at Israeli soldiers, and the militants fired at the police instead, the Palestinian governor said. Two people were wounded as they tried to separate the two sides, he said.

In the town of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, about 2,000 Fatah supporters staged a pro-Arafat rally, witnesses said.

Many of the marchers fired automatic weapons in the air, police did not intervene, the witnesses said.

AP-ES-12-22-01 0130EST

Load-Date: December 26, 2001

Hamas militant a Scarlet Pimpernel

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 29, 2001 Tuesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 724 words

Byline: ALAN PHILPS

Dateline: ASIRA SHAMALIA, Israel

Body

The heroes of the Palestinian struggle against Israel are dead. They live on only in poems, Web sites and songs broadcast throughout the Arab world.

But one man has made the transition to hero without passing through what the Palestinians call martyrdom. He is Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, 33, Israel's most wanted man, whose near-miraculous escapes from the Israeli army have turned him into a local Scarlet Pimpernel.

London Daily Telegraph

To the Israelis, Abu Hanoud is a vicious terrorist who was responsible for a wave of suicide bombings in the 1990s that killed dozens of men, women and children. He is the West Bank commander of the military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which rejects any kind of peace with Israel.

Abu Hanoud's first serious brush with the Israeli army was in 1988 when, still a student, he was shot in the liver. Though doctors gave him only a 5-per-cent chance of survival, he recovered in a month.

Lived Under Cover

For eight years he lived under cover until August last year when the Israeli army cornered him on a rare visit to his home village of Asira Shamalia, north of Nablus on the slopes of Mount Ebal, the "cursed mountain" of the Bible.

The operation went disastrously wrong. Three Israeli special forces soldiers were killed by friendly fire. Abu Hanoud, with his right collarbone shattered by one bullet and a flesh wound on his left hip, walked 12 miles over the mountain through Israeli lines to give himself up to the Palestinian police.

The Palestinians quickly sentenced him to a term in jail to keep him out of Israel's hands. They also kept him as lone prisoner on the top floor of the barracks of the Nablus riot police.

Without a Scratch

The Israelis returned to get their man after a Hamas bomb killed five people and injured more than 100 in a Netanya shopping mall less than two weeks ago. A smart bomb launched by an F-16 fighter jet scored a direct hit,

Hamis militant a Scarlet Pimpernel

penetrating the ceiling of his cell and going through the floor, killing 11 policemen below. But Abu Hanoud suffered barely a scratch. The walls fell out and he walked free.

"The Israelis set him free with a bomb," said Mohammed, 71, his father, barely able to contain his joy. "I can only say that he is protected by God. His escapes are nothing but miracles."

Legend has it that Abu Hanoud was reading the Koran in the corner of his cell. When the bomb exploded, he fell to the floor and was protected from the falling roof by a wooden bench. The walls fell outward like a house of cards. He picked up Captain Castro Salameh, his wounded jailer, commandeered a car and took him to hospital.

No Clue on Whereabouts

By the time the officer was patched up, Abu Hanoud had disappeared. Maj.-Gen. Giora Eiland, head of planning in the Israeli army, confirmed that Abu Hanoud was the target. "Unfortunately, and not for the first time, he managed to escape, very lightly injured. We don't know where he is now."

Abu Hanoud's survival is all the more extraordinary since Israel, with its superior technology and network of spies, has successfully worked its way down the **Hamas** most-wanted list.

"Everyone sees him as a hero. What has happened to him is just not normal. It has to be due to faith," said the village pharmacist. He has doubts whether suicide bombings are really heroic acts - but so much blood has flowed over the past eight months that now is not the time to say so. "I was against suicide bombings. Now I can't say," he said.

Not surprisingly, Abu Hanoud was not at home when the Daily Telegraph called. But his father had no doubt what he would say to a someone from Britain, which ruled Palestine from 1918 to 1948, when Israel was founded.

Destined for Martyrdom

"He used to rebuke me and say, 'Your generation will be punished by God. You did not fight hard enough against the British. Britain is the biggest enemy of the Muslims.' "

The only thing both sides agree on is that Abu Hanoud's days are numbered. The Israelis say he is a legitimate target, while his family believes that martyrdom will be the proper reward for years of living in caves.

His father said: "I expect him to become a martyr. I even hope that God will bestow martyrdom on him.

"He has never married and never earned any money," said his father. "But he will marry the virgin he is awarded in paradise."

Graphic

Photo: ADEL HANA, AP ; Palestinian student girls watch, Islamic Jihad activists holding model weapons during a memorial, rally yesterday for three students of Al Quds University killed in, clashes with Israeli soldiers in Gaza Strip last week.

Load-Date: May 29, 2001

Hamas Group Vows to Up the Ante in Attacks on Israel

Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

May 3, 1998, Sunday

Copyright 1998 The Salt Lake Tribune

Section: Nation-World; Pg. A2

Length: 580 words

Byline: JENNIFER SKORDAS

Body

EGYPT: The Hamas movement will escalate attacks on Israel and urged PLO leader Yasser Arafat to return to armed struggle, the founder of the group told the Al-Hayat daily. Hamas has threatened more bombings to avenge last month's slaying of its chief bombmaker, Mohiyedine Sharif. Arafat's Palestinian Authority says Sharif was killed as part of an internal power struggle, but Hamas blames Israel. The death has strained ties between the two groups.

MYANMAR: The military regime has sentenced to death two members of an anti-government student organization. The All Burma Students Democratic Front on Wednesday said death sentences were handed down to Ko Thein and Khin Hlaing in April for trying to hand a letter about human-rights abuses to a U.N. envoy. A government official confirmed the sentence but said the two were convicted of explosives and sabotage violations.

IRAQ: The government has transferred 3,800 inmates to dungeons outside Baghdad and continues to execute political prisoners, the Iraqi Communist Party, an opposition group based in London, said last week. Iraqi officials denied the charges, characterizing them as attempts by the West to mobilize public opinion against the government. Earlier this month, a U.N. human-rights official said a purge of Iraqi prisons and other summary executions may have accounted for about 1,500 deaths last year in Iraq.

JAPAN: Bluntly condemning government policy, a court ruled Monday that Japan must compensate three South Korean women forced into sexual slavery for Japanese soldiers during World War II. The ruling, the first in a lawsuit by former sex slaves, awarded the women the equivalent of \$ 2,300 each. It probably will affect five pending cases and could encourage others to file similar lawsuits. Japan's government has refused to compensate individual war victims, arguing that postwar treaties settled all wartime claims. "Although the defendants did not clearly win, the government has clearly lost," said the attorney representing the three women. He will appeal for more money.

NORTH KOREA: While famine appears to have eased in some areas, the country faces a new potential health crisis from dirty water, Red Cross workers said last week. Power and chlorine shortages have shut down water treatment plants or forced them to operate at reduced capacity, and people lack fuel to boil the contaminated water they are drawing from shallow wells and rivers. Instead, many people are drawing "severely contaminated" well water.

SOUTH KOREA: The government on Friday sought help from the Clinton administration to prevent Korean students from dropping out of American universities amid the country's financial crisis. Over the past few months, some of

Hamas Group Vows to Up the Ante in Attacks on Israel

the almost 40,000 Korean students in the United States have been unable to pay tuition, living costs or loans because the depreciating value of the Korean won has made a U.S. education more expensive than it used to be.

INDONESIA: With student violence escalating and the economy in a shambles, Indonesia's President Suharto on Friday brushed aside demands for political reform. That, he said, must wait until his term ends in 2003. Suharto also issued a stern warning to confrontational student protesters who are clamoring daily for an end to his authoritarian rule.

Desk editor Jennifer Skordas worked as an editor for an English-language newspaper in Tokyo. She welcomes e-mail at [jskordas\(AT\)sltrib.com](mailto:jskordas(AT)sltrib.com). This column is based on Tribune wire-service reports.

Load-Date: May 3, 1998

End of Document

**ISRAELI WARPLANES BOMB POLICE POST IN GAZA ;
ATTACK FOLLOWS CLASH BETWEEN HAMAS BACKERS, PALESTINIAN
POLICE**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 7, 2001 Friday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 530 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

Israeli warplanes bombed a police post in Gaza early today, keeping pressure on Yasser Arafat to arrest suspected terrorists. The attack took place hours after 1,500 Hamas supporters battled Palestinian riot police to protest Arafat's crackdown.

At Shifa Hospital, doctors were treating at least 20 people injured in the airstrike, including 18 police and two civilians - a man and his son on their way to a morning prayers. Medical workers said the injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

The Israeli army said in a statement that the attack targeted the "Palestinian security apparatus that supports and aids terrorist operations. The army will continue its operations in order to defend the safety of Israeli citizens and soldiers."

Two buildings were completely destroyed - one a police dormitory, the other office space, including that of a women's police division.

"This new Israeli crime came while the Palestinian police are exerting maximum efforts to safeguard security," a statement from the Palestinian police said.

The protest Thursday was a violent backlash to an intensified roundup of Islamic militants. It took place as a U.S. envoy and the Egyptian foreign minister shuttled between Israel and the Palestinian territories, trying to stop more than a year of Palestinian-Israeli clashes and bring about a truce.

Arafat faces pressure from the United States and continued strikes by Israel if he fails to stop militants who have carried out a wave of deadly attacks against Israelis.

Though Arafat said his forces have arrested 180 militants, Israeli officials said earlier that the leaders of violent groups remain at large.

"Very few of the people arrested were important," Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Army Radio.

The United States was also skeptical of Arafat's sweeps.

ISRAELI WARPLANES BOMB POLICE POST IN GAZA ; ATTACK FOLLOWS CLASH BETWEEN HAMAS BACKERS, PALESTINIAN POLICE

"The president remains deeply concerned that Palestinian jails ... are still built with bars in front with revolving doors at the back," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Palestinians insisted their efforts were sincere and for their own good.

"The Americans did not impose anything on us," said West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub. "We know exactly what our interests are and what our duty is."

Arafat said Thursday that the United States had given him a list of 33 militants, and most of them had been arrested. He said his police were looking for the others.

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington, Arafat has been trying to distance himself from Islamic militants.

Arafat met Thursday with U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher. Both diplomats also saw Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Violence lent urgency to the talks. Two Palestinian suicide bombing attacks killed 25 in Israel last weekend, and Israeli retaliatory attacks on Monday and Tuesday targeted Arafat's headquarters and security offices, killing two people and injuring more than 100.

Maher's visit was a sign of the seriousness of the crisis.

Egypt has shunned high-profile ties with Israel since Sharon became prime minister in March, and Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Israel last year because of the violence.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo from THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Palestinian police rush at **Hamas** supporters in clashes near the house of **Hamas** leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City on Thursday. Palestinian forces reportedly have arrested 180 militants since attacks last weekend killed 25 in Israel.

Load-Date: December 7, 2001

Two top Hamas activists killed in Israeli offensive

The Times (London)

November 1, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 606 words

Byline: Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI Armed Forces mounted one of their biggest operations against Islamic militant groups yesterday, killing two leading activists and arresting eight others, including one allegedly poised to launch a suicide bombing.

The offensive showed that Israel was shrugging off international pressure to halt its raids inside Palestinian-ruled areas, as Tony Blair arrived to talk to leaders on both sides of the conflict.

In the first strike, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at a house in the West Bank city of Hebron, killing a senior member of the militant group, Hamas. The Israeli military said that Jamil Jadallah was responsible for killing Jewish settlers and planning suicide attacks against Israeli civilians.

It claimed that Mr Jadallah was involved in planning the attack at a Tel Aviv disco in June that killed more than 20 people. He had escaped from Palestinian jails four times since being convicted of killing two Israelis in 1998.

Israel's policy of retaliation against activists suspected of planning attacks has been branded an assassination programme by the Palestinians and condemned by the US.

Earlier, Israeli soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters entered the Palestinian-ruled village of Arrabe, near the West Bank city of Jenin. The army said that it arrested six people, including two members of the militant Islamic Jihad group. The military said that the Palestinians were planning a suicide attack inside Israel.

Islamic Jihad had claimed responsibility for shooting dead four Israeli women on Sunday in the city of Hadera.

After making the arrests, the soldiers pulled out of Arrabe, but the Israeli Army continued to maintain a tight grip on other Palestinian-controlled areas in the West Bank.

In Tulkarem, one of the Palestinian towns where Israeli troops are deployed, soldiers shot and killed Abdullah Jaroshi, a member of Hamas. In another incident, two Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli soldiers near Nablus. Israeli media reported that the men had fired on an Israeli vehicle.

The US has called on Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian-ruled territory that it seized after Rehavam Zeevi, the Israeli Tourism Minister, was assassinated last month.

Israel pulled out of the West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Beit Jala earlier this week but has demanded that the Palestinians arrest militants and observe a ceasefire before it withdraws from other areas.

Two top Hamas activists killed in Israeli offensive

After nightfall, Israeli troops moved deeper into Qalqilya, another of the West Bank towns Israel is still holding, where the Israeli military said they killed two armed Palestinians. Palestinian security officials said Israeli forces then withdrew to their previous position.

Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, a senior aide to Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said: "There will be no ceasefire as long as the Israelis are invading our villages and cities. They should blame nobody but themselves when Palestinians retaliate to their terror."

More than 700 Palestinians and nearly 200 Israelis have died since the violence erupted 13 months ago.

Despite the latest killings, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said that he was planning to meet Mr Arafat in Spain this weekend during an economic conference. Mr Peres said that he would be exploring ways to halt the current fighting.

"Negotiations should be prepared very carefully, otherwise it will create disappointment instead of hope," he said.

Mr Peres said that he had prepared a new peace plan to put on the negotiating table when discussions resumed with the Palestinians.

Under the plan a Palestinian state would be established "as soon as we can reach an agreement", he said.

Load-Date: November 1, 2001

**PALESTINIANS VOW TO AVENGE MILITANT / ISRAEL DENIED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HAMAS BOMB MAKER'S DEATH. ANGRY
MARCHERS CLASHED WITH TROOPS.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer
APRIL 3, 1998 Friday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A36

Length: 661 words

Byline: Samar Assad, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Shaking their fists in rage, thousands of mourners marched in a funeral procession yesterday for a **Hamas** bomb maker hailed by Palestinians as a martyr and condemned by Israel as a terrorist.

Hamas militants rejected Israel's denial of responsibility for the death of Muhi Adin Sharif, and vowed to avenge him with attacks bloodier than the string of terrorist suicide bombings that followed the assassination two years ago of another bomb maker, Yehiya Ayyash.

Israel "paid with 60 coffins" then, "and we are telling them now to prepare for more," a **Hamas** leaflet warned yesterday.

After the funeral, marchers hurled stones at Israeli soldiers, who responded by firing rubber-coated metal bullets. At one point, Palestinian police shot into the air and at Israeli soldiers who were approaching the edge of Palestinian-ruled territory.

Israeli troops went on heightened alert, with thousands of officers manning West Bank roadblocks and patrolling markets, bus stations and shopping malls. In Jerusalem, officers were posted on rooftops with binoculars and stopped Palestinians to check their identity cards.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking last night in Herzliya, warned Palestinians against blaming Israel for the death of Sharif, who was known in the Israeli press by the nom de guerre "The Electrician" and had been implicated in numerous attacks. He said Israel would hold the Palestinian Authority responsible if any attack resulted from its inflaming the public.

"They know the truth, and they know very well that we were not involved in this," Netanyahu said.

PALESTINIANS VOW TO AVENGE MILITANT / ISRAEL DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HAMAS
BOMB MAKER'S DEATH. ANGRY MARCHERS CLASHED WITH TROOPS.

Israel said Sharif, 32, who topped Israel's most-wanted list, died when a car bomb exploded prematurely Sunday in a **Hamas** bomb factory in Palestinian-controlled Ramallah.

Palestinian police said Sharif had been shot and killed before the explosion, and the explosion was intended to cover up the slaying. The police and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat did not directly blame Israel, but other Palestinian officials did.

Marwan Barghouti, a leader of Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, said it was "obvious" that Israel had assassinated Sharif.

Barghouti suggested Netanyahu might have planned the slaying to trigger a violent response by **Hamas** and sabotage the peace process.

"It is not far-fetched for Netanyahu to use this in order to have an excuse not to implement the [Israel-Palestinian] agreements," he said.

Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have categorically denied any Israeli role in the death. In past assassinations believed carried out by Israel, the government usually refused to confirm or deny its involvement.

At least 6,000 people, many carrying green Islamic flags, joined Sharif's funeral procession as it snaked through Ramallah yesterday. The bomb maker's body, wrapped in a white-and-green blanket, was carried on a stretcher. His blackened face and upper body were exposed, much of the skin peeled away.

"We want to hear explosions in Tel Aviv. Blow them up! Blow them up!" chanted a group of **women**, slapping their faces in grief. Young men, some crying and others shaking their fists, shouted: "Revenge!"

After the burial, hundreds of mourners ran toward a nearby Jewish settlement and threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Ten Palestinians were injured by the bullets, and 10 others were treated for tear-gas inhalation.

At one point, the confrontation nearly deteriorated into more serious violence, reflecting the volatile situation after more than a year of deadlocked peace talks. Israeli soldiers approached the edge of Palestinian-controlled territory, where Palestinian police were pushing back protesters. Firing into the air, the Palestinian police ordered the Israelis back - and the soldiers obeyed, witnesses said.

An army statement said a number of shots were fired from a Palestinian area at an Israeli army outpost without causing injury or damage. Israel demanded that Palestinian police investigate the shooting.

Load-Date: October 24, 2002

Suicide bomber kills 3; Suspicion falls on Hamas, Islamic Jihad

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 5, 2001 Monday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C06; News

Length: 542 words

Byline: Phil Reeves

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A suicide bomber killed three Israelis and himself and injured scores in the Mediterranean town of Netanya yesterday in the bloodiest bombing attack inside Israel since the start of the Palestinian intefadeh.

The attack, at a busy road crossing during morning rush hour, intensified already fierce pressure on Israel's prime minister elect, Ariel Sharon, to find an effective solution to Palestinian violence when he finishes building a coalition government and enters office.

An intense debate was under way in Israel last night over how to counter rising Palestinian attacks, in which politicians and public figures vied with one another to offer solutions, including unilateral separation to the reoccupation of areas under Palestinian control.

The Independent, London

The bomber struck just before 9 on a bright Middle Eastern spring morning. Sunday is the first day of the working week in Israel, so the palm-lined streets were crowded.

Several witnesses said that he tried to board a bus, but the driver refused to let him on, likely keeping the death toll from climbing higher. Instead he detonated it in the open, killing two women, aged 71 and 58, and an 85-year-old man, and injuring an estimated 66 people.

The ensuing scenes were shocking even by the standards of this war-hardened society. Eyewitnesses spoke of seeing limbs scattered across the road.

One, Galit Shahar, 30, watched in horror as a severed head -- believed to be that of the bomber -- rolled past her shop. "There was a huge blast and I started to shake and cry. I saw glass all over the street and then I saw a ... head," she said.

By yesterday evening, no group had claimed responsibility, but the attack came a day after the military wing of Hamas, Izzadin Kassam, issued a statement boasting that it had 10 suicide bombers -- "martyrs" -- poised to "strike at the Zionist depths with their bodies.

"The world will see it on the first day that the criminal Sharon takes power," it said.

Suicide bomber kills 3; Suspicion falls on Hamas, Islamic Jihad

Hamas officials said yesterday that they did not know who carried out the attack. But in Israel, suspicion fell on them and on Islamic Jihad.

In the aftermath of the bomb, enraged Israelis in Netanya's marketplace tried to lynch a Palestinian. They were stopped by police who arrested one of the attackers and moved other Arabs out of the area for their protection. The Palestinian, who was severely beaten and kicked, later underwent an operation for critical head injuries.

The Netanya attack, the second bomb in the town in this intefadeh, is the latest turn in a spiral of violence that seems destined to get even worse.

It coincided with the death of seven Palestinians within 48 hours in the occupied territories, adding still more heat to the misery and resentment in the blockaded West Bank and Gaza.

The dead included a boy, 9, hit by a bullet fired into his home near Ramallah, and a 38-year-old mentally handicapped man whom the Israeli army shot dead in the Gaza Strip after wrongly concluding that he was planting a bomb.

There were ugly scenes yesterday at the funeral of two of them -- young men from Nablus, one thought by the Palestinians to have been killed by a Jewish settler -- where mourners appeared to glory in the suicide bombing, chanting, "Today we took revenge in Netanya."

Graphic

Photo: Roni Soffer, the Associated Press; A woman is taken to an ambulance after a bomb blast in Netanya, Israel, during yesterday morning's rush hour. The bombing was one of the bloodiest attacks since the start of the intefadeh.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

End of Document

**ISRAELI SECURITY FORCE KILLS TWO TOP HAMAS TERRORISTS / THE
PAIR OF BROTHERS DIED AS AGENTS STORMED A WEST BANK
FARMHOUSE. ISLAMIC MILITANTS VOWED REVENGE.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 12, 1998 Saturday D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 963 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: TAIBEH, West Bank

Body

In what appears to have been a brilliantly executed operation, Israeli security stormed a desolate farmhouse surrounded by grape arbors and shot dead the two most wanted terrorists of **Hamas**, the Islamic militant movement.

But for all the sophistication of the operation, it could quickly backfire on Israel.

The killing on Thursday of brothers Adel and Imad Awadallah in this village near Hebron is certain to accelerate the continuing war between Israel and the Islamic terrorists. It could also throw a monkey-wrench in the efforts of U.S. peace mediator Dennis Ross to negotiate a West Bank pullback.

As news spread yesterday of the afternoon operation, hundreds of Islamic militants marched in Gaza and the West Bank. They vowed to avenge the killings with a wave of suicide bombings, such as occurred in 1996 after top bombmaker Yehiya Ayyash "The Engineer" was blown apart with a booby-trapped mobile telephone. Sixty Israelis were killed in the aftermath of the assassination.

Bracing itself for retaliation, Israel slapped a closure on Gaza and the West Bank on Thursday night, barring Palestinians from reporting to jobs within Israel.

This brings to three the toll of **Hamas** terrorists killed this year.

The bullet-ridden body of Muhi Adin Sharif, Ayyash's successor, was found beside a smoldering car March 29 after an explosion ripped through a garage in Ramallah. Ironically, the Awadallah brothers were blamed by Palestinian security for killing Sharif in an internal dispute. But it is now widely believed that the killing was carried out by Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir Arafat, possibly in cooperation with Israel.

Less murky are the circumstances behind the deaths Thursday of Adel Awadallah, 31, and his brother, Imad, 19.

ISRAELI SECURITY FORCE KILLS TWO TOP HAMAS TERRORISTS / THE PAIR OF BROTHERS DIED AS AGENTS STORMED A WEST BANK FARMHOUSE. ISLAMIC MILITANTS VOWED REVENGE.

Rami Kuralija, 14, a shepherd grazing his flock next to the farmhouse in Taibeh, said yesterday that a few hours before the shootings, a car with Palestinian license plates pulled up to the house.

Although there was a female passenger in an Islamic headscarf, he suspected the car might belong to Israeli intelligence. A succession of unmarked cars continued to pass by, after which came dozens of Israeli army vehicles, jeeps, trucks and ambulances, with more than 100 Israeli soldiers and police.

"I was close enough, I saw soldiers coming out from under blankets," said Kuralija in an interview. He also said that a dog - carrying an object in its mouth he could not identify - was used to push open the gate, after which the soldiers opened fire.

"The soldiers were going in all directions around the house. There was continuous shooting, but no response," added Wael Shalafi, 30, whose family was camped on a hillside across the street picking grapes.

At the farmhouse, a compound surrounded by an eight-foot wall and barbed wire, Israeli troops yesterday displayed a Kalashnikov and an Uzi submachine gun, nine grenades, pistols and six wigs, along with a freshly drawn banner of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine el-Qassam.

"They were master terrorists, planning a kidnapping or a shooting," said Gen. Yitzak Eitan, the commander of Israeli troops in the West Bank. "They were well-armed, but they did not have enough time to use their weapons to fire back."

Eitan said the Israelis did not learn the identity of the terrorists until after they were killed. He also said that Israeli security had first been alerted to the presence of suspicious people hiding out by an explosion and gunfire a few days earlier. Witnesses reported no such explosion and there was no evidence in the blood-splattered house or on the property of any explosion.

Ronni Shaked, a reporter for the Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth and a leading authority on Islamic terrorism, expressed doubts about the official version of events.

"It was one of the most brilliant operations of the security services. It was well-planned in advance with good information and with the best-trained Israeli fighters," said Shaked. "I suppose you could call it an assassination, but this is the way in the war against terrorism. There was no chance that these people would come out with their hands up. It had to be done that way."

The Awadallah brothers, natives of El-Bireh in the West Bank, ranked high on Israel's most wanted list. They were accused of the 1996 kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier and with the bombing last year of a Tel Aviv cafe. The younger brother, Imad, had been arrested by Palestinian police for the mysterious murder of Hamas' Muhi Adin Sharif, only to escape Aug. 15 from a Jericho prison.

A week ago, a letter from him was published in a Hamas newspaper contending he had been framed and tortured into confessing by the Palestinian police. Complicating matters, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, Hamas' founder, has charged that the escape was orchestrated in order to murder the younger Awadallah.

Hamas favors an Islamic state in the Palestinian territories and opposes the peace process. Politically, it is the strongest challenger to Arafat. The killings are already raising suspicions that Palestinian security quietly collaborated in the Israeli operation. Just how that might impact the current visit of mediator Dennis Ross to Israel remains to be seen.

Another unanswered question in the shootout concerns the role of the farmhouse's owner, Akram Maswada, 40. A chocolate importer, he is one of the wealthiest and most prominent figures in Hebron.

He was arrested yesterday afternoon by the Israelis shortly before the shootings when he was caught leaving the house. His brother, Tayseer Maswada, who heads the school board in Hebron, said that the farm was a summer

ISRAELI SECURITY FORCE KILLS TWO TOP HAMAS TERRORISTS / THE PAIR OF BROTHERS DIED AS AGENTS STORMED A WEST BANK FARMHOUSE. ISLAMIC MILITANTS VOWED REVENGE.

house and weekend retreat for the family. He said it was likely that the Awadallah brothers were intruders who had broken in to hide.

But witnesses said Maswada's Mercedes was at the house daily.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

A soldier blocks Palestinians trying to enter Israel from the West Bank at Bethlehem. Security was boosted after the two slayings. (Associated Press, MATI STEIN)

Load-Date: October 24, 2002

End of Document

**DEADLIEST CONFLICT DAY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE;
GRIEF-STRICKEN: PALESTINIAN MOURNERS CALL FOR RETALIATION AS
VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN WEST BANK The bodies of slain Palestinians who
had been killed in an Israeli attack are carried for their funeral in the West
Bank town of Nablus.; Thousands of enraged Palestinians attended the
funeral after Israeli forces killed eight people in an attack on Hamas
headquarters in Nablus**

Birmingham Post

August 2, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 9

Length: 539 words

Body

Angry Palestinians fired guns into the air and called for revenge today as thousands of mourners poured into the streets of Nablus in a noisy funeral procession for eight Palestinians killed in an Israeli helicopter raid.

The huge crowd surrounded the bodies as they were removed from the Nablus hospital and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of the radical Palestinian group **Hamas**, whose offices were the target of Tuesday's assault.

Hours after the Israeli raid, Palestinians launched attacks against Israeli targets that carried on through the night and into yesterday.

Palestinians opened fire on Gilo, a Jewish neighbourhood in a disputed part of southern Jerusalem. The Israelis responded with tank shelling and machine-gun fire in a shoot-out that lasted into the early hours.

Five Israelis were injured, one seriously, when Palestinians fired at two cars in the West Bank.

Israeli security forces warned that Palestinian militants were likely to attempt a major attack, while government officials defended the Nablus assault, which killed six people in the third-floor **Hamas** office, including a senior leader. Two brothers, aged five and eight were killed by shrapnel on the street below the offices.

'If we didn't stop them, the attacks that they would carry out in Israel would harm children and **women**,' said Uri Shani, the director of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's office.

Israeli officials said the main target of the operation was Jamal Mansour, 42, a top leader of **Hamas**, a militant Islamic group opposed to any peace negotiations with Israel.

DEADLIEST CONFLICT DAY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE; GRIEF-STRICKEN: PALESTINIAN MOURNERS
CALL FOR RETALIATION AS VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN WEST BANK The bodies of slain Palest....

Israel charged that Mansour was part of the **Hamas** leadership behind ten bomb attacks since November, including a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 23 people.

Two local **Hamas** leaders, Jamal Salim, 41, and Fahim Dawabshe, 32, were also killed.

A total of ten Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces, the deadliest single day in the Mideast conflict since a ceasefire was declared in June.

The Israeli strike brought international reproach.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Hunter said, 'We continue to strongly oppose the Israeli policy of targeted attacks.'

UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said 'such actions are almost guaranteed to lead to a further escalation of tension,' the statement said.

A total of 10 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces yesterday, the deadliest single day in the Mideast conflict since a ceasefire was declared in June.

The ceasefire has never taken hold, and Hussein al-Sheik, a leader of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, said the truce was over.

In another development, last night a Palestinian security court in Nablus sentenced three Palestinians to death for helping Israel kill Palestinian activist Thabet Thabet last December. Arafat must approve the death sentences before they can be carried out.

A small pipe exploded today in a park next to the King David Hotel, one of Jerusalem's best known and most luxurious hotels.

Police said the blast caused no injuries or damage, but it added to the jittery atmosphere in Jerusalem, where Israeli security forces are on high alert.

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

Clashes in Gaza Strip kill six; Palestinian unity disintegrates in refugee camp

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

December 22, 2001 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D02; Canada & World News

Length: 1228 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Six Palestinians were killed and dozens injured yesterday in clashes with Yasser Arafat's police in the Gaza Strip, even as the militant group **Hamas** said that to preserve Palestinian unity it was halting suicide attacks within the boundaries of pre-1967 Israel.

Palestinian unity disintegrated yesterday in the Jabaliya refugee camp, where masked gunmen traded shots with masked policemen in the worst violence among the Palestinians themselves since 1994.

As religious authorities appealed for calm over the loudspeakers of a mosque, bleeding youths were rushed through the chaotic streets to waiting ambulances. More than 80 Palestinians were injured, hospital officials said.

New York Times News Service

It was the third day of clashes in Gaza, provoked by Arafat's effort to satisfy Israeli and international demands that he stop attacks on Israel by dismantling organizations that advocate terrorism. As it acts against Islamic militants, the Palestinian police force is increasingly viewed in the refugee camps as an Israeli proxy.

"Arafat is a spy for Israel now," said one 17-year-old who was throwing stones at the police compound in Jabaliya. "He's not a Muslim -- he's Jewish. Israel and the Palestinian Authority, they are the same to us."

The **Hamas** decision, which also applied to mortar attacks against Israelis, appeared to be a short-term manoeuvre to relieve some of the military and diplomatic pressure on Arafat. **Hamas** did not say it was dropping its opposition to a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian group responsible for suicide bombings, decided yesterday to suspend suicide attacks inside Israel until the movement's leadership chose a further course of action, Reuters reported.

But while **Hamas** leaders were trying to blur Arafat's dilemma, the adherents of extremism threw it into stark relief. Arafat appears to be running out of room between the demands of the Bush administration, the United Nations and European countries that he stamp out violence against Israel and the demands made in the Palestinian street that it continue.

Many Palestinians believe that without the threat of attack, Israel will not leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lands it conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Clashes in Gaza Strip kill six; Palestinian unity disintegrates in refugee camp

The **Hamas** decision was reached after a meeting late Wednesday in Gaza City between leaders of the group and representatives of other Palestinian factions, including Arafat's Fatah organization.

Israeli officials rejected the **Hamas** announcement as improperly distinguishing between Israelis on each side of the disputed boundaries with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The decision, announced in a statement faxed to news agencies, appeared to imply that soldiers and settlers living in those areas were still fair game.

Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli chief of staff, said in a speech yesterday, "We have to ask ourselves, 'Is this a turning point, and does this mean no more violence and no more terror and a return to the negotiating table?' And the answer is no."

Dore Gold, an adviser to the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said that the development had no implications for Israel's demands of Arafat. "As far as Israel is concerned, the Palestinian Authority has an obligation to no longer harbour or give shelter to international terrorist organizations, and that hasn't changed one iota," he said.

Arafat met with his Cabinet yesterday night, which then issued a statement welcoming the "important statement" of **Hamas** and condemning the violence in recent days in Gaza as "an attack on the national interest, on the Palestinian national entity, and on law and order."

After 26 people were killed in three **Hamas** bombings at the beginning of December, Arafat came under intense pressure to act against the group, whose popularity rivals his own. But on Dec. 12, a **Hamas** bomb-and-gun attack killed 10 Israelis in the West Bank, prompting the Israeli government to declare that Arafat had made himself "irrelevant" and break off all contact with him.

Despite that stance, Israel has resumed its contacts with Arafat's security lieutenants and has continued to regard him as responsible for reigning in **Hamas**. Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, told reporters that Arafat's Palestinian Authority had "started really to act more seriously."

In a speech Sunday night, Arafat called for an immediate ceasefire, referring specifically to "the suicide attacks, which we have always condemned." He also rejected "the launching of mortar rockets that have no goal but give the justification for Israeli attacks against our people, children and **women**."

Since then, forces of Arafat's Palestinian Authority have stepped up their efforts against **Hamas**, closing its offices and arresting some of its members. But when police in Gaza City attempted on Wednesday night to arrest Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, widely seen as one of **Hamas**' most powerful leaders, they were driven back by a crowd throwing rocks and firing in the air.

Hamas supporters clashed again with police on Thursday night, as leaders of all the Palestinian factions met in Rantisi's home. He was still in his home yesterday, defying orders for his arrest.

In its statement, **Hamas** said that its fighters must comply with its decision to suspend some attacks "until God deems otherwise." It said that it had reached the decision "for the sake of the unity of our Palestinian people and in order to protect the path of Jihad to achieve freedom and independence."

In explaining the decision, Rantisi, a pediatrician, said yesterday that suicide bombings and mortar attacks "created a kind of tension in the Palestinian street."

"**Hamas** is a responsible movement," he said. "Therefore, it took into consideration keeping the unity of the Palestinian people." He emphasized that **Hamas** planned to "stop these forms of resistance" only "for a while."

In Jabaliya refugee camp, violence erupted during the funeral procession for a 17-year-old Palestinian killed Thursday night when police stopped a group attempting to fire mortar bombs at a Jewish settlement. On a bright, crisp day, as they marched through the streets of Jabaliya, the mourners chanted, "Arafat is a traitor."

The funeral procession, which was organized by Islamic Jihad, converged in front of a police compound with a demonstration in support of **Hamas**.

Clashes in Gaza Strip kill six; Palestinian unity disintegrates in refugee camp

Witnesses said that members of Islamic Jihad fired in the air, and then some in the crowd began hurling stones and firing at two police buildings, which were once controlled by Israeli forces. From the buildings, masked policemen fired back. The fighting lasted four hours.

Among the rioters were members of **Hamas** who said they had no intention of abiding by even a limited ceasefire. "The Authority is over," one **Hamas** member shouted through a megaphone. "And the power is in the hands of the mujahedeen."

One onlooker who identified himself as a member of the police said that he had stopped wearing his uniform a week ago, partly out of shame. "I'm scared too, I'm scared for my people," he said. "My brother is **Hamas** and I work for the police. It's a hard situation."

One mosque blared calls for an end to the violence. Citing verses in the Koran, the appeals noted that it was forbidden for one Muslim to kill another.

Only one of the dead was immediately identified. He was Abed al Aziz al-Sawarka, 17, said to be a close friend of the youth killed Thursday night.

Graphic

Photo: Elizabeth Dalziel, the Associated Press; Palestinian mourners and gunmen carry the body of Mahmoud Al Mokaied, 17, during a funeral procession yesterday. A gun battle broke out minutes later.

Load-Date: January 1, 2002

End of Document

**ISRAELIS ATTACK WITH TANKS, SUSPEND TALKS AFTER RAID BY
HAMAS;
PALESTINIAN GUNMEN FIRE ON FESTIVAL AT JEWISH HOLY SITE,
WOUNDING TWO**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 4, 2001 Thursday Three Star Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 584 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

A week-old truce appeared to be in danger of unraveling as Israeli tanks rolled into Palestinian territory and shelled a string of police posts Wednesday, killing six people. The attack was Israel's response to a raid by Islamic militants on a Jewish settlement.

Israel also called off meetings with Palestinians and declared that it was not moving ahead with cease-fire commitments until Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrests those responsible for the attacks on Israelis.

In other violence Wednesday, Palestinian gunmen fired on a crowd of Israelis who had gathered to celebrate the Sukkot harvest festival at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the holiest sites in Judaism. Two Israeli **women** were wounded, one seriously, said Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the Jewish settlers in Hebron.

Arafat's Palestinian Authority condemned the attack on the settlement and said it would bring those responsible to justice. But Palestinians said the Israeli military action was a violation of last week's truce, which called for Israel to suspend military strikes and halt incursions into Palestinian territory.

"Yasser Arafat has made a complete mockery of this cease-fire," said Israeli spokesman Dore Gold.

Israel's defense minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, said Israel would not return to talks "until the Palestinian Authority has taken control and stops terrorism."

But Palestinians argue that excessive force by Israeli troops has undermined the cease-fire agreement. Twenty-six Palestinians and two Israelis have been killed since the cease-fire was announced Sept. 26.

The two Israeli victims - a 19-year-old woman and her 20-year-old boyfriend - were killed Tuesday night by two members of **Hamas**, dressed in combat fatigues, who burst into the small Jewish settlement of Elei Sinai on the northern border of the Gaza Strip.

The attack wounded 15 Israelis, including two toddlers and seven soldiers.

ISRAELIS ATTACK WITH TANKS, SUSPEND TALKS AFTER RAID BY HAMAS; PALESTINIAN GUNMEN FIRE ON FESTIVAL AT JEWISH HOLY SITE, WOUNDING TWO

"We ran toward a house behind the playground, which was the closest building to us," Haniel Gross, 12, told Israel Radio.

The attackers, ages 17 and 20, eventually holed up in a house whose owners were away. An Israeli commando unit stormed the house and killed the two.

Hamas claimed responsibility, and its senior leaders were prominent at the noisy funerals of the two slain attackers, whose bodies were carried through the packed streets of the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City.

"We are proud of our son," said Fakhria Shaban, mother of one gunman, Abdullah Shaban.

She spoke at a gathering of **female** mourners at the family home.

"Our enemy is killing us daily," she said. "My son's action is revenge for the killing of the Palestinians."

About 6,000 Israelis live in settlements in Gaza among more than 1 million Palestinians, who demand that the Jewish enclaves be removed.

Early Wednesday, Israel responded by sending at least 11 tanks to seize a mile-wide strip of Palestinian territory, most of it farmland, just outside Elei Sinai. Bulldozers destroyed crops, while tanks shelled seven Palestinian police posts, Palestinian police said.

The main target was Beit Lahia, a Palestinian town of cinderblock homes and garbage-strewn streets.

An Israeli tank shelled a Palestinian checkpoint in Beit Lahia, killing four Palestinian policemen and a civilian, doctors said. In an exchange of gunfire, another Palestinian was killed and seven were wounded, three critically, doctors said.

The latest deaths brought the toll from a year of fighting to 663 dead on the Palestinian side and 179 on the Israeli side.

Load-Date: October 4, 2001

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM: SIX KILLED AS ARAFAT HUNTS DOWN MILITANTS

The Independent (London)

December 22, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 662 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Jerusalem Youths running from Palestinian police fire during a funeral at; Jebaliya in the Gaza Strip Elizabeth Dalziel/AP

Body

SIX PALESTINIANS were killed in the Gaza Strip yesterday in a fierce gunfight between **Hamas** militants and Yasser Arafat's security forces, stoking internal strife within the Israeli-occupied territories.

The violence erupted on the day that **Hamas** leaders signalled they were mending fences with the embattled Mr Arafat by issuing orders to their followers to suspend suicide bombings and mortar attacks against Israelis.

The events suggest a rift may be emerging between **Hamas**' more pragmatic leaders and its hardline supporters, widened by Mr Arafat's attempts to comply with international and Israeli pressure to crack down on militancy.

Hamas - whose support in Gaza is estimated at about 50 per cent - is the most influential Islamic nationalist group engaged in the conflict. It has launched the bloodiest suicide bombings of recent months, claiming dozens of Israeli lives.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which has also repeatedly attacked Israel with suicide bombers, indicated last night that the group might consider following **Hamas**, but officials said that the matter was still to be decided by its leadership. The PIJ was strongly critical of Mr Arafat's call six days ago for an end to attacks on Israel, including suicide bombings.

Yesterday's troubles began in the Jebaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, when thousands of mourners joined the funeral procession of a 17-year-old Islamic Jihad supporter killed by the Palestinian police on Thursday. As they passed a police station, gunmen in the crowd opened fire on the security forces inside, drawing return fire. "Resistance will continue despite the sacrifices," the crowd chanted as gunmen fired in the air. Fifty-five people were injured.

Mahmoud Zahair, a **Hamas** official, said yesterday's decision was intended to "minimise tensions in Palestinian society". It appears to have been reached after lengthy negotiations with Palestinian Authority officials, who have been under pressure from the international community to jail Islamic militants. This apparent success for Mr Arafat was at once mitigated by the strain in relations between the PA and **Hamas** caused by yesterday's violence.

The Islamists regard the secular PA as corrupt, and criticise its co-operation with the CIA and Israel and its belief in a negotiated peace agreement. Relations improved during the intifada - when Israel came to be viewed as the common enemy - but came under fresh pressure when **Hamas** began suicide bombings.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM: SIX KILLED AS ARAFAT HUNTS DOWN MILITANTS

The PA has repeatedly condemned suicide bombings in Israel. The most savage of these came three weeks ago when **Hamas** launched a triple attack, massacring 26 Israelis within 12 hours in Jerusalem and Haifa.

Ariel Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, responded by confining Mr Arafat to his West Bank headquarters under the barrel of Israeli tanks, tightening his military hold in the occupied territories and bombing security installations with F-16s.

Hamas' announcement will hearten the so-called quartet - the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, and the United States - who are engaged in yet another attempt to enforce a ceasefire, leading to resumed negotiations.

But the suspension of suicide bombings is highly fragile and will depend, in part, on Israel's response. **Hamas** suspended suicide bombings inside Israel because of the events of 11 September. It resumed them last month after Israel assassinated its West Bank military leader, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud.

The responses from the Israeli government yesterday ranged from wary to dismissive. Particular note was taken of the fact that the declaration did not include an end to armed attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers.

"What's positive?" asked Raanan Gissin, adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister. "That they stop terror activities in one place, but keep murdering **women** and children somewhere else? As long as the terror activities continue ... we will implement our right of self-defence, and we will act against them with all our might."

Load-Date: December 22, 2001

End of Document

Silly Question: Support the Palestinian Authority or Hamas?

The International Herald Tribune

December 13, 2001 Thursday

Copyright 2001 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 786 words

Byline: William Pfaff

Dateline: PARIS

Body

The response and long-term remedy for Islamic fundamentalism proposed by nearly every Western commentator and official is a big and cathartic dose of modernization: globalization, democratization, women's liberation, secular education, rural electrification, lots of computers and a market economy, and all that only for starters.

Yet the leading figures in the terrorist movement that brought down the New York Trade Towers and attacked the Pentagon, overturning the complacency by which Americans lived before Sept. 11, were for the most part from the most modernized strata of the two most modern countries in the Middle East.

The extended bin Laden family is one of the best educated, richest, most widely traveled and best connected families in Saudi Arabia. It is in business with the Bush family in Washington. Its members are investors in the Carlyle Group, which is politically the most powerful operation in Washington, nearly every one of its members a former Republican administration official.

International Herald Tribune, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Osama bin Laden's Qaida lieutenants have included Egyptian professional men and Arab intellectuals. The men who carried out the attacks in the United States were Westernized midlevel technical people.

Today's Islamic radicalism began as an 18th century modernizing movement. It is an important force today because, as Ira M. Lapidus, an American historian of Islam, has written, its leaders "mobilize the religious yearning for salvation and project it into modern politics." The revival "embodies a totalistic and utopian dream of a perfected human condition -- not only in private morals but in political life, not in the next world but in this one."

Until the 1940s Islam was deeply conservative in social and political views, accepting the world as it was, without deep questioning of the material and political circumstances in which Muslims lived.

The revival started when the Saudi tribal family allied itself with the reformist movement we know today as the Wahhabi, which eventually took over most of Arabia, including the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The Saudi patrician and would-be world revolutionary Osama bin Laden came out of a radical tradition that began as a religious movement nearly three centuries ago but became politicized by European imperialism. The foreigners were proselytizing Christians who condemned certain Muslim practices as immoral.

Silly Question: Support the Palestinian Authority or Hamas?

Fundamentalist violence against British imperialism first broke out in what then were the Indian Northwest Frontier Provinces -- today the frontier provinces and tribal areas of Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan. The Pashtun people were involved, who made up the vast majority of today's Taliban.

Modern Islamic radicalism is dangerous to the Islamic people themselves because it is going nowhere. It is incapable of reforms that would allow Muslim people to cope with the political and economic pressures of modern international society. That was the Taliban's failure.

It is dangerous to the West because it gives an apocalyptic religious interpretation to what fundamentally is political conflict. That is why recent developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are alarming.

The collapse of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the popular joy that greeted their defeat were dramatic demonstrations to the rest of the Islamic world of how insubstantial -- and, in power, how unpopular -- the radical movement really is. It was a moment of great importance for modernizing reformers in the Muslim world who aim at a discriminating assimilation and adaptation of the good things that modern technology and modern political culture can offer to Islamic civilization today.

At exactly this moment, the United States seems to have endorsed Israel in an attempt to destroy the Palestinian Authority, leaving Hamas, the radical Islamic terrorist movement that wants to destroy Israel, as the only surviving force for Palestinian liberation.

The Palestinian Authority is a hapless and indeed hopeless force today, with an incompetent leader. However, since the Oslo talks more than a decade ago it has been the only Palestinian entity willing to negotiate with Israel to find a way by which the two peoples can share historic Palestine and Jerusalem.

It represents rational, secular Arab nationalism, with Christian as well as Islamic origins, with which the West not only can deal but has been dealing, from Oslo until last year's collapse of the Camp David negotiations.

If it is destroyed, the message to the Islamic world will be that the United States prefers terrorist Muslim enemies to rational Arab reformers. It is a message that validates what the Islamic radicals have said since the beginning.

Load-Date: December 13, 2001

Middle East slips deeper into conflict

The Advertiser

August 3, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 21

Length: 323 words

Byline: By MARK LAVIE in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELIS and Palestinians yesterday prepared for fresh violence as Israel rejected mounting international criticism of its policy of assassinations.

An Israeli air strike which killed eight people brought almost universal condemnation, with the US again yesterday condemning the targeted attacks by Israel.

Palestinians and Israelis exchanged gunfire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and calls from both sides and the US for adherence to a truce went unheeded.

Two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli intelligence were killed by fellow Palestinians, and another was shot dead in tense West Bank city Hebron.

Five Palestinians were wounded in shooting near a bloc of Jewish settlements in Gaza, and an Israeli woman was hurt when mortar shells were fired at a Jewish settlement in Gaza.

The shooting followed one of the biggest and most angry mass funerals during 10 months of fighting. Tens of thousands of Palestinians jammed Nablus streets for the funeral of eight people, including two children, killed when Israeli rockets hit the offices of the militant group, Hamas.

Many of the screaming and wailing women and children at the funeral waved green flags of Hamas, which has carried out many bombing attacks against Israel. Three of the dead were Hamas leaders.

Israel defended the attack, saying that the Hamas leaders had launched many bomb attacks and were preparing more.

By killing Jamal Mansour, a top-ranking Hamas official, Israel raised the stakes.

Cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh said yesterday: "No one has immunity. I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

Some Israelis questioned the effectiveness of the attack, however, and feared it would lead to savage revenge attacks.

Palestinian analyst Ghassan Khatib said the strike "will bring more recruits into Hamas and its revenge activities will be more acceptable to Palestinians. This will only strengthen the group".

Middle East slips deeper into conflict

Load-Date: November 22, 2001

End of Document

Muslim website hacked - MIDDLE EAST

The Australian

March 13, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. C02

Length: 247 words

Body

* Security

GAZA: Hackers invaded the internet site of the Muslim militant group **Hamas** and placed pornography on it after the fundamentalist organisation claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed three Israelis.

Web surfers trying to access www.hamas.org were re-routed automatically to a pay-for-view pornographic site offering a fare ranging from "kinky co-eds" to "Latina fetish".

Reuters

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the political wing of **Hamas**, accused Israeli intelligence of being behind what appeared to be the latest attack in an Israeli-Arab cyberwar on the sidelines of a five-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"I'm telling them to die of their own fury," Yassin told Reuters. "They are trying to disfigure the image of Islam and Muslims.

"These are the people who are shedding our blood and massacring our people every day, so it is not difficult for them to do something like this.

"As much as their anger and fire rises, they will try all and crazy ways to extinguish it."

Hamas's military wing, the Izz el-deen al-Qassam brigade, says one of its members, 23-year-old Palestinian Ahmed Omar Aliyan, carried out the suicide bombing last week in the Israeli seaside city of Netanya.

The bomber and two Israeli **women** and a man were killed in the morning rush-hour blast that triggered a security alert across Israel.

No-one claimed responsibility for hacking the **Hamas** website, which usually carries information opposing Israeli-Palestinian peace moves.

Load-Date: November 27, 2001

Dirty war invades cyberspace

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

March 8, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 26

Length: 254 words

Body

GAZA -- Hackers have invaded the Internet site of the Muslim militant group **Hamas** to divert users to a pornography site.

Web surfers trying to access www.hamas.org were re-routed automatically to a pay-for-view pornographic site, offering a fare ranging from "kinky co-eds" to "Latina fetish".

REUTERS

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the political wing of **Hamas**, accused Israeli intelligence of being behind the cyber-attack.

"I'm telling them to die of their own fury," Sheikh Yassin said.

"They are trying to disfigure the image of Islam and Muslims.

"These are the people who are shedding our blood and massacring our people every day, so it is not difficult for them to do something like this.

"As much as their anger and fire rises, they will try all and crazy ways to extinguish it."

Hamas's military wing, the Izz el-deen al-Qassam brigade, said in a statement that one of its members, 23-year-old Palestinian Ahmed Omar Aliyan, carried out the suicide bombing on Sunday in the Israeli seaside city of Netanya.

The bomber and two Israeli **women** and a man were killed in the morning rush-hour blast that triggered a security alert across Israel.

No one has claimed responsibility for hacking into **Hamas**'s website which usually carries information about the group, which is opposed to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking efforts.

The Internet assault appeared to be the latest sortie in an Israeli-Arab cyber-war which has developed on the sidelines of the five-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

School with a cause An Islamic fundamentalist group is winning the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

January 10, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 969 words

Byline: MEGAN GOLDIN

Body

RISING like a beacon amid the squalor of the Deir el-Balah refugee camp, the Gaza Strip's most state-of-the-art school is a lesson in how Islamic activists try to win the hearts and minds of Palestinians.

The school accepts only fatherless children, from some of Gaza's most impoverished families, making it a lifeline for its 240 students and their families who receive free tuition, books, clothes, hot meals, groceries and a monthly stipend.

A charity called Al-Salah runs the facility. The Islamic fundamentalist group **Hamas**, best known for suicide bus bombings in Israel, says the charity is part of its welfare arm that generates grass roots support in Gaza and the West Bank.

REUTERS

The children of Palestinians who have died in the conflict with Israel, particularly in the 13-week-old Intifada, or uprising, need no entrance exam to gain acceptance at the school. Palestinians revere the Intifada dead as martyrs.

With around 300 Palestinians killed in the violence, the school expects to double the number of students by September. It is also building a girls' school nearby.

From his office in the school, al-Salah director Ahmed el-Kurd describes the charity as an Islamic equivalent to the Catholic relief agency. He denies any links to **Hamas**.

El-Kurd says his group is distributing \$US8 million (\$A14m) and food baskets to 200,000 families in the West Bank and Gaza. It also runs a dozen kindergartens throughout Gaza.

Its latest program is distributing \$US5300 (\$A9420) to the families of each Palestinian killed in the recent violence and the same amount to those with incapacitating injuries. Those with minor injuries receive \$US1300 (\$A2,310) from al-Salah.

Most of the money comes from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. But a group of British Muslims, dressed in traditional Islamic costume, their accents the only clue to their nationality, make a generous donation after touring the school.

Muslims in Australia send live sheep to slaughter at religious festivals and other Muslims "adopt" a Palestinian child by sending a monthly donation. In return they regularly receive a photograph and thank-you note from the child they sponsor.

School with a cause An Islamic fundamentalist group is winning the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.

El-Kurd personally delivers sacks of flour, sugar and other staple foods to residents of the camp. He hands out Israeli 100 shekel bills (\$A44) to women draped in black veils that reveal only their eyes shining with gratitude.

Fifteen-year-old Ahmed Fayyad's dust-smudged face contorts slightly from the weight of a box of food he carries into the corrugated iron shack which serves as home for himself, his mother and his younger brother.

He shrugs his shoulders when asked what he would do without al-Salah's regular food packages. There is no help in Gaza for families like his, not even from the governing Palestinian Authority.

Al-Salah charity workers proudly bring over a young boy who lives nearby and attends the school. He wears a new yellow raincoat and neatly pressed trousers. His face shines with good health and his hair is neatly trimmed.

In the desperate poverty of Deir el-Balah where the palm trees that give the camp its name are steeped in pools of sewage and garbage is strewn along flooded ditches, the boy is a symbol of hope for those who have none.

Like other students at the school, he has intensive English and computer lessons and hopes to study at university one day.

Senior Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab says al-Salah is one of three Islamic charities that form Hamas' welfare arm.

The militant movement, which opposes peacemaking with Israel and killed scores of Israelis in a wave of suicide bomb attacks in 1996, also has a military and political wing.

"The political level is the face of Hamas, but without the other divisions Hamas would not be as strong as it is now. So it needs the three parts to survive," Abu Shanab said, explaining that the military, political and welfare branches are kept separate.

Talking as he hands out sweets on an Islamic holiday to families of Palestinian "martyrs" and prisoners held in Israeli jails, Abu Shanab says helping poor families with food and money feeds their determination to fight Israel.

"If nobody supports these needy families, maybe nobody would think of martyrdom and the resistance of occupation," he said.

Abu Shanab, a construction engineer who studied at Colorado State University in the United States, teaches engineering at Gaza's Islamic University. He is a founder of Hamas and one of its top seven political leaders.

Every time Israeli soldiers kill a Palestinian, support for Hamas grows, Abu Shanab says, adding that many people embrace its call for armed struggle to destroy the Jewish state as they lose faith in peacemaking.

Palestinian analyst Khalil Shikaki said no opinion polls have been conducted on Hamas popularity since the latest uprising began in late September.

He believes support stands at around 13% of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The figure would grow only if a peacemaking stalemate continued.

"When the peace process is deadlocked, we see greater support for violence, greater support for Hamas' methods but not necessarily greater support for Hamas. But if the deadlock persists people will shift their support to the organisation [Hamas] itself and not just to its policies," he said.

Palestinians have been rallying round the flag since the uprising began.

Palestinian souvenir salesman Tareq Abu Dayyah says flags of the Lebanese Hizbollah guerilla group, Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been selling like hot-cakes.

He said business has been so good that an Israeli merchant in Tel Aviv has offered to manufacture the flags in Israel, or at least import them from Taiwan, to get in on the latest fad.

School with a cause An Islamic fundamentalist group is winning the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.

The other bestseller has been Israeli flags -- but people buy them to set on fire at funerals and rallies, Abu Dayyah said.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

End of Document

ISLAMIC MILITANTS GO ON TRIAL

Birmingham Post

March 2, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 9

Length: 295 words

Body

Two Islamic militants suspected of killing an Israeli soldier and plotting a Tel Aviv bombing have gone on trial in Israel, and a Palestinian charged with helping finance Hamas activists was brought before judges.

Jamal al-Hor and Abdel Rahman Ghanimat were charged in an Israeli military court in Lod of running a Hamas squad blamed for the deaths of 11 Israelis over the past two years.

Hor and Ghanimat allegedly ran the Hamas group's cell in the West Bank village of Tsur north of Hebron, which has been blamed for three drive-by shootings, the abduction and slaying of an Israeli soldier, and a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe that killed three women.

Three other members of the cell were indicted on charges which included planting three home-made bombs in a Tel Aviv street in January 1997, injuring 13 people.

The court sentenced a member of another Hamas cell to 20 months in jail plus six months probation. Khaled Muhammed Bakirat, from east Jerusalem, belonged to a cell accused of conspiring to plant a bomb in the city's busiest shopping mall and to kidnap Israeli soldiers and public figures.

Bakirat was a minor figure in the cell, the military prosecutor said, and pleaded guilty to less serious charges, including membership in an illegal organisation.

The court extended by ten days the detention of Mohammed Othman (25), from the Shuafat refugee camp in Jerusalem, accused of running the banned Holy Land Foundation.

Israel outlawed the Richardson, Texas-based Holy Land Foundation last year, saying it transfers funds to Hamas activists and gives money to the families of suicide bombers.

According to the charges against Othman, also known as Rahman Anati, the group transferred funds through him to Hamas activists in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

Load-Date: November 11, 1998

NETANYAHU'S WAY

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 22, 1998, Tuesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1998 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. A10

Length: 330 words

Body

1996

May 29: Netanyahu is narrowly elected prime minister.

June 17: He forms a coalition government with eight small parties.

Aug. 2: The government angers Palestinians by ending a four-year freeze on Jewish settlements.

Sept. 4: Netanyahu meets with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for the first time.

Sept. 24-27: Deadly clashes break out in West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem after Israel opens tunnel entrance near Muslim holy site.

1997

January: Israel withdraws from 80 percent of Hebron, West Bank. Science Minister Benny Begin resigns in protest.

March 18: Ground is broken for a new Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem. Palestinians riot.

March 22: A **Hamas** militant blows himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing himself and three Israeli **women**.

July 30: Two **Hamas** suicide-bombers kill 16 people in an outdoor Jerusalem market.

Sept. 4: Three **Hamas** suicide-bombers kill eight in a Jerusalem pedestrian mall.

Sept. 25: Government releases **Hamas** founder in swap after two Mossad agents are caught in a bungled assassination attempt against a different **Hamas** official.

November: Netanyahu survives a rebellion in his Likud bloc.

Dec. 31: Government fails to pass budget by New Year's deadline, gets three-month extension.

1998

NETANYAHU'S WAY

Jan. 4: Foreign Minister David Levy announces his resignation over Netanyahu's peace policies with the Palestinians and a downturn in the economy.

Oct. 23: Netanyahu and Arafat reach accord after nine days of talks at the Wye River in eastern Maryland to resume their land-for-security track.

Oct. 29: An Israeli soldier is killed defending a busload of Israeli school children in Gaza as a **Hamas** suicide-bomber tries to ram a bus with an explosives-laden car.

Nov. 6: Two Palestinians blow themselves up in an attack on a Jerusalem market.

Dec. 18: Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman resigns over failure to win Cabinet support for his fiscal policies.

Dec. 21: Opposition from foes and friends of the new peace accord brings Netanyahu's government to the brink of collapse.

Load-Date: December 22, 1998

End of Document

Israeli missile attack threatens fresh violence

The Guardian (London)

July 18, 2001

Copyright 2001 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 12

Length: 527 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Bethlehem

Body

Israel sent fresh tank and infantry units into the West Bank last night after a day that saw the assassination of Palestinian militants, mortar attacks and widespread small arms clashes.

The stage was set for a vicious upswing in the 10-month intifada with the killing of two **Hamas** activists and two other men in a missile attack on a family farm.

The Israel army announced at midnight that it was reinforcing positions across the West Bank. However, a spokesman said the new forces would not retake territory under Palestinian control.

Three missiles launched from helicopters slammed into a chicken coop on the Saadeh family farm south of Bethlehem, demolishing the shed, incinerating the birds inside and strewing feed and feathers across a swath of vegetable garden and olive grove.

The assassinations were the second stage of Israel's retaliation for Monday night's suicide bombing at a railway station on the main Tel Aviv-Haifa line.

The attack by the Islamic Jihad killed a male and a **female** soldier. They were the first Israelis killed inside the Jewish state since a suicide attack on a Tel Aviv disco shocked both sides into reaching a ceasefire last month.

However, even the very fleeting moments of calm produced by that ceasefire over the last month appeared decisively over yesterday, with **Hamas** vowing revenge and Palestinian militants staging their first mortar attack in the West Bank in the uprising.

Until yesterday, Bethlehem had been one of the few places in the West Bank where the ceasefire had taken hold. But within an hour of the attack, Palestinian militants fired a mortar round on the Jewish settlement of Gilo, nestled between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, in what appeared immediate revenge for the assassination.

A second round fell hours later on a road leading south from the illegal Jewish settlement. There were no injuries, but the appearance of mortars, and on a settlement so close to Jerusalem, is bound to cause deep anxiety in Israel.

In Bethlehem, witnesses said two helicopters fired two missiles in quick succession, followed minutes later by a third.

The target of the attack was Omar Saadeh, aged 45, and the military commander of **Hamas** in the Bethlehem district. Another of the dead men, Taha Oroush, aged 37, was also a **Hamas** activist, Israeli military officials said.

Israeli missile attack threatens fresh violence

The army said the two men had been plotting an attack inside Israel, presumably against the Jewish Olympics, which opened on Monday.

However, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, a **Hamas** official in Gaza, said the Saadeh family had gathered to await the release of a relative from an Israeli prison when the gunships launched their missiles.

"**Hamas** will never forget the blood of its martyrs and when our civilians are brutally killed the military wing of **Hamas** will never keep silent," Mr Rantissi told Reuters.

Saadeh, a spare car parts dealer, was in the habit of retiring to his chicken coop in the afternoons, often with family and friends.

Yesterday, he had apparently invited his brother, Ishaq Saadeh, aged 51, and a teacher of conflict studies and peace resolution at a local Roman Catholic school, and a cousin of the two men, Mohammed Saadeh, aged 29.

Load-Date: July 18, 2001

End of Document

Israel Attacks Again in Gaza; Arafat Condemns U.S.

The New York Times

December 8, 2001 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 993 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: GAZA, Dec. 7

Body

Israeli and Palestinian security officials met today for talks, but as the negotiating standoff continued, Israeli warplanes flattened two police buildings in Gaza City to press Yasir Arafat to act more firmly against Palestinian militants, and militants rallied here to warn him to do no such thing.

In an interview with Israeli television tonight, Mr. Arafat lashed out at the Bush administration as tilting heavily toward Israel. President Bush has refused to meet with Mr. Arafat, and the United States has sternly backed Israel's demands that he crack down on extremists.

Palestinian officials have said Mr. Arafat is not politically strong enough to make such moves unless Israel provides some benefit to Palestinians, like relaxing the blockades in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Dear God, who cares about the Americans?" Mr. Arafat said, when asked about American pressure. "The Americans are on your side, and they give you everything," he said, addressing Israelis. "Who gave you the airplanes? The Americans. Who gave you the tanks? The Americans."

Mr. Arafat said his forces had arrested 17 of 33 militants wanted by Israel. A list of the wanted men was given to him on Wednesday by Anthony C. Zinni, the Bush administration's new envoy here. Israel had given such lists to him in the past with little result.

Despite the arrests, Israel renewed its military campaign early Saturday, when helicopter gunships attacked Palestinian security buildings in Rafah, Gaza, Agence France-Presse reported. There were no casualties.

In Ankara today, the Turkish prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, said the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, had told him in a telephone conversation that he wanted to be "rid of" Mr. Arafat. But the Israeli government continued to insist that it did not want to kill Mr. Arafat or destroy his Palestinian Authority.

Israeli officials say that if Mr. Arafat does not crack down on extremists, they will put so much pressure on his administration that he will be replaced without their attacking him directly. Today the deputy foreign minister, Michael Melchior, told reporters in Berlin that Mr. Arafat had become "irrelevant" because he had not used his power to stop violence. Mr. Melchior is regarded as a dove.

Israel Attacks Again in Gaza; Arafat Condemns U.S.

After a 48-hour pause in attacks, Israel sent warplanes screaming over Gaza at about 3 a.m. today. They fired three missiles into the Arafat Police City, destroying one building that the police said was used for administration and another that they said was for training women officers. The Bush administration has refrained from criticizing such Israeli action.

Palestinians said 18 people had been wounded in the raid, which left six cement floors pancaked atop one another in a jumble of cinder blocks.

The raid damaged the office of Ghazi al-Jabali, the police chief in Gaza and one of the main Palestinian officials charged with the effort against extremists, including members of the Islamist group Hamas.

After three Hamas suicide bombings last weekend killed 25 people, Israel redoubled its demands for Mr. Arafat to arrest militants, backing up those demands with military strikes. Hamas said it had retaliated for Israel's killing of a Hamas military leader on Nov. 23.

Because police buildings have long been favorite Israeli targets, Mr. Jabali rented an apartment elsewhere 10 months ago to use as his headquarters, police officers said. Indeed, the Palestinian police are seldom found in their official headquarters. "For 10 months we have been in the streets," Capt. Muhammad Harara of the Palestinian police said.

But the streets were not safe for them today either. Palestinian policemen mostly kept out of sight as more than 1,000 Palestinians marched in a funeral procession for a Hamas activist killed in clashes with the police on Wednesday night.

Teenagers and young boys hurled stones at one truck carrying police officers and at police buildings they passed on the route, applying to fellow Palestinians the tactics they usually reserve for Israeli soldiers. Even their justifications, generally learned from their seniors, sounded the same. "They are arresting our men," Muhammad al-Arir, 13, said of the Palestinian Authority. "They are killing us."

But other Hamas supporters repeatedly shooed the stone-throwers away rather than risk a serious confrontation before television cameras.

Police officials had been concerned before the march that it could turn violent, and a deal apparently was made. The police stayed out of sight and, for a funeral, there was very little shooting into the air.

The dead man, Muhammad Selmi, 21, was shot and killed Wednesday night when fighting broke out with Palestinian officers who were placing the founder and spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, under house arrest. The police said Mr. Selmi was a bodyguard for the sheik, but his father, Akram Selmi, said he was studying to be a mechanic.

Today, the young man's body was wrapped in a bright green Hamas flag and borne through the muddy streets by a crowd chanting its loyalty to Hamas. Mr. Selmi was declared a "martyr," like those who die in violence with the Israelis.

Akram Selmi expressed great bitterness toward the Palestinian Authority. "We are supposed to live under the Authority rules," he said. "But now we live under the darkness of the Authority."

Asked whether Hamas, which rejects any negotiated settlement with Israel, could replace the Authority, he replied, "The time is still not come, but it will come."

Turnout for the funeral clearly disappointed some organizers. One young man, his face hidden by a head scarf, the trademark disguise of the Hamas military wing, said, "There are many wanted to come but didn't because they are scared that the police will arrest them."

At the grave, a dwindled crowd of a few hundred listened to a brief speech criticizing Israel and the Palestinian Authority and then chanted: "You, Arafat, are not among us! Take your dogs and go away!"

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Palestinian demonstrators were pushed back by Palestinian Authority police in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday. (Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: December 8, 2001

End of Document

IMAD WAS A DEVOUT AND SINGLE TEENAGER - THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR A SUICIDE BOMBER

The Independent (London)

April 28, 2001, Saturday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 969 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Nablus, On The West Bank

Body

LAST MONTH an unknown and unremarkable Palestinian schoolboy called Imad Kamel al-Zubadi had his 18th birthday. He knew then - and probably revelled in the thought - that his adult life would not last long. Five weeks later, it was over.

On Saturday, he calmly left the slum that passed for his home in the West Bank city of Nablus after telling his mother, Nehaya, that he was going to spend the night at a mosque.

He was extremely devout, so the family thought nothing of his absence. Nor, at the time, did they see anything strange in the way in which he sat down before departing and, for a full five minutes, gazed intently and silently at them. Then he walked out, for ever.

Just after 9am the following day he was seen in a crowd at a bus stop in Kfar Saba, an Israeli town four miles from the border with the occupied West Bank. Despite the warmth of the day, he was wearing a ragged jacket. Beneath it was a bomb packed with nails.

The explosion came at the height of the morning rush-hour on Sunday, the first day of the Israeli working week, just as a bus pulled up. It killed Dr Mario Goldin, 52, an Israeli physician born in Argentina who was the widely respected head of a hospital unit. It injured 50 people. And it blew Imad al-Zubadi to pieces, sealing his place as the youngest suicide bomber from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam battalions, the paramilitary wing of the militant movement **Hamas**.

Five suicide bombers have struck since the start of the Palestinian intifada in September, three of them inside Israel. **Hamas** has claimed four and says it has six more in position. So far fatalities have been miraculously low; four Israelis have died, although scores were injured, some seriously.

But fears of a massacre - a repetition of the nightmare of 1996, when 44 people were killed in two suicide bombings in Jerusalem within two months - gnaw away at Israelis, and at the promise of their Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, to make them secure.

This is precisely what the men from **Hamas** intend. Fifty-three years after the Jewish state was created, young Arabs remain willing to die in the blind conviction that these atrocities are holy acts, which guarantee the perpetrators a place in paradise and help to drive out Jews from Arab land.

IMAD WAS A DEVOUT AND SINGLE TEENAGER - THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR A SUICIDE BOMBER

Imad al-Zubadi was typical. Studies by the Israel-based International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism show that **Hamas** suicide bombers tend to be young, single, intensely religious, and poor. He was all of these. He was also a loner whose only interests were computers, maths and the Koran, and so shy he could hardly bring himself to speak to his teachers. Relatives - six of whom spoke to The Independent - say he rarely spoke. "If I didn't ask him a question, he would say nothing," said his father, Kamel, a 68-year-old shop owner. "He had no friends."

Such characteristics are valued by **Hamas** recruiters. Deep emotional attachments and an outgoing nature could compromise the group's security. The silent, studious Imad al-Zubadi met the job description.

Yet members of his family say they were taken entirely by surprise by what he did. They knew the lad was angry about the occupation. But so is everyone in Nablus. They remember that when he was nine he was struck by a Jewish settler in Nablus, a humiliating assault, and wonder if this played a part. They acknowledge, too, that the family was struggling financially, not least because of Israel's blockade of the occupied territories. They say that in the evenings Imad al-Zubadi used to work on the family sewing machine, turning out aprons for sale in his father's shop.

But his relatives say they had no inkling that he had joined **Hamas**, let alone that he was a "lieutenant" - the vaunt made by the posters pasted up around Nablus after his death. From these stare out a hauntingly youthful lad with a wispy moustache. The forefinger of his right hand is raised, giving the impression of a wise, brave instructor, rather than a gullible, confused teenager who was persuaded to become a killer.

On Wednesday, his relatives sat in mourning, the **women** in one house, the men in another. Solemn, bearded men from **Hamas** greeted visitors at the door, while his father, bewildered, sat on a plastic chair inside. The **Hamas** men gravely handed out sweets, as is the tradition at a "martyr's" wake, to indicate a celebration rather than a singularly miserable moment in a long conflict.

Yet his relatives were obviously struggling to make sense of it all. They trotted out the official guff - that the boy was a hero who was now sure to be in Heaven. They will doubtless get payouts from **Hamas**'s charitable system, which helps the families of "martyrs" and thus nurtures its support.

But, beneath the rhetoric, there was grief and unease. Questions about randomly blowing up Israeli civilians on their own territory made them indignant. "We are against killing civilians," said his aunt, Salwa, "But every day the Israelis kill Palestinian children. They burn our hearts. We want them to suffer the same thing." In the end, she explained, it boils down to an eye for an eye.

This individual confusion is mirrored by a debate inside Islam over whether suicide bombings are legitimate. Islam views suicide as a sin, a view reinforced this month by the highest religious authority in Saudi Arabia, the Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul-Aziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, who declared there was "no religious justification" for suicide attacks. He was swiftly contradicted by an Egyptian scholar, Sheikh Youssef al-Qardawi, who pronounced them legitimate.

But this high-falutin theology debate is a long way from the streets of Nablus. Outside the young killer's wake stood a small Palestinian boy, no more than 10 years old. He was wearing a **Hamas** T-shirt and a **Hamas** headband - gifts from the guerrillas. Will he be next?

Graphic

Imad Kamel al-Zubadi, the Palestinian suicide bomber. Right, **Hamas** demonstrators dressed as suicide bombers in a Gaza refugee camp AP;; Elizabeth Dalziel/AP

IMAD WAS A DEVOUT AND SINGLE TEENAGER - THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR A SUICIDE BOMBER

Load-Date: April 28, 2001

End of Document

UNEASY PEACE AS MOURNERS FORM HUMAN CHAIN TO STOP TERRIBLE TOLL OF DEATH FROM RISING

Scotland on Sunday

December 23, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 594 words

Byline: Ross Dunn

Body

THOUSANDS of Palestinian mourners yesterday formed a human chain to prevent further internecine violence as they buried six men killed in fighting between the Palestinian Authority and the militant group **Hamas**.

The six funerals in and around Gaza City took place as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad appeared to promise to cease suicide attacks on Israeli targets. The groups took the decision in the interests of "national unity".

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's recent call for an end to attacks against Israel, followed by a crackdown carried out by the Palestinian security forces, led to violence that left seven Palestinians dead and nearly 100 injured.

Hamas announced last Friday that it was halting attacks inside Israel, including suicide bombings, to help ensure Palestinian unity. Islamic Jihad, another group that has carried out multiple suicide bombings, distributed leaflets at Saturday's funerals saying it would do its part to preserve unity.

However, the group has not said explicitly that attacks have been suspended.

"Islamic Jihad desires to work in order to protect the Palestinian national interest," Nafez Azzam, one of the group's top leaders, said.

Asked if this meant that the suicide bombings against Israel would cease, Azzam said this was a decision for the group's military wing, but added that "as a politician I believe we have to work to protect our national unity."

As one of the funeral processions for an Islamic Jihad supporter travelled past a police station, members of the group joined hands to form a line and prevent anyone in the crowd advancing toward the station.

Meanwhile, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said that with Palestinians pledging to halt attacks, the next move was now up to Israel. Erekat said he told Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres in a telephone conversation that he expected Israel to stop its pre-emptive strikes on suspected Palestinian militants and lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages.

"The ball now is in the Israeli court to stop all acts of aggression, to stop the policy of assassinations, to lift the closure and to return to the negotiating table," he said.

The **Hamas** announcement was seen as a victory for the beleaguered Arafat, who has been under intense US and European pressure to prevent attacks on Israel.

UNEASY PEACE AS MOURNERS FORM HUMAN CHAIN TO STOP TERRIBLE TOLL OF DEATH FROM RISING

Hamas said it had ordered attacks in Israel suspended "until further notice" to preserve Palestinian unity. It was the first time **Hamas** had made such a promise in the 15 months of fighting.

However, the **Hamas** decision only referred to stopping suicide attacks within Israel's borders, not in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving open the possibility of further violence against Jewish settlers and soldiers there.

Israel's reaction was guarded. In the past 15 months of fighting, scores of Israelis have been killed in attacks by Islamic militants.

"What's positive? That they stop terror activities in one place but keep murdering **women** and children somewhere else?" Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, said.

"As long as the terror activities continue we will implement our right of self-defence, and we will act against them with all our might."

In last Friday's violence, thousands of Palestinian mourners in the Jebaliya refugee camp near Gaza City joined the funeral procession of a 17-year-old Islamic Jihad supporter killed a day earlier in a gun battle with Palestinian police.

When the funeral procession passed a police station, gunmen opened fire at officers inside, drawing return fire. Six Palestinians were killed.

Load-Date: December 24, 2001

ARAFAT CALLS FOR END TO ARMED ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

The Scotsman

December 17, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 599 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield In Jerusalem

Body

SEEKING a lease on life for himself and his battered Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat called yesterday for a "comprehensive cessation of all armed activities" against Israeli targets.

"I reiterate today the need a complete and comprehensive cessation of all armed activities and call again for the cessation of all activities, especially the suicide attacks we have always condemned," Mr Arafat said in a speech broadcast on Palestinian television that appeared to be aimed at Washington and Israel as much as at the Palestinian public.

Meanwhile, Palestinian security forces shut down an array of cultural, religious and educational institutions affiliated with **Hamas**, the Islamic Resistance Movement that seeks Israel's destruction and which has carried out a new campaign of devastating suicide bombings in recent weeks.

Israel declared Mr Arafat "irrelevant" last week, saying he had done nothing to halt attacks by **Hamas** and other groups.

The United States has also put intensive pressure on Mr Arafat to move decisively against **Hamas**, but he has thus far been reluctant to comply, apparently fearing it would lead to a civil war.

Hamas has grown in popularity over the last year with the collapse of the peace process and the daily toll taken by Israeli army actions on the population.

Mr Arafat gave the speech - marking the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan - from Ramallah, where he has been trapped for the last four days by the Israeli army as part of its broadest military campaign in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the start of the latest Israeli-Palestinian confrontation more than a year ago.

The campaign has targeted installations of the Palestinian Authority and its security services, demonstrated the vulnerability of every Palestinian city and town, and harmed many civilians.

Israeli leaders reacted cautiously to Mr Arafat's speech. Sources in the office of the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said that they were "fed up" with "false promises" and that Israel "will do everything it can to defend its citizens".

Matan Vilnai, a minister from the relatively dovish Labour Party said: "This speech shows that if you force him into the corner he knows what to do. If you don't pressure him, he doesn't know."

ARAFAT CALLS FOR END TO ARMED ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

Colonel Mustafa Kandil of the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip, predicted that Israel would try to make it impossible for Mr Arafat to enforce a ceasefire by continuing its policy of assassinating Palestinians it alleges are involved in terrorism.

"These assassinations really stir up the Palestinian people," he said.

Col Kandil said that if Israel was serious about a ceasefire, it would withdraw its tanks from Palestinian Authority areas.

"They could do a lot to cool things down, but they don't want to," he said. "They want the current situation to continue."

Hassan Youssef, a **Hamas** leader in Ramallah, told al-Jazira television that **Hamas** would be able to survive the Palestinian Authority's steps.

"Closing these organisations will only increase Palestinian and Islamic support for **Hamas**," he said.

Mr Arafat said: "We will settle accounts with all planners (of attacks) and those that organise them, including the firing of mortars, which have no purpose but which give an excuse for Israeli attacks on us, our people, children and **women**."

"Any violation of this decision will harm the higher interests of our people and our Arab nation. We will pursue those who violate the law."

Mr Arafat added: "We want a genuine Palestinian state, in all meaning of the word, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, next to Israel."

Load-Date: December 18, 2001

As Palestinians bury 8, Israel says raids on militants to go on

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AUGUST 2, 2001 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 669 words

Byline: Greg Myre ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" yesterday and buried eight people killed in an air strike, while the Israeli government dismissed international criticism and said it would continue to target militants for attack.

After two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, yesterday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations, and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets.

A Palestinian was shot to death in the West Bank city of Hebron, and two men suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians.

In Gaza, a woman was slightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said.

Five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a group of Israeli settlements in Gaza, Palestinians said. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus. The missile attack killed eight people in the deadliest such assault of the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by killing a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to lower-level bomb-makers and gunmen targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved the green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

As Palestinians bury 8, Israel says raids on militants to go on

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Israel said Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"No one has immunity," cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh said. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said Israel reserved the right of self-defense and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement."

While many Israelis support the raids, there are signs of a growing debate about their effectiveness.

Israel has killed about 50 Palestinians with such attacks. It believes it can weaken **Hamas** and the militant Islamic Jihad movement, arguing that they have a limited number of people with the technical and organizations skills to carry out major bomb attacks. But the Israeli strikes also generate support for such groups.

"One must remember that what **Hamas** loses in ability, it makes up for in motivation, and the question is: which is more dangerous?" Israeli journalist Hemi Shalev wrote in the daily Maariv.

"The assassination policy incites the Palestinian street, forces escalation on [Palestinian leader] Yasir Arafat, increases support for **Hamas** and sends dozens of potential martyrs to its ranks," he wrote.

Israel's evening news yesterday featured a television interview with Yasser Abed Rabbo, the Palestinian information minister, who blamed Israel for the escalation.

Abed Rabbo called on Israel to agree to international observers "to come and monitor the situation on the ground." He said: "The monitors will show who is responsible for initiating violence."

The Palestinian killed yesterday in Hebron was identified as Mohammed Sharabati, 35. The two suspected collaborators were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, of Ramallah, and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40, of al-Khader.

Load-Date: October 31, 2001

The secret world of suicide bombers

USA TODAY

June 26, 2001, Tuesday,

FINAL EDITION Correction Appended

Copyright 2001 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; COVER STORY

Length: 1679 words

Byline: Jack Kelley

Dateline: ZARQA, Jordan

Body

ZARQA, Jordan -- The Hotaris are preparing for a party to celebrate the killing of 21 Israelis this month by their son, a suicide bomber.

Neighbors hang pictures on their trees of Saeed Hotari holding seven sticks of dynamite. They spray-paint graffiti reading "21 and counting" on their stone walls. And they arrange flowers in the shapes of a heart and a bomb to display on their front doors.

"I am very happy and proud of what my son did and, frankly, am a bit jealous," says Hassan Hotari, 54, father of the young man who carried out the attack June 1 outside a disco in Tel Aviv. It was Israel's worst suicide bombing in nearly four years. "I wish I had done (the bombing). My son has fulfilled the Prophet's (Mohammed's) wishes. He has become a hero! Tell me, what more could a father ask?"

In more than a dozen interviews with former and current members of the militant group **Hamas** and with Israeli security officials who track them, USA TODAY was given a rare look into the secretive and terrifying world of suicide bombers and the culture that creates them.

Lured by promises of financial stability for their families, eternal martyrdom and unlimited sex in the afterlife, dozens of militant Palestinians like Hotari aspire to blow themselves up, Israeli and Palestinian officials say. Their goal: to kill or injure as many Jews as possible in the hope that Israel will withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank. Israel captured the land in 1967.

The bombings, which have spread fear and despair among Israelis, have proved to be the deadliest weapon in the Palestinian arsenal during the current intifada, or uprising. The intifada has claimed more than 600 lives, most of them Palestinian, since September.

"Even if we can't reach the goal of an end to occupation, we are inflicting losses on the enemy," says Abdel Aziz Rantissi, a spokesman for **Hamas**. The group has claimed responsibility for most of the suicide bombings. "Israelis will have no stability and no security until the occupation ends. Suicide bombers are Israel's future."

Since 1993, nearly 190 people have been killed and thousands injured in 28 suicide bombings in Israel. Three of those bombings have occurred since March, including the Tel Aviv disco attack. A fragile Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire has held for nearly a month, but **Hamas** officials warn of two more bombings in the "very near future."

The secret world of suicide bombers

"When I walk outside, young (Palestinian) children come up to me and say, 'Conduct another bombing to make us happy, sheik,' " says Sheik Hasan Yosef, 45, the senior **Hamas** leader in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "I cannot disappoint them. They won't have to wait long."

Visions of paradise

At any time, Israeli officials believe, **Hamas** has from five to 20 men, ages 18 to 23, awaiting orders to carry out suicide attacks. The group also claims to have "tens of thousands" of youths ready to follow in their footsteps. "We like to grow them," Yosef says. "From kindergarten through college."

In **Hamas**-run kindergartens, signs on the walls read: "The children of the kindergarten are the *shaheeds* (holy martyrs) of tomorrow." The classroom signs at Al-Najah University in the West Bank and at Gaza's Islamic University say, "Israel has nuclear bombs, we have human bombs."

At an Islamic school in Gaza City run by **Hamas**, 11-year-old Palestinian student Ahmed's small frame and boyish smile are deceiving. They mask a determination to kill at any cost. "I will make my body a bomb that will blast the flesh of Zionists, the sons of pigs and monkeys," Ahmed says. "I will tear their bodies into little pieces and cause them more pain than they will ever know."

"*Allahu Akbar*," his classmates shout in response: "God is great."

"May the virgins give you pleasure," his teacher yells, referring to one of the rewards awaiting martyrs in paradise. Even the principal smiles and nods his approval.

"You don't start educating a *shaheed* at age 22," says Roni Shaked, a terrorism expert and former officer in Israel's Shin Bet secret service. "You start at kindergarten so by the time he's 22, he's looking for an opportunity to sacrifice his life."

Some suicide bombers, like Hotari, come to their deadly missions by a slightly different route. They turn themselves into human bombs because they are frustrated by the economic and political duress Palestinians experience in Jordan and throughout the region.

Hamas says its recruiters, most of whom Israeli officials describe as charismatic religious leaders, look for two qualities in a potential bomber: an intense interest in Islam and a clean criminal record so as not to raise the suspicions of Israel's secret service.

Saeed Hotari, who was 22, fit both of those criteria. He was "a devout Muslim who used to pray, observed fasting and performed all his religious obligations to the letter and spirit," his father says. One of nine children, he left Zarqa, outside the Jordanian capital of Amman, for the West Bank city of Qalqilya in 1999 to seek a better life.

In Qalqilya, he and two other Palestinian youths went to a mosque where Sheik Jamel Tawil, a **Hamas** leader, persuaded them to attend a **Hamas**-run class on Islamic study. All would eventually be suicide bombers and would carry out their attacks within days of each other.

At the **Hamas**-run classes, recruits are reminded of Israel's "illegal occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza, its "barbaric treatment" of Palestinians and the Islamic prophet Mohammed's call for Muslims to wage war against infidels. "Kill the idolaters wherever you find them," Yosef says.

(Israeli officials say they are targeting militant leaders like Yosef for arrest or assassination).

After several weeks of schooling, the youths often volunteer to be suicide bombers, Yosef says. "If someone confiscated your land, demolished your home, built settlements to prevent you from coming back, killed your children and blocked you from going to work, wouldn't you want to fight for your country?" Yosef asks.

In return for "martyrdom," **Hamas** tells the youths that their families will be financially compensated, their pictures will be posted in schools and mosques, and they will earn a special place in heaven.

The secret world of suicide bombers

They also are promised something more risqué: unlimited sex with 72 virgins in heaven. The Koran, the sacred book of Islam, describes the women as "beautiful like rubies, with complexions like diamonds and pearls." In one of the passages of the Koran, it is said the martyrs and virgins shall "delight themselves, lying on green cushions and beautiful carpets." Since the time of Mohammed, martyrs have always been considered those willing to die defending Islam.

Holy rewards for suffering

For some young Muslims, that offer is too much to turn down.

"I know my life is poor compared to Europe or America, but I have something awaiting me that makes all my suffering worthwhile," says Bassam Khalifi, 16, a Hamas youth leader in Gaza's Bureij refugee camp. "Most boys can't stop thinking about the virgins."

But in the end, says Shaked, the Israeli terrorism expert, most of the bombers don't sign up for martyrdom for the promise of unlimited sex. "They join because of their absolute devotion to God and their desire to die with Jewish blood on their hands," he says. "It's not a heroic thing, it's a holy thing."

A would-be bomber is selected for his mission only days, sometimes hours, before it is to occur, Israeli officials say. As part of the preparation, the recruit is taken to a cemetery, where he is told to prepare for death by lying between gravesites for hours. He wears a white, hooded shroud normally used to cover bodies for burial, a former Hamas member says.

The recruit is then taken to a safe house. A video is made in which he states his consent to become a suicide bomber and his devotion to Islam. It will be played for the public after his death. A still photograph is taken that will be reproduced and displayed through the West Bank and Gaza to honor him after death.

Because secrecy is paramount, Hamas leaders will not allow the recruit to say goodbye to his family or tell them his plans.

Meanwhile, separate Hamas groups already have selected the target, constructed the bomb that will be attached to the recruit's belt and started preparations to get him to the site, Israeli officials say.

Once at the target site, the recruit is told to remain calm, blend in as much as possible and, when surrounded by Israelis, press a switch to explode the bomb, Hamas members say. Just as Hotari's friend Mahmoud Marmash did.

On May 18, Israeli security guard Lior Kamisa saw Marmash, 21, standing in line with dozens of Israelis outside a shopping mall in the Israeli seaside city of Netanya.

"We locked eyes," Kamisa recalls. "His eyes were frozen. They showed no emotion." Realizing that Marmash looked out of place among the Israelis and was wearing an oversized blue sport jacket, Kamisa radioed for help.

It was too late. Marmash slowly unbuttoned his jacket, slipped his hand inside and pressed a switch that ignited the dynamite. The explosion killed five Israelis. Kamisa looked for Marmash but couldn't find him. "He was gone. He had turned to dust."

On June 1, it was Hotari's turn. Israeli officials, quoting eyewitnesses, say two Hamas operatives drove him to the Dolphin Disco in Tel Aviv, a popular club often packed with Russian immigrant teenagers. They said Hotari slipped unnoticed into line and positioned himself among several girls, including a 14-year-old who had survived Marmash's attack in Netanya.

Then, while flirting with one of the girls, Hotari triggered the explosives. The blast was so intense that it tore limbs from the victims' bodies, scattered their flesh up to six blocks away and vaporized Hotari and the girl next to him.

It killed 21 people, in addition to Hotari, and injured nearly 100.

The secret world of suicide bombers

Now, nearly 30 days later, his parents are preparing to mark the anniversary of his death, as devout Muslims often do.

"My prayer is that Saeed's brothers, friends and fellow Palestinians will sacrifice their lives, too," Hotari's father says. "There is no better way to show God you love him."

Correction

On April 22, a team of journalists finished a review of former USA TODAY reporter Jack Kelley's work and concluded that at least 20 of his stories contained fabrications and that he also lifted at least 100 passages, without attribution, from other publications. This story was among those cited in reports that were published on March 19, 2004 and April 22, 2004. The investigation found that at least two passages in this story were similar to passages that appeared earlier in other publications. Kelley wrote: 'We locked eyes,' Kamisa recalls. 'His eyes were frozen. They showed no emotion.'" A Newsweek "Web exclusive" that went online May 18, 2001, contained this passage: "I locked eyes with the guy for what seemed like a very long time. They were totally frozen. He showed no emotion." Kelley wrote: "Marmash slowly unbuttoned his jacket, slipped his hand inside and pressed a switch that ignited the dynamite" He was gone. He had turned to dust." From Newsweek: "Marmash moved slowly, opening a front button, slipping his hand into his jacket, pressing a button and blowing himself up. 'He evaporated before my eyes, he just turned to dust.'" In addition, the quote from Hamas spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantissi appeared Feb. 28, 2001, in the Financial Times.

Correction-Date: July 23, 2004

Graphic

GRAPHIC, B/W, USA TODAY (MAP); PHOTO, Color, Ali Jarekji, Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, Ali Hashisho, Reuters; Happy and proud": Hassan Hotari holds a photo of his son, Saeed, who killed 21 young Israelis and himself. "Shaheeds of tomorrow": Children dress as suicide bombers for an anti-Israel parade last month at a refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

Load-Date: July 23, 2004

Hamas threatens to wage deadliest bombing campaign

The Pantagraph (Bloomington, IL)

April 4, 1998, Saturday

Copyright 1998 The Pantagraph

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 684 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - **Hamas** militants threatened Friday to wage their deadliest bombing campaign yet - not just in Israel, but worldwide - to avenge the death of their chief bombmaker.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Yasser Arafat he would be held responsible for any harm to Israelis and said the Palestinian leader could stop **Hamas** attacks if he tried.

Netanyahu also reiterated that Israel had no role in the bombmaker's death and demanded that Palestinian officials who have said otherwise "immediately stop spreading this false information."

The 32-year-old bombmaker, Mohiyedine Sharif, died in mysterious circumstances Sunday near the scene of a car bomb explosion in a garage in an industrial zone of the West Bank town of Ramallah.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel says the bomb, intended for an attack in Israel, exploded prematurely, killing Sharif. An initial Palestinian police statement said Sharif was shot to death three hours before the blast and his body placed near the car, which was detonated by remote control - suggesting an attempt to cover up an assassination.

However, a senior Palestinian official said Friday that Sharif may indeed have been assembling a bomb, and the time between when he was shot and the blast was much less than three hours.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said police believe Sharif may have been assembling the car bomb when he was shot by a Palestinian collaborator with Israel.

The official also noted that Sharif was naked at the time of death - a standard precaution taken by bombmakers who don't want static electricity to ignite explosives.

Palestinian investigators have rounded up 20 **Hamas** members for questioning in hopes of learning who brought supplies to Sharif in his hideout and who delivered the car.

Arafat and the Palestinian police have refrained from directly blaming Israel for Sharif's death. But a senior Palestinian Cabinet minister has accused Israel of killing him.

Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath repeated his accusation Friday, saying Israel "had both the motive and the interest to see him dead."

Hamas threatens to wage deadliest bombing campaign

Hamas has dismissed Israel's emphatic denials of involvement in Sharif's death, and staged three memorial rallies for him Friday in Hebron, Nablus and Gaza City. The rallies brought more than 10,000 supporters into the streets.

"Netanyahu, prepare the coffins!" chanted a crowd of 3,000 in Nablus, where some activists burned Israeli and U.S. flags. "Strike Tel Aviv! We want revenge for Sharif!" roared 2,500 **Hamas** supporters in Hebron.

In Gaza City, a **Hamas** political leader, Ismail Hanieh, read a new leaflet from **Hamas**' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam, to 5,000 cheering activists. "We will open a new circle of war, not only inside the homeland, but everywhere - worldwide," Hanieh quoted from the leaflet.

Since 1994, **Hamas** has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings against Israel, including four in the spring of 1996 to avenge the assassination of Sharif's predecessor, presumably by Israel. Dozens of people died in those four bombings.

Hamas threatened a bloodier revenge this time. "It looks like the previous attacks ... were not enough to stop the Zionists, so our leadership has decided to carry out a comprehensive revenge plan," Hanieh quoted from the leaflet.

Israeli security forces were on heightened alert Friday, with hundreds of officers patrolling malls, markets and bus stations in Jerusalem and manning West Bank roadblocks ringing the city.

In the West Bank, an Israeli motorist was seriously injured when a stone hit his head as he drove through the West Bank village of Bir Naballah.

Arafat and the Palestinian police have refrained from directly blaming Israel for Sharif's death, although a senior Palestinian Cabinet minister has accused Israel of killing him.

Arafat said Friday the best way to defuse the situation was for Israel to live up its promises to withdraw from areas of the West Bank by this summer.

"We have to understand that the most important thing is to implement honestly and accurately what was agreed at the White House," Arafat said, referring to earlier peace accords.

Graphic

Palestinian **women** held posters of Mohiyedine Sharif, the chief **Hamas** bomb maker who died this week under mysterious circumstances, during a rally in Gaza City attended by 5,000 supporters Friday. The Islamic Militant group threatened Friday to wage its deadliest bombing campaign yet in Israel and worldwide to avenge the death of its chief bomb maker. ; ; PHOTO ; Associated Press

Load-Date: August 14, 1998

Troubles in Tel Aviv aviv aviv

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

January 05, 1998, Monday monday monday

Copyright 1998 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P9A P9A P9A

Length: 273 words

Byline: The Associated Press press press

Body

An outline of the crises faced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu since coming to power in June 1996:

s July 3, 1996: Foreign Minister David Levy threatens to quit unless

hawkish Ariel Sharon brought into government; Netanyahu gives in.

s Aug. 2: Government angers Arabs by ending four-year freeze on Jewish
settlements. settlements. settlements.

s September: Syrian maneuvers raise fears of attack; military
persuades Netanyahu not to mobilize reserves.

s Sept. 24-27: Deadly clashes break out in West Bank, Gaza and
Jerusalem after Israel opens tunnel entrance near Muslim holy
site.

s March 18, 1997: Ground broken for new Jewish neighborhood in
disputed east Jerusalem. Palestinians riot.

s March 22: Bomb explodes in Tel Aviv cafe, killing three Israeli
women and Hamas militant.

s April 15: Netanyahu accused of appointing attorney general under
pressure from political ally seeking plea bargain in corruption
trial. State prosecutors do not press charges.

s June 18: Finance Minister Dan Meridor resigns in power struggle with

Troubles in Tel Aviv aviv aviv

Netanyahu.

s July 30: Two **Hamas** suicide bombers kill 16 others in outdoor
Jerusalem market.

s Sept. 4: Three **Hamas** suicide bombers kill eight others in a
Jerusalem pedestrian mall.

s Sept. 25: Government releases **Hamas** founder in swap after two
Mossad agents caught in bungled assassination attempt against **Hamas**
official Khaled Mashaal in Amman, Jordan. Relations with Jordan in
crisis.

s November: Netanyahu survives rebellion in Likud Party.

s Dec. 31: Government fails to pass budget by New Year's deadline,
gets three-month extension.

s Jan. 4, 1998: Foreign Minister Levy announces resignation. resignation. resignation.

Load-Date: January 6, 1998

Palestine's latest suicide bomber an ideal recruit

The New Zealand Herald

May 5, 2001 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 1068 words

Byline: By PHIL REEVES

Body

NABLUS - In March an unknown and unremarkable Palestinian schoolboy called Imad Kamel al-Zbaidi had his 18th birthday.

He knew then - and probably revelled in the thought - that his adult life would not last long. Five weeks later it was over.

On April 22 he calmly left the slum that passed for his home in the West Bank city of Nablus after telling his mother, Nehaya, that he was going to spend the night at a mosque.

He was extremely devout, so the family thought nothing of his absence. Nor, at the time, did they see anything strange in the way he sat down before departing and gazed intently and silently at them for five minutes.

Then he walked out, for ever.

Just after 9 am the next day he was seen at a bus stop in Kfar Saba, an Israeli town 6km from the border with the occupied West Bank. Despite the warmth of the day he was wearing a ragged jacket. Beneath it was a bomb packed with nails.

The explosion came at the height of the morning rush-hour, just as a bus pulled up. It killed Dr Mario Goldin, aged 52, an Israeli physician who was the widely respected head of a hospital unit.

The bomb injured 50 people and blew Imad al-Zbaidi to pieces, sealing his place as the youngest suicide bomber from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam battalions, the paramilitary wing of the militant movement **Hamas**.

Six suicide bombers have struck since the start of the Palestinian intifada in September, three of them inside Israel. **Hamas** has claimed five and says it has five more in position. So far fatalities have been miraculously low - four Israelis have died, although scores were injured, some seriously.

But fears of a massacre - a repetition of the nightmare of 1996, when 44 people were killed in two suicide bombings in Jerusalem within two months - gnaw away at Israelis, and at the promise of their Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, to make them secure.

This is precisely what the men from **Hamas** intend. Fifty-three years after the Jewish state was created, young Arabs remain willing to die in the blind conviction that these atrocities are holy acts which guarantee the perpetrators a place in paradise and help to drive Jews from Arab land.

Palestine 's latest suicide bomber an ideal recruit

Imad al-Zbaidi was typical. Studies by the Israel-based International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism show that **Hamas** suicide bombers tend to be young, single, intensely religious and poor. He was all of these.

He was also a loner whose only interests were computers, maths and the Koran, and so shy he could hardly bring himself to speak to his teachers.

Relatives - six of whom spoke to the Independent - say he rarely spoke.

"If I didn't ask him a question, he would say nothing," said his father, Kamel, a 68-year-old shop owner. "He had no friends."

Such characteristics are valued by **Hamas** recruiters. Deep emotional attachments and an outgoing nature could compromise the group's security. The silent, studious Imad al-Zbaidi met the job description.

Yet members of his family say they were taken entirely by surprise by what he did. They knew the lad was angry about the occupation. But so is everyone in Nablus.

They remember that when he was 9 he was struck by a Jewish settler in Nablus, a humiliating assault, and wonder if this played a part.

They acknowledge, too, that the family was struggling financially, not least because of Israel's blockade of the occupied territories. They say that in the evenings Imad al-Zbaidi used to work on the family sewing machine, turning out aprons for sale in his father's shop.

But his relatives say they had no inkling that he had joined **Hamas**, let alone that he was a "lieutenant" - the vaunt made by the posters pasted up around Nablus after his death.

From these stare out a hauntingly youthful lad. The forefinger of his right hand is raised, giving the impression of a wise, brave instructor rather than a gullible, confused teenager who was persuaded to become a killer.

His relatives sat in mourning, the **women** in one house, the men in another. Solemn bearded men from **Hamas** greeted visitors at the door while his father, bewildered, sat on a plastic chair inside. The **Hamas** men gravely handed out sweets, as is the tradition at a "martyr's" wake, to indicate a celebration rather than a singularly miserable moment in a long conflict.

Yet his relatives were obviously struggling to make sense of it all. They trotted out the official guff - the boy was a hero now sure to be in Heaven. They will doubtless get payouts from **Hamas**' charitable system, which helps families of "martyrs" and thus nurtures its support.

But, beneath the rhetoric, there was grief and unease. Questions about randomly blowing up Israeli civilians on their own territory made them indignant.

"We are against killing civilians," said his aunt, Salwa. "But every day the Israelis kill Palestinian children. They burn our hearts. We want them to suffer the same thing."

In the end, she explained, it boils down to an eye for an eye.

This individual confusion is mirrored by a debate inside Islam over whether suicide bombings are legitimate.

Islam views suicide as a sin, a view recently enforced by the highest religious authority in Saudi Arabia, the Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul-Aziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, who declared there was "no religious justification" for suicide attacks. He was swiftly contradicted by an Egyptian scholar, Sheikh Youssef al-Qardawi, who pronounced them legitimate.

But this high-minded theology debate is a long way from the streets of Nablus.

Palestine 's latest suicide bomber an ideal recruit

Outside the young killer's wake stood a small Palestinian boy, no more than 10 years old. He was wearing a **Hamas** T-shirt and a **Hamas** headband - gifts from the guerrillas.

Will he be next?

- <http://www.independent.co.uk> INDEPENDENT

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storyarchive.cfm?reportID=56522> Herald Online feature: Middle East

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=155216&thesection=Story&thesubsection=&reportID=56522>
Map

<http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF> UN: Information on the Question of Palestine

<http://www.israel-un.org/> Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN

<http://www.palestine-un.org/> Palestine's Permanent Observer Mission to the UN

<http://www.middleeastdaily.com> Middle East Daily

<http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/index.html> Arabic News

<http://www.amin.org> Arabic Media Internet Network

<http://www.jpost.com> Jerusalem Post

<http://www.israelwire.com/su1.html> Israel Wire

http://www.state.gov/www/regions/nea/peace_process.html US Department of State - Middle East Peace Process

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

**Palestinians bury dead amid chaos: Flurry of protests, attacks continue
against Israeli targets**

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

August 2, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: International; Pg. D5; News

Length: 415 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A huge Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" on Wednesday and buried eight people killed in an air strike, while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, Wednesday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets. A Palestinian, Mohammed Sharabati, 35, was shot dead Wednesday in the West Bank city of Hebron.
Associated Press

Also, two suspected collaborators with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians. They were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, from Ramallah and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40, from al-Khader.

In Gaza, a woman was lightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said. Palestinians said five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault during the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by hitting a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokesperson.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from the Nablus hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Palestinians bury dead amid chaos: Flurry of protests, attacks continue against Israeli targets

Israel said that Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; The father of Palestinian activist Omar Mansour reaches out to touch the **Hamas** flag-draped body of his son in the northern West Bank town of Nablus, Wednesday

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

End of Document

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS THREE IN STREET

Birmingham Post

March 5, 2001, Monday

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Section: Pg. 9

Length: 292 words

Byline: Michele Gershberg

Body

A suicide bomber killed three Israelis in an explosion that rocked the heart of the Israeli coastal city of Netanya yesterday, a day after Islamic militants vowed to launch fresh attacks.

Angry Israelis tried to lynch an Arab, seriously wounding the man, in the same city following the attack, while Palestinians mourning two young men shot dead in the West Bank on Saturday shouted: 'We took revenge today in Netanya'.

Police said the Israelis killed when the bomber detonated explosives at a street crossing were an 84-year-old man and two women, one a 70-year-old immigrant from Ukraine. At least 68 people were wounded.

Hours later, no claim of responsibility had been made for the blast - not far from the site of an explosion on New Year's Day, which wounded dozens of people and for which the militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility.

Hamas officials said they did not know who caused yesterday's explosion.

'It's not important who did it, whether it be Hamas or (Islamic) Jihad or any other faction,' said Hamas spokesman Abdel-Aziz Rantissi.

'The important thing is that our Palestinian people are alive and resisting and will not accept occupation or any Zionist aggression.'

The suicide bombing was the latest fatal attack in a five-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation and took the number of Israelis killed to 65. A total of 341 Palestinians and 13 Israeli Arabs have also died.

Israeli prime minister-elect Ariel Sharon, speaking to reporters, accused Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority of doing nothing to prevent attacks.

'This attack shows the Palestinian Authority is not taking the required steps. We know clearly that forces particularly loyal to Mr Arafat are taking part in these attacks,' he said.

Load-Date: March 5, 2001

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS THREE IN STREET

End of Document

Missiles kill 4 in Bethlehem

The Australian

July 18, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 414 words

Byline: Correspondents in Bethlehem and Jerusalem

Body

AT least four Palestinians, including two **Hamas** activists, were killed yesterday when Israeli attack helicopters fired missiles on a house filled with **women** and children in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

The attack was aimed at a local **Hamas** commander planning a "massive attack", Israeli military sources said.

Two of the men killed were identified as Omar Saada, 45, a local leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (**Hamas**) and fellow **Hamas** activist Taher Al-Arouj, 40.

AFP

The other two victims were identified as Mohammed Saada, a brother of the dead **Hamas** leader, and Itzhak Saada.

Children were among the 14 people injured in the attack, which destroyed the single-storey house in the centre of the Palestinian-governed town just south of Jerusalem. Around 40 people were gathered at the home when the Apache attack helicopters unleashed five missiles on the building.

"The whole family was waiting in the garden. This was a massacre," witness Taleb Saada said.

Palestinians have accused Israel of assassinating more than 30 militants by various methods, including bombs and helicopter gunships, since the intifada began almost 10 months ago.

Two Palestinians were found dead on Monday after a bomb they were apparently trying to plant near the Teddy Stadium, the venue for the World Maccabiah Games, exploded and killed them on the spot.

On Monday night a Palestinian suicide bomber killed two Israeli soldiers and himself at a crowded bus stop in the northern town of Binyamina. Eleven other people were wounded.

Israel, which had recently vowed to retaliate for any such attack, responded swiftly to the blast, with tanks bombarding the Palestinian self-rule towns of Tulkarem and Jenin. The town lies near the Green Line, the border between Israel and the West Bank.

The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the suicide attack.

It was the first murderous attack on Israeli territory since the suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv nightclub on June 1 that killed 21 people, and seemed to put a definitive end to the already shaky ceasefire.

Missiles kill 4 in Bethlehem

The air strike yesterday came as Israeli authorities banned Palestinians from attending a ceremony in occupied east Jerusalem for late Palestinian official Faisal Husseini.

The latest deaths bring to 44 the number of people killed since a US-sponsored ceasefire was agreed a month ago. Since the Palestinian uprising started on September 28, a total of 658 people have been killed, including 513 Palestinians and 126 Israelis.

Load-Date: November 27, 2001

End of Document

Chronology

THE AUSTRALIAN

December 23, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FULLPAGE, WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 433 words

Body

The main events during the 30 months of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration.

1996

May 29: Netanyahu is narrowly elected Prime Minister on a platform to slow moves towards peace started by slain Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres.

June 17: Netanyahu forms a Government with eight parties.

AP

August 2: The Government angers Palestinians by ending the four-year freeze on Jewish settlements.

September 4: Netanyahu meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for the first time.

September 24-27: Deadly clashes break out in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem after Israel opens a tunnel near a Muslim holy site.

October: Netanyahu's wife Sarah comes under fire for sacking their children's nanny, apparently for burning a pot of soup.

1997

January: Israel withdraws from 80 per cent of Hebron, West Bank.

Science minister Benny Begin resigns in protest.

March 18: Ground is broken for a new Jewish neighbourhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

Palestinians riot.

March 22: A **Hamas** militant blows himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing himself and three Israeli **women**.

April 15: Netanyahu is accused of appointing an attorney-general under pressure from an ally seeking plea bargain in corruption trial. Prosecutors do not press charges.

June 18: Finance minister Dan Meridor resigns.

July 30: Two **Hamas** suicide-bombers kill 16 people in an outdoor Jerusalem market.

Chronology

September 4: Three **Hamas** suicide-bombers kill eight people in a Jerusalem pedestrian mall.

September 25: The Government releases the founder of **Hamas** in a prisoner swap after two Mossad agents are caught in a bungled assassination attempt against **Hamas** official Khaled Mashaal, in Amman. Relations with Jordan in crisis.

November: Netanyahu survives a rebellion in the Likud party.

December 31: The Government fails to pass its Budget by the new year deadline and gets a three-month extension.

1998

January 4: Foreign minister David Levy resigns over Netanyahu's peace policies with the Palestinians and a downturn in the economy.

October 23: Netanyahu and Arafat reach a deal after nine days of negotiations at Wye River, in American State of Maryland, to resume the land-for-peace track.

October 29: An Israeli soldier is killed defending a bus-load of Israeli school children in Gaza as a **Hamas** suicide-bomber tried to ram it.

November 6: Two Palestinians blow themselves up in an attempt to attack a Jerusalem market.

December 18: Finance minister Yaakov Neeman resigns over failure to win support for fiscal policy.

December 21: Opposition from both foes and friends of the peace accord brings Netanyahu to the brink.

*

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

MOURNING PALESTINIANS PROTEST MISSILE ATTACKS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 2, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 519 words

Byline: GREG MYRE, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- A Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" on Wednesday and buried eight people killed in an airstrike, while the Israeli government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, Wednesday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets.

A Palestinian was shot to death Wednesday in the West Bank city of Hebron, and two men suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians.

In Gaza, a woman was slightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said.

Five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza, Palestinians said. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault of the current Middle East conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by killing a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved the green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

MOURNING PALESTINIANS PROTEST MISSILE ATTACKS

Israel said Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security Cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said Israel reserves the right of self-defense and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement." The statement did not mention the helicopter attack in Nablus.

Palestinians called off a weekly meeting of security commanders set for Wednesday, according to Yarden Vatikay, an Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman.

Still, there were signs of a growing debate in Israel about the effectiveness of the raids.

Israel has killed about 50 Palestinians with such attacks. It believes it can weaken **Hamas** and the militant Islamic Jihad movement, arguing that they have a limited number of people with the technical and organizations skills to carry out major bomb attacks.

Graphic

Vadim Ghirda/The Associated Press *The brother of killed police officer Muhammad al Hassani, center, cries Wednesday in Gaza City. Al Hassani was killed during clashes in central Gaza. Lefteris Pitarakis/The Associated Press *Thousands of mourners accompany the bodies of eight Palestinians draped in green **Hamas** flags Wednesday through the streets of the West Bank town of Nablus.

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

End of Document

After a Long, Slow Climb to Respectability, a Muslim Charity Experiences a Rapid Fall

The New York Times

December 10, 2001 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 18

Length: 1571 words

Byline: By DAVID FIRESTONE

Dateline: RICHARDSON, Tex., Dec. 8

Body

The landlord wasted no time in slapping a "For Lease" sign on the offices of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development after the federal government froze its assets on Monday, calling it a terrorist front. Several major corporate donors announced they would block all contributions to the foundation.

And on Wednesday, the foundation suffered an almost personal insult: its high-profile Washington law firm, Akin, Gump, informed the group's leaders that the government's accusations made it impossible for the firm to represent them in any efforts to reclaim their frozen assets or salvage their reputations.

"For now, we are out of business," Ghassan Elashi, the foundation's chairman, said in an interview on Friday.

The fall of the nation's largest Muslim charity was remarkably steep, given the vigorous battle it has waged over the years to transform itself from an organization that openly and aggressively supported the Palestinian uprising into a modern and prosperous philanthropic machine, thriving in the mainstream.

Since moving here from California in 1992 and changing its name from the Occupied Land Fund, the group has hired prominent lawyers and used forceful public relations methods to fend off charges from the Israeli government that it is really an arm of ***Hamas***, the Islamic terrorist organization that has claimed responsibility for killing more than 100 people in the last 14 months alone.

The group had the support of prominent Arab-Americans like George Salem, a partner in Akin, Gump and the Bush presidential campaign's liaison to Arab-Americans. It held fund-raising dinners in the nation's largest hotels, taking in more than \$13 million last year from a Muslim population that is far from wealthy.

And it employed all the tools of modern fund-raising, setting up automatic bank withdrawals for donors and matching gift programs with corporations like American Express and Home Depot. Donors could give online, or by shopping at popular Web sites like Amazon.com that have charitable affiliation programs. Like many Christian charities, it allowed contributors to sponsor a Palestinian orphan for a set monthly amount, then regularly receive photographs and letters from the child, often with a political edge.

After a Long, Slow Climb to Respectability, a Muslim Charity Experiences a Rapid Fall

"I enjoy good health and I am doing very well in my studies," wrote one Palestinian girl in a letter published in the foundation newsletter this year. "My father, who spent the last 13 years in Israeli prison, has recently been released, truly a mercy and blessing from God."

Donations helped feed the hungry in the occupied territories and supported relief efforts in Kosovo and Chechnya. The Holy Land Foundation also spread its wealth domestically; for example, it gave the city of Fort Worth \$10,000 this year after a tornado.

But government documents, Arabic publications and some of the foundation's less widely distributed literature tell a very different story about the foundation's true purpose. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in a document that is the center of the government's case against the Holy Land Foundation, said it conspired with Hamas leaders to use its money to support terrorism against Israel. Relying on surveillance and informants, the bureau alleges that foundation money went to surviving families of suicide bombers and other terrorists, providing an incentive for other bombers to step forward.

In the foundation's earliest days, when it was known as the Occupied Land Fund, it made it clear in Arabic-language appeals that its donations were not strictly for educational purposes. One advertisement that appeared in 1989 in the Arabic monthly *Ila Filastin* said: "We call you to Jihad for the sake of Allah by donating any amount you can in support of the Intifada's families in Palestine. You can send your contributions in the name of Occupied Land Fund, P.O. Box 928, L.A. Ca."

After it changed its name and moved to Texas, it became more sophisticated and dropped the explicit calls for jihad and intifada, F.B.I. officials say. Over the years, the group challenged any suggestion that it was connected to terrorism. After The Dallas Morning News published several articles exploring connections to Hamas, the group sued the paper claiming defamation.

But last Monday, when the president of the United States, the treasury secretary and the attorney general said the foundation paid for suicide bombers, all the efforts toward respectability crumbled. Corporations stopped their charitable affiliations. Federal agents seized all of Holy Land's computers and records, along with about \$5 million, half the amount it had raised this year. Dozens of employees were laid off.

President Bush tied the crackdown to the war on terrorism, making it clear that the United States could not ask other countries to stop sending money to terrorists if it did not do the same. But to Mr. Elashi, the real reason for the move was Israeli pressure.

"Israel's goal is to deprive the Palestinians of any hope, so we are the enemy because we create hope," he said. "The Bush administration, I guess, did this for political reasons to please Israel. Is it a coincidence that this happened the same week that Ariel Sharon is here to meet the president?"

When asked whether the timing might have had more to do with the administration's war against terrorism and the recent Hamas bombings in Israel, he replied that his organization had nothing to do with Hamas and had always supported the Middle East peace process.

But the foundation's sister organization, the Islamic Association for Palestine, which Mr. Elashi helped found, has often denounced the peace process and has printed Hamas documents on its Web site. The site includes a recent interview with Husam Khader, a Palestinian legislator, who said he welcomed the intifada as a "blessing" for returning the spirit of armed struggle and martyrdom to the Palestinians. (He did, though, express reservations about suicide attacks on civilians.)

Mr. Elashi, a 47-year-old Palestinian who grew up in Gaza and lives not far from his office, has himself been linked directly to Hamas by law enforcement officials. The F.B.I. said it bugged a meeting held in a Philadelphia hotel in 1993, at which Mr. Elashi and two other Holy Land officials met with five leaders of Hamas. Those at the meeting, according to the bureau, discussed how they could violently defeat the peace process and supplant the Palestinian Authority with Hamas, which has long opposed Yasir Arafat's primacy in the Palestinian world.

After a Long, Slow Climb to Respectability, a Muslim Charity Experiences a Rapid Fall

"It was mentioned that the United States provided them with a secure, legal base from which to operate," the F.B.I. memo said. "The democratic environment in the United States allowed them to perform activities that are extremely important to their cause. In discussing financial matters, the participants stated a belief that continuation of the Holy War was inevitable."

Mr. Elashi and the other foundation leaders have denied that they attended such a meeting. In the interview, Mr. Elashi said he could not recall ever being in Philadelphia. But the F.B.I. said it observed all the participants entering the Marriott Courtyard hotel on Bartram Avenue, and confirmed their presence by checking their American Express charge records.

At a meeting in Oxford, Miss., in 1994, the bureau overheard Hamas officials saying that the foundation had been designated its primary fund-raising entity in the United States. The F.B.I. used American Express records to show that the foundation paid for 11 fund-raising trips around the country by two prominent Hamas activists in the occupied territories. According to an informant quoted in the memo, one of those two men, Sheik Muhammad Siyam, identified as the head of the Hamas military wing in Gaza, said to a fund-raising dinner in Los Angeles in 1994: "Finish off the Israelis! Kill them all! Exterminate them! No peace ever!"

Mr. Elashi said he abhorred such statements and should not be held responsible for them. "I thought we had freedom of speech here," he said. "But anyway, it's the same thing when American Jewish organizations raise money. They always say, we need to get rid of the Arabs, they're roaches, that kind of thing."

The F.B.I. said Israel had given it more than 50 names of Palestinians with Hamas connections who have received Holy Land money, including the family of a man serving a life sentence for killing a tourist with a bomb on a Tel Aviv beach in 1990; the mother of a man in prison for killing three Jews in Jaffa in 1992; and the wife of a man who ran over an Israeli soldier in 1991.

Israel, in fact, has long charged that the foundation funneled money to Hamas and the families of its terrorists, and it shut down the foundation's offices in the territories in 1997. Last year, the family of David Boim, an Israeli-American teenager who was shot to death in 1996, filed suit against the charity, charging that it raised money for terrorists.

Once it finds a new lawyer, the Holy Land Foundation plans to fight the government seizure in court, Mr. Elashi said. In the meantime, he said, he will continue to operate InfoCom Corp., an Internet service provider that is host to several Arab-related Web sites.

"The government is using Israeli information to take away the civil rights and due process of American Muslims," Mr. Elashi said. "It is the same thing as McCarthyism, and we are going to request a meeting with President Bush."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: A group of women held a prayer vigil last week in front of the recently shuttered offices of the Holy Land Foundation in Richardson, Tex. The government says the foundation is a terrorist front. Its chairman, Ghassan Elashi, insists it is not and says he will fight the seizure of the foundation's assets. (Photographs by Mark Graham for The New York Times); (Associated Press)

Load-Date: December 10, 2001

After a Long, Slow Climb to Respectability, a Muslim Charity Experiences a Rapid Fall

End of Document

Four die in Israeli town bombing

The Australian

March 5, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 555 words

Body

* Correspondents in Gaza City and Jerusalem

A PEAK-HOUR bomb that killed at least four people and injured 45 yesterday in the northern Israeli town of Netanya was a continuation of resistance to Israeli occupation of Arab land, Hamas said, without claiming responsibility.

The claim by the radical Islamic group came amid reports that one of the dead was the man who caused the explosion, and followed a warning by Hamas that more violence was imminent.

The bombing came after three Palestinians, including a woman, were shot dead by Israeli forces yesterday.
AFP, The Times

"Our fighters will fight them (Israelis) in their homes and their neighbourhoods," said Hamas leader Hassan Yusef. "We will terrorise our enemy and continue the path of resistance that began five months ago."

Israeli prime minister-elect Ariel Sharon last night condemned the Netanya bomb as a "vile attack".

Outgoing Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh blamed the blast on the Palestinian Authority because it had "freed terrorists".

The Palestinian Authority released numerous members of Hamas and the other main extremist group, Islamic Jihad, early on in the intifada.

The civilians killed in the blast were an 85-year-old former mayor of a nearby town and two women.

The blast occurred near the central bus station in the heart of the town, a Mediterranean coastal resort between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Israeli army radio said the attacker had intended to set off the bomb at a filling station but was put off by police conducting identity checks as part of a security alert.

The blast triggered a furious reaction from a number of local residents, who attacked an Arab Israeli with iron bars, seriously injuring the man.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians in the West Bank, including a 43-year-old mother of three, who was hit in the chest by machine gun-fire as she was walking with her husband and children near Nablus.

Four die in Israeli town bombing

Also near Nablus, a 26-year-old Palestinian man was shot in the head by Jewish settlers, while the Israeli army said it shot dead a Palestinian protester near the town of Hawara.

Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza City, said of the Netanya bombing: "These actions are self-defence and a resistance to occupation and to the Zionist terror against our people."

Hamas had claimed responsibility for a January 1 car bombing at Netanya's central bus station, in which at least 20 people were injured. Another bombing in the city in November 1999 left dozens wounded.

The deaths brought to 433 the number of people killed since the intifada, or uprising, began. The vast majority of victims have been Palestinians.

Against the background of increasing violence, a battle of wills is looming between the two political heavyweights of the Israeli government expected to be formed this week by Mr Sharon.

Shimon Peres, Mr Sharon's choice for foreign minister, says he plans to resume peace talks with the Palestinians immediately, despite Mr Sharon's insistence that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat must first order a halt the intifada.

"The Palestinian issue is top of my agenda," he said. "I'll meet Arafat to resuscitate the peace process. Although I believe the Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to stop the terror, Arafat is the only Palestinian leader and we should find ways to negotiate with him."

Load-Date: November 27, 2001

Mourners cry for revenge

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

August 2, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 28

Length: 367 words

Byline: JAMIE TARABAY

Body

ANGRY Palestinians fired rifles into the air and called for revenge today as tens of thousands of mourners poured into the streets in a noisy funeral procession for eight Palestinians killed a day earlier in an Israeli helicopter raid.

The huge crowd swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from the Nablus hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried.

Many waved the green flags of the radical Palestinian group **Hamas**, whose offices were the target of Tuesday's assault.

"We will not stop our uprising," Anan al-Atiri, a spokeswoman for the Fatah movement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said at the funeral.

"I think the coming days will be worse than before."

While mass Palestinian funerals have been commonplace during the 10 months of Middle East violence, yesterday's was one of the largest. Estimates of crowd figures began at 20,000.

Clashes between armed Palestinians and Israeli forces followed the funeral.

In the divided West Bank city of Hebron, Palestinians fired at a Jewish enclave. Israeli soldiers fired back, wounding three, including a three-year-old.

There was also gunfire near Ramallah and Nablus, the military said. No one was hurt.

Israeli security forces warned that Palestinian militants were likely to attempt a major attack, while government officials defended the Nablus assault despite international criticism.

The raid killed six people in the third-floor **Hamas** office, including a senior leader.

Two brothers, aged 5 and 8, were killed by shrapnel on the street below the offices.

In most previous raids, Israel has concentrated on bombmakers or gunmen who have carried out attacks, but the latest raid targeted Jamal Mansour, a top **Hamas** leader.

Mourners cry for revenge

Israel said Mansour was part of the **Hamas** leadership behind 10 bomb attacks since November, including a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 23 Israelis.

"All those in charge of terrorism, all those who mastermind the terrorist attack on Israelis -- we hold them accountable. No one has immunity," said cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh.

"I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

Load-Date: November 27, 2001

End of Document

Mideast slides toward brink of wider conflict: Israel vows to target militants

The Ottawa Citizen

August 2, 2001 Thursday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 608 words

Byline: Greg Myre and Mary Curtius

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel's slaying of two senior leaders of the **Hamas** Islamic movement pushed its 10-month conflict with the Palestinians into a new and explosive phase yesterday, with both sides saying they may be unable to pull back from the brink of wide-scale conflict.

A Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" as they buried eight people killed in an airstrike, while the Israeli government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, yesterday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets.

The Associated Press and The Washington Post

A Palestinian was shot to death in the West Bank city of Hebron, and two men suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians.

In Gaza, a woman was slightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said.

Five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza, Palestinians said. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault of the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by killing a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Mideast slides toward brink of wider conflict: Israel vows to target militants

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved the green flags of Hamas, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Israel said Mr. Mansour, the slain Hamas leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"No one has immunity," said cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said Israel reserves the right of self-defence and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement." The statement did not mention the helicopter attack in Nablus.

Two of the eight people killed in the airstrike were children which added to Palestinian anger.

Yesterday, Israeli Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz told reporters that "had we known that children would be hurt, we wouldn't have attacked the target." Israel, he said, does not "want to come to war, but we have the right and the obligation to fight terrorism."

Israel has killed about 50 Palestinians with such attacks. It believes it can weaken Hamas and the militant Islamic Jihad movement, arguing that they have a limited number of people with the technical and organizations skills to carry out major bomb attacks.

Graphic

Color Photo: The Associated Press ; A Palestinian man hurls, a molotov cocktail at Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

IN GOD'S NAME

The Toronto Star

May 20, 2001, Sunday, Edition 1

Copyright 2001 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: WAB

Length: 2415 words

Byline: Sandro Contenta

Body

bombings against Israel

KFAR SAVA, Israel

THE DAY Imad Zbaidi blew himself up in the name of God, he knew nothing of the man he was about to kill. Fate, or tragic coincidence, brought him face to face with Mario Goldin, on the last spring morning either would ever see.

The high probability that Goldin was an Israeli, and a Jew, was enough for Zbaidi to detonate a bomb he carried in a bag. In a flash, two strangers were joined in a bloody tableau of mangled flesh.

If Goldin had driven his car as usual to work that day instead of taking the bus, the 52-year-old doctor and self-trained musician would still be saving lives, playing folk songs from his native Argentina and advocating peace with Palestinians despite months of violence.

Instead, he met 18-year-old Zbaidi, suicide bomber Number 4 in a list of 10 the militant Palestinian group **Hamas** has vowed to unleash on Israeli citizens.

The return of suicide bomb attacks after a three-year reprieve has Israelis yet again living in fear. The immutable randomness of bomb attacks - the thought that they can strike anywhere, at any time - has 83 per cent of Israelis worrying that they or their relatives will be victims of what a recent poll called "a terror attack."

Blasts are heard every day in Jerusalem and life, for a moment, stands still. People listen for a distant roar in the sky - the aftermath of a sonic boom from a military fighter plane - or the wail of police and ambulance sirens, the possible signal of death.

"There's a lot of tension in the streets. People are constantly looking out for bombs . . . There's a feeling now that this can happen anywhere," says Goldin's widow, Beatrice.

People think twice about boarding buses, going to markets, shopping malls or movies, and many stay away from them all. Physical reality is constantly questioned - a briefcase is no longer just a briefcase, but maybe a bomb - and the few Palestinians still allowed to work in Israel are under constant suspicion.

A recent survey of pharmacies found that the sales of sedatives in Israel have gone up 22 per cent between February and April, compared with the three previous months.

IN GOD'S NAME

At the same time, most Israelis get on with their lives, through resignation, defiance or coping mechanisms such as turning off the news.

Israeli trauma psychologist Roni Berger accuses the Israeli media of heightening the sense of terror by playing images such as the lynching of two Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian town of Ramallah over and over.

"You have a far greater chance of being killed by a car accident on your way to the mall than by a bomb, but people think it's the other way around," Berger says.

Suicide bomb attacks since the start of the Palestinian uprising eight months ago have been more frequent but far less deadly than in the past, particularly those of Hamas.

From February, 1996, to September, 1997, there were six Hamas suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, killing a total of 80 Israelis. In one suicide attack, 26 people were killed on a Jerusalem bus.

Since the start of the Palestinian uprising Sept. 29, Hamas has launched seven suicide bomb attacks, killing 11 Israelis. The latest, and deadliest, came Friday, when a Hamas bomber killed five Israelis outside a shopping mall in the coastal town of Netanya.

The Netanya bombing is an ominous sign that, as the Palestinian uprising continues, Hamas is regrouping and returning to its more devastating form.

Hamas, which rejects all peace talks with Israel, was established in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, now its Gaza-based spiritual leader. Its military wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigade, now has up to 300 members but was a somewhat decimated group when the uprising broke out.

"They were caught flat-footed, under-equipped, undermanned and unprepared," says a senior Israeli security officer.

Since 1996, key Hamas operatives were either assassinated by Israel or arrested by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The most crippling blow was the Israeli killing of Yahia Ayash, the notorious bomb-maker known as "the engineer," whose mobile telephone blew up in his face in January, 1996.

When Israel first bombed Palestinian sites in Gaza and Ramallah after the lynching of the two Israeli soldiers in mid-October, Arafat opened the cell doors and freed some Hamas members.

Hamas launched the first of its promised 10 suicide attacks March 4 in Netanya, killing three Israelis. In two other incidents, an attack in East Jerusalem's French Hill district and another on the outskirts of Nablus, the only dead were the suicide bombers themselves.

The Israeli military siege of Palestinian-controlled enclaves has made it more difficult for Hamas to obtain and transport the potent explosive materials it used in the mid-'90s, such as Symtex and TNT, says the Israeli security source. Today, the bombs are smaller, less powerful ones, and the assembly instructions can be readily found on the Internet.

There are information leaks in the once air-tight Hamas, the Israeli security source says, and the bombers are less experienced, resulting in a number of "work accidents" - the Israeli term for bombs exploding as would-be bombers handle them.

Hiam Ayash, widow of "the engineer," says today's suicide bombers are also younger, less prepared and more likely to detonate themselves prematurely out of fear.

Ayash says her husband took "great precautions" in selecting suicide bombers and meticulously planning attacks.

IN GOD'S NAME

The bomber would be disguised to blend in with Israelis. Beards, the choice of many Hamas members, would be shaved off, clothing labels in Arabic removed and, in two cases, fingerprints chemically seared off to avoid identification.

Suicide bombers are generally unmarried, university educated and fervently religious young men. Israeli observers say some are developed through Hamas' network of religious schools or its control of several student unions in Palestinian universities.

Israeli officials also blame the daily "incitement" in the Palestinian media, which they say legitimizes suicide bombers by glorifying "martyrdom."

In recent days, Islamic religious authorities in the Middle East have publicly debated whether Islam, which views suicide as a sin, can in any way condone suicide bombings.

Religion aside, psychologist Berger says Israelis don't comprehend the deep anger and humiliation that burns inside many Palestinians. Paradise, the reward suicide bombers believe awaits them, is seen as a way out of Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are not lovers of blood," says Jamal Salim, a Hamas leader in Nablus. "We don't want to kill people. We don't want to terrorize others. We want to defend ourselves.

"The Israelis kill our children and women every day. Islam allows us, in certain cases, to treat them the way they treat us," he adds.

A survey last month found that 54 per cent of Palestinians strongly support suicide bomb attacks, and 19 per cent somewhat support them. Support for Hamas has gone from 12 per cent last year to 19 per cent today.

Hamas supporters are convinced that suicide attacks are more deadly than they actually have been.

As proof, Zbaidi's father, Kamel, produces a local Nablus newspaper with a small story claiming that his son killed 27 Israelis in the suicide attack. In fact, only Goldin was killed.

"There's an Israeli plot to reduce the number of casualties because they don't want people to get scared," says Kamel, 68. "My son's death will terrorize the Jewish people into leaving all of Palestine."

Salim likewise insists that Israelis are hiding the real number of dead.

When pressed about the senselessness of such an assertion, he concedes: " Maybe the number of casualties are very few, but don't forget, if one Israeli is killed, thousands will rush to their psychiatrists, and many will be afraid to leave their homes."

Few Israelis believe suicide attacks will push the state to withdraw from occupied territories, let alone from Israel proper. Still, Hamas does have an impact on Israeli politics, argues Ronni Shaked, an Israeli journalist and former member of Israel's secret service.

Hamas' suicide bombs in the mid-'90s created such widespread insecurity that it propelled right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu to power, Shaked argues. Violence also helped bring hardliner Ariel Sharon to power last February, adds Shaked, who has written a book on Hamas.

In short, by pushing Israeli society to the right, Hamas makes it more difficult for a peace deal to be struck and, in that sense, its goal is partly achieved.

Peace is what Mario Goldin believed in.

He moved to Israel in 1977 from Argentina with his 3-year-old son, Ariel, and his wife Beatrice, his high-school sweetheart. In Israel, the couple had two more children, Tamara, now a 22-year-old engineering student, and Elan, 20, who is doing his obligatory army service.

IN GOD'S NAME

They settled in Kfar Sava, a town northeast of Tel Aviv, near the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Goldin founded a pain clinic at Beit Levinstein Hospital in the nearby town of Raanana in 1986. More recently, he opened a Tel Aviv clinic for people with chronic illnesses.

A respected pioneer in pain reduction, Goldin treated all kinds of trauma victims, from car accidents to bomb attacks. Many of his patients were Palestinians.

"He worked so hard at helping people. Twenty-four hours in a day weren't enough for him," says Beatrice, a physiotherapist at the town's Mayer Hospital.

He was the life of a party. It wouldn't take long before he picked up one of the instruments he could play - the guitar, harmonica and flute - and get everyone singing. He was part of a band that staged concerts at local schools and community events. And he was every neighbour's handyman. When not building the extra room to the family's apartment with his sons, he was the guy neighbours turned to when they needed something fixed.

His latest hobby was the Internet. Goldin eagerly participated in an Argentinian chat site called Tango Cave. Three weeks after the Palestinian uprising broke out, Goldin was shaken by a writer from Mexico, who posted an anti-Semitic rant.

Ariel says his father spent days brooding over a reply, writing and rewriting it until he settled on four simple sentences, which he posted at the site on Oct. 19.

It read: "I want you to know that I am a doctor and that I treat Palestinians every day with the same sensitivity and love that I treat Jews. I pray to God that He will bring peace in the region and in the world. There shouldn't be any more bloodshed. The world is big enough for all of us."

Goldin was a firm believer in handing over Israeli-occupied land in return for peace with the Palestinians. In the Feb. 6 election for prime minister, when months of violence saw Israelis move to the right and sweep Sharon to power, Goldin voted for Ehud Barak and the defeated prime minister's vision of Israeli concessions for a lasting peace.

When a Hamas suicide bomber killed three Israelis in Netanya on March 4, Goldin was angered by the news that a mob of Israelis badly beat up the first Arab they saw. Blind anger is not the way to peace, he said then.

On April 22, this man with peace in his heart, this doctor and friend of Palestinians, boarded a bus in Kfar Sava and headed to the Mayer Hospital for a course on orthopedics.

Sitting in the same bus was Imad Zbaidi, who had turned 18 just five weeks before, a bomb packed with nails in his bag.

The day before, Zbaidi had followed his usual routine: He went to pray at a mosque in the West Bank town of Nablus, and then gave lessons to children on how to read the Koran.

Only one thing struck Zbaidi's friend, Salim Salame, as unusual: Zbaidi was seen as such a trustworthy guy that people often gave him money for safekeeping. That day, Salame watched him give all the money back.

Zbaidi then walked out of the mosque and wrote a verse from the Koran on a nearby school wall. Roughly translated, it read: "Don't believe that people who give up their lives for God are gone forever. They are alive next to their God."

"He was in very high spirits," says Salame, also 18.

Kamel Zbaidi says his son was the least talkative of his seven children. He was learning how to fix radios and television sets at a local college, and was devoutly religious from the age of 7.

IN GOD'S NAME

Kamel says his son was marked by the first Palestinian uprising of 1987-93. One day, Israeli soldiers stormed into the house, took the family out on the street at gunpoint and forced them to scream obscenities about Arafat, Kamel says.

After writing on the school wall, Zbaidi went to visit his father, who owns a toy shop, and then home to see his mother in a poor neighbourhood of Nablus.

He sat by her side in silence for a few minutes and then told her he was off to spend the night at the mosque. Next morning, he sneaked past the Israeli military siege of Palestinian-controlled enclaves in the West Bank, crossed into Israel and boarded the bus in Kfar Sava.

The senior Israeli security source says he suspects Zbaidi's plan was to detonate the bomb inside the bus. But the youth suddenly stepped out, perhaps because he wanted to spare the lives of several Israeli Arabs on board, the source says. Goldin stepped out behind him.

It was 9 a.m. when time stopped for Zbaidi and Goldin, who was just 150 metres away from his destination, the hospital where his wife had started her shift two hours earlier.

Beatrice heard the explosion while she tended to a Palestinian patient from Gaza, in the intensive care unit after being severely wounded in a knife fight.

She called Goldin's mobile phone number - no answer. As the injured were brought to the hospital, Beatrice learned her husband was not among the wounded. As each hour passed, she prepared herself for the worst. At 1 p.m., the dreaded news came.

"I feel anger that a person who gave so much love and whom so many people loved, that they would kill him in such a horrible way," Beatrice says.

"If he could talk to me, he would say, 'Life has to go on, and we should continue with everything we planned.' I hope I have the strength to do this alone. He and I were like one person. We were 15 years old when we fell in love."

Asked what she would say to the family of the suicide bomber, Beatrice says: "I'm very sorry for what your son did to me, to my family, to my husband's patients and to the whole country."

Her son Ariel adds: "I would say he died for nothing. There was no point to this."

Graphic

AP FILE PHOTO

THE AFTERMATH:

Imad Zbaidi killed himself and Israeli Mario Goldin with a bomb after stepping off this bus in the town of Kfar Sava on April 22. AP PHOTO

MORE VICTIMS:

The latest suicide bomber killed at least five Israelis outside a shopping mall in Netanya on Friday. REMEMBERING:

Beatrice Goldin mourns husband Mario (in photo on table and at right) along with their children Tamara, Elan and Ariel, left to right. MY SON:

Kamel Zbaidi holds a picture of his 18-year-old son Imad, a suicide bomber. "My son's death will terrorize the Jewish people into leaving all of Palestine," he says.

IN GOD'S NAME

Load-Date: May 20, 2001

End of Document

THE BOMBER:
Young man who had everything to live for

The Advertiser

December 4, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 206 words

Body

MAHER Habashi was a 21-year-old plumber who had just announced his engagement and was preparing for a wedding.

But all this was sacrificed when he was chosen to become the latest suicide bomber sent to his death by the radical Islamic group Hamas.

Maher stepped on to a bus in the Israeli port city of Haifa, paid his fare and detonated a nail-studded bomb that took the Middle East still closer to the brink of war.

A picture of Maher dressed as a pilgrim in front of a backdrop of the holy city of Mecca is evidence of his strong Muslim beliefs.

But, at the family home, his father Muhiy said he had no idea his son was connected with Hamas, one of his younger brothers broke down in tears and his mother sat surrounded by grieving women.

Outside, Hamas members fired in the air in celebration.

Muhiy Habashi, a municipal worker, heard of his son's death when he returned home for the sundown meal. He cried and held on to resident relatives for support.

Hundreds of Palestinians filled the Habashi home and spilled out into the street, most offering congratulations.

"Everybody feels bad when they lose their son," said cousin Adel, 45, a schoolteacher.

"But we are proud of him, you should be proud of him," he said to Muhiy Habashi.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

4 dead, 2 injured in shooting;

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)
November 22, 1999, Monday,
FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1999 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 598 words

Byline: Compiled from Tribune wires;

Body

ANGOLA, Ind. - A man angry at being thrown out of a party returned with a gun early Sunday, killing three people and injuring two others before taking his own life.

Police said Kevin R. Noles, 36, had been kicked out of a bar and wandered next door to an apartment where partygoers escorted him back to the tavern. About 2 a.m., Noles kicked down the apartment door and began shooting, said Sheriff Joel Working.

A deputy was wounded when he approached Noles to ask him if he had called police. Indiana State Police said the deputy returned fire and wounded Noles. Police tracking Noles through woods heard a gunshot and found him dead of an apparent suicide. "Peanuts' creator has colon cancer

SANTA ROSA, Calif. - "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz, 76, is battling colon cancer, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported Sunday. The cancer was discovered when Schulz was taken to a hospital Tuesday to clear a blocked abdominal artery. The artist's wife, Jean Schulz, said his treatment will begin once doctors decide on the best course of action.

"Peanuts," distributed to 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries, will continue at least through Jan. 1, 2000, because Schulz works five weeks ahead of publication. Gates gives UNICEF \$ 26 million

SEATTLE - The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said Sunday it gave \$ 26 million to UNICEF to pay for programs fighting maternal and neonatal tetanus, which caused more than 215,000 deaths in developing nations last year.

The disease, one of the world's most serious ailments afflicting infants and their mothers, can be prevented by immunizing women with tetanus toxoid vaccine.

The foundation is joining Becton Dickinson, a manufacturer of injection devices, as well as the World Health Organization and other agencies to immunize 100 million women by 2005, said a joint statement from the foundation and the United Nations Children's Fund. Jordan frees, expels Hamas leaders

AMMAN, Jordan - Ending a three-month standoff, King Abdullah of Jordan freed four imprisoned leaders of the militant Palestinian movement Hamas on Sunday and placed them on a jet for the Persian Gulf state of Qatar.

4 dead, 2 injured in shooting;

Twenty more **Hamas** activists will be freed from prison soon and permitted to remain in Jordan. But officials said **Hamas** offices in Jordan, which the government closed in August, would not be allowed to reopen. Officials in Qatar later said they, too, would prohibit the **Hamas** leaders from carrying out any political activities. Abdullah's government had accused **Hamas** of engaging in clandestine paramilitary training and of penetrating fundamentalist opposition parties. Hindus, Buddhists oppose proselytizing

LUMBINI, Nepal - Three weeks after the pope called for missionaries to spread Catholicism throughout Asia, Hindu and Buddhist priests Sunday passed a resolution to stay united against proselytizing.

The pledge made by 1,000 delegates from across Asia came at the end of a three-day conference. It made no direct reference to Pope John Paul II, who made the call during his visit to India earlier this month. But delegates described conversions as a "war against Hindus and Buddhists" and a "spiritual crime." Chechens brace for Russian attack

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia - More than 5,000 rebels have barricaded themselves in the Chechen capital, bracing for a Russian offensive as federal troops close in after weeks of relentless shelling.

Russian forces have the capital, Grozny, 80 percent surrounded and were trying to complete the circle by advancing on towns to the south and southwest, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

Notes

IN BRIEF NEWS OF THE NATION NEWS OF THE WORLD

Load-Date: November 23, 1999

End of Document

Israeli forces kill four, tanks enter West Bank

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

November 1, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. B10; News

Length: 495 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two Palestinian militants died Wednesday in killings that bore the hallmarks of Israel's campaign of targeted assassinations. Two other Palestinians died in clashes with Israeli troops hours after Israeli forces entered a West Bank village and arrested Palestinians suspected of plotting suicide attacks.

The operations came amid heightened security in central Israel because of fears of attacks and as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel was ready to negotiate with the Palestinians.
AP-CP

"Myself, I am going to lead those negotiations. I really believe in that," Sharon told members of the World Jewish Congress meeting in Jerusalem.

Sharon has previously insisted on an end to violence before negotiations begin, but he did not mention that condition in Wednesday's comments.

Many Palestinians and dovish Israelis charged that position showed he was trying to avoid negotiations.

In a targeted strike, an Israeli helicopter gunship fired a rocket at a barn in the West Bank town of Hebron, killing Jamil Jadallah, the army said.

Witnesses said he had been hiding out in the barn, which belonged to an aunt, knowing Israel considered him one of the most wanted militants.

An Israeli army statement said Jadallah was planning an attack on Israel and had been involved in dozens of attacks in Hebron lately.

He had links to senior members of the militant group **Hamas** responsible for previous suicide bombings, including the June 1 attack at a Tel Aviv disco that killed the bomber and 21 others, the army statement said.

He had escaped from Palestinian jails four times since he was convicted of killing two Israelis in 1998, the statement said.

The militant group Islamic Jihad called the killing an "ugly assassination" and said it would be avenged.

Israel's army, however, had said Jadallah was a member of **Hamas**.

Israeli forces kill four, tanks enter West Bank

In the northern West Bank town of Tulkarem, an Israeli tank fired on a **Hamas** member, Abdullah Jaroshi, 38, as he got out of his car, and he died in the hospital, **Hamas** members and doctors said.

Two Palestinian policemen plotting to attack Jewish settlers were killed by Israeli soldiers near Bazaria, about 15 kilometres north of Nablus, officials from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement said.

The army said it was checking the report.

Earlier, Israeli tanks backed by helicopters entered the northern West Bank village of Arrabeh, near Jenin, and surrounded the home of a suspected militant, witnesses said.

The army said it arrested six people, two of them Jihad members planning a suicide attack in Israel.

The town's mayor, Anwar Izzadin, said eight people were arrested, including three Jihad members and one **Hamas**.

Three Palestinians were injured in gunfire exchanges as the tanks moved into the town, Izzadin said.

One Israeli soldier was slightly wounded before troops pulled out, the army said.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for a Sunday shooting attack in the coastal city of Hadera, which killed four Israeli **women** and the two attackers.

Load-Date: December 2, 2002

End of Document

Proliferating Islamic groups worry Israelis: Analysis

The Guardian (London)

November 3, 2000

Copyright 2000 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 580 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldberg

Body

After one bungled suicide bombing, the Islamic Jihad seems to have rediscovered its lethal form with yesterday's attack on a Jewish market in Jerusalem, heightening fears of a wave of terror inside Israel's borders.

The group's claim to have set off the bomb arrived in a statement faxed to news agencies in Beirut, and had been anticipated by Israel's prime minister, Ehud Barak, who said he blamed Islamist militants freed from Palestinian jails.

"The Jerusalem Brigades, the military arm of the Islamic Jihad movement, affirms that this action came as part of our response to the crimes of the Israeli enemy against our defenceless Palestinian people," said the Islamic Jihad statement.

There was a rival but less credible claim from the Revolutionary Guards of the al-Aqsa Saints, which takes its name from the Muslim holy place at the core of this conflict. The group was unheard of until Monday when in a statement from Beirut it claimed responsibility for shooting two Israeli security guards at a social security office in Arab East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967.

Mr Barak made it clear that he is holding the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, partly responsible for the re-appearance of Islamic Jihad, because he freed dozens of militants.

"The prime minister demands the Palestinian Authority return to jail all the prisoners it released over the last weeks and to fight terror again," a statement from Mr Barak's office said.

It said yesterday's attack "stems from a loosening of the reins by the Palestinian Authority and the release of Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners". Israel has repeatedly accused Mr Arafat of giving a "green light" to terror by releasing dozens of Islamist militants on October 12, the day its helicopter gunships attacked police installations in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian officials argue that most of the prisoners were moved to other jails, or placed under house arrest for their protection. They and Hamas leaders add that many of the prisoners were later re-arrested.

Yesterday, Hamas leaders offered only cryptic comments on the attack. In Gaza, the wheelchair-bound Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, said: "This is a retaliation for Israeli behaviour. When they bombard women, old people and children in their houses, they should expect that people want to defend themselves."

Proliferating Islamic groups worry Israelis: Analysis

That argument is similar to that of Islamic Jihad which claimed last week's suicide bombing in Gaza, in which a lone cyclist, wearing a backpack with at least five kilos of explosives, pedalled up to an Israeli army post and blew himself up, slightly injuring one soldier.

In the last two weeks, leaders of Mr Arafat's Fatah organisation said they were trying to limit casualties in the pitched battles between stone-throwing teenagers and Israeli machine-gunners by saving their energies for attacks on settlements or army command posts.

That is not the case for **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, however, which preaches that any Israeli, civilian or soldier, in the West Bank or Gaza or inside the borders of the Jewish state, is fair game.

"From our point of view this is a popular military intifada. Anyone who carries a gun, and shoots at an Israeli target can do it on his own," said Ismail Abu Shanab, a **Hamas** spokesman in Gaza.

Yesterday's attack was the second in Jewish West Jerusalem after a pipe bomb exploded near the city's main theatre, injuring one man. No group has claimed that attack.

Martin Woollacott, page 22 Letters, page 23

Load-Date: November 3, 2000

Protests, funerals follow violence; Flurry: Palestinians mourn 8 killed in an airstrike, while Israel dismisses criticism of attack

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 2, 2001 Thursday

Copyright 2001 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. b5

Length: 792 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" on Wednesday and buried eight people killed in an airstrike, while the Israeli government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, Wednesday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets.

A Palestinian was shot to death Wednesday in the West Bank city of Hebron, and two men suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians.

In Gaza, a woman was slightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said.

Five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza, Palestinians said. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault of the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by killing a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved the green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

Protests, funerals follow violence; Flurry: Palestinians mourn 8 killed in an airstrike, while Israel dismisses criticism of attack

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Israel said Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"No one has immunity," said Cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security Cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said Israel reserves the right of self-defense and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement." The statement did not mention the helicopter attack in Nablus.

Palestinians called off a weekly meeting of security commanders set for Wednesday, according to Yarden Vatikay, an Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman. Recent meetings have ended in discord.

Still, there were signs of a growing debate in Israel about the effectiveness of the raids.

Israel has killed about 50 Palestinians with such attacks. It believes it can weaken **Hamas** and the militant Islamic Jihad movement, arguing that they have a limited number of people with the technical and organizations skills to carry out major bomb attacks. But the Israeli strikes also generate support for such groups.

"One must remember that what **Hamas** loses in ability, it makes up for in motivation, and the question is: Which is more dangerous?" Israeli journalist Hemi Shalev wrote in the daily Maariv.

"The assassination policy incites the Palestinian street, forces escalation on (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat, increases support for **Hamas** and sends dozens of potential martyrs to its ranks," he wrote.

Israel's evening news Wednesday featured a TV interview with Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, who blamed Israel for the escalation.

Abed Rabbo called on Israel to agree to international observers "to come and monitor the situation on the ground." He said: "The monitors will show who is responsible for initiating violence."

Israel has rejected posting observers in the Palestinian territories, charging that Israel would be unfairly blamed for retaliatory and preventive attacks.

The Palestinian killed Wednesday in Hebron was identified as Mohammed Sharabati, 35. The two suspected collaborators were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, from Ramallah and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40, from al-Khader.

In Jerusalem, a small pipe bomb exploded Wednesday in a park next to the King David Hotel, one of city's most luxurious. Police said the blast caused no injuries or damage.

Since the latest round of fighting erupted Sept. 28, 551 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 133 on the Israeli side.

Graphic

The bodies of two Palestinian brothers - Bilal, 8, and Ashraf Khader, 5, - are carried through the streets of the West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday. The boys were among eight people killed Tuesday during an Israeli helicopter raid.

Protests, funerals follow violence; Flurry: Palestinians mourn 8 killed in an airstrike, while Israel dismisses criticism of attack

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

End of Document

SUSPECT IN GRENADE ATTACK ADMITS TO OTHER ACTS, ISRAEL SAYS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 21, 1998 Wednesday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 798 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, This article contains information from Inquirer wire services.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The 29-year-old Palestinian arrested Monday for throwing grenades at a crowded Israeli bus station has confessed to two other attacks, making him virtually a one-man terror wave.

Israeli authorities said yesterday that Salem Rajab Sarsour admitted to the murder two months ago of Rabbi Shlomo Raanan, 63, who was stabbed to death in his home near Hebron, as well as a grenade attack over Yom Kippur directed against settlers in Hebron.

The Palestinian Authority yesterday described Sarsour's actions as those of a lone malcontent. However, the armed wing of the Islamic militant movement **Hamas** yesterday claimed responsibility for Sarsour's latest attack.

"One of our heroic fighters carried out a heroic operation on Monday morning in the town of Beersheba which targeted a crowd of enemy soldiers," the claim of responsibility said.

The claim was faxed to Reuters news agency in Jerusalem in the name of **Hamas'** militant Izzedine al-Qassam brigade.

Sarsour's case is a striking example of how the acts of extremists can thwart the entire Middle East peace process.

In the aftermath of Monday's attack at the Beersheba bus station, in which 64 Israelis were wounded, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to curtail the talks underway at the Wye Plantation in Maryland.

The suspect is a native of Hebron, a devout Muslim with five children. He has long been known to sympathize with **Hamas**, the Islamic militant movement that opposes a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

"This was not a momentary, local, impulsive initiative," Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told Israeli radio. An army spokesman said that **Hamas'** military wing had supplied two grenades used by Sarsour in the attack.

The Palestinians' West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub, described Sarsour instead as acting on his own.

SUSPECT IN GRENADE ATTACK ADMITS TO OTHER ACTS, ISRAEL SAYS

"It was an individual act," Rajoub told Reuters. In the interview, Rajoub called the Beersheba incident a "gift" to Netanyahu, who he said had been "waiting for such an attack in order to justify his refusal to implement the further redeployment."

The Palestinian Authority, in a statement issued through the official Wafa news agency, also called Sarsour a "double agent" and alleged he had been working for Israeli intelligence.

The dispute about Sarsour's motives and sponsorship is relevant because the Israeli negotiating team in Maryland is demanding that the Palestinian self-rule authority take a more aggressive stand against terrorism before any more West Bank territory is handed over.

Some terrorism experts in Israel believe, however, that the Beersheba incident is evidence that an effective crackdown on terrorism is underway.

Menachem Klein, a lecturer with Bar-Ilan University, noted yesterday that Sarsour's attack was a pale shadow of the spectacular suicide bombings of a year ago.

"The guy had two hand grenades. That is hardly a terrorist infrastructure," Klein said. "It signals that the organization [Hamas] has some operation problems."

In the last year, three high-level Hamas terrorists have been assassinated in operations that many believe were jointly executed by Israeli and Palestinian security.

According to the Israeli army's statement yesterday, Sarsour had been an activist in Hamas starting in the late 1980s and was arrested twice for minor offenses such as spray-painting graffiti and blocking roads.

In August, the statement said, he had planned an attack against Israeli soldiers stationed in Hebron. Failing to find a suitable target, he decided instead to attack Jewish settlers living in trailers in Hebron. Through the window of an unlocked trailer, he spotted the rabbi sleeping, sneaked in, and murdered him.

After the Aug. 20 murder, the statement said, Sarsour approached a Hamas leader in Hebron, boasted about the killing and volunteered for another mission. On Sept. 30, at the end of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, the statement continued, Sarsour threw hand grenades at a cluster of Israeli soldiers in Hebron. Fourteen of the Israelis and eight Palestinians were injured.

In a relatively well-off neighborhood of Hebron yesterday, Sarsour's five small children posed for Israeli television holding up pictures of their father. His wife, Khaloud, kept her face covered with a veil, a sign of extreme religious devotion among Palestinian women, who normally wear no more than a head scarf.

"It is a noble act that inspires pride," she said. "Praise be to the lord."

Palestinian security forces detained at least 20 suspected Islamic militants in Hebron after the grenade attack. A senior Palestinian official, who asked not to be identified by name, said the roundup targeted suspects whose activities could harm the stability of Palestinian society or "jeopardize security and the peace process" with Israel.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

Salem Sarsour

SUSPECT IN GRENADE ATTACK ADMITS TO OTHER ACTS, ISRAEL SAYS

Load-Date: October 24, 2002

End of Document

Tension escalates Israel criticised as Palestinians bury dead

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

August 3, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 311 words

Body

JERUSALEM -- After Palestinians buried their dead from an Israeli air strike, and international criticism of the operation increased, both sides were buttressing their political positions and preparing for fresh violence.

The nighttime hours were punctuated with Palestinian and Israeli gunfire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and calls from both sides and the United States for adherence to a truce seemed out of context.

AAP

Two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli intelligence were killed by fellow Palestinians, and another Palestinian died during a shootout in the always tense West Bank city of Hebron.

Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers exchanged fire near Ramallah in the West Bank and near a bloc of Jewish settlements in Gaza, where five Palestinians were wounded. An Israeli woman was hurt when Palestinians fired mortar shells at a Jewish settlement in Gaza.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians jammed the streets of Nablus on Wednesday in one of the biggest and angriest mass funerals during 10 months of Palestinian-Israeli fighting. Crowds surrounded eight stretchers carrying the bodies of Palestinians who were killed when Israeli helicopters fired rockets into the third-floor offices of the militant group Hamas in Nablus a day before. Three of the dead were Hamas leaders; two others were children killed by shrapnel outside the building.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of Hamas, which has carried out many bombing attacks against Israel, killing dozens, and opposes any peace negotiations.

For the second straight day, the US administration yesterday criticised the Israeli strike. "The United States has called on all parties to exercise restraint and to preserve what we hope can be a ceasefire," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "That includes opposition to a policy of targeted attacks."

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

GET RID OF YASSER FOR PEACE IN HOLY LAND

The Sun

December 18, 2001

Copyright 2001 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Section: OPINION

Length: 603 words

Byline: Jim Sillars

Body

Hope for Christmas

ONE week to Christmas and the land that is holy to three religions is torn asunder with violence and sodden with blood.

One week to Christmas and the justice preached by Jesus is being turned on its head, with the oppressed cast as villains, and the oppressors cast as heroic.

One week to Christmas and the US, which only a few weeks ago talked about the need for a viable Palestinian state, vetoes a UN resolution for international intervention, and so gives Ariel Sharon the go-ahead to speak to the Palestinians only through the barrel of a gun.

Absurd

One week to Christmas and speculation continues as to whether the Israelis will finally get rid of Yasser Arafat.

No chance -not because he is an indispensable leader to the Palestinians, but because he is an indispensable Palestinian to the Israelis and the Americans.

In Arafat they have a man whom they can use ad infinitum as a scapegoat.

It would serve no Israeli or American purpose to rid themselves of Arafat, who is a PR disaster for the Palestinians. He is a man who cannot communicate with the West; whose physical appearance repels in a television age; a man who, in trying to look like a head of state when inspecting his "troops," just succeeds in looking absurd.

Arafat is no match for the smooth talking Israelis in the great PR battle being fought on the sidelines of the violent war.

By concentrating on Arafat, the Israelis and Americans can perpetuate the injustice dished out to the Palestinians, and keep our eyes off the facts.

Here are a few important facts drawn from UN Security Council resolutions and international law:

1. Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel. Tel Aviv is. It is against UN law for Israel to claim all of Jerusalem.

2. The Israeli settlements, which are still being built, are illegal use of Palestinian land.

GET RID OF YASSER FOR PEACE IN HOLY LAND

3. Palestine is an occupied land and the Israelis occupy it in defiance of UN resolutions.

4. The Israeli violence against Palestinians, for many years before the present situation, was in contravention of the Geneva Conventions on how occupiers must treat civilians.

Israeli tanks dominate the Palestinian streets. Children are killed. Land continues to be stolen. Palestinian women continue to be routinely humiliated. Half the population of Gaza is unemployed. And 50 per cent in Gaza and the West Bank live in poverty on only \$ 2 a day (UN figures).

Occupation, degrading treatment, humiliation, and fear have been the lot of the Palestinians for decades. But something has changed. The fear has gone. The desperation that is bred from intolerable treatment has driven the Palestinians to take on the Israelis.

As Arafat's influence has waned that of Hamas has waxed. Hamas, however, has no tanks, helicopter gunships, and F-16s with which to fight back against the Israeli army. If it had, and wore army uniforms, it wouldn't be termed a terrorist organization.

Like the Kosovans, we would call it a liberation army which could get away with causing civilian deaths as "unfortunate collateral damage."

Foolish

Hamas has two assets. Ariel Sharon and suicide bombers. Sharon's military violence has created a growing number of radical young Palestinians.

The more Sharon hits the Palestinians, the more recruits he makes for Hamas.

It was foolish of Sharon and Bush to reject the UN resolution for international intervention. It was the one measure, offering respite to the Palestinians, restraint on the Hamas bombers, and stopping the Israeli bombardments, that might have worked.

Instead the blood of innocents, Palestinians and Israelis, will continue to fall upon the stones of Jerusalem.

Load-Date: January 11, 2002

ISRAELI RAID FLATTENS PALESTINIAN POLICE BUILDINGS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 8, 2001 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 665 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli and Palestinian security officials met yesterday for talks, but as the negotiating standoff continued, Israeli warplanes flattened two police buildings to press Yasser Arafat to act more firmly against Palestinian militants, and the militants rallied to warn him to do no such thing.

In an interview with Israeli television last night, Arafat lashed out at the Bush administration for heavily favoring Israel. President Bush has refused to meet with Arafat, and the United States has sternly backed Israel's demands that he crack down on extremists.

Palestinian officials have said Arafat is not politically strong enough to make such moves unless Israel provides some benefit to Palestinians, like relaxing the blockades in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Dear God, who cares about the Americans?" Arafat said, when asked about American pressure.

"The Americans are on your side, and they give you everything," he said, addressing Israelis. "Who gave you the airplanes? The Americans. Who gave you the tanks? The Americans."

Arafat said his forces had arrested 17 of 33 militants wanted by Israel. A list of the wanted men was given to him Wednesday by Anthony C. Zinni, the Bush administration's new envoy here. Israel had given such lists to him in the past with little result.

In Ankara, Turkey, the Turkish prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, said yesterday that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, had told him in a telephone conversation that he wanted to be "rid of" Arafat. But the Israeli government continued to insist it did not want to kill Arafat or destroy his Palestinian Authority.

Israeli political and military officials say that if Arafat does not crack down on extremists, they will put so much pressure on his administration he will be replaced without their attacking him directly. Yesterday the deputy foreign minister, Michael Melchior, told reporters in Berlin that Arafat had become "irrelevant" because he had not used his power to stop violence. Melchior, an ally of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, is regarded as a dove.

After a 48-hour pause in military attacks, Israel sent warplanes screaming over Gaza at about 3 yesterday morning. They fired three missiles into the Arafat Police City, destroying one building that the police said was used for

ISRAELI RAID FLATTENS PALESTINIAN POLICE BUILDINGS

administration and another that they said was for training women officers. The Bush administration has refrained from criticizing such Israeli action.

Palestinians said 18 people had been wounded in the raid, which left six cement floors pancaked atop one another in a jumble of cinder blocks. The blasts broke windows for blocks around.

Sharon "wants to destroy the Authority," said Capt. Muhammad Harara of the Palestinian police.

The raid damaged the office of Ghazi al-Jabali, the chief of police in Gaza and one of the principal Palestinian officials charged with the effort against extremists, including members of the extremist group Hamas.

After three Hamas suicide bombings last weekend killed 25 people, Israel redoubled its demands for Arafat to arrest militants, backing up those demands with military strikes. Hamas said it had been retaliating for Israel's killing of a senior Hamas military leader on Nov. 23.

Because police buildings have long been favorite Israeli targets, Jabali rented an apartment elsewhere 10 months ago to use as his headquarters, police officers said. Indeed, the Palestinian police are seldom found in their official headquarters, here or in the West Bank. "For 10 months we have been in the streets," Harara said.

But yesterday, the streets were not safe for them either. Palestinian policemen mostly kept out of sight as more than 1,000 Palestinians marched in a funeral procession for a Hamas activist killed in clashes with the police overnight Wednesday.

Teen-agers and young boys hurled stones at one truck carrying police officers and at police buildings they passed on the route, applying to fellow Palestinians the tactics they usually reserve for Israeli soldiers.

Load-Date: December 11, 2001

Palestinian crowd enraged by killings

The Cambridge Reporter

August 2, 2001 Thursday

Copyright 2001 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A6

Length: 480 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A huge Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" yesterday and buried eight people killed in an air strike, while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, yesterday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets. A Palestinian, Mohammed Sharabati, 35, was shot dead yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron.

AP

Also, two suspected collaborators with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians. They were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, from Ramallah and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40, from al-Khader.

In Gaza, a woman was lightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said. Palestinians said five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza. The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault during the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by hitting a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from the Nablus hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Palestinian crowd enraged by killings

Israel said that Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"No one has immunity," said cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security cabinet, Sharon's office said that Israel reserves the right of self-defence and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement." The statement did not mention the helicopter attack in Nablus.

Load-Date: December 2, 2002

End of Document

Israel braces for revenge attacks

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

April 4, 1998, Saturday

Copyright 1998 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 356 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Body

HUNDREDS of extra police and soldiers fanned out across Jerusalem yesterday to head off further clashes after thousands of enraged Palestinians, chanting "revenge, revenge", buried the **Hamas** bomb-maker they claim was assassinated by Israeli agents.

The head of Israel's internal secret service met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat yesterday in a bid to persuade him Israel was not behind the death of the bomb-maker for the radical Islamic group, while population centres were placed on maximum alert against suicide attacks.

Seventeen Palestinians had been wounded by Israeli gunfire late on Thursday in clashes as mourners buried Muhyideen al-Sharif, 32, killed in mysterious circumstances on Sunday.

The Times, AFP

"We want to hear explosions in Tel Aviv. Blow them up, blow them up," exhorted Arab **women**, slapping themselves in grief as the body of the militant, his scorched face and upper body exposed, was carried through the streets of the Palestinian self-rule city of Ramallah for an Islamic martyr's burial.

"Dear, dear Qassam, hit Tel Aviv," chanted the crowd as Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority police kept their distance. The mourners were referring to Izz el-Deen al-Qassam, the military wing of **Hamas**, preparing revenge attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and abroad.

Palestinian law-makers loyal to Mr Arafat added fuel to the fire by openly accusing Israel of killing Sharif, whose body was found near a car that blew up in Ramallah. However, the circumstances of the death remained in dispute.

Palestinian police claimed he was killed by three bullets about three hours before the explosion, while Israeli security sources insisted he had died in "a work accident". **Hamas** rejected Israeli denials of any involvement in Sharif's killing and said retaliation would "be quicker than anyone can imagine". Senior Israeli security officials anticipated a series of attacks. "We know a **Hamas** reaction will come. The question is, when and where," one said. With the Easter and Passover holidays only days away, thousands of extra soldiers and policemen have tightened West Bank roadblocks and set up new ones on main highways.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Israel braces for revenge attacks

End of Document

**PALESTINIANS RETALIATE AFTER 16 ARE KILLED OVER TWO VIOLENT
DAYS;
CONFRONTATIONS, PROTESTS, ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAELI TARGETS
ESCALATE**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 2, 2001 Thursday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 608 words

Byline: From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" on Wednesday as eight people killed in an Israeli airstrike were buried in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

After two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, Wednesday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets. One Palestinian, Mohammed Sharabati, 35, was shot to death Wednesday in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians. They were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the militant **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight people, including two young Palestinian boys, in the deadliest such assault of the current Mideast conflict.

The airstrike killed a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, 42, in contrast to the lower-level bomb makers and gunmen Israel had targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian spokeswoman.

To show their anger over the assault, the Palestinians called off the weekly meeting of security commanders set for Wednesday, according to Yarden Vatikay, a spokesman for the Israeli Defense Ministry. Recent meetings have ended in discord.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

PALESTINIANS RETALIATE AFTER 16 ARE KILLED OVER TWO VIOLENT DAYS; CONFRONTATIONS,
PROTESTS, ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAELI TARGETS ESCALATE

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved the green flags of Hamas, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel, including one that killed 21 young Israelis at a disco in June.

Clashes between Palestinian and Israeli forces followed the funeral in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah, all in the West Bank.

Although the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have wide support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Israel said Mansour, a founder of Hamas, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"All those who are in charge of terrorism, all those who mastermind the terrorist attacks on Israelis - we hold them accountable, and they will bear the consequences. No one has immunity," said Cabinet Minister Ephraim Sneh. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

Raanan Gissin, a senior aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Hamas activists killed in Tuesday's strike had been planning new operations in Jerusalem, where a high-security alert is in effect and a pipe bomb exploded in a park Wednesday.

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security Cabinet, Sharon's office said Israel reserves "its basic right to self-defense and to fulfill its obligation to protect the lives of its citizens." The statement also called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "im mediately halt all terror, violence and incitement."

But the killing of the children, who were walking past Mansour's office at the time, was an acute embarrassment for Israel.

Gen. Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli army chief, told reporters that if the army had known children were in the vicinity they would have called off the attack.

"We have no desire to escalate the situation," he said.

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

Peacemaking Needs Help From Arab Governments, Too

International Herald Tribune (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France)

June 8, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 International Herald Tribune

Section: Opinion; Pg. 8

Length: 898 words

Byline: By Henry Siegman; International Herald Tribune

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

Leaders of Arab countries friendly to America are deeply disappointed with its role in the Middle East peace process. The Clinton administration has permitted Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to bring the process to a complete halt without even so much as calling his obstructionism by its right name.

Arab leaders have good reason to be angry with the United States, especially with the pandering by both Republican and Democratic legislators to the most hawkish sentiment in the American Jewish community.

The unprincipled behavior of Congress and the weakness of the administration threaten to return the region to its violent past, to endanger major American interests and to destabilize the regimes of friendly allies.

But these Arab critics of U.S. policy should look at their own behavior first, for it is no less destructive of Middle East peace and, indeed, of the stability of their own regimes.

Nothing is better calculated to destroy what little hope there is of rescuing the Oslo accords than the welcome that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the leader of *Hamas*, has been receiving from Arab governments.

In recent weeks Sheikh Yassin has been warmly received by leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Yemen, not to speak of Iran, Syria and Sudan. Fulminations against Mr. Netanyahu are absurdly inconsistent. One cannot be against Mr. Netanyahu but for *Hamas*.

After all, it was the terrorist outrages of *Hamas* in February and March 1996 that doomed the candidacy of Shimon Peres and brought Mr. Netanyahu to power. More of *Hamas* can only mean more of Mr. Netanyahu.

It is not just a question of consistency. Sheikh Yassin is being given conspicuous platforms from which to spout the most hateful threats against Israel, promising its obliteration. Do not Arab leaders in the Gulf understand how their hospitality for this violent rhetoric will turn off those in Israel who want Oslo to succeed and who support Palestinian statehood?

Particularly incomprehensible is the willingness of Sheikh Yassin's Arab hosts to provide his organization with financing. The notion that it is money intended for charitable purposes insults the intelligence.

Arab leaders who are funneling these funds to *Hamas* know that at least some of it will be used by *Hamas* suicide bombers to blow up innocent Israeli *women* and children.

Peacemaking Needs Help From Arab Governments, Too

There was a time when Gulf countries deluded themselves that they could buy protection by paying off terrorists. One would have thought that they learned the folly of that notion after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which undoubtedly would have been followed by an invasion of Saudi Arabia had the United States not mobilized Operation Desert Storm.

The Iraqi depredations were fully supported not only by the Palestine Liberation Organization but also by extremist fundamentalists to whom the Saudi and other Gulf countries were paying protection money.

The support that many in the region are giving Sheikh Yassin and Hamas will destroy prospects for regional peace even more surely than Mr. Netanyahu's policies. This is so because sooner or later Israelis will wake up out of their torpor to the destructive implications of the policies pursued by Mr. Netanyahu in the name of security.

The palpable damage that he has done to Israel's security by increasing its isolation in the region and its alienation from traditional friends in Europe and even from the United States will not be tolerated by Israel's electorate for long.

An ascendant Hamas, on the other hand, would spell the end of Yasser Arafat.

Arab leaders who are cynically giving red-carpet treatment to Sheikh Yassin - no less than Israel's leaders - should think hard about a basic truth: There is no Palestinian leader on the horizon today who can sell a peace agreement to the Palestinian people that falls short of maximal Palestinian demands - i.e., a full return to the 1967 borders and control of East Jerusalem - other than Yasser Arafat.

Actions that undermine Mr. Arafat, whether pursued by this Israeli government or by Arab regimes, will return the region to the violence and stagnation that will reduce it again to the backwater it has been for so long in the global economy.

This prospect may be acceptable to Mr. Netanyahu, for whom any alternative may be preferable to returning territory to the Palestinians. What is puzzling is why Arab leaders would want to play into his hand.

Such self-destructive Arab actions are part of a larger policy failure. Many Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf, have failed to pursue proactive policies intended to persuade the critical Israeli center, which invariably decides whether a Likud or a Labor government will be in power, that the territorial compromises required for peace will be fully compensated for by the normalcy, friendship and stability that will characterize their peaceful relations with Israel.

Instead, they have essentially acted as disinterested parties on the sidelines who are observing developments rather than helping to shape them. Such a passive posture falls far short of the challenges of peacemaking.

The burden of peacemaking, and the risks that go with it, must be assumed by all in the region, not only by Israel and its immediate neighbors.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Load-Date: June 9, 1998

Palestinian leaders urge restraint; Fear suicide bombings will invite retaliation

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

September 13, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C06; Canada & World News

Length: 913 words

Byline: Sandro Contenta

Dateline: BETHLEHEM

Body

Palestinian leaders are trying to rein in their uprising, fearing that Israel will use the terror assault on the United States to launch a massive strike against their revolt.

They're especially concerned about preventing another suicide bomb attack against the Jewish state. They believe it will trigger an Israeli military invasion of Palestinian-controlled territory, and the annihilation of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

"This is a very dangerous time," said Kamel Hmeid, head of Arafat's Fatah movement in the Palestinian-controlled Bethlehem district. "We are doing our best to calm the situation," he said, referring to attempts to halt gunmen and suicide bombers.

Torstar News Service

Palestinian leaders, including extremist Palestinian groups, have firmly denounced the attack on the Pentagon and New York's trade centre. But they fear the international community will link the attack to their battle against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli politicians and analysts are arguing that the suicide attackers who crashed passenger planes in New York and Washington are no different than the Palestinian suicide bombers who strike at Israeli civilians.

The general feeling in Israel yesterday was that the world has finally come to understand what the Jewish state has been fighting against since its existence.

"From the perspective of the Jews, it is the most important public relations act ever committed in our favour," wrote Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on extremist groups, referring to the New York attack.

"The pictures are terrible and they are better than a thousand ambassadors trying to explain how dangerous Islamic terror is," he wrote in the Ma'ariv newspaper.

Some Israeli cabinet ministers are pushing Sharon to capitalize on the U.S. attack by launching a massive strike against Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The world, especially the U.S., will understand, they said.

Palestinian leaders urge restraint; Fear suicide bombings will invite retaliation

"Yasser Arafat is our Osama bin Laden," said former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, referring to the Afghanistan-based Saudi millionaire suspected of being linked to the New York attack.

When the world was gripped by the horror in the U.S., Israeli army tanks rolled into the Palestinian-controlled town of Jenin, where four suicide bombers came from. At least seven Palestinians were killed, including a nine-year-old girl, an Islamic militant wanted by Israel and two Palestinian security officers.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, an aide to Arafat, accused Israel of "taking advantage of the international situation to escalate its war against the Palestinian territories."

Israeli Defence Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay said Israel went after Palestinian militants because the Palestinian Authority was not trying to prevent terrorist attacks.

Arafat condemned the attacks Tuesday as a "terrible act" and said he would help track down those responsible if asked by the Americans.

But Israeli military officials and right-wing politicians accuse him of giving a green light to **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad suicide bombers. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres again challenged Arafat yesterday to arrest those militants.

But Hmeid, the Fatah leader who is close to Arafat, said that's easier said than done after 34 years of Israeli occupation, an uprising that has seen more than 550 Palestinians killed, and an Israeli military siege that has strangled the Palestinian economy.

"Arafat cannot put **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad in prison for one reason: Palestinians will reject this and take to the streets against Arafat, because all the Palestinian people are with **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad and everyone who shoots at Israelis," Hmeid said.

"I think Arafat is in a very dangerous situation ... It's even hard for him to say that he does not support bombs inside Israel," Hmeid said.

Hmeid said Arafat has called meetings throughout the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinian Authority officials have told **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad to stop their wave of suicide bomb attacks inside Israel.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad "understand the dangers" that another suicide bomb attack would unleash, Hmeid said. But he feared that Israel might provoke such an attack by continuing to assassinate **Hamas** and Jihad leaders, or by tightening its military siege of Palestinian-controlled enclaves in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Khaled Tafesh, the head of **Hamas** in the Bethlehem district, was defiant yesterday when asked if his group would stop suicide bombings.

"As long as the occupation exists on our land, there will be resistance by every means," he said in an interview at a mosque facing the Church of the Nativity.

Tafesh, whose group rejects the existence of Israel, acknowledged that "all hell will break loose" if another suicide attack occurs inside Israel.

Added Manuel Hassassian, vice-president of Bethlehem University and a key negotiator during the failed peace talks: "The minute there's another suicide bomb, we're finished."

Palestinian officials also tried some damage control yesterday, after television images showed small groups of Palestinians celebrating the New York attack.

They organized a vigil in front of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem, where dozens of Palestinians held placards that read, "Terror is our common enemy" and "We are victims too."

Palestinian leaders urge restraint; Fear suicide bombings will invite retaliation

Palestinian lawmaker Hanan Ashrawi told a news conference the celebrations were "misguided" and "aberrations" motivated by a feeling among Palestinians that they have been victims of U.S. backing for Israel.

Graphic

Photo: Reinhard Krause, Reuters; Palestinian women mourn outside the U.S. consulate in east Jerusalem yesterday. Palestinians fear the terror attack will encourage another strike by Israel.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

End of Document

BORING BUT IMPORTANT

MX (Melbourne, Australia)
December 20, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 481 words

Body

OIL TANKER ATTACK DISPUTED

THE Pentagon today disputed Iranian claims that US warships in the Gulf attacked an oil tanker bound for an Iranian port.

It said the vessel boarded was a Belize-flagged oil tanker suspected of violating sanctions against Iraq.

VATICAN TO ADOPT THE EURO

THE Vatican will adopt the Euro next year, but the currency of the Holy See with the portrait of Pope John Paul II will be put into circulation in late January or early February.

The Vatican has the right to produce money under agreements signed with Rome.

HAMAS TO HALT SUICIDE BOMBINGS

HAMAS is calling a halt to its devastating suicide bombings against Israel, according to a senior official.

"**Hamas** has taken an internal decision to stop martyrdom operations but we are not going to make an official declaration," said the **Hamas** official.

APPEAL SET FOR AIDS DRUG RULING

THE South African government said today it would appeal against a High Court ruling that HIV-positive pregnant **women** are entitled to a drug found to reduce a newborn's risk of contracting the virus.

The decision provoked an outcry from AIDS activists and child health workers, who argue that President Thabo Mbeki's government has acted too slowly to fight mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which causes AIDS.

CEASEFIRE OFFERED AS GOODWILL

SRI Lanka's new government said today it will reciprocate the Tamil Tiger rebels' declaration of a one-month, unilateral ceasefire starting on Christmas Eve.

"We welcome the ceasefire and will make a reciprocal gesture in a day or two," Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando said. The Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam said the offer was a goodwill measure to advance the peace process.

BORING BUT IMPORTANT

SECRET TALKS BRING RESIGNATION

ESTONIAN Prime Minister Mart Laar said today he would resign on January 8, following weeks of infighting with a coalition partner that has been in secret alliance talks with an opposition party.

Laar's Pro Patria Union and ruling partner, the Moderate Party, have become increasingly estranged from fellow coalition partner, the Reform Party, for entering talks with the opposition Centre Party.

TWO-TRIAL DECISION OPPOSED

THE prosecution of the UN war crimes tribunal has appealed against the UN court's decision to hold two separate trials for former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

Last Tuesday, a judge ruled that the former president would face one trial for crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia and Croatia, and another over Kosovo, to begin on February 12.

SOLDIERS TO STAY IN LONDON

FORMER British soldiers who killed 13 Catholic demonstrators on Bloody Sunday will not have to testify in Londonderry, where they opened fire nearly 30 years ago.

Three Court of Appeal judges today upheld last month's ruling by the High Court in London that 36 former soldiers could offer their testimony by live video link in London if they feared returning to Northern Ireland.

Load-Date: December 20, 2001

Israeli Forces Kill 3 Suspected Terrorists - Correction Appended

The New York Times

Correction Appended

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 10; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 874 words

Byline: By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 2

Body

The Israeli authorities killed three suspected Palestinian terrorists today in a clash in an Arab town in northern Israel. Prime Minister Ehud Barak said the raid averted a plan "to sabotage the peace process" with bomb attacks on Israeli civilians.

Explosions and gunfire punctuated a predawn raid on a two-story house in Taibeh, an Israeli Arab town southeast of Nazareth, where authorities said a group of at least five Islamic militants from the Gaza Strip were preparing explosives for use in Israeli cities.

One man surrendered during the raid. Two others emerged with weapons and a suitcase that exploded when police fire hit it, according to a police account. The two men were instantly killed, the report said. A police officer wounded in the blast had his foot amputated later.

A third man in the house was shot after opening fire on Israeli troops 12 hours later. Another man may have escaped. The police searched the ruined building for bodies tonight.

The police, reinforced by counterterrorist army troops, surrounded the house in a siege that lasted most of the day and was punctuated by sporadic explosions and gunfire.

The security forces sent dogs into the house -- one was killed -- followed by a bomb-sweeping robot.

The standoff ended when the police smashed into the house with an armored bulldozer.

The spiritual leader of ***Hamas***, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, appeared to corroborate the claim that the dead men belonged to his militant Islamic group. "The fall of the martyrs is not a loss, but a victory for the movement and the Palestinian nation," he said in an Israeli television report from Gaza City.

Their willingness to risk death shows that "the way is open for the continuation of the jihad" against Israel, Sheik Yassin said.

Israeli Forces Kill 3 Suspected Terrorists

The raid appears to provide further indications of the increasing difficulties that Hamas faces in mounting terrorist operations here. As an Israeli general recently noted, 1999 was the first year in recent times without a single Israeli civilian casualty from terrorism, an achievement he attributed in part to improved intelligence cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. Israeli and Palestinian security forces have claimed credit for foiling other reported Hamas terror plots in the last year.

Officials in the Palestinian Authority echoed Israeli contentions that the men were members of Hamas based in Gaza. Israeli radio reported that the police were "investigating the possibility that they had help from Israeli Arabs."

The Arab mayor of Taibeh said the occupants of the house had recently arrived and were not known to local residents. He convened the Town Council to discuss a possible prohibition against renting local properties to outsiders.

"I hope that the right won't use this to eviscerate the residents of Taibeh," Mayor Issam Asaweh said in Hebrew on Israel Radio. "We have no connection to this. All the residents condemn this."

The raid was carried out against a backdrop of rising tension between Israeli Arabs and the country's Jewish majority. In a 60-to-53 vote on Wednesday, the Parliament endorsed an opposition motion to require any referendum on withdrawing from the Golan Heights to pass by an absolute majority of all eligible voters, not just a majority of those voting in the referendum.

Backers and opponents of the measure said it was intended to neutralize the effects of Israeli Arabs, who represent 10 percent of the electorate and strongly favor a land-for-peace pact with Syria.

In recent weeks, Arabs in Parliament have engaged in increasingly bitter exchanges on a wide range of other divisive issues like Israel's nuclear weapons program and Foreign Minister David Levy's threat to respond in kind to border attacks that harm Israeli children.

Some Jewish lawmakers challenged their Arab counterparts' patriotism and questioned their right to take part in the Parliament of a Jewish state.

Ahmed Tibi, who was born in Taibeh and is 1 of 10 Arabs in Parliament, condemned what was apparently the use of his hometown as a terrorist base and suggestions from some in the Israeli right that residents were implicated in the incident.

"We don't know all the facts yet," Mr. Tibi said, referring to reports that the men belonged to a Gazan terrorist cell. "But if it turns out that this is the case, they have made a big mistake, for us, for themselves and for the Palestinian cause."

Palestinians have to recognize "the special status" of Israeli Arabs as Israeli citizens and a vulnerable minority in a Jewish state, he said.

Taibeh lies in the heart of a primarily Arab region of northern Israel, and its use as a Hamas base would represent further evidence of a change in strategy for the radical Palestinian dissidents. Hamas had long avoided compromising Israeli Arab communities with terrorist activities or recruitment.

But in September, two simultaneous, abortive car bombs -- one in Tiberias that killed the driver and the other in Haifa, a blast that killed the driver and a passenger -- provided evidence of Hamas infiltration of Israeli Arabs.

The police said the bombs had been intended for use on public buses and had been prepared with the aid of Israeli Arabs recruited by the Hamas office in Amman, which the Jordanian government closed shortly afterward.

Correction

On March 3, an article about the killing of three suspected terrorists by Israeli forces referred incorrectly to the Israeli civilian toll in terrorist attacks in 1999. There were indeed casualties; the Israeli Foreign Ministry classifies the killing of two hikers by an Israeli Arab as an act of terror, and civilians were wounded in other attacks.

Correction-Date: March 17, 2000, Friday

Graphic

Photos: At a raid in Taibeh, southeast of Nazareth, the police ended a standoff by they smashing the house with a bulldozer. Arab women, right, reacted during the raid. (Associated Press)(Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: March 3, 2000

WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News

AUGUST 23, 2001 Thursday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 23

Length: 459 words

Body

French Foreign Legion

on point in Macedonia

NATO authorized deployment of 3,500 troops to Macedonia yesterday and could begin collecting weapons from ethnic Albanian rebels early next week in its latest foray to bring stability in the Balkans.

Troops started moving almost immediately, with the first 135 French Foreign Legion soldiers arriving yesterday in Skopje, the capital, joining the 400 communications and headquarters personnel already on the ground.

U.S. willing to pull out

of ABM treaty, envoy says

The United States is prepared to withdraw unilaterally from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty so it can go ahead with missile-defense plans if no agreement is reached with Russia on the accord, a senior U.S. diplomat visiting Moscow said yesterday.

"We remain hopeful that we can talk to the Russians," U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said. "If contrary to our hopes and expectations we're not able to move together jointly, we will exercise the express right provided by the ABM treaty to give notice of our withdrawal."

Hamas vows revenge

after attack on bomber

Hamas members vowed revenge yesterday after Israel attacked the Islamic group's suicide-bombing mastermind, Israel's most-wanted man, in a helicopter strike that missed him but killed another militant.

Israeli soldiers also shot dead a Palestinian policeman in Gaza and killed four Palestinians they said had been planting a bomb near Nablus in the West Bank.

WORLD

In the helicopter attack, gunships fired on two cars carrying the leader of Hamas's military wing, Mohammed Deif, wanted by Israel for masterminding a deadly suicide bombing campaign, and Adnan al-Ghoul, one of Hamas's top bomb-makers.

The helicopters fired four missiles, killing Ghoul's son, Bilal, when it hit one of the vehicles.

Swedish sex poll is hardly

an ego massage for men

Eight out of 10 women in Sweden would like to have sex more often, and more than half said they had been unfaithful to their partners, the tabloid Aftonbladet reported.

In a poll of 1,700 women, two thirds said it was a myth that men were more eager than women to have sex.

The same proportion said they had had sex on a first date, according to the poll.

Asked to rank the most important qualities in a male partner, Swedish women listed style, looks, intelligence, money and influence.

Flat's late owner

a real homebody

A \$725,000 London flat is on the market with a macabre selling point - it comes complete with the dead owner's ashes in a stone urn on the mantelpiece.

The unnamed pensioner loved his two-bedroom flat so much that he inserted a clause in his will that made it his final resting place, Britain's Sun tabloid reported today.

"I have to tell people before they go to view the flat," estate agent James Bailey was quoted as saying.

Notes

WORLD

Load-Date: November 15, 2001

End of Document

Suicide bombings spark 'martyr' talk

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 4, 2001 Saturday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 835 words

Byline: HAMZA HENDAWI

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Nafez Saleh Nazar appeared nervous as he faced the camera to read a statement and recited Islamic verses. At times, he seemed to pause too long. At times, he gazed at the camera. And no wonder: The 26-year-old Palestinian father of two was taping an announcement that he was going to die.

Nazar, a member of the Islamic rebel group **Hamas**, drove a truck laden with explosives toward an Israeli army post in the Gaza Strip on July 9. In a video released by **Hamas**, the vehicle evaporates in a huge explosion before it reaches the army post, killing Nazar but harming no one else.

AP

Palestinian suicide bombings were first carried out against Israel in 1994, and the past 10 months of fighting has seen 15 suicide bombings in which more than 30 Israeli civilians have been killed. In the last major attack, 22 young people, including the bomber, were killed outside a Tel Aviv disco on June 1.

As the Israeli-Palestinian conflict drags on, Muslim clerics and commentators from across the Arab world and beyond have begun debating the tactic.

The issue has highlighted the distinction between so-called "official" Islam - which has tended to support negotiations with Israel - and a "popular" Islam that does not enjoy government support, opposes peacemaking, calls for Israel's destruction and views every Israeli man, woman and child as a legitimate target.

The debate began when the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Sheikh, declared in April that "any act of self killing or suicide is strictly forbidden in Islam" and consequently "the one who blows himself up in the midst of the enemies is also performing an act contrary to Islamic teachings."

Suicide bombers, the theologian added, should not be buried with Islamic rituals and should not be buried alongside other Muslims.

Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar mosque, mainstream Islam's top seat of learning, then issued an opinion saying that the bombings were legitimate, but only if directed against Israeli soldiers, not **women** and children.

Suicide bombings spark 'martyr' talk

The edicts of al-Sheik and Tantawi - who are government appointees but are considered to be Sunni Islam's top theologians - came as the mainly Muslim Arab world was seething over what it regards as Israel's excessive use of force against the Palestinians. Many other clerics issued opposing points of view.

Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, an Egyptian clergyman highly respected among the world's 1.2 billion Muslims, said the rulings against suicide bombings were issued by "people who are alien to Sharia (Islamic laws) and religion."

He was joined by Sheikh Ikrema Sabri, Jerusalem's top Muslim cleric.

"The issue is decided," Sabri said in an interview. "Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment and that dying as a martyr has its reward - going to heaven - and that a martyr is alive in the eyes of God."

Both sides cite verses from the Muslim holy book, the Koran, and sayings of the Prophet Mohammed to support their argument.

On one hand, are quotes from Mohammed about sparing women, children and the elderly in battle. But on the other, there is the idea of "an eye for an eye," which appears in Koranic verse. Another popular quotation from the Koran tells Muslims that God provides immortality in paradise if they die fighting for him.

The debate has attracted interest in Israel, where the bombings pose a security nightmare and are a heavily demoralizing influence.

In justifying Israel's recent killings of leading Hamas activists, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said this week the use of suicide bombers "is against the teachings of all three religions."

Some say the question of religious teachings is almost irrelevant to the public support for the bombings.

Funerals of suicide bombing "martyrs" attract thousands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, like those given to Palestinians killed by the Israelis, invariably turn into vociferously anti-Israeli rallies.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two radical Palestinian groups that have carried out multiple suicide bombings, said they have no shortage of eager volunteers.

Many, but not all, are young, unemployed, single men who face a bleak future and may be tempted by what many Palestinians regard as a heroic death.

Support for suicide bombings has increased from less than 25 per cent a year ago to about 70 per cent, said Palestinian political analyst and pollster Ghassan Khatib.

"How Palestinians feel about the suicide attacks has nothing to do with religion or ideology," he said. "Only political considerations are relevant here."

Perhaps conceding something to politics, however, even Hamas leaders suggest there is a limit to who they would target.

"In our view, there is not a single person in Israel whom we don't view as a usurper of our land," insisted Ismail Abu Shanab, a Gaza-based Hamas leader.

But when asked if they would target an Israeli kindergarten, for example, he was evasive.

"Did we do it?" he said. "The answer is no."

Load-Date: August 4, 2001

ISRAEL VOWS TO CONTINUE POLICY OF ASSASSINATIONS

The Independent (London)

August 2, 2001, Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 674 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas, attending a protest march in Gaza City following the Israeli attack in Nablus that killed eight; Palestinians AFP

Body

ARIEL SHARON'S inner cabinet dismissed American and British strictures yesterday and reaffirmed that it would continue to order the assassination of Palestinians it accuses of planning or executing terror attacks on Israelis.

Senior ministers met for five hours in Jerusalem while Palestinians were burying the eight victims, who included two Hamas leaders and two children, killed by a helicopter strike in the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday.

Tens of thousands of mourners marched in fury behind the bodies, which were draped in green Islamic flags. Young men in black masks fired rifles in the air and chanted threats to blow up Dizengoff, the Oxford Street of Tel Aviv. Women and children screamed and wept as they swarmed around the stretchers bearing the latest "martyrs" to their graves.

Earlier, a mob tried to break into the Nablus prison where three Palestinians were taken after being hastily sentenced to death on Tuesday night for collaborating with Israeli intelligence. The Palestinian Authority leader, Yasser Arafat, is under intense pressure to confirm the sentences.

The United States condemned the helicopter raid as "excessive, reprehensible and provocative", predicting that it would lead to disaster. Britain branded it "wrong and illegal under international law". But Mr Sharon's government remained defiant.

Yarden Vatikai, a Defence Ministry spokesman, said: "Israel will do everything necessary to defend itself. It is the Palestinians who have to change their policy of terror and violence. The sovereign government of Israel alone is responsible for protecting its citizens. And those citizens are subject to a wave of terror attacks, which we see every day."

Police imposed a maximum alert on Jerusalem after a pipe bomb exploded yesterday morning in a car park near the King David Hotel. No one was injured, but Israel is braced for the bloodcurdling retaliation that Hamas leaders promised for what Mr Sharon celebrated as "one of our greatest successes". Israel blamed its two principal targets, Jamal Mansour and Jamal Salim, for 10 bombings since last November, which killed 37 Israelis and wounded 376. Mansour, the most senior Hamas political leader on the West Bank, was said to have masterminded the suicide operation that killed 21 young Israelis in a Tel Aviv disco two months ago.

His murder is seen here as a calculated escalation. Mansour is the first high -profile public figure to have been hit since November last year. Ze'ev Schiff, the Ha'aretz newspaper's defence analyst, wrote yesterday: "From now on,

ISRAEL VOWS TO CONTINUE POLICY OF ASSASSINATIONS

the army will be authorised to attack more targets that are identified as the operational heads of the snake." The message, wrote the tabloid Ma'ariv, is that no one is immune.

Nevertheless, the campaign of "targeted liquidations" was severely criticised by the left-wing opposition and by several influential commentators. Yossi Sarid, leader of the liberal Meretz party, warned: "It is time to stop at the edge of the precipice. One more small step and we will fall, both Israelis and Palestinians. When we assassinate a terrorist, we create 10 new terrorists in his stead."

Jerusalem police are now receiving 700 calls a day from nervous residents reporting suspicious objects and cars in the city, up from 250 daily calls before the violence began 10 months ago, said a police spokesman, Shmuel Ben - Ruby.

Yossi Beilin, a former justice minister and architect of the 1993 Oslo peace accord that formed a breakthrough with the Palestinians, said: "The killing of the two children has worsened the conflict and has even weakened our sense of security. It is the government's duty to resume negotiations and stop the fire."

Roni Shaked, who covers the West Bank for Yediot Aharonot, said: "Every assassination levies a price in revenge, and we are the ones who pay it." Hemi Shalev, Ma'ariv's political analyst, said: "Our assassination policy incites the Palestinian street, forces escalation on Arafat, increases support for Hamas and recruits dozens of potential martyrs to its ranks."

Load-Date: August 2, 2001

End of Document

TWO MEN, TWO VIEWS OF THE FUTURE FOR PALESTINIANS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

November 9, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a7

Length: 889 words

Byline: LAURA KING, Associated Press writer

Body

KHAN YOUNIS REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip - One is the hunter, and one is the hunted.

Mohammed Dahlan, chief of Palestinian preventive security in the Gaza Strip, has been handed the daunting task of breaking the Izzedine al Qassam brigades, the military wing of the radical Islamic group **Hamas**.

Mohammed Deif is a top **Hamas** military leader, one of the most wanted fugitives in the Palestinian lands, suspected mastermind in a string of bloody attacks on Israelis and a boyhood neighbor of Dahlan, his newfound nemesis.

Now in their mid-30s, the two grew up in the same refugee camp, went to the same university, earned their fighter's stripes in the same street clashes with Israeli troops.

Shaped by common experience, their lives have always run on some strangely parallel track. Now they share the stage in a drama whose larger outcome could lead to the success or shattering of the new Mideast peace accord.

Israel insists that in exchange for more West Bank territory, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority must wage all-out war on Islamic militants who have used suicide bombings to terrorize Israelis and thwart past peace efforts. That includes tracking down key **Hamas** leaders like Deif.

In demeanor, Dahlan and Deif could hardly be more different. Dahlan is big, bluff and smooth-spoken; Deif is said to be bookish, reticent and solitary. While Dahlan is a sharp dresser whose confident carriage attracts attention, Deif is described as a master of disguise, a man who can all but disappear in plain sight.

Dahlan is a rising star in Palestinian politics, reportedly impressing President Clinton when they met during Mideast peace negotiations at a Maryland retreat in October. Deif has clung to the shadows, drifting like smoke through his fugitive's netherworld.

For all their dissimilarities, the fate of one could easily have been the other's. Except for a crucial, youthful choice: Dahlan joined Arafat's army, while Deif embraced the more fundamentalist **Hamas**.

Because of that, Dahlan's allegiance lies today with Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which has chosen to make peace with Israel. **Hamas** and Deif remain dedicated to its destruction.

But Palestinian society puts an overwhelming traditional emphasis on personal connections, village bonds and kinship ties. So the battle lines tend to blur, even in the face of what look like directly conflicting ideologies. Thus, a

TWO MEN, TWO VIEWS OF THE FUTURE FOR PALESTINIANS

straightforward-seeming task the Palestinian Authority must root out Hamas is in fact enormously complicated by cultural factors.

The face of the enemy, after all, is so like that of a brother.

Isolated camp

Khan Younis refugee camp, named for the scruffy Gaza Strip town that surrounds it, is a warren of narrow, sandy streets lined with cement-block hovels. Although it in many ways resembles Gaza's seven other refugee camps, its isolation amid lonely stretches of sand dunes and its stiflingly provincial atmosphere make the others seem almost cosmopolitan by comparison.

Even by strict Gaza standards, public mores are conservative; women wear long enveloping black robes, and none ventures out without a headscarf. Barefoot boys leap among the rubble, kicking a battered soccer ball.

Graffiti looping across the camp's walls range from the grandiosely political to the humbly mundane. "No peace without our Jerusalem!" says one. Next to it is a hand-scrawled advertisement for a camp hairdresser.

Recent years have wrought some changes. When it rained, Khan Younis' streets used to run with raw sewage; today the water system is being upgraded. There is a new housing project of pale-yellow apartment buildings, a soon-to-open hospital.

But some things are much as they were when Mohammed Dahlan and Mohammed Deif were growing up in Khan Younis, their family homes separated by only a few trash-strewn streets.

The camp still sprawls right up to the barbed-wire-topped perimeter wall of the Jewish settlement of Gush Katif. Israeli soldiers man a nearby military checkpoint. The camp is still a prime recruiting ground for radical groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad, turning out foot soldiers and top leaders alike.

At least a half- dozen of the 30 Palestinian militants whose arrest was demanded by Israel in early November are from Khan Younis. It was the hometown of Hassan Salameh, the former No. 2 in Izzedine al Qassam who oversaw a series of deadly bombings before Israel shot and captured him two years ago.

Neither Dahlan nor Deif has lived in the camp for years, but both still have relatives there. However, none would speak to journalists or allow their photographs to be taken.

Acquaintances and associates of one or both men, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that as youngsters, the two moved in separate but overlapping circles. They attended the same elementary school, but at different times of the day like many in Gaza, where schools are so crowded that students go to classes in shifts.

Both went on to Gaza's Islamic University. Although both are described as sharply intelligent, neither graduated. Their real education came in street clashes that eventually escalated into the "intefadeh," the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Both served time in Israeli jails, and Dahlan was deported for anti-Israeli activity. Later, both settled into apprenticeships that would heighten a sense of blood loyalty to their chosen comrades.

Graphic

Photos by ADEL HANA/The Associated Press * Children at play: Palestinian children gather in one of the alleyways of the Khan Younis refugee camp last week. Both Mohammed Dahlan, chief of the Palestinian preventive security in Gaza, and Mohammed Deif, a top Hamas military leader, grew up together in these streets. * Common roots: The

TWO MEN, TWO VIEWS OF THE FUTURE FOR PALESTINIANS

Khan Younis refugee camp is a collection of dwellings packed together in the Gaza Strip. * New leader: Mohammed Dahlan is a rising star in Palestinian politics, reportedly impressing President Clinton when they met during peace negotiations.

Load-Date: November 9, 1998

End of Document

The race to find suicide bombers: Israel fears more martyrs are set to unleash their fury

The Ottawa Citizen

August 11, 2001 Saturday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 648 words

Byline: Ross Dunn

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli security forces were involved in an urgent hunt to find potential suicide bombers last night after receiving warnings that militant Islamic groups planned more deadly attacks.

Immediately after a suicide bomber killed at least 15 people at a Jerusalem restaurant on Thursday, the Palestinian organization Islamic Jihad mistakenly claimed one of its members had carried out the attack.

The man identified as the attacker later turned out to be still alive, however, and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, provided evidence to show one of its members had carried out the bombing.

The mistake alerted the Israeli security forces to the threat of another bomber planted somewhere inside its borders.

The Times of London

Israel now believes Islamic Jihad may have inadvertently revealed it had at least one of its operatives stationed inside Jerusalem for a suicide bombing and initially claimed responsibility out of the mistaken belief he initiated the blast. As a result, the hunt is on to find suspects from either group before they can strike again.

The search began as Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister, speaking during a visit to Melbourne, Australia, said Israel knew the identity of the man who orchestrated the fatal suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Thursday, and had demanded beforehand the Palestinians arrest him.

There are also signs of greater urgency on the Palestinian side about the need to prevent another devastating attack.

Three Palestinians were arrested yesterday for allegedly preparing a bomb confiscated along with explosives in a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Palestinian security officials said the suspects had been taken into custody with their heads covered. It was unclear if any of the three belonged to militant Islamic organizations.

The Palestinian police also confiscated a large bomb and two containers of TNT.

The race to find suicide bombers: Israel fears more martyrs are set to unleash their fury

After Thursday's explosion, Israel repeated its demand that the Palestinian Authority work to prevent such attacks by arresting suspected Islamic militants.

The typical profile of candidates for such missions is a single man in his late teens or early 20s, who is indoctrinated with the belief that his act will grant him a place in heaven.

But the rewards promised sometimes appear more worldly than divine. Some are told they will be blessed with dozens of virgin women.

Izzedine al-Masri, the 23-year-old Hamas member from the West Bank town of Jenin, who blew himself up inside the Jerusalem pizzeria, may have been offered such temptations.

His family insisted, however, that his aims were political: to avenge the deaths of eight Palestinians in an Israeli rocket attack in the West Bank city of Nablus last week. Two Hamas leaders and two children were counted among the dead.

The bomber's father, Shaheel Masri, 50, said that Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, was paying the price for daring to assassinate Palestinian political leaders and killing innocent civilians in the process.

"He is continuing the policy of killing our people, and my son succeeded in carrying out a suitable response," he said.

He said that he hoped other young Palestinian men might emulate his son's example, despite the sorrow that this might also bring to their families. He appeared more overwhelmed with grief than pride over his son's actions.

"I will weep for him all my life," he told reporters.

Hamas made pictures of his son public. The portrait of the young man, wearing the green headband of the organization and brandishing an automatic rifle, was adorned with verses from the Koran.

While the bombing has been condemned internationally for shedding the blood of innocents, including children, the bomber's brother, Eyad, viewed the incident as a notable achievement for the Palestinian people.

"This is a unique operation for its quality and success," he said.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Vadim Ghirda, The Associated Press ;, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas spiritual leader, warned yesterday during an interview at his home that further attacks, similar to Thursday's, that killed 15 people and wounded 90 in Jerusalem, must be expected.

Load-Date: August 11, 2001

Palestinians vow revenge at mass burial of raid victims

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 2, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A05; NEWS

Length: 519 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A huge Palestinian crowd chanted "Death to Israel" yesterday and buried eight people killed in an air strike, while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government dismissed international criticism and reasserted its intention to target militants for attack.

Following two days of violence that left 16 Palestinians dead, yesterday was filled with Palestinian protests, multiple street confrontations and a flurry of small-scale attacks on Israeli targets.

A Palestinian, Mohammed Sharabati, 35, was shot dead yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also, two suspected collaborators with Israel were killed in the West Bank, apparently by fellow Palestinians. They were identified as Nazem Abu Gharbieh, 47, from Ramallah and Ahmed Shawkat Salah, 40, from al-Khader.

In Gaza, a woman was lightly wounded in a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, the military and Israel radio said.

Palestinians said five Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near a bloc of Israeli settlements in Gaza.

The Israelis said Palestinians opened fire and threw grenades at Israeli positions there.

Palestinian anger was directed at Israel's helicopter raid Tuesday on the offices of the radical **Hamas** movement in Nablus, in the West Bank. The missile attack killed eight in the deadliest such assault during the current Mideast conflict and one of the most controversial.

The Israelis upped the ante by hitting a senior **Hamas** leader, Jamal Mansour, in contrast to the lower-level bombmakers and gunmen it targeted previously.

"What happened yesterday was a very dangerous escalation," said Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokeswoman.

In Nablus, a crowd estimated at 20,000 or more swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from the Nablus hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of **Hamas**, which has carried out numerous bombing attacks against Israel and opposes any peace negotiations.

Palestinians vow revenge at mass burial of raid victims

While the Palestinians and much of the international community have consistently condemned Israel's targeted attacks, the policy appears to have solid support in Israel, which has been hit by dozens of bomb blasts.

Israel said that Mansour, the slain **Hamas** leader, had helped orchestrate 10 bombing attacks against Israel since last fall that killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds.

"No one has immunity," said cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

In a statement after a five-hour meeting of the security cabinet, Sharon's office said that Israel reserves the right of self-defence and called for international pressure on the Palestinians to "immediately halt all terror, violence and incitement." The statement did not mention the helicopter attack in Nablus.

Palestinians called off the weekly meeting of security commanders set for yesterday, according to Yarden Vatikay, Israeli defence ministry spokesman. Recent meetings have ended in discord after the two sides traded charges.

Graphic

Colour Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Mourners carry the portraits of the Palestinian air-strike victims during a funeral procession yesterday.

Load-Date: November 1, 2001

Angry Israel flies Jewish flag over Palestinian seat of power

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 11, 2001 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 550 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem

Body

The Middle East appears headed for a dangerous escalation in violence after a suicide bombing prompted Israel to deliver a punishing blow to Palestinian political power in Jerusalem.

Israel retaliated swiftly yesterday to the bombing in a downtown pizza restaurant that killed at least 15 people, including five members of one family.

In a provocative move, Israel shut down the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Soldiers and police occupied and flew the flag of the Jewish state over Orient House, the building that has served as the centre of Arab political activity in east Jerusalem.

Yesterday's dramatic move by Israel's Prime Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, underlines his belief that no settlement of the conflict is possible under the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat.

In other retaliatory moves, Israeli fighter jets, described by the Palestinians as F-16s, flattened a police post in the West Bank, and tanks levelled a Gaza Strip police position in response to the bombing.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, and it appears many Palestinian police stations were evacuated before the attack.

An Israeli diplomatic official said Cabinet ministers decided at a late-night meeting to set up new Israeli police stations in East Jerusalem and uproot Palestinian security services.

The Cabinet Secretary, Mr Gideon Saar, said the operations were intended to "motivate the Palestinian Authority to carry out its commitments to fight against terror, to fight against violence, and honour the [ceasefire] agreements it signed".

The seizing of Orient House dramatically underlined how far the two sides have drifted apart.

A little over a year go, Mr Arafat rejected an unprecedented offer by the then Israeli prime minister, Mr Ehud Barak, to make Jerusalem the capital of two states, one Jewish and the other Arab.

The Islamic group **Hamas** has claimed responsibility for the restaurant killing, saying it was the work of Izzedine al-Masri, 23.

Angry Israel flies Jewish flag over Palestinian seat of power

Hamas said the operation was in revenge for an Israeli helicopter raid last week which killed eight Palestinians, including two **Hamas** leaders and two children.

Mr Arafat condemned the bombing, but avoided any direct criticism of **Hamas**, a group with which he has been trying to forge a formal political alliance.

He called for Israel to join the Palestinians in declaring a new ceasefire, even though all previous accords have failed. Mr Sharon rejected his pleas.

Mr Sharon telephoned the US Secretary of State, Mr Colin Powell, and advised him of Israel's actions.

President George Bush also called on Mr Arafat to "act now" to arrest those responsible.

But the Palestinian Information Minister and confidant of Mr Arafat, Mr Yasser Abed Rabbo, refused to express remorse over the killings.

"In the past few days at least 27 Palestinians were martyred, including children and **women**, by the policy of assassination that is officially adopted by the Israeli Government," he said.

Another member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr Hatem Abdel Qader, said: "All the options are open. We expect an unlimited Israeli military response. We have taken all measures of precaution for the possibility of engaging in an open war with Israel.

"Palestinians are no more tolerating the Israeli acts of terror, shelling, assassination, blockade and closure."

Graphic

ILLUS: Family tragedy ... as well as their parents, three of these children, aged 14, 4 and 18 months, died in the blast. The other two, aged 11 and 9, were wounded.

Load-Date: July 24, 2007

Palestinians bury their dead as Israel awaits backlash;

Irish News

August 02, 2001

Copyright 2001 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 18

Length: 584 words

Body

ANGRY Palestinians fired rifles into the air and called for revenge yesterday as tens thousands of mourners poured into the streets of Nablus in a noisy funeral procession for eight Palestinians killed a day earlier in an Israeli helicopter raid.

Clashes between armed Palestinians and Israeli forces followed the funeral. In the tense, divided West Bank town of Hebron, a Palestinian was killed during a gun battle.

Palestinians said Mohammed Sharabati (35) was shot by Israeli soldiers while he was driving his car. Palestinians fired at a Jewish enclave in the town centre.

There were also exchanges of gunfire near Ramallah and Nablus in the West Bank, the military said. No-one was hurt.

In Nablus, the huge crowd swarmed around the eight bodies as they were removed from a hospital morgue and carried through the streets on stretchers, covered with Palestinian flags.

Women and children screamed and cried. Many waved green flags of the radical Palestinian group Hamas, whose offices were the target of the assault.

"We will not stop our uprising, " Anan alAtiri, a spokeswoman for the Fatah movement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said at the funeral. "I think the coming days will be worse than before."

While mass Palestinian funerals have been commonplace during the 10 months of Mideast violence, yesterday's was one of the largest. No official crowd figures were available, but estimates began at 20,000.

Israeli security forces warned that Palestinian militants were likely to attempt a major attack, while government officials defended the Nablus assault despite international criticism.

The raid killed six people in the thirdfloor Hamas office, including a senior leader. Two brothers, aged five and eight, were killed by shrapnel on the street below the offices.

In most previous raids, Israel has concentrated on bomb makers or gunmen who have carried out attacks. But yesterday's attack targeted Jamal Mansour, a top Hamas leader.

Palestinians bury their dead as Israel awaits backlash;

Israel said Mansour was part of the Hamas leadership behind 10 bomb attacks since November, including a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 23 Israelis. He was planning additional attacks, Israel said, while the Palestinians called him a political figure.

"All those who are in charge of terrorism, all those who mastermind the terrorist attack on Israelis - we hold them accountable and they will bear the consequences.

"No-one has immunity, " cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh said. "I'm very glad that we succeeded in hitting the head of the snake, not the tail."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's security cabinet met for five hours and said Israel would continue the current policy of targeted attacks.

Israel's strike brought international reproach. Even the United States, Israel's leading ally, issued a condemnation.

State Department spokesman Charles Hunter said, "we continue to strongly oppose the Israeli policy of targeted attacks".

Palestinians began launching attacks against Israeli targets hours after the helicopter raid.

A small pipe bomb exploded in a park next to the King David Hotel, one of Jerusalem's best-known and most luxurious hotels.

Police said the blast caused no injuries or damage, but it added to the jittery atmosphere in Jerusalem, where Israeli security forces are on high alert.

Jerusalem police are now receiving 700 calls a day from nervous residents reporting suspicious objects and cars in the city, up from 250 daily calls before the Mideast violence began 10 months ago, said police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

Load-Date: September 27, 2001

Israelis in race to find more suicide bombers

The Times (London)

August 11, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 560 words

Byline: Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli security forces were involved in an urgent hunt to find potential suicide bombers last night after receiving warnings that militant Islamic groups planned more deadly terrorist attacks.

Immediately after a suicide bomber killed at least 15 people at a Jerusalem restaurant on Thursday, the Palestinian organisation Islamic Jihad mistakenly claimed that one of its members had carried out the attack.

The man identified as the attacker later turned out to be still alive, however, and **Hamas**, the Islamic Resistance Movement, provided evidence to show that one of its members had carried out the bombing. The mistake alerted the Israeli security forces to the threat of another bomber already planted somewhere inside the Jewish state.

Israel now believes that Islamic Jihad may have inadvertently revealed that it had at least one of its operatives stationed inside Jerusalem for a suicide bombing and initially claimed responsibility out of the mistaken belief that he had initiated the blast. As a result the hunt is now on to find suspects from either group before they can strike again.

The search began as Binyamin Netanyahu, the former Prime Minister, speaking during a visit to Melbourne in Australia, said that Israel knew the identity of the man who orchestrated the fatal suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Thursday and had demanded beforehand that the Palestinians arrest him.

There are also signs of greater urgency on the Palestinian side about the need to prevent another devastating attack. Three Palestinians were arrested yesterday for allegedly preparing a bomb that was confiscated along with explosives in a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Palestinian security officials said that the suspects had been taken into custody with their heads covered. It was unclear if any of them belonged to militant Islamic organisations.

The Palestinian police also confiscated a large bomb and two containers of TNT. After Thursday's explosion Israel repeated its demand that the Palestinian Authority work to prevent such attacks by arresting suspected Islamic militants.

The typical profile of candidates for suicide missions is a single man in his late teens or early 20s, who is indoctrinated with the belief that his act will grant him a place in Heaven. But the rewards promised sometimes appear more worldly than divine. Some are told that they will be blessed with dozens of virgin **women**.

Izzedine al-Masri, the 23-year-old **Hamas** member from the West Bank town of Jenin, who blew himself up inside the Jerusalem pizzeria, may have been offered such temptations. His family insisted, however, that his aims were

Israelis in race to find more suicide bombers

political: to avenge the deaths of eight Palestinians in an Israeli rocket attack in the West Bank city of Nablus last week. Two **Hamas** leaders and two children were counted among the dead.

The bomber's father, Shaheel Masri, 50, said that Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, was paying the price for daring to assassinate Palestinian political leaders and killing innocent civilians. "He is continuing the policy of killing our people and my son succeeded in carrying out a suitable response," he said. **Hamas** made pictures of his son public. The portrait of the young man, wearing the green headband of the organisation and brandishing an automatic rifle, was adorned with verses from the Koran.

Letters, page 19

Load-Date: August 12, 2001

End of Document

Israel sends in fighter jets to avenge restaurant bloodbath

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 11, 2001 Saturday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 533 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem

Body

Israel deployed tanks and warplanes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday to punish the Palestinian leadership for the suicide bombing which killed at least 16 people in a Jerusalem restaurant packed with families.

Many of the victims were women and children, and five of the dead came from one family. Police seized the main Palestinian headquarters in and around East Jerusalem in a deeply symbolic campaign to assert control over the city.

Fighter jets, described by the Palestinians as F-16s, flattened a police post in the West Bank and tanks levelled a Gaza Strip police position in response to the bombing.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and it appears many Palestinian police stations were evacuated before the attack.

An Israeli diplomatic official said Cabinet ministers decided at a late-night meeting to set up new Israeli police stations in East Jerusalem and uproot Palestinian security services.

The Cabinet Secretary, Mr Gideon Saar, said the operations were intended to "motivate the Palestinian Authority to carry out its commitments to fight against terror, to fight against violence, and honour the [ceasefire] agreements it signed".

Following the blast, Palestinian officials in the Gaza Strip said Israeli tanks had moved several hundred metres inside their self-rule areas.

The most severe blow to the Palestinians was Israel's shutting down of their political institutions in Jerusalem.

The move was a direct challenge to the authority of the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, who has said there will be no end to the conflict unless Jerusalem becomes the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the restaurant killing, saying it was the work of Izzedine al-Masri, 23.

Hamas said the operation was in revenge for an Israeli helicopter raid last week that killed eight Palestinians in Nablus, including two Hamas leaders and two children.

Israel sends in fighter jets to avenge restaurant bloodbath

Mr Arafat condemned the bombing but avoided any direct criticism of Hamas, a group with whom he has been trying to forge a formal political alliance.

He called for Israel to join the Palestinians in declaring a new ceasefire agreement, even though all previous accords have failed.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, rejected Mr Arafat's pleas.

Mr Sharon telephoned the US Secretary of State, Mr Colin Powell, and advised him of Israel's actions.

The US President, Mr George Bush, also called on Mr Arafat to "act now" to arrest those responsible for the bombing.

But the Palestinian Information Minister and confidante of Mr Arafat, Mr Yasser Abed Rabbo, refused to express remorse over the killings.

"In the past few days at least 27 Palestinians were martyred including children and women by the policy of assassination that is officially adopted by the Israeli Government," he said.

Another member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr Hatem Abdel Qader, said: "All the options are open. We expect an unlimited Israeli military response.

"We have taken all measures of precaution for the possibility of engaging in an open war with Israel.

"Palestinians are no more tolerating the Israeli acts of terror, shelling, assassination, blockade and closure."

Graphic

ILLUS: Family tragedy ... as well as their parents, three of these children, aged 14, 4 and 18 months, died in the blast. The other two, aged 11 and 9, were wounded.

Load-Date: July 24, 2007

17 dead as vengeance grips the Middle East

DAILY MAIL (London)

May 19, 2001

Copyright 2001 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 710 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Body

AT LEAST 17 were dead last night after Israeli fighter jets hit back over a Palestinian suicide bombing earlier in the day.

In the worst day of violence since the Palestinian uprising began last September, the bomber killed himself and six others in an attack at a shopping centre.

Israel responded by launching air strikes on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, killing at least nine.

U.S. president George W Bush condemned the 'new level of intensity' in Middle East conflict, urging leaders to 'break the cycle of violence' and to speak out clearly against further bloodshed.

UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen warned that the situation was 'on the verge of escalating to uncontrollable levels' and called for political dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing at the coastal city of Netanya, north of Tel Aviv.

More than 110 people, including babies and children, were injured, some critically.

The dead were four **women** and three men.

Hamas said the attack, the deadliest Palestinian suicide bombing since the uprising started, was the seventh of ten planned explosions.

Witnesses said a young Arab man 'with a cold look in his eyes' was stopped by a security guard as he tried to enter the Sharon shopping mall at around 11.30am.

He then detonated explosives attached to a belt around his waist.

The blast hurled bodies through the air and tore down the facade of the mall, creating panic among shoppers who had packed stores ahead of the Jewish sabbath. Bloodied survivors screamed for help.

An abandoned pram stood upright among the rubble.

17 dead as vengeance grips the Middle East

Police said the baby had survived but was in a serious condition. About 50 Israeli onlookers stood nearby chanting: 'Death to Arabs.' The bomber, 21-year-old Mahmoud Ahmed Marmash, was hailed a martyr in his home town of Tulkarem on the West Bank.

His mother, who did not know he was a **Hamas** member, said he had been a devout Moslem.

He had given her a bag of sweets before setting off on his suicide mission.

Hamas said the attack was in response to the killing of five Palestinian paramilitary policemen on Monday in the West Bank, an attack Israel has since called a mistake.

After the suicide bombing, Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli driving near a Jewish settlement close to the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Israel launched its retaliatory air attacks using F16 fighter jets and helicopter gunships after a meeting between Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and senior cabinet ministers.

At least eight policemen died in the raid on the West Bank town of Nablus in which the warplanes struck a Palestinian security outpost, the governor's office and a prison, causing major damage. Three more were missing and 54 were injured.

The apparent target of the raid was the prison where Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a suspected mastermind of several **Hamas** bombings, was held.

But his brother Mustafa said Abu Hanoud, who tops Israel's wanted list, was only injured.

In a simultaneous strike, missiles hit a building housing members of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Force 17 security forces in Ramallah. One man was killed and there were 14 casualties.

The intended target, Mahmoud Damra, a Force 17 commander accused by Israel of organising ambushes on the West Bank, was not in the compound.

Israeli warplanes also went into action in the northern part of the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip.

They fired at least 14 missiles at targets, knocking out power in Gaza City.

Helicopter gunships rocketed buildings of the Palestinian coast guard and Tulkarem, the suicide bomber's home town. More than 20 were injured in Gaza and Tulkarem.

A spokesman for Mr Sharon said the use of F16 fighter jets for the first time in the eight-month Palestinian uprising was justified by the 'seriousness' of the situation.

Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said: 'This is a new escalation. This is a new wave of Israeli terror against Palestinian people.'

* British and American warplanes carried out bombing raids on Iraq yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed coalition aircraft dropped four bombs on a surface-to-air missile target after they were fired on over southern Iraq.

There were said to have been no casualties.

Load-Date: May 20, 2001

PORTRAIT OF A SUICIDE BOMBER

The Toronto Star

March 30, 2001, Friday, Edition 1

Copyright 2001 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 705 words

Byline: Sandro Contenta

Body

19-year-old changed from top student

to religious zealot

RAMALLAH, West Bank - The poster of suicide bomber Dia Tawil is plastered all over this Palestinian-controlled town - a bearded young man in a navy blue turtleneck with two M16 rifles sprouting like wings from his back.

The posters praise him as a martyr, part of a spate of Palestinian bomb and suicide attacks that have hit Israel this week.

But his family was in shock yesterday, still trying to understand how a high-scoring engineering student from a middle-class home could strap explosives to his waist and detonate them near a bus full of Israelis in Jerusalem Tuesday - injuring 30 people.

"I never knew that he was planning something," said Tawil's sister, Nida, sitting in her uncle's home, where women mourners came to pay their respects to Tawil's distraught mother.

The family only learned he was a member of Hamas when the militant group made public a videotape of Tawil. Sitting at a table, framed by rifles, Tawil declared himself one of the martyrs "prepared to turn their bodies and their bones into shrapnel that will kill the Zionist occupiers."

After Tawil's suicide attack, another suicide bomber blew himself up Wednesday and killed two Israeli teenagers waiting near the Israeli-occupied West Bank to catch a bus to school. Hamas also claimed responsibility for that attack.

The back-to-back suicide attacks pushed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to order missile strikes against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's presidential guard, who are accused of having links to Hamas.

Nida said her brother, who was to turn 20 next month, would sometimes praise suicide bombers.

"He would talk about it, but I never knew he was serious. He would say, 'I adore these people who do explosions and give their souls to their country and to God.'"

PORTRAIT OF A SUICIDE BOMBER

"I said, 'Do you have the courage?'

"He said, 'Yeah, why not?'

"I said, 'Don't do this to us,' " Nida said.

Tawil dreamed of becoming an electrical engineer and was in his second year of studies at Bir Zeit University, the premier Palestinian university in the West Bank.

He was the only devoutly religious member in his family. His father is a journalist, his mother a teacher, and his two sisters and brother speak English fluently. His sister Nida, 22, spent three years studying computer engineering in Miami, Fla.

The family lives 50 metres from the Ayosh junction, one of the most violent flashpoints in the six-month-old uprising to end Israel's occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As the daily toll of Palestinian victims mounted, Tawil became more and more religious, praying at the local mosque five times a day, Nida said. When a nine-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by an Israeli bullet while in his home two weeks ago, Nida said her brother broke down and cried.

"He couldn't live with what was happening. All the time he was looking for a way to change it," Nida said.

"He believed that the only solution to the problem was to go back to Islam. He believed that if we take Islam as a law for what we do, our life will be so much better."

Nida said Westerners who object to her brother trying to kill innocent Israelis should think about all the times the Israeli army has shot and killed innocent Palestinians.

"When they kill us, they don't care if we are soldiers or civilians."

Retired Israeli army Col. David Hacham, former adviser on Arab affairs for the army in the Gaza Strip, said groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad recruit suicide bombers at mosques and universities.

They're generally young, religious zealots, who are indoctrinated with hatred of Jews, and the conviction that committing suicide in a jihad or holy war will get them a heavenly reward, Hacham said.

Nida said she saw her brother two days before the bombing..

"He came from praying at the mosque and he said, 'I need to go to sleep. I don't want anyone to disturb me. I need to relax,' " she said.

The next morning, he told his brother he would be sleeping at a friend's house that night. Later, he called his mother at her school and spoke to her for the last time.

The next day, Tawil stood at the side of a busy road in Jerusalem's French Hill neighbourhood and blew himself up when a bus passed by.

Graphic

AP PHOTO

BOMBING SUSPECT:

This video image of a Palestinian student, identified as Dia Tawil, was released by **Hamas** Wednesday.

PORTRAIT OF A SUICIDE BOMBER

Load-Date: March 30, 2001

End of Document

Bloody revenge

Manchester Evening News

October 3, 2001

Copyright 2001 Manchester Evening News

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 214 words

Body

Five Palestinians die in tank attack

FIVE Palestinians were killed by Israeli tank fire in the Gaza Strip early today. Tanks moved in to Palestinian territory near the Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai in Gaza and shelled police stations, Palestinians said.

The action follows an earlier incident in which armed Palestinians infiltrated the settlement and killed two Israelis, a new stage in a year of fighting, further clouding US efforts to calm the conflict. The retaliation followed a special session of the Israeli security Cabinet, which declared that the military would take whatever steps were necessary to defend their citizens. The move indicates that a decision to withhold responses to Palestinian attacks, part of a week-old truce, had been cancelled.

It was the first time Palestinians had invaded a settlement and killed civilians since the current fighting broke out. A statement after the Cabinet meeting said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is responsible for preventing attacks, though the militant **Hamas** took responsibility for the murders.

Arafat's Palestinian Authority denounced the incursion, but Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that Arafat has done nothing to stop militants from attacking Israelis, despite the latest truce, declared last Wednesday.

Graphic

TENSION . . . **women** escape with their children from the Alei Sinai camp, where **Hamas** gunmen killed two people

Load-Date: October 3, 2001

Peres and Arafat plan weekend talks

The Australian

November 1, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 417 words

Byline: * Correspondents in Jerusalem

Body

WHILE Israel launched a deadly blitz on Palestinian militants last night and tanks and troops continued their occupation of parts of four West Bank towns, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat announced plans to meet at the weekend.

Mr Peres said he expected to meet Mr Arafat in Spain during a weekend economic conference, but cautioned against hopes of a breakthrough.

"Negotiations should be prepared very carefully, otherwise it will create a disappointment instead of a hope," he said.

AP, AFP

A **Hamas** leader and another member of the Islamist group were killed in the Israeli blitz and two members of Islamic Jihad were arrested.

The sudden raids across the West Bank came as British Prime Minister Tony Blair was due to fly in to boost peace efforts.

Jamil Jadallah Halisa, a senior member of **Hamas**'s armed wing wanted for the killing of two Jewish settlers, was killed in a helicopter rocket attack in the West Bank town of Hebron. The Israeli army said the attack, which injured two others, had "foiled a bomb attack he was about to commit in Israel".

It accused Halisa of having also been involved in the notorious June 1 attack on a Tel Aviv nightclub in which a suicide bomber killed 20.

About the same time yesterday, **Hamas** member Abdullah el-Jarushi, 39, was killed by Israeli machinegun fire after he left his sister's house in Tulkarem, in the northern West Bank, Palestinian medics said.

Israeli troops with tanks and bulldozers demolished houses and razed farmland in the Gaza Strip yesterday, wounding five Palestinians.

Three young **women** and a taxi driver were injured when Israeli forces opened fire on their car on a main Gaza Strip road near the Jewish settlement at Netzarim.

Palestinian medics and security officials said Israeli troops also shot and wounded a mentally ill Palestinian man who was walking east of Gaza City near the Israeli border.

Peres and Arafat plan weekend talks

No Israeli-Palestinian contacts were reported about arranging an Israeli pullout from the four occupied towns -- Qalqilya, Jenin, Ramallah and Tulkarem -- but an Israeli official said quiet diplomacy was needed rather than public statements.

The US renewed its call for Israeli forces to withdraw.

In Rome, Mr Arafat called on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to resume negotiations to save the peace process.

All day yesterday, Israeli police kept a tight grip on Israel's north, saying they had concrete warnings of terrorists about to strike there. Roadblocks caused huge traffic jams in the area.

Load-Date: October 31, 2001

End of Document

Briefly

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

December 19, 2001 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C02; Canada & World Brief

Length: 652 words

Body

ONTARIO

Vaccine against E. coli

BELLEVILLE -- Ontario is providing \$1.3 million to evaluate the effectiveness of a cattle vaccine against the lethal strain of E. coli bacteria.

That is the bacteria that killed seven people last year in Walkerton.

The new project includes a field trial of a vaccine, developed in western Canada, in 100 beef cow-calf herds across southern Ontario.

Agriculture Minister Brian Coburn said yesterday that if the strain can be reduced in cattle, that could in turn cut the risk of it being transferred to people.

The Hamilton Spectator

Charity benefits from voyeur

TORONTO -- A man who used a digital camera to photograph up women's skirts at last summer's Molson Indy got a second dose of justice yesterday.

Michael Glass, 36, of Newcastle, Ont., was given a conditional discharge.

Glass was ordered to make a \$500 donation to a charity that deals with violence against women after pleading guilty to mischief.

Glass received some street justice in July when a woman's boyfriend punched him in the face and broke the camera after the woman complained about the voyeur.

Police originally arrested the boyfriend.

Glass was later charged following an investigation.

CANADA

Food poison hits councillors

FREDERICTON -- It wasn't a staff Christmas party that will be remembered fondly.

Briefly

The City of Fredericton threw a party for staff and councillors last weekend, and 43 people came away with food poisoning.

Mayor Les Hull said the Health Department is investigating the cause.

Toy a danger to children

TORONTO -- A musical, vibrating baby toy has been voluntarily recalled because its parts could present a choking hazard for young children.

Brigitta's Import Inc., the Canadian distributor of Baby Buzz'rs, has learned that four or five red, blue and green plastic button covers on 10,000 toys shipped before Sept. 1 have become detached from the toys.

Consumers can return the product to the store from which it was purchased for a full refund.

Hamas added to terrorist list

OTTAWA -- Ottawa has expanded its list of suspected terrorist groups to include all elements of the **Hamas** organization.

Previously, the federal government had excluded the charity arm of **Hamas** from its list of groups and individuals whose financial assets will be frozen if found in any Canadian financial institution.

Hamas is the organization that claimed responsibility for several deadly suicide attacks in Israel in recent weeks.

Fewer road fatalities in 2000

OTTAWA -- Transport Canada announced yesterday that road fatalities declined 1.8 per cent in 2000 from the previous year and were lower than in any year since 1955.

However, there was a 2.4 per cent increase in injuries from 1999, with 155,968 collisions accounting for 227,500 injuries.

There were 2,560 collisions leading to 2,917 deaths in 2000, said a report compiled by Transport Canada and the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators.

WORLD

Canada supports intervention

UNITED NATIONS -- A Canadian-sponsored commission made public a study yesterday supporting military intervention in countries that are unable to prevent, or deliberately allow, large-scale massacre of civilians.

Known in the past as "humanitarian intervention" in order to end genocide or massive killing of people, it involves interference in sovereign states and has worried many governments.

But Canada took up the challenge of defining the possibility of such an intervention and Prime Minister Jean Chretien last year set up the 12-member commission to study it.

Ebola death toll on the rise

LIBREVILLE, Gabon -- An outbreak of the deadly Ebola disease in the remote northeastern jungles of this Central African country appeared to be spreading as the death toll rose yesterday to 13.

Health authorities have identified 19 suspected cases, World Health Organization spokesman Gregory Hartl said in Geneva.

That was three more than Monday, when 12 deaths were reported.

Briefly

--Spectator news services

Load-Date: January 1, 2002

End of Document

Killings threaten peace deal; * MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 1, 1999 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 16

Length: 507 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

The killing of two religious Jews in Israel in a possible terrorist attack threatens to undermine the peace mission to the Middle East by the United States Secretary of State, Dr Madeleine Albright.

News of the double murder came on the eve of Dr Albright's scheduled trip to the region and a planned signing ceremony tomorrow in Cairo of an agreement on the implementation of the US-brokered Wye River Accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israeli police suspect Islamic militants are responsible for the brutal stabbings of Yehiel Shai Finchter, 26, and his girlfriend, Sharon Steinitz, 21, whose bodies were found in the Megiddo forest, between Israel and the northern part of the West Bank.

Their car was found some kilometres away from their bodies, near Tel Megiddo, the name associated with the New Testament's Book of Revelations Armageddon, the place where some believe the end of the world will begin.

"The motives are not known to us now but we are emphasising the nationalist side," said the Northern Police Commander, Mr Alik Ron.

"The line of thought is that there was a connection to their being Jewish."

Some newspapers in Israel reported that Ms Steinitz had been raped but police gave no confirmation other than to say there were "signs" of other violence on the victims.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ehud Barak, said he was "deeply shocked" by the killings and officials in his office said that if there were proven political motives behind the murders then the Government would call off the signing ceremony in Cairo tomorrow.

The Egyptian President, Mr Hosni Mubarak, has been involved in mediation efforts to have Israel and the Palestinians agree on the implementation of the Wye River Accord.

Under the agreement, Israel is to withdraw more troops from the West Bank to allow more of the territory to come under Palestinian self-rule.

The two sides expressed optimism earlier this week that they could resolve their differences over the timetable for the next troop pull-backs but are still arguing over how many Palestinian prisoners should go free.

Killings threaten peace deal * MIDDLE EAST

Israeli commentators such as Mr Roni Shaked in the Hebrew newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth suggested that the latest killings were not a reason to call off the negotiations.

He found it hard to believe that groups such as Hamas or the Islamic Jihad were behind the attack.

"Hamas has given the green light to its people to commence terrorist attacks with shootings or by laying bombs, but this style of murder does not conform to Islamic terror," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Hamas is definitely being seen as a threat in Jordan where there has been a crackdown against the organisation by the authorities.

On Monday Jordanian security forces stormed the offices of Hamas in the capital, Amman, and arrested several members of the fundamentalist Muslim group.

The head of the organisation in Jordan, Mr Khalid Meshaal, was abroad at the time but his wife, Umm Walid, said police ransacked her husband's office "searched all his papers, shut down the bureau and arrested four of his employees".

Graphic

Illus: Palestinian women demonstrate with their hands in chains for the release of their relatives from Israeli jails. Photograph by REUTERS/ABED OMAR

Load-Date: August 8, 2007

Radio: Radio review: Talk of the devil

The Guardian (London)

November 26, 2001

Copyright 2001 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 429 words

Byline: Elisabeth Mahoney

Body

For those who doubt that the world has really changed since September 11, Making Terror, Breaking Terror (World Service) is irrefutable evidence that it has. A three-part study of what terrorism means today, this is a deeply intelligent series of programmes asking all the questions we've only lately been mulling over. What it made me realise was that we should have heard such broadcasts long ago.

Allan Little began his investigation with Mayor Giuliani's statement on the fight against terror: "We're right and they're wrong. It's as simple as that." Within the first 30 minutes the programme had brought into view everything that unravels such certainty: the complications, contradictions and moral ambiguities surrounding the idea of terrorism. When does a terrorist become a freedom fighter? Is Islamic extremism morally different to the violence of ETA? Is any cause worth armed struggle? What other options do the disempowered truly have? "If one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter, how should one define terrorism?" was one of many big questions asked by Little. I'm not sure that the programmes are going to come up with all the answers, but it's good to have these questions asked just now.

What I liked best were the smaller details emerging from the case studies of terrorist groups distinguished by their levels of grassroots support - the Tamil Tigers and Hamas. Recruitment procedures for suicide bombers vary between groups: the Tigers like to recruit women because culturally in Sri Lanka there's a reticence about giving them body searches; Hamas begin their selection by suggesting recruits go to early prayers, at 5am: "If you don't have stamina enough for that, you're not committed enough." The next stage is smuggling guns across Israeli checkpoints, with the threat of a life sentence if caught, and monitoring of stress levels throughout. Terrorism is classically "the weapon of the weak"; Hamas knows that not all of its volunteers are strong enough for what might lie ahead.

Text Message (Radio 3) could only have been written in recent months, too, and as part of The Wire series of new writing by award-winning writers - this week, Jeanette Winterson. Her protagonist, Amy Bright, realises the triviality of her life only after events in New York and a near-death experience whilst feeding penguins. This was too writerly a play for radio, with dialogue that felt smart rather than real. "They didn't blow up truth, they blew up a fantasy," says one character, consoling another. That's true, but somehow it didn't feel it.

Load-Date: November 26, 2001

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR;
The Middle East Conflict

The International Herald Tribune

December 7, 2001 Friday

Copyright 2001 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 246 words

Body

Regarding "Ending the Occupation Is the Only Way to Go" (Opinion, Dec. 4) by Amin Saikal: Mr. Saikal attempts to justify the suicide bombings in Israel and to place the blame for them on Israeli policies.

The bombings were the work of Hamas, an organization whose aim is to destroy Israel by any means necessary and to impose a fundamentalist Islamic state on the Palestinian people -- not so different from the medievalist rule of the Taliban, whose overthrow Mr. Saikal supports.

International Herald TribuneThe recent suicide bombings killed and wounded scores of innocent men, women and children -- people like Rosalie Reyes, a citizen of the Philippines, who came to Israel to earn money to put her two sons through college. Mr. Saikal implies that suicide bombing is the only option available to the "mostly unarmed" Palestinians. On the contrary, a campaign of nonviolent resistance would have won the support of the international community and, I suspect, many Israelis as well. I am an Israeli citizen and have been a supporter of a two-state solution with Israel returning to the 1967 borders. I live near the site of the Jerusalem bombings and heard the explosions. I begin to suspect that a withdrawal from Palestinian lands will lead not to the peace I long for but to Hamas at my doorstep. The cards are not only in Israeli hands, but Palestinian ones as well. Suicide bombings are brutal terrorism and not "liberationist resistance." EVE FLEISHER-LEVI. Jerusalem.

Load-Date: December 7, 2001

Palestinians die as West Bank simmers

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

October 9, 2001, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 249 words

Body

A PALESTINIAN suicide bomber killed himself and an Israeli in northern Israel and the army shot dead a Palestinian in the West Bank, as Israel braced for more attacks on its territory after the US-led military strikes on Afghanistan.

The Palestinian was shot dead and three others injured when Israeli forces opened fire on their taxi in the flashpoint West Bank town of Hebron, under Israeli siege since Friday following the killing of two female Jewish pilgrims visiting for the holiday of Sukkot.

Earlier yesterday, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed himself and an Israeli in northern Israel. The attack came as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat finally launched a crackdown on hardline Islamist groups like Jihad and Hamas which have promised to torpedo the truce he agreed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on September 26.

Israel has demanded the arrest of Palestinian militants as an absolute condition for going ahead with the ceasefire, and has hinted it will return to its controversial hunt-and-kill policy if Arafat does not jail the men Israel sees as the biggest threat. * Meanwhile, Palestinian police shot dead two protesters during a rally in support of Osama bin Laden yesterday, the first time Palestinians have been killed by their own security forces since the start of the anti-Israel revolt.

In Gaza, witnesses said Palestinian police shot the two demonstrators while dispersing stone-throwers at a rally organised by the militant Islamic group Hamas in Gaza City.

Load-Date: October 9, 2001

Mall bombing triggers deadly day in Mideast;
After a suicide bomber killed 5 Israelis, Israel struck back with F-16s.
The day's toll: At least 16 dead, 137 wounded.<

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 19, 2001 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 971 words

Byline: Barbara Demick INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: NETANYA, Israel

Body

An 18-year-old Palestinian blew himself up yesterday at the entrance to a bustling Israeli shopping mall in the seaside city of Netanya, launching a day of violence and counterviolence that left at least 16 people dead.

The day saw the first bombing of the West Bank and Gaza since the 1967 war and produced the highest single-day death toll since the start of the Palestinian uprising in late September.

In the aftermath of the mall explosion, which killed five Israelis as well as the bomber, Israel struck Palestinian facilities in the occupied territories - not with the usual attack helicopters but with F-16 fighter planes. Their use for the first time in the uprising is yet another sign that the violence is teetering at the edge of full-scale war.

One of the planes' targets was a Palestinian police building in the West Bank city of Nablus, where Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a leader of the Islamic militant movement **Hamas**, was being held in protective custody. **Hamas** had claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli shopping mall. Palestinian sources said eight people were killed by the air strikes; Hanoud was not among them.

Another air strike, directed at a Palestinian security installation in Ramallah, left one dead.

During the afternoon, an Israeli motorist was shot dead while driving past a West Bank settlement, bringing the death toll for the day to six Israelis and 10 Palestinians. An additional 72 Israelis and 65 Palestinians were wounded.

President Bush yesterday expressed his concern, saying, "Violence will not lead to peace." He added, "I am especially concerned about suicide bombers who have disregard for themselves and for innocent folk."

In a toughly worded statement, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan accused Israel of an excessive reaction to the "appalling" suicide bombing by a Palestinian militant. "I am deeply disturbed by the disproportionate Israeli

Mall bombing triggers deadly day in Mideast; After a suicide bomber killed 5 Israelis, Israel struck back with F-16s. The day's toll: At least 16 dead, 137 wounded....

response to today's appalling terrorist attack in Netanya," Annan said. "While I have repeatedly made clear my utter condemnation of terrorism from whatever quarter - and do so again - I can only regard this response as excessive and misdirected. Its effect will inevitably be to increase bitterness even further on the Palestinian side."

The suicide bombing at the Sharon Mall rocked Netanya at 11:30 a.m., the busiest time of the week as Israelis rush to finish their shopping before Sabbath begins at sunset Friday. A few minutes before the blast, passersby had noticed the terrorist, who was dressed in a bulging coat despite the warmth of the day.

"I saw a young man with an Arab face, a mustache, very well-dressed, neat, with a huge blue jacket, and I was saying to my father quietly, 'Look, Dad - it's a terrorist,' " Shiboulet Aboudi told Israel radio. "He looked at me with a cold look in his eyes."

By the time the bomber approached the mall's entrance, several shoppers had called police from their mobile phones. Security guards, who routinely check shoppers' bags, blocked his entry into the mall but were not quick enough to stop the bombing.

"I looked him in the eye, and he blew himself up," said security guard Lior Kamissa, speaking from his hospital bed. "I didn't see him push a button, nothing. He just exploded and disappeared."

The bomber was identified as Mahmoud Marmash, 18, of Tulkarm, a West Bank town six miles from Netanya. (Unlike the situation between Israel and the Gaza Strip, no fence separates Israel from the West Bank, and an estimated 20,000 Palestinian workers cross into Israel daily, many of them without permits.)

The explosion ripped out the entryway of the three-level, glass-fronted mall, scattering baby strollers, shopping bags and body parts across the sidewalk. More than 100 people were injured, including a 6-month-old baby and a 5-year-old child. The Orthodox Jews who have taken on the task of picking up bits of flesh from the pavement to allow for a proper burial after such events spoke of weeping as they went about their work.

Meanwhile, many Netanya residents simply seethed.

"When they go to mosque to pray, we should go in and shoot everyone," raged Shlomo Genish, 33, an Israeli carpenter watching cleanup crews hose down a sidewalk from across the street. "It doesn't matter if they are women and children. In the end, they are all the same. If they are capable of wounding the innocent, they deserve the same punishment."

Six miles away in Tulkarm, the hometown of the bomber, Palestinians voiced the same all-consuming hatred, using much the same language. "All Israelis are soldiers, 18 years and up. They do to us the same," shrugged Ibrahim Abu Salah, 27, a computer programmer. "We find ourselves forced to kill. An angry man doesn't make a difference between soldiers and civilians."

Yesterday's bombing in Netanya was Hamas' most lethal since 1997, when 16 people were killed at a Jerusalem open-air food market. Since then, Hamas has been debilitated as Israeli forces assassinated some of its most capable bomb makers, and there has been a string of failed bombings. The most recent was April 30, when a young man blew up himself and his car next to an armored Israeli bus, which was barely damaged.

Israeli officials blamed Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority for the suicide bombing, although Hamas has at times opposed Arafat.

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for and adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Palestinian Authority had failed to keep Hamas militants in prison and had fomented an atmosphere encouraging violence.

"Today's heinous bombing in Netanya, resulting in the death of innocent Israeli civilians, is just the latest result of a venomous campaign of incitement waged by the Palestinian Authority against Israel," Gissin said in a statement.

Barbara Demick's e-mail address is foreign@phillynews.com.

Mall bombing triggers deadly day in Mideast; After a suicide bomber killed 5 Israelis, Israel struck back with F-16s. The day's toll: At least 16 dead, 137 woun....

Nomi Morris contributed to this report.

Graphic

PHOTO;

GARY RABINOVICH, Associated Press - Israeli medics remove a body at the shattered entrance of the Sharon Mall in Netanya. Five people and the bomber died in the blast.

Load-Date: October 31, 2001

End of Document

**ISRAELIS RETALIATE FOR SETTLEMENT RAID;
TANKS FLATTEN OUTPOSTS; 6 PALESTINIANS KILLED**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 4, 2001 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 650 words

Byline: LEE HOCKSTADER, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip

Body

The Israeli tanks and armored bulldozers began to roll at dawn, less than 12 hours after Palestinian gunmen cut through a perimeter fence and raided a Jewish settlement near here, killing two youths and wounding 15 others.

Roaring into Palestinian-controlled territory and churning up great clouds of dust, they ripped up farmland where vegetables and strawberries grew, flattened at least seven Palestinian security outposts and killed six Palestinians, including four police officers and two men described by villagers here as farmers. Yesterday evening, the tanks remained on the outskirts of this village in the northern Gaza Strip, about a mile inside Palestinian territory.

There was no word when they might leave. It was clear, though, that the latest cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, declared two weeks ago and reaffirmed last week, was in tatters, along with American efforts to nudge the two sides back toward negotiations to help the Bush administration build a coalition against terrorism.

On a day filled with funerals, fury and talk of revenge, each side accused the other of terrorism and each warned of further escalation. This afternoon, two Israeli **women** were injured, one critically, when Palestinian gunmen opened fire on hundreds of Jewish worshippers gathered for a religious festival in the West Bank city of Hebron. Late yesterday evening, two more Israelis were injured in a drive-by shooting in Jerusalem's northern French Hill neighborhood.

Following a predawn meeting of the Israeli security cabinet, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon conveyed a tough message to Yasser Arafat. Sharon warned the Palestinian leader that Israel would resume harsher actions -- possibly including assassinations, Israeli analysts said -- unless he began arresting militants, including those from the Islamic Resistance Movement, or **Hamas**, which carried out the bloody raid on the Israeli settlement here Tuesday evening.

Israel also canceled a security coordination session between the two sides that was to have been brokered by the CIA, as well a meeting between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qurei that was intended to advance the ceasefire.

"We will not return to talks until we know the Palestinian Authority has reined in terror," said Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli defense minister.

ISRAELIS RETALIATE FOR SETTLEMENT RAID; TANKS FLATTEN OUTPOSTS; 6 PALESTINIANS KILLED

The Palestinians, for their part, accused Sharon of subverting the cease-fire by allowing Israeli troops to open fire at will. In the past week, Israeli forces have killed about 27 Palestinians, including teen-aged stone-throwers and bystanders.

Palestinian security officials said it is virtually impossible to crack down on militants while Israeli troops are killing people at such a rate. And Palestinian militants vowed to continue their attacks in revenge for Palestinian deaths and to end Israel's occupation.

"No one in the world can say to us that we should accept [these casualties] peacefully, silently," Abdul Aziz Rantissi, a ***Hamas*** official in Gaza, said in an interview as he sat in a wake for one of the ***Hamas*** gunmen killed in the raid Tuesday. "Telling us to accept a cease-fire is like telling us to accept [Israeli] occupation, and no one can say this to us."

The Israelis said the tank incursion was meant to carve a security buffer out around the tiny Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai, where the ***Hamas*** gunmen attacked. About four hours after they infiltrated the settlement, the two gunmen were shot dead by Israeli troops, but not before they had raced among the red tile-roofed houses hurling grenades through living room windows and shooting soldiers and civilians, including small children.

The two Israelis killed were a 19-year-old off-duty Israeli woman soldier who lived in Alei Sinai, Liron Harpaz, and her 20-year-old boyfriend, Assaf Yitzhaki, who was visiting her. Among the Israelis injured were a pair of children, aged 2 and 4.

Graphic

PHOTO: Laurent Rebours/Associated Press: Young Palestinians run from the scene as Palestinian and Israeli forces exchange gunfire yesterday in Beit Lahai in the northern Gaza Strip. Each side accused the other of breaking a truce declared last week.

Load-Date: October 5, 2001

'PREPARE THE COFFINS'

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 12, 1998, Sunday,

CITY EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,; (lcs)

Length: 548 words

Body

Land for peace. That was supposed to be the deal: Israel would cede territory, and in return its enemies would stop killing Jews.

In a year marking Israel's 50th anniversary, more than 95 percent of Palestinians now live under the Palestinian Authority, which controls every city on the West Bank. Israel has retreated from Hebron, released female Palestinian prisoners, turned over security operations to Yasser Arafat, and done much more to abide by the Oslo, Hebron, and other agreements. The other day Benjamin Netanyahu offered to withdraw from Lebanon the troops stationed there because of terrorist attacks. What has Israel received in return?

Broken promises, terrorism, and threats of more carnage.

Just the other day, after the killing of a prominent bomb-maker for the Hamas organization - apparently by other Hamas members - Hamas leaders threatened world-wide retaliation against Israel and its allies. More than 10,000 Palestinians joined anti-Israeli demonstrations, and a crowd of 3,000 in Nablus chanted, "Netanyahu, prepare the coffins!"

In February, as the U.S. tried to bring Saddam Hussein to heel, students in the West Bank and Gaza shouted, "Beloved Saddam, destroy Tel Aviv!" According to Palestinian polls, 77 percent of Palestinians support an attack by Hussein against Israel should the U.S. ever attack Iraq. The official Palestinian newspaper published, only seven months ago, an article asserting the "cooperation between the Jews and the Nazis during World War II" and the "forged claims of the Zionists alleging acts of slaughter perpetrated against the Jews during the same period."

In recent months the head of Arafat's security service has said, "The presence of Hamas on Palestinian territory is very important for building the Palestinian homeland." A member of the Palestinian Legislative Council has said, "Our war with Israel and the Jews has not ended and will not end until a Palestinian state is established over the entire land of Palestine." The Palestinian justice minister has declared, "The greatest enemy of the Palestinian people, now and always, is the Israelis."

Israeli children attend mandatory peace education classes. According to the January 4 Washington Post, there is a kindergarten class in a Mosque in Gaza: In the playroom, next to purple dogs and blue seals, hangs a tree-shaped poster with photographs of each member of the class. "Holy War Is Our Way," it says above the smiling kindergartners. "Death for God Is Our Highest Wish."

And Arafat himself?

'PREPARE THE COFFINS'

Although he long has promised to remove from the Palestinian charter the language calling for the destruction of Israel, and to uproot terrorist leaders, he has done neither. Instead, he has threatened to "cross out" the Oslo accord and encourage the resumption of violence. He needn't make such threats: Since Oslo, nearly 300 Israelis have died at the hands of Arab terrorists. "We know only one word," says Arafat to Arabic audiences. "Jihad, jihad, jihad."

Israel's promises, unlike Arafat's, are not reversible. Given this, and given that the Palestinian Authority does not yet seem serious about peace, Netanyahu was absolutely correct to say, in a March 31 speech: "We are not suckers. Israel cannot give and give, and not get anything back in return." Not forever, anyway.

Graphic

DRAWING

Load-Date: April 14, 1998

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