

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:40:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223361674

Documents (100)

1. [*Arafat moves to form new government, Palestinian leader reports progress in talks with militants*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [*Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

3. [*Israel seals Gaza Strip following suicide attack*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [*Terrorists die in Gaza shootout*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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5. [*Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

6. [27 Israeli pilots refusing to do Palestinian airstrikes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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7. [Bomber's family 'could not know'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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8. [Palestinians freeze funds of charities](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [Old man on donkey cart killed in Israeli air strike; It's 'clear this wasn't done on purpose'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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10. [REVENGE WREAKS REVENGE IN A LAND DIVIDED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [Palestinians rally to free prisoners: Militants held by Israel become new flashpoint](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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12. [Israel hits back after rocket kills boys](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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13. [Israel threatens attack on Syria : Damascus implicated in double bombing that killed 16 in Beersheba](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [SIX ISRAELIS KILLED IN BOMB ATTACK AT BUS STOP](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [International Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

17. [Israel Limits Holy Site Access; Vandals Deface Rabin Memorial](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [Arafat 'fears he will be killed next'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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20. [THOUSANDS JOIN RALLY TO DEMAND THAT ISRAEL FREE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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22. [Army of roses](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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23. [She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

24. [Arafat claims authority over security](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [A familiar tragedy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. [Terrorists Murder Scores In Israel , Russia , and Iraq](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Oct 31, 2004

27. [THE BOMBERS FROM BRITAIN ; SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR SUICIDE MISSION, THESE MEN PROCLAIM ON VIDEO:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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28. [Fence, prisoners stir protests by Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Oct 31, 2004

29. [Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Oct 31, 2004

30. [Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Oct 31, 2004

31. [16 dead, peace hopes dashed](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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32. [Gaza engulfed in death](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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33. [Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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34. [PALESTINIANS WANT WIDER RELEASE OF PRISONERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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35. [In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

36. [Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed. Some felt meeting doomed from start](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

37. [*An unheralded victory over terror*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

38. [*Palestinian kills 3 soldiers in attack on Gaza barracks*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

39. [*16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

40. [*Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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41. [*Palestinians express rage after airstrikes ; Israel contests account of attacks*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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42. [MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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43. [Lessons on converting terrorists ; Ben-Gurion made extreme politics into political capital](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

44. [Palestinians have parallels with Israelis before 1948](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

45. [US sends Powell in to rescue road map](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

46. [ISRAELI MISSILE STRIKE ON BLOCK IN RETALIATION FOR DEATHS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

47. [Any bid to save peace is worthy:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

48. [Sharon says Gaza raids will go on](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

49. [In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel, U.S.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

50. [Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

51. [ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

52. [LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE EAST How Ben-Gurion Did It: Is Everyone Listening?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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53. [At least 38 killed in string of violence around world](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

54. [Most Israelis oppose Sharon's assassination policy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

55. [How Ben-Gurion did it: Mahmoud Abbas's stance against terrorism echoes that of the Jewish leader who transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

56. [WHY THE SHEIKH HAD TO GO](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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57. [Mideast blood flows; Bomb, missiles shred peace map](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [*Palestinians have media on their side*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [*Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

60. [*Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

61. [*West Bank protests signal growing Mideast tensions*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

62. [*Doom & Gloom*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

63. [YOUR SAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [First female on death mission](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [Mother embraces murderous dream](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

66. [MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

67. [Israeli troops blow up Gaza buildings;](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [*News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [*Into the fire*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [*Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli - American*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [*Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others; Sharon hints he will have Yasser Arafat killed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

72. [*Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [View on Iraq](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [Gaza raid meets fierce resistance ; Night of fighting leaves 5 Palestinians and an Israeli dead](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [BURNING HATRED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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76. [2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS BY ARAB BOMBERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

77. [Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed in deadliest 48-hour period since this intefadeh began](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [Under orders](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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79. [Gunmen kill 3 soldiers at Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

80. [LETTERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [Prisoner release found wanting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

82. [Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [Mediators seek ceasefire from militants; Egyptian negotiators ask Palestinians to halt attacks on Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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84. [*Both sides must speak out against the use of violence*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

85. [*Israelis fire rockets near refugee camp*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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86. [*16 KILLED IN BUS BOMB ATTACKS; INJURY TOLL OVER 100*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

87. [*Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

88. [*Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

89. [Dispute deepens between Israelis and Palestinian over release of prisoners](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

90. [As deadly as the male Insight](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

91. [Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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92. [Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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93. [IRAQ THE AFTERMATH: GUARDED WELCOME FOR ISRAELI MOVES TO RELAX GRIP ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to

Oct 31, 2004

94. [*Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

95. [*SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROMGAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

96. [*How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

97. [*Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA I Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

98. [*Israel , Palestine a collaborative suicide*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

99. [*Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

100. [*A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

Arafat moves to form new government, Palestinian leader reports progress in talks with militants

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

September 18, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 395 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank - Yasser Arafat and leaders of his Fatah movement met today to choose ministers in the new Palestinian government, and the Palestinian leader reported progress in truce talks with Islamic militant groups.

Israel has rebuffed Arafat's recent cease-fire offers, saying it will press ahead with its campaign against terror suspects until Palestinian forces begin dismantling the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups.

In the Gaza Strip, Israel staged its first major incursion in several months, killing Jihad Abu Shwairah, 34, a leader of the Hamas military wing, in a shootout in the Nusseirat refugee camp early today.

Hundreds of soldiers were involved, an apparent signal to Hamas that Israel would not limit itself to airstrikes in Gaza.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, the Fatah Central Committee met today to choose candidates for 15 of 23 seats in the new Cabinet, giving Arafat virtual control over the government of Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qureia.

It was unclear whether the Fatah leaders would present Qureia with a slate of 15 ministers, or a list of candidates from which he would pick the ministers. The remaining eight ministers would represent other Palestinian groups or independents.

Originally, Qureia wanted to form an emergency Cabinet with about eight ministers, but Fatah and Arafat vetoed that.

Arafat's first prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, resigned Sept. 6 after power struggles with the Palestinian leader, a deadlock with Israel on a U.S.-backed peace plan and the collapse of a unilateral truce called by militant groups in June.

Qureia, presently the speaker of the Palestinian parliament, has a wider political base than Abbas and has said he does not intend to undercut Arafat.

Israel charges that Arafat is tainted by terrorism. Last week, after two Hamas suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis in a single day, the Israeli security Cabinet said it would "remove" Arafat at an unspecified time, leaving open the

Arafat moves to form new government, Palestinian leader reports progress in talks with militants

possibility of expulsion or assassination. The decision set off international condemnation and a wave of renewed Palestinian support for Arafat.

In Arafat's compound, male supporters have pitched tents and plan to act as human shields.

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian Cabinet minister, said that later today, women and children would move into three large mobile homes just outside Arafat's office to strengthen their ranks.

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

End of Document

Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

The Times (London)

March 27, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 24

Length: 1079 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Gaza City

Body

DAWN breaks and shafts of muted sunlight pierce through barbed wire on to the heads of Palestinian labourers queueing for work in Israel.

Suddenly an artificial sun blazes into the caged pen, and scores of men avert their faces, left eyeless in Gaza by the ferocity of the Israeli searchlight. A buzzer sounds, a staccato voice blares and the turnstiles creak into life.

Welcome to the Gaza Strip, 365 sq km of sand dunes, breeze-block refugee camps and heavily guarded Jewish settlements that lie at the intersection of Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean. The most densely populated area on earth, its 1.3 million Palestinian inhabitants, 80 per cent of them refugees, have been entirely sealed off from the outside world since Israel enclosed them inside a giant fence in 1994.

Although each of the 19,000 Palestinians in the queues feels humiliated by the cattle-pen conditions, today is a good day. Clutching their security clearances and raising pullovers to expose bare bellies to flak-jacketed Israeli soldiers, they will soon be allowed through the giant Erez crossing that is Gaza's one entry point into Israel. Although they do not know it, it will be the last good day for a while.

Within hours two Palestinian suicide bombers will kill ten Israelis at the nearby port of Ashdod and Israeli troops will once again seal off the Strip entirely, as they have done frequently since the fence was built in 1994. Days later helicopter missiles will kill the ***Hamas*** leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and any chance of Israel admitting Palestinians will evaporate for the foreseeable future.

Isolated, religious, socially conservative, and with two thirds of its Palestinians living below the \$ 2-a-day poverty line, Gaza is utterly dependent on Israel. The Jewish State says that the tight security is a vital protective measure to stem the flow of suicide bombers and gunmen who have killed nearly a thousand Israelis since the outbreak of renewed violence in 2000. But Palestinians point to their own nearly three thousand dead, saying that Israel's checkpoints, watchtowers, settlements, house demolitions and helicopter assassinations only fuel desperation.

Amid such mutual distrust Gaza provides fertile soil for extremist groups such as ***Hamas***, whose organisation, Islamist certainties and ferocious opposition to any deals with Israel make them a serious threat to Yassir Arafat's Fatah dominated Palestinian Authority.

World Bank figures show that unemployment stood at 31.9 per cent in Gaza in the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 20.7 per cent in the West Bank, and poverty rates estimated at 61.4 per cent in 2003, up from 58.6 per cent the year before.

Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

Paul McCann, of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, said: "Because 80 per cent of its people are landless and stateless they have no inheritance to hand down, and psychologically this is bound to reinforce feelings of anger and bitterness.

"Whereas in the West Bank the refugee population is diluted by Hebronites or Jerusalemites, in Gaza it is just the dispossessed. It has been described as a big prison camp for refugees, and this is not a bad explanation."

Historically Gaza appears in the Old Testament as one of five cities belonging to the Philistines, and was where a blinded and betrayed Samson brought his enemy's house crashing down.

Ruled by the Ottomans and British during the first half of the last century it was little more than a cluster of villages, citrus groves and dunes, a waypoint between Africa and Asia.

But its population of between 60,000 and 80,000 increased fivefold almost overnight in 1948 when more than 200,000 refugees fled fighting between Arab and Jewish forces in the war that led to the creation of Israel.

With virtually no social or economic infrastructure to support them, the vast throng were simply herded into the densely packed, insanitary enclaves by the Egyptian authorities who controlled Gaza for two decades from 1948.

Then, in 1967, Israel won the Six Day War and populated Gaza and the West Bank with Jewish settlers claiming their historic right to live anywhere in the biblical lands of Israel.

This gave Palestinians a new focus for hatred, combining with the dispossessed refugees' desire to return to their pre-1948 homes to boost support for hardline groups such as **Hamas**.

Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority still holds power in Gaza, controlling the Palestinian police and security forces, but **Hamas** is fast winning hearts and minds through its grassroots network of charities, mosques, welfare and educational organisations.

"**Hamas** has the general street support in Gaza. If there were elections tomorrow, it would win easily," one Palestinian official said.

Gaza's future was plunged into further uncertainty this year by the announcement from Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, that he was willing to withdraw unilaterally from the Strip. Senior aides confirm that he wants to sacrifice Gaza to secure Israel's hold on a far more important asset: its large West Bank settlement blocs around Jerusalem. But Mr Sharon does not want to withdraw from a position of weakness, and would like to crush the Palestinian militant groups first to stop them claiming the withdrawal as a victory.

One option would be a large-scale invasion of Gaza, but analysts believe that he is unlikely to risk hundreds of soldiers assaulting refugee camps such as Jabaliya, which is home to 109,000 people and has already erected sandbanks to ward off any attack.

"Low-intensity warfare is a very complicated type of combat in all populated areas, but in Gaza it is extremely problematic," said reserve Colonel Yohanan Tzoref, a military expert at Israel's Institute for Counter Terrorism in Herzliya.

"The density of the population, the fact that the locals know every alley and every burrow, the methods such as using hospitals as a hiding place for terrorists, and the fact that the Palestinians in Gaza are more militant makes the fighting very complicated."

This, many believe, is why he has decided instead to kill **Hamas**'s leadership.

At a **women's** mourning tent in Gaza City this week a group of Palestinian girls wore **Hamas**'s distinctive green headbands and sashes, among them Sheikh Yassin's daughter, Fatima, 28.

Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

"**Hamas** is strong because it does not change its position," she said. "Sharon should understand that we do not care about his destruction or his helicopters. The intifada will not be stopped by the killing of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin."

Load-Date: March 27, 2004

End of Document

Israel seals Gaza Strip following suicide attack

The International Herald Tribune

January 17, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 426 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Israel has sealed off the Gaza Strip, keeping out thousands of Palestinians with Israeli permits a day after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed four Israelis near the Erez crossing point. Also on Thursday, Israel closed the Erez industrial area, where at least 4,000 Palestinians work. Military officials said it was not certain how long the areas would remain closed. The Israeli Army said that, for now, the only Palestinians it would allow out of Gaza were those who needed to leave for "humanitarian reasons." As Israel buried its dead -- two soldiers, a member of the border police, and a security guard -- Gazans marched in a funeral procession for the bomber, Reem al-Raiyshi, a 22-year-old mother of two. Her suicide attack was the first by the Islamist group **Hamas** in four months, and its first employing a woman. Other Palestinian factions, including Islamic Jihad, had used **women** as suicide bombers, but **Hamas** leaders had previously argued that Islam did not permit doing so, as long as men were available. **Hamas** leaders praised Raiyshi and thousands joined in the funeral march. But in a break with customary practice, Raiyshi's family did not set up a tent to receive condolences from visitors Thursday. **Hamas** erected a tent outside a mosque in her Gaza City neighborhood, but few members of her family or other visitors were seen there. "I don't support what she did," said Yousef Awad, 31, Raiyshi's brother-in-law. "It's not accepted for a woman to do that. The New York Times This doesn't exist in our traditions." Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a violent offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed joint responsibility for the bombing. While some Gazans privately criticized the attack, the mainstream Palestinian leadership did not. Though Arafat and other Palestinian leaders generally condemn attacks on Israeli civilians inside Israel, they seldom criticize violence against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel has occupied since 1967. On Wednesday, the Israeli Army said it was revising charges against an Israeli soldier accused of shooting a British activist last year, after he died of his wounds. Witnesses said the activist, Tom Hurndall, a 22-year-old photography student, was shot in the head on April 11 as he tried to protect Palestinian children near an Israeli roadblock in the Gaza Strip. He died Tuesday in a London hospital after lingering in a coma. The Israeli soldier suspected in the shooting was indicted Monday on six charges, but with Hurndall's death, the charges will be revised.

Load-Date: January 18, 2004

Terrorists die in Gaza shootout

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

October 19, 2003 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A5; News

Length: 692 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Israeli troops clashed with **Hamas** terrorists in Gaza on Saturday, killing two of them and a bystander in a shootout in a refugee camp where Israel has been conducting raids for more than a week.

Another Palestinian was killed in the West Bank town of Tulkarem when Israeli soldiers fired on crowds of Palestinian youths who had thrown stones and a firebomb.

Meanwhile, a team of FBI explosives and forensics specialists continued its investigation Saturday into the bombing attack on a convoy of U.S. officials in Gaza that killed three Americans on Wednesday, U.S. Embassy spokesman Paul Patin said.

The team met Friday for several hours with Palestinian police commanders at an Israeli checkpoint near the border with the Gaza Strip as part of a joint investigation.

The Associated Press

The Palestinians have detained seven members of a rogue terrorist group, the Popular Resistance Committees, and have briefed the U.S. team on the questioning of the detainees. But a senior U.S. official said co-operation from Palestinian security officials had been mixed.

In Saturday's pre-dawn fighting in Gaza, Israeli troops fired on armed **Hamas** terrorists who were planting explosives along paths travelled by Israeli tanks in the Rafah refugee camp, the army and **Hamas** members said.

Tariq Abu Hussein, 39, a well-known local field commander of the **Hamas** military wing, and another **Hamas** terrorist were killed. At least 10 people were wounded.

Several bystanders who had come to evacuate the wounded in their car were fired on by a tank and machine-guns, witnesses said. A woman in the car, Widad Ajrami, 28, was killed and her husband and a brother-in-law were wounded, said a relative, Mohammed Ajrami. The car was riddled with bullets and its seats were smeared with blood and littered with shards of glass.

An army spokeswoman said soldiers only shot at armed men and denied reports that troops fired a tank shell.

For more than a week, Israeli troops backed by attack helicopters and tanks have fought pitched battles with Palestinian gunmen in Rafah, an operation meant to uncover tunnels used by Palestinians to smuggle weapons under the Egyptian border.

Terrorists die in Gaza shootout

So far, 14 Palestinians -- including two children and a female bystander -- have been killed since the operation began. Troops have uncovered and blown up three smuggling tunnels.

At the funeral for the three Palestinians killed Saturday, a Hamas terrorist wearing a black ski mask fired his assault rifle into the air in front of 5,000 mourners and vowed revenge for Hussein's death. "We promise his soul that our fighters will teach the enemy a lesson they will never forget," he said.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarem, Israeli troops fired at several hundred stone-throwing youths -- many of them students who were getting out of class for the day -- killing a 17-year-old Palestinian boy and wounding five others, doctors said.

At least one fire bomb was hurled from the crowd, witnesses said. The army said troops fired after the fire bomb was thrown, hitting one person.

In the northern West Bank, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on an Israeli car Saturday evening, lightly injuring an Arab Israeli man, according to Israel Radio.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, three Palestinian terrorists were wounded by gunfire during another clash with Israeli troops.

Israel's military has said it launched its new Gaza operation, the biggest in the coastal strip of territory in about six months, after it received intelligence warnings that Palestinians might be trying to smuggle more advanced weapons, such as anti-aircraft missiles, through the cross-border tunnels.

Until now, the tunnels have been used to smuggle lighter weapons, like assault rifles and ammunition, from Egypt, the army says.

Throughout much of the last three years of fighting, Rafah and its refugee camp have been a daily battleground, with gunmen attacking army outposts along the border and clashing with soldiers searching for the hidden underground tunnels.

The human rights group Amnesty International called the destruction of the tunnels and buildings that hide them a "war crime."

Graphic

Color Photo: Kevin Frayer, Associated Press; Palestinian mourners carry the body of Widad Al Ajramy during her funeral in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip Saturday. Ajramy was in a car carrying armed terrorists who were planting explosives when it was fired on by Israeli troops.

Load-Date: October 20, 2003

Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

The Forward
January 30, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 4

Length: 1146 words

Byline: Ori Nir

Body

Palestinians are waging an unusual debate over terrorist tactics following recent suicide attacks carried out by a mother of two and the bereaved brother of an Arab killed by Israeli troops.

The brouhaha has centered largely on whether they should stop recruiting vulnerable candidates for suicide operations. Many Palestinians, including family members of the respective bombers, are harshly criticizing the decision to recruit the 22-year-old mother Reem Salah al-Riyashi and 17-year-old Iyad al-Masri.

But the debate does not seem to have undermined the consensus among Palestinians in support of what they dub "self-sacrifice operations." Instead, the fight revolves mainly around recruitment tactics and the strategic question of whether it would be better to step up attacks against soldiers and settlers in the West Bank, while halting strikes against Israeli civilians inside the pre-1967 borders.

"There is a strong sentiment that the focus should be on soldiers and settlers, because that would show the futility of the Israeli fence," said West Bank journalist Hafez Barghouti, the editor of the daily al-Hayat al-Jadida, an unofficial mouthpiece of the Palestinian Authority.

"There is some debate - however superficial or tactical - but people are saying that it's a mistake. You don't send a mother out for an operation, leaving behind a nursing baby," Barghouti said.

Barghouti wrote an editorial last week in which he criticized the decision to have Riyashi blow herself up at a border crossing that serves as a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. He also questioned the rationale behind recruiting Masri less than a week after his cousin and 14-year-old brother were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers in Nablus.

"Maintaining our humanity, which the occupation is trying to destroy," Barghouti wrote, "is more important than achieving petty successes."

In Riyashi's case, "success" was killing two Israeli soldiers and two civilian security guards, and injuring nine. Masri's explosive belt went off prematurely, after he apparently lost his way in a field near Nablus, taking his life only.

Masri's cousin complained to a Palestinian reporter: "Those who sent him are godless. His brother and cousin were just killed. How can we have three dead in the family in one week?"

Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

The failed bomber's parents, who learned of his death January 11 from a Lebanese satellite television newflash, demanded an inquiry and faulted the militant Islamic Jihad for manipulating Masri's anger. They refused to celebrate his death as a shahid, or "holy warrior," as parents of suicide bombers usually do.

Riyashi's parents also opposed opening a celebratory "house of condolences," according to Palestinian journalists. They reportedly were outraged that **Hamas** had recruited their daughter, a mother of a 3-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy, to become a suicide bomber. Riyashi's brother-in-law, Youssef Awad, told Chicago Tribune correspondent Joel Greenberg: "This is against our customs and traditions, and we don't support it. It's wrong, whether someone has children or not. If we had known about it beforehand, we would have nipped it in the bud."

Using the Arabic word for holy war, he added, "The greatest jihad is raising your children."

Similar criticisms appear to be reverberating throughout Palestinian society.

Influential columnist Hassan al-Batal, a veteran PLO intellectual, wrote an article last week in the daily Al-Ayyam in which he praised the two families for speaking up against sending their loved ones to blow themselves up. The article was headlined "A Family's Revolt Against the Culture of Death."

"Maybe this will be the beginning of a strategic transformation in terms of the concept, the notion and the culture surrounding this type of attacks," he wrote. "If society does not have the courage to speak out on this issue, we could soon see 10-year-olds and pregnant **women** blowing themselves up."

Batal concluded: "What we Palestinians should be interested in is that we don't defeat ourselves by compromising our humanity."

Even before the recent suicide missions, support for attacks in Israel proper was already dropping.

A public opinion poll taken in the West Bank and Gaza last month found that 87% of Palestinians support attacks on soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, support for attacks against Israeli civilians dropped to 48%, the lowest level since the start of the intifada in 2000 and down from 59% in October. An October poll, taken days after a **female** suicide bomber, Henadi Jaradat, blew herself up in a Haifa restaurant, killing 21 Jewish and Arab Israelis, found 75% support for the attack.

Jaradat, a 29-year-old single and childless lawyer-in-training from the West Bank town of Jenin, allegedly was motivated by personal revenge. She reportedly saw her own brother and cousin killed by Israeli troops outside their home last June.

Riyashi, according to the official Palestinian version, was driven by sheer ideological zeal. In her traditional pre-suicide videotape, holding an AK-47 assault rifle, the petite woman said she had long yearned for "the honor" of becoming a martyr, and was proud to be the first **female** sent on a suicide mission by **Hamas**. "I have two children and love them very much. But my love to see God was stronger than my love for my children, and I'm sure that God will take care of them if I become a martyr," she said.

But according to another version of the story being circulated by Israeli intelligence sources and suggested to the press, Riyashi only agreed to carry out the mission after she had been caught cheating on her husband. Proponents of this version claim she was pushed by her husband to carry out the operation as an act of penitence.

"It seems logical that something like that was going on. Otherwise it doesn't make sense," said Colonel Zohar Palti, an Israeli army expert on **Hamas**, who is a visiting fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "**Hamas** has plenty of men waiting in line to become suicide bombers."

Distress over the decision to send Riyashi will not diminish the overall popularity of **Hamas** in Palestinian society, Palti said. Regardless of its conduct of terrorist attacks, **Hamas** is viewed as the "clean" alternative to the corrupt Palestinian Authority, he said.

Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

Palestinian public opinion polls show a rise in the number of Palestinians who believe their government is corrupt (82%, according to one survey conducted in December 2003), with a corresponding spike in the popularity of **Hamas** and drop in support for Yasser Arafat's ruling Fatah faction.

"Support for self-sacrifice operations has little to do with support for **Hamas**, and a lot to do with Israeli policies," Barghouti said. "Whenever people feel that [Israeli Prime Minister] Sharon is increasing his violent actions, they seek retaliation."

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

27 Israeli pilots refusing to do Palestinian airstrikes

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

September 25, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 422 words

Byline: By Greg Myre New York Times News Service

Body

JERUSALEM -- In the midst of a campaign of airstrikes that aim at Hamas but sometimes kill Palestinian civilians, 27 reserve pilots in the Israeli air force presented a signed petition on Wednesday night saying they would not take part in "illegal and immoral" strikes in Palestinian areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We refuse to participate in air force attacks on civilian populations," said the letter, which was sent to the head of the air force, Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz. "We refuse to continue harming innocent civilians."

The petition is similar to a letter signed by hundreds of reserve soldiers who have pledged not to serve in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Most of the pilots who signed the petition have not been on active duty in recent years, the air force said. It was not clear whether any had been involved in the strikes.

Israel calls the strikes "targeted killings." They have broad support among Israelis, with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government saying they are the most effective way to attack terrorists who hide among civilians.

The Israeli news media said one of the petition's signers was Yiftach Spector, a brigadier general in the reserves, who took part in the bombing of the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981.

In a sharp response to the pilots' letter, Halutz said members of the military should not take political positions. "We do not choose our wars or missions," he said on Israeli television.

"We will continue to hunt terrorists," he said, adding, "We have no intention of harming civilians."

One recent Israeli target, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, emerged on Wednesday for the first time since he was lightly wounded on Sept. 6 in the bombing of a Gaza City apartment where he was meeting with Hamas members.

In a news conference at a Gaza City mosque, the defiant sheik said Hamas was not prepared to call off its bombing campaign, and he accused President Bush of declaring war on Islam.

"Resistance and holy war are the only choices for victory," he said. "We promised God and we promised the people that we won't surrender and we won't raise white flags."

After high school, most Israeli men perform three years of military service, while women serve for two years. After that, the men are liable for annual reserve duty of up to a month. Some of the soldiers who have refused duty have been jailed for the amount of time they were supposed to serve.

27 Israeli pilots refusing to do Palestinian airstrikes

The military says the number refusing to serve remains quite small in a country where service is so widespread.

Load-Date: September 25, 2003

End of Document

Bomber's family 'could not know'

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 20, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 7

Length: 441 words

Byline: Vikram Dodd

Body

A British suicide bomber who joined a murderous attack on an Israeli bar left Britain telling family members he was going to study in Syria, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

The prosecution alleges they knew what he was planning but did nothing. But the wife, brother and sister of Omar Sharif deny failing to reveal information about terrorism.

His sister Parveen Sharif also denies inciting her brother to commit a terrorist act.

Omar Sharif and fellow Briton Asif Hanif attacked a Tel Aviv seafront bar in April last year, killing four people. Hanif died at the scene, but Sharif's device failed to explode. His body was found 12 days later off the Israeli coast.

The defence rejected prosecution claims that Sharif had decided to attack targets inside Israel before leaving his home in Derby in April last year, and had told the three family members now on trial of his intentions.

Opening the defence for Sharif's sister, Ben Emmerson QC said it was only after seeing her brother in military uniform and brandishing a gun that she began to realise what he had done.

He said: "Up until that point she found it impossible to accept that Omar had willingly taken part in a suicide bombing."

Mr Emmerson produced emails showing that Sharif was planning to study in the Middle East.

But the jury also heard that while in Syria Sharif had discussed going to Iraq to fight US and British forces who were invading that country. They had even checked bus timetables.

In March this year **Hamas** released a video of Sharif and Hanif before the attack.

They were the first two non-Palestinians recruited by **Hamas** for a suicide mission inside Israel.

Mr Emmerson said **Hamas** militants saw the British passports of Hanif and Sharif as a way of avoiding Israeli scrutiny: "All the evidence points to Omar Sharif and Asif Hanif having strayed into the hands of a small group of **Hamas** activists who saw their arrival as an unexpected military and political opportunity and took advantage of it."

The men's British passports would make it easier for them to pass from the occupied territories and into Israel, Mr Emmerson said.

Bomber's family 'could not know'

"But if this was a wholly unpredictable and one-off event, the result of an unexpected change of direction by the two men, then how on earth could the family of one of the men, a world away in Derby, have possibly imagined or guessed what might be about to happen."

Sharif's sister, Parveen, 36, said she had come to Islam after her father's death in 1993.

Ms Sharif had thought the religion was oppressive and treated women badly. But after reading books on Islam she said she realised the true nature of the religion.

The trial continues.

Load-Date: May 21, 2004

End of Document

Palestinians freeze funds of charities

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

August 29, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A11; NEWS

Length: 441 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

Palestinian authorities said Thursday they froze the bank accounts of nine Islamic charities to investigate whether the organizations funnel money to militants -- the Palestinians' most striking action yet in a U.S.-sought clampdown on armed groups.

Israel welcomed the decision. But it pressed on with its hunt for militants, killing another **Hamas** fighter in a missile raid in the Gaza Strip. The army also moved briefly into northern Gaza to destroy brush providing cover for cross-border rocket attacks.

Associated Press

The air strike in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis killed Hamdi Kalakh, 23, as he was driving a donkey cart along a residential street, Palestinian officials and witnesses said. At least three other people were reported injured.

The Israeli army said Kalakh was wanted for mortar, rocket and bomb attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. It said the raid thwarted an attack on the nearby Gush Katif Jewish settlement bloc, a few hundred metres from where Kalakh died.

Earlier, Israeli bulldozers and tanks had moved into northern Gaza after a rocket struck near the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, the militants' deepest strike yet using the crude homemade projectiles. It was the first Israeli foray into Palestinian-controlled land since the army withdrew from parts of Gaza in July under the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority issued the order to shut down 39 accounts of the nine charities on Sunday. The move became known Thursday, when hundreds of Palestinians relying on welfare payments from charities tried to pick up their monthly cheques at banks in Gaza City. The banks said the accounts were blocked and turned them away.

Palestinian Monetary Authority spokesman Abdel Maguid Mashrawi said the aim is to "monitor the money that is coming from outside and to make sure that this money is used by these institutions for service purposes." Officials said the government is trying to find a way to monitor the money transfers so welfare payments can resume.

According to a copy of the order, obtained by The Associated Press, the nine charities are: Al Jamiya Al Islamiya, the Islamic Young **Women's** Association, As-Salah Association, the Social Care Committee, the Palestinian Student Friends Association, the Islamic Charity for Zakat, Al Mujamma Al Islami, Al Nour Charity Association and Al Aqsa Charity Association.

Palestinians freeze funds of charities

Hamas disputed any links to the charities and said the Palestinian Authority is acting under U.S. and Israeli pressure. The charities "have nothing to do with **Hamas** and will not affect **Hamas**, but will affect the poor families," spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi said.

Load-Date: August 29, 2003

End of Document

Old man on donkey cart killed in Israeli air strike; It's 'clear this wasn't done on purpose'

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 27, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C02; News

Length: 544 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli military aircraft fired several missiles at a car carrying Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing one elderly man and injuring about 20 bystanders, Palestinian witnesses and hospital officials reported.

Two or three militants who were targeted in the attack -- members of the radical Islamic Resistance Movement, or **Hamas** -- escaped the fiery explosions, one with minor injuries, Palestinian security forces said.

Witnesses said Younis Hamalawi, 70, who was riding a donkey cart nearby, was killed by flying shrapnel. So was his donkey. Hospital officials said that at least four young children were among the injured.

Hamilton Spectator Wire Services

"The targets were **Hamas** members, but the results were regrettable," said Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Jonathan Peled. "It's very clear this wasn't done on purpose," he said, adding that Israel was forced into a more aggressive military posture because the Palestinian Authority "really hasn't done anything. They are leaving the whole fight against the terrorist infrastructure to us."

The attack was part of a campaign by the Israeli military to crack down on **Hamas** after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 21 people on a bus in Jerusalem on Aug. 19.

That attack was preceded by another when, at dawn yesterday, Israeli undercover troops stormed Nablus' Raffidiyeh hospital and snatched two wounded gunmen from their beds in the intensive care unit.

They imposed a curfew and transferred them by military ambulance to a Tel-Aviv hospital, where they were being held under close guard.

Witnesses said that three vans stopped outside the hospital at about 3 a.m. Soldiers disguised as vegetable merchants said they had come to deliver supplies.

When a guard opened the main gate, other soldiers, accompanied by dogs, raced into the hospital. They smashed the wooden door to intensive care.

The gunmen, Othman Yunis, 27, and Fahid Bani-Odeh, 25, had been shot during an exchange of fire on the roof of the hospital last Friday. A third militant was killed in that gun battle. All three were members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, loyal to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian president.

Old man on donkey cart killed in Israeli air strike; It's 'clear this wasn't done on purpose'

After Israel intensified its manhunt, Palestinian militants marked for death began shaving off their beards, slipping into women's robes and turning off their mobile phones, forced to go deeper underground to.

Many gunmen, bombmakers and rocket builders have been on the run for much of the past three years of fighting, but now they are taking more dramatic steps to try to escape.

Israel has killed seven Hamas members, including a senior leader, in three missile strikes in five days.

In response, Hamas was urging its members to take new precautions. The Islamic militant group posted leaflets on mosque doors, telling fugitives to stay indoors or, if they must move around, to ride in cars alone, never in groups. "Our brothers should use different clothes ... and change their appearance," the flyer said.

An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the militants' decision to lower their profile will make it harder to hit them. Israel is pressing ahead with the targeted killings, waiting for the wanted men to make a mistake, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Graphic

Photo: Hatem Moussa, the Associated Press; Palestinians tend a donkey that was killed during an Israeli rocket attack in the Jebaliya refugee camp yesterday.; Photo: Jerome Delay, the Associated Press; Palestinian youths jump on top of a car that destroyed in an Israeli air attack.

Load-Date: August 27, 2003

REVENGE WREAKS REVENGE IN A LAND DIVIDED

The Scotsman

June 12, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 711 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield

Body

THE main thoroughfares of downtown Jerusalem were eerily silent after the bombing yesterday. The foot patrols by paramilitary border police gave the impression of a state of siege.

With M-16 rifles at the ready, they marched up and down Solomon Street, a pleasant mall known for its cafes. Israeli media reports spoke of warnings of further attacks.

In the heart of Jerusalem, on King George V Avenue, commuters waited in vain at bus stops, wondering aloud if the bus system was still working.

The terrifying effect of the bombing stemmed in part from its location, just outside the Clal Centre, one of Jerusalem's biggest office and store complexes. The blast blew out windows even on upper floors, and shocked the hundreds of people inside.

Yosef Ovadia, on just his fifth day of work in a bathroom furnishings store, said: "I heard a very loud explosion, and I saw the bus filled with smoke. I saw people climbing into the windows in order to help. Luckily, the rescuers came very quickly. Everyone from all the stores came to see what happened. Many of the women burst into tears, and you can understand it. They saw the wounded people, and they cried, they just went into shock. It was awful."

Mr Ovadia said that, after Hamas's vows of revenge for the assassination attempt: "I was certain there would be a lot of attacks. But I did not imagine it would be right in front of my eyes.

"I want the world to understand, that we Israelis are oriented towards peace, but we have no-one to make peace with."

David Borciano, whose family moved to Jerusalem from the Ukraine six months ago, said he was sleeping in his home when "there was a boom." He added: "I went to the porch to see what was happening. I saw black smoke, and I saw the flesh of a man. His heart was outside of his body. People kept screaming God, God. I saw a woman crying because her mother had died.

"I am afraid that if the Israelis do not kill the Arabs, than the Arabs will kill the Israelis."

Police said the bomb was packed with nails, for maximum effect, and the bomber's disguise - as an Orthodox Jew - allowed him to get close to his targets.

REVENGE WREAKS REVENGE IN A LAND DIVIDED

Shirli Rafael, a 25-year-old municipal worker, had rushed to the scene but was so shocked by what she saw that she froze in her tracks.

"I saw dead people. Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet. I saw a lot of women covered with blood - their skin was scorched. There was a headless body near the door," she said.

But there were also scenes of carnage in Gaza city yesterday. Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car less than an hour after the suicide attack. Seven people were reported dead, including Tito Massaoud, a leader of Hamas's military wing, and at least one other Hamas militant. "Pools of blood, cut-off body parts, cut-off heads - this is what I saw," one witness in Gaza said.

The Jerusalem bombing came a day after Israeli helicopters failed to assassinate a senior Hamas leader, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, killing two other people in the process and touching off vows of revenge attacks against Israeli civilians.

Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader, termed yesterday's attack "a message to all the Zionist criminals that they are not safe and Palestinian fighters can reach them everywhere".

The bombing came in the middle of a Knesset deliberation during which the deputy defence minister, Zeev Boim, was fending off criticism of the government over the attempted assassination of Mr Rantisi.

"The bombing in Jerusalem has no connection to the attack on Rantisi," he said. "Hamas follows a strategic policy of terrorism."

Israeli security sources confirmed that Mr Sharon had ordered aides to turn over intelligence to the United States to back Israel's accusations that Mr Rantissi, who defines himself as a political leader, had co-ordinated attacks.

It came after President George Bush, in a rare public rebuke, said he was "troubled" by the attempt on Mr Rantisi, which he did not believe would "help the Israeli security."

As Mr Bush condemned yesterday's attack, and called for an end to terrorist funding, Mr Sharon made it clear to the White House that Israel would not relinquish "counter-terrorism operations." He told a cabinet meeting yesterday that "as far as terror is concerned, there will be no concessions".

Load-Date: June 12, 2003

Palestinians rally to free prisoners: Militants held by Israel become new flashpoint

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

August 2, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A12; News

Length: 590 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in the West Bank to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Earlier, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at demonstrators near a disputed security barrier, reportedly injuring at least 11 people.

Conflict over the prisoners and the barrier, which had its first 145-kilometre section completed this week, threatens to block the peace effort. Despite White House summits with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent days, progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" has stalled.

The Associated Press

The protests, a day after a riot by Palestinian prisoners in an Israeli prison, underscored the growing tensions.

The barrier, planned to stretch along 600 kilometres of electric fences, trenches, concrete blocks and coils of razor wire, is designed to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen entering Israel. It has infuriated Palestinians because it cuts into the West Bank in some areas.

The pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement said soldiers fired rubber bullets at about 300 Palestinians and 60 foreign supporters who dismantled a barbed-wire barrier in front of a section of the fence near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank on Friday.

The group said three Palestinians and eight foreigners were injured.

The army said troops had used "non-lethal means of crowd-dispersal" against a group of violent protesters who threw stones at soldiers. A spokesman said the army was investigating reports of injuries.

Later Friday, more than 10,000 Palestinians attended a rally organized in Nablus by the Islamic group **Hamas**, which declared a unilateral ceasefire on June 29 along with other militant organizations.

Dozens of militants with plastic machine-guns paraded in front of the stage as speakers demanded Israel free the estimated 7,700 Palestinians, most of whom are held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism. Israel plans to release a few hundred.

Adnan Asfour, a **Hamas** political leader in Nablus, told the crowd that the ceasefire would be threatened if "Israel continues breaching and violating our rights."

Palestinians rally to free prisoners: Militants held by Israel become new flashpoint

Female Hamas activists performed a skit depicting Israeli soldiers and settlers evicting Palestinian villagers from their land to build the security barrier. The mock fence was then blown up by **Hamas**, eliciting cries of "God is great" from the crowd.

In meetings with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a week ago and Israeli premier Ariel Sharon on Tuesday, U.S. President George W. Bush prodded both to meet their obligations under the road map.

Bush said the Palestinians must disarm militant groups, as stipulated in the road map, and expressed concern about the security barrier. The barrier and the prisoners issues are not mentioned in the road map, a blueprint for ending violence and creating a Palestinian state by 2005.

Abbas fears a crackdown on militant groups could spark civil war. Israel has said it will continue to build the disputed barrier and announced plans for 22 new housing units in a Gaza Strip settlement, despite a road map requirement that it freeze settlement activity.

In remarks published Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bush "doesn't like fences and he wished it wasn't there."

In an interview with Israel's Maariv newspaper that also was published by the State Department, Powell was quoted as saying the United States did not dispute Israel's right to erect a fence but he feared it was "going in ways that will make it very difficult to get to the next phases of the road map."

Graphic

Color Photo: Muhammed Muheisen, Associated Press; Masked Palestinian activists from the Islamic group **Hamas** hold a fake rocket launcher during a ceremony Friday in Nablus demanding the release of prisoners held in Israel. More than 10,000 Palestinians attended the rally.

Load-Date: August 2, 2003

Israel hits back after rocket kills boys

The Australian

October 1, 2004 Friday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 490 words

Byline: A correspondent in Sderot, Israel

Body

PALESTINIAN militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for a rocket attack yesterday that killed a four-year-old Israeli boy and his two-year-old playmate as Israelis ushered in the autumn harvest festival of Sukkot.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon later phoned the mayor of the southern Israeli town of Sderot, where the attack occurred, and promised "Israel will respond" to the attack.

Shortly afterwards tanks entered the outskirts of the sprawling Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza strip, and helicopter strikes were launched at Gaza City **Hamas**-linked facilities.

AP

Two armed Palestinians died fighting the advancing Israelis in Jabalia, medics said.

Earlier, near Jabalia, helicopter-fired rockets killed Musab Baradui, 24, an Islamic jihad activist, and wounded a second militant, hospital officials said. The army said the men were preparing to fire another rocket.

The Sderot attack came in defiance of a major Israeli raid into the nearby Gaza Strip aimed at rooting out militants behind a heavy wave of rocket attacks in recent weeks.

Since the offensive began late on Tuesday, six Palestinians have been killed in northern Gaza and about 50 wounded, Palestinian hospital staff said.

The rocket slammed into a quiet street early on Wednesday evening, just as Sukkot was beginning. Most residents in the neighbourhood are immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. The two dead children were of Ethiopian descent.

Dorit Benesay, 2, and Yuval Abeva, 4, were playing under an olive tree outside Yuval's grandmother's house when the rocket struck, emergency workers and neighbours said.

"After the rocket fell, a man, maybe 20 years old, took the boy in his arms. He was in shock. He ran with the boy, he didn't know what to do," said Zina Shurov, 48, a neighbour. "I saw the boy, he had no legs." The home-made Qassam rocket was the 30th to hit Israeli communities in the past month and the 14th to hit Sderot, according to the Israeli army.

Hamas said in a statement on its website it would not abandon the rocket attacks.

Israel hits back after rocket kills boys

"We will continue with this honourable battle until we achieve either victory or martyrdom," Nizar Rayan, a local **Hamas** leader, said in Jabalia.

The violence highlighted the failure so far of increasing efforts against militants, who have been intensifying attacks ahead of Israel's announced pullout from Gaza scheduled for next year.

The rockets are inaccurate and often ineffective, but they have created fear in Israeli border towns. A previous attack in June killed two Israelis in Sderot.

"Once again we are witness to a brutal terror attack aimed at hurting innocent **women** and children ... on the eve of a Jewish holiday," said Gideon Meir, an Israeli government spokesman.

In other violence two Palestinians wearing school uniforms were shot and killed by Israeli forces near Jabalia, Palestinians said.

The Israeli army said it shot at two men trying to lay a bomb during the raid and presumed them dead.

Load-Date: September 30, 2004

Israel threatens attack on Syria: Damascus implicated in double bombing that killed 16 in Beersheba

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

September 3, 2004 Friday

All but Toronto Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A10

Length: 654 words

Byline: Jean-Luc Renaudie, Agence France-Presse, with files from Reuters

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - Israel threatened to launch a military attack on Syria yesterday, accusing Damascus of being directly implicated in a double suicide attack by **Hamas** that killed 16 people.

As Israel's top diplomats pressed their case that Damascus should pay the price for sheltering **Hamas** leaders, Zeev Boim, the deputy defence minister, dropped strong hints a strike on Syrian targets could be imminent.

Syria dismissed the threat as lacking in credibility and denied any involvement in the bombings.

Mr. Boim told public radio, "The rule that 'Anyone who deals in terror against Israel is a target' is a rule that must be stated and one that we must stand behind."

But Israel would take care not to cause a "conflagration" on its northern border. "It is possible to launch operations, provided that the targets are well chosen and that the moment is right, in order to make the Syrians understand that there are red lines that cannot be crossed."

Sixteen people and the two bombers were killed on Tuesday in a double suicide attack in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

The terrorist Islamist movement **Hamas** whose senior leader, Khaled Meshaal, is based in Damascus, claimed responsibility.

Raanan Gissin, the official spokesman for Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, said the order for the terrorist attacks "comes directly from Khaled Meshaal's bureau based in Damascus."

But Faruq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, denied any link to the Beersheba attacks.

"The Israeli threats against Syria are not based on any evidence and are completely lacking in credibility," he said in comments carried by the official SANA news agency. "[Such threats] raise tensions in the region."

The attacks in Beersheba were the deadliest since a suicide bombing in the port city of Haifa last October that left 21 people and the **female** bomber dead. They followed a period of relative calm.

Israel threatens attack on Syria : Damascus implicated in double bombing that killed 16 in Beersheba

Israel responded to that attack, carried out by the smaller Islamic Jihad organization, with an air strike on an alleged Palestinian terrorist training camp deep inside Syria.

Mr. Meshaal was the target of a failed assassination bid by Israeli agents in Jordan in 1997. He emerged as undisputed leader earlier this year after **Hamas** co-founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdelaziz Rantissi, were both killed in Israeli air strikes.

In addition to threatening military action, Israeli diplomats are stepping up their efforts to convince other governments of Damascus' ties to **Hamas**.

Danny Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the United States, is to present Bush administration officials with intelligence information on the links.

Silvan Shalom , the Israeli Foreign Minister, is also expected to press the same message at talks with his Dutch counterpart, Bernard Bot, whose country holds the rotating European Union presidency.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinians, including a 14-year-old, and wounded dozens more in a major raid. Israeli soldiers also blew up two apartment blocs in Gaza, leaving scores of Palestinians homeless.

The incursion into the Deir el-Balah refugee camp triggered the worst violence in Gaza in weeks.

Israeli helicopters fired warning shots and soldiers shot at Palestinians firing anti-tank rockets and hurling Molotov cocktails.

The clashes erupted after troops unearthed a tunnel near a Jewish settlement, a military source said.

Palestinian medics said four Palestinians were killed, including the 14-year-old, his 19-year-old brother and two other 19-year-olds. They said 41 people were wounded. The Israeli source said three Palestinians were shot, but did not give their condition.

In an overnight raid in nearby Khan Younis refugee camp, soldiers blew up twin five-storey buildings, which Israel said Palestinian militants were using to attack soldiers and Jewish settlers.

The operation followed Israeli threats to step up strikes on militants after the Beersheba bombings.

****START-IO-STORY****

Load-Date: September 3, 2004

SIX ISRAELIS KILLED IN BOMB ATTACK AT BUS STOP

The Independent (London)

September 10, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 767 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN ASSEF HANOFEH Israeli security officers covering a body yesterday after the suicide bomb attack at a bus stop near Tel Aviv AFP/Tal Cohen

Body

AT LEAST six Israelis - mainly soldiers - were killed by a suicide bomber at a crowded bus stop near Tel Aviv last night when Hamas fulfilled its threat to avenge assassination attacks on its leaders.

The bomb, which left 14 others wounded, was detonated at about 6pm (4pm BST) at the bus stop used by soldiers going on leave from one of the biggest military bases in the country and by patients and families using the nearby Assef Hanofeh Hospital.

The blast blew human remains 20 feet on to the underside of the roof of the bus shelter. It was still splattered with blood last night as police continued packing up limbs beside the Route 44 highway, which runs besides the base.

Ahmed Qureia, nominated to be the next Palestinian prime minister, condemned the attack and called on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to end a cycle of killing. "We condemn all acts of killing that target innocents, whether they be Palestinians ... or the Israelis who were victims of today's explosion," Mr Qureia said in a statement. "Such incidents confirm the necessity for both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to ... examine the most effective ways to put an end to the killing."

Tzahi Hanegbi, Israel's Minister of Internal Security, who is in charge of police, vowed that the government would continue with what he called its "pursuit of Hamas leaders and the policy of liquidating them."

Niram Poskowitz, a 26-year-old soldier, said he had just finished training as a reservist and was being picked up at the stop by his girlfriend.

He waved two other women soldiers he knew to join them in the car, but only one made it as the blast detonated. "There was smoke everywhere and it was a blur. But I think I may have seen the terrorist coming apart," he said.

Because of the proximity of the military base - an army camp since the British mandate in Palestine - soldiers immediately flooded the area to secure it in fear of a second explosion and troops ran to guard the footbridge over the highway between the bus shelter and the hospital grounds.

One of those already guarding the bridge, Eyal Schneider, 19, said he half fainted from shock when he looked down at the scene moments after the blast. At the hospital last night he said: "I saw a leg lying on the ground, I saw a girl bleeding, I saw one woman soldier being resuscitated and I heard people screaming, help us'." Two of the victims were killed instantly and two were dead on arrival at the hospital, only 500 metres from the carnage. Two more died shortly after in intensive care.

SIX ISRAELIS KILLED IN BOMB ATTACK AT BUS STOP

Doctor Ido Katz, deputy director of the hospital, said that of the seriously injured victims last night one had very bad head injuries, one serious facial injuries, one wounds to the chest and abdomen and one a tear in a major blood vessel.

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, decided last night to continue his official visit to India, despite the suicide bombing. He is due to spend today, the final day of his trip, meeting leading Indian businessmen in Bombay.

Mr Sharon was informed of the bombing during a state dinner in Delhi hosted by Atal Bihar Vajpayee, his Indian opposite number. After he returned to his hotel, he was briefed by telephone by Shaul Mofaz, the Defence Minister.

The explosion is the first of its kind since the suicide bombing carried out by Hamas on 19 August in Jerusalem, and the assassination by Israel of the Hamas leader Abu Shanab two days later.

Immediately after the killing of Abu Shanab, Hamas vowed vengeance and stepped up its threat after a bungled assassination attempt on the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in Gaza on Saturday. Israel immediately heightened security throughout the country after that attack left Sheikh Yassin only slightly injured.

Earlier in the day, the Israeli army killed another Hamas leader in Hebron, Ahmed Badar, thought to have been responsible for the suicide bomb in Jerusalem last month.

Police were unable to say whether all the dead victims were soldiers or included civilians using the hospital. Police spokesman Gil Kliman said there was no evidence to show that the nail bomb used in the attack was different from the hundred suicide explosions by armed Palestinian factions since the mid 1990s.

In political circles in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv last night there was speculation that the attack would fuel calls for the expulsion of Yasser Arafat, whom the Israeli government see as the main obstacle to a Palestinian crackdown on terrorism that they have been demanding.

A series of ministers has demanded that Mr Arafat be removed from his besieged headquarters in Ramallah.

Load-Date: September 10, 2003

Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'

DAILY MAIL (London)

January 20, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST_A; Pg. 35

Length: 467 words

Body

A YOUNG mother who carried out a suicide bombing was forced to do so as punishment for committing adultery, Israeli sources claimed yesterday.

Reem Raiyshi, 22, killed four Israelis last Wednesday at the main crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

She had a three-year-old son and a daughter aged 18 months.

Hamas claimed responsibility. It was the first time the religious terror group has used a woman for a suicide bombing. Until now, only secular Palestinian groups have deployed women in such attacks. It was claimed yesterday that Raiyshi had cheated on her husband and, as punishment, was told to choose between being killed by her family as an unfaithful wife or die as a heroine in a suicide bombing.

The report, in Israel's mass-circulation daily Yediot Ahronot, was met with outrage and denials from Raiyshi's husband and brothers.

The newspaper quoted military sources as saying intelligence suggested that Raiyshi 'was not a cold-blooded terrorist, steeped in faith and madness, who chose out of free will to turn her two young children into orphans but instead a woman who was forced to carry out the act'.

Israeli security officials said Raiyshi's husband, Ziad Anwar, a **Hamas** activist, encouraged her to carry out the attack. They said it was in fact Raiyshi's lover who fitted her with the explosive belt.

According to Palestinian sources in Gaza City, the lover was also a member of **Hamas**, and the husband even drove Raiyshi to the Erez Crossing for the attack.

But Raiyshi's husband Awad, a lifeguard, denied any knowledge of her plan and said reports of the alleged love affair were lies. 'These are lies spread with the aim of defaming the family,' he said. 'My wife is an honourable woman who sacrificed her life for the sake of Islam and Palestine.' Awad said he was proud of his wife, who 'identified with the suffering of the Palestinians and felt pain when she watched the Zionist occupation crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people'. He described her as a devout Muslim and good mother.

Raiyshi's brothers reacted with outrage to the reports of her unfaithfulness and accused the Israeli secret service of spreading lies against her.

One, Ayman, said most Palestinians were proud of his sister and supported the attack. He said his sister was motivated by her love for Islam and her homeland.

Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'

However, some Palestinian journalists in Gaza City said Raiyshi and her husband had been involved in a bitter dispute.

Some of them quoted the husband as saying he had recently considered divorcing his wife.

The journalists pointed out that Raiyshi belonged to a wealthy Palestinian family and was not known as a religious person.

Yesterday, the **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin said Raiyshi's attack marked a 'new beginning' for Palestinian **women**.

END

Graphic

REEM RAIYSHI: THE MOTHER-OF-TWO BLEW HERSELF UP AT A CHECKPOINT, KILLING FOUR ISRAELIS

Load-Date: January 22, 2004

End of Document

International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

October 10, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a12

Length: 606 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: TABA, Egypt

Body

Bedouin tribesmen detained in Egypt

Investigators lifted fingerprints, swabbed dust and collected tissue from the wreckage of three car bombings Saturday and detained dozens of Bedouin tribesmen, including quarry workers who could have provided the explosives that killed at least 34 people.

Israel blamed al-Qaida for the Thursday night attacks in two Sinai resorts, and Egyptian investigators were leaning toward an al-Qaida connection as well.

Egyptian investigators said they suspected eight to 10 terrorists targeting Israeli tourists carried out the attacks, possibly slipping in from Saudi Arabia or Jordan on speed boats. They also said there was a chance a local sleeper cell of Egyptians might have been activated to stage the attacks, Egypt's first terrorist strike in seven years.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the investigators said such a group would almost certainly be linked to Ayman al-Zawahri, who led the extremist Egyptian Islamic Jihad before merging the group with al-Qaida in 1998. The Egypt-born Zawahri is Osama bin Laden's top deputy.

Israeli soldiers shoot, kill **Hamas** militant

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip - Israeli soldiers on Saturday shot and killed a **Hamas** militant whom the military said was responsible for a rocket attack that killed two Israeli preschoolers last week and triggered an army offensive in northern Gaza.

Abed Nabhan, 25, was one of five Palestinians killed Saturday in the continuing Israeli operation in northern Gaza.

Nabhan, a **Hamas** field commander, was killed when Israeli troops shot at **Hamas** militants preparing to fire an anti-tank missile from the Jebaliya refugee camp.

Peacekeeper wounded during battle in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - A gunbattle broke out between U.N. peacekeepers and supporters of ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Saturday, wounding a peacekeeper for the first time in the force's 4-month-old mission.

International Briefs

The clashes also left one officer wounded, police said. The skirmishes came as protesters in the northwestern city of Gonaives crowded outside a Mass for flood victims accusing Haiti's interim president and prime minister - who were attending - of not doing enough to help hungry survivors three weeks after Tropical Storm Jeanne.

The Brazilian soldier was wounded in the foot - the first casualty among some 3,000 peacekeepers, Kongo-Doudou said. He also said it appeared some of the gunmen were wounded, but it was unclear how many.

Report expected on Juarez killings

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico - Mexican federal investigators are expected to state in an upcoming report that domestic violence and crimes of passion were primary motives in some of the killings of women in this border city over the last decade.

The attorney general's office is due to publish the report this month, but some Mexican lawmakers and international human rights activists are already dismissing the anticipated findings.

Such critics say they fear that the federal government may attempt to gloss over more sinister possibilities - including a serial killer, violent drug traffickers or corrupt police officials - that reflect poorly on Juarez and Chihuahua state.

The report is based on a federal examination of investigative files and evidence in 24 cases. It is part of a systematic and gradual review of state and local police handling of the Juarez homicide investigations.

Famed philosopher dies

PARIS - World-renowned thinker Jacques Derrida, a charismatic philosopher who founded the school known as deconstructionism, has died, the French president's office said Saturday. He was 74.

Derrida died at a Paris hospital of pancreatic cancer, French media reported.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

Israel Limits Holy Site Access; Vandals Deface Rabin Memorial

The New York Times
November 1, 2003 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 463 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 31

Body

Israel blocked some Palestinian Muslims from reaching a holy site to pray here Friday, while in Tel Aviv vandals defaced a memorial to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a day before a ceremony to remember his assassination in 1995.

Israel's leadership condemned the vandalism. On a banner set up for Saturday's memorial, vandals spray-painted praise for a virulently anti-Arab leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was himself assassinated in 1990. According to Israeli news reports, vandals also spray-painted swastikas on the black rocks of the memorial.

Workers quickly washed the graffiti away from the rocks. Moshe Katsav, Israel's president, expressed "shock and disgust" at the vandalism, and said, "The murder of Yitzhak Rabin was a national disaster that will be with us for generations."

Mr. Rabin was shot dead by a right-wing extremist who opposed his efforts to make peace with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon telephoned Mr. Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, to denounce the vandalism, his office said.

For the first Friday prayers of the holy month of Ramadan, tens of thousands of Muslims gathered peacefully on the man-made plateau in Jerusalem that they revere as the Noble Sanctuary and that Jews revere as the Temple Mount.

It was after a visit to the disputed site in September 2000 by Mr. Sharon, then the opposition leader, that the Palestinians began their present uprising against Israel.

Citing fears of rioting, Israel frequently restricts access by Palestinians to the site. On Friday, the police set a limit of 5,000 on the number of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who could attend prayers. The men had to be at least 45 years old and married, while the women had to be at least 35 and married.

Separately, the American Embassy in Tel Aviv said Friday that the State Department was offering a \$5 million reward for information leading to those responsible for a bomb attack on an American diplomatic convoy that killed three American guards.

Israel Limits Holy Site Access; Vandals Deface Rabin Memorial

The attack, on Oct. 15 in the northern Gaza Strip, further hampered a faltering Bush administration peace initiative by prompting United States diplomats to suspend travel to Gaza and the West Bank, which Israel occupied in 1967.

In hopes of resuming the peace process, the Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, is seeking talks with **Hamas** and other Palestinian factions to achieve a cease-fire.

But Ismail Haniya, a political leader of **Hamas**, said in Gaza on Friday that if **Hamas** acceded to a truce now, it would signal that it was buckling before Israel's offensive against the group.

"As long as there is Israeli aggression, it's not realistic to talk about a truce," he said. "If we accept a truce at this time, that would mean **Hamas** collapsed before Israeli aggression."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A worker cleaned up near a vandalized poster of Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv yesterday. Slogans praising Meir Kahane were spray-painted on it. (Photo by Getty Images)

Load-Date: November 1, 2003

End of Document

Arafat ' fears he will be killed next';

Irish News
March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 18

Length: 520 words

Body

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat fears that he is the next target for Israeli military assassination squads who yesterday killed **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike.

"He feels his turn is next and he is sad and worried, " an aide of Mr Arafat said.

The death of the blind, wheelchair-bound sheik outside a Gaza City mosque unleashed threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Sheik Yassin, in his sixties, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting. His assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world and many European countries.

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags, flooded the streets for the funeral procession, the largest gathering in Gaza City in recent memory.

Mourners jostled to touch the flag-draped coffin and **women** ululated and threw flowers. Two Israeli helicopters flew above and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres.

At the cemetery Sheik Yassin's body was carried to the grave between two rows of 200 militants each. The men were armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts, " **Hamas** official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Sheik Yassin, said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Sheik Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies".

Mr Sharon signalled that Israel would carry out more targeted attacks and raids.

"The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere, " he said.

Israeli defence minister Shaul Mofaz said Sheik Yassin's hands were "soaked in the blood of Israeli children".

Arafat ' fears he will be killed next';

In addition to Sheik Yassin, 12 Palestinians were killed yesterday, seven in the air strike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged both sides to show restraint.

"It is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region, " she said.

At daybreak, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as Sheik Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City.

The dead included several bodyguards and Sheik Yassin's son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Sheik Yassin's sons.

Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of his wheelchair and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street.

"Two or three people were lying next to him on the ground, " a taxi driver said.

Fearing reprisal attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities. The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt was also closed.

Troops reinforcements were sent to Gaza and security forces in Israel were placed on high alert. The assassination was seen as a huge gamble by Mr Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against **Hamas**.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

End of Document

Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

The International Herald Tribune

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 849 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: EREZ, Gaza:

Body

A young Palestinian mother, feigning a limp and requesting medical help, blew herself up Wednesday at the entrance to a security inspection center for Palestinian workers, killing four Israeli security personnel and wounding seven people.

The bomber, Reem al-Reyashi, 22, said in a video released after her attack that "it was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists."

She left behind a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter.

Her attack in an industrial zone at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip was the first Palestinian suicide bombing to kill Israelis since a Dec. 25 blast at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv, which also left four dead. Violence in the Middle East has been down recently, but the blast ratcheted up tensions and dealt another blow to peace efforts that have been stalled for months.

The New York Times

Israel responded by immediately shutting the industrial zone and sending home the 4,000 Palestinian workers employed in its factories.

"Palestinian terrorists are not only committed to striking Israelis at every opportunity, they are also bent on destroying their own economy," said David Baker, an official in the office of Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister.

Palestinians have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings during the last three years. But such attacks have been extremely rare in the fenced-in Gaza Strip, where Palestinian contact with Israelis is largely limited to security checks at places like Erez.

Reyashi was able to carry out her bombing by momentarily deceiving the soldiers with her claim that she needed medical treatment in Israel.

She joined the line where the Palestinians go through a security check each morning as they enter the industrial zone.

Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

As she approached the building's entrance, which has a metal detector at the doorway, she was limping, the Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses said. She told soldiers she had a recent leg operation, and a metal pin had been implanted that the detector would register.

She was allowed to pass, and when the alarm sounded, the soldiers told her to wait while they called a female soldier to search her, the military said.

Seconds later, Reyashi detonated her bomb, estimated at 4.5 kilograms, or 10 pounds, and packed with ball bearings and screws to make it more lethal, the military said.

The blast tore apart the simple structure, sending part of the roof skyward and leaving behind dangling strips of metal. The floor was sticky with blood and littered with body parts, and bloodstains speckled the walls.

Two soldiers, a border policeman and a civilian security guard were killed. The seven people wounded included Israeli security personnel and Palestinians heading to work.

Reyashi, who came from a middle-class family in Gaza City, appeared in her video wearing combat fatigues, with a rifle in her hands and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher on the desk in front of her.

"God gave me the ability to be a mother of two children whom I love so," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people. I am convinced God will help and take care of my children."

After the bombing, her husband was seen crying outside the family home, and a relative said he had no knowledge of his wife's plans, Reuters reported.

Hamas, the Islamic movement, and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a faction loyal to the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, claimed joint responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians.

"This was a distinguished operation," the Hamas spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, told reporters at his home in Gaza City. He said it was the first time Hamas had sent a woman bomber though other groups have used them and he also praised the cooperation with the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

Al Aqsa is loosely linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, but says it acts independently when carrying out attacks.

Arafat and the Palestinian leadership usually condemn suicide bombings inside Israel, but issued no such statement after the blast Wednesday.

The Palestinian leaders rarely criticize attacks against Israeli soldiers or settlers in the West Bank or Gaza, land that Israel has occupied since the 1967 Mideast war and that the Palestinians are seeking for a future state.

Hamas, the group that has carried out the large number of bombings, had not carried out a suicide attack for the last four months.

And senior Israeli military officials said last month they believed Hamas had temporarily suspended such attacks.

But Yassin said Wednesday that "there is no truce, operations will continue."

Palestinian factions did not use women suicide bombers at the beginning of the violence three years ago, and some Islamic groups raised questions as to whether it was permitted under Islamic law.

When Yassin was asked why Hamas had decided to send a woman bomber, he cited purely practical concerns.

"It could be that a man would not be able to reach the target, and that's why they had to use a woman," he said.

Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

End of Document

THOUSANDS JOIN RALLY TO DEMAND THAT ISRAEL FREE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 2, 2003 Saturday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 27

Length: 623 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh The Associated Press

Dateline: NABLUS, WEST BANK

Body

* Elsewhere, Israeli soldiers fire rubber bullets at a crowd protesting a security barrier.

Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in the West Bank to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Earlier, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at demonstrators near a disputed security barrier, reportedly injuring at least 11 people.

Conflict over the prisoners and the barrier threatens to block the peace effort. Despite a White House meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent days, progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" to peace has stalled.

The first 90-mile section of the fence was completed this week, but neither it nor the prisoners are mentioned in the road map.

The protests, a day after a riot by Palestinian prisoners in an Israeli prison, underscored the growing tension.

The barrier - planned to stretch along 370 miles of electric fences, trenches, concrete blocks and coils of razor wire - is designed to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen from entering Israel. It has angered Palestinians because it cuts into the West Bank in some areas.

The pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement said soldiers had fired rubber bullets at about 300 Palestinians and 60 foreign supporters who dismantled a barbed-wire barrier in front of a section of the fence near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank on Friday. The group said three Palestinians and eight foreigners had been injured.

The army said troops had used "nonlethal means of crowd dispersal" against a group of violent protesters who threw stones at soldiers. A spokesman said the army was investigating reports of injuries.

Later Friday, more than 10,000 Palestinians attended a rally organized in Nablus by the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, which declared a unilateral cease-fire on June 29, along with other militant organizations that have been responsible for fatal attacks on Israelis.

THOUSANDS JOIN RALLY TO DEMAND THAT ISRAEL FREE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

Dozens of militants with plastic machine guns paraded in front of the stage as speakers demanded that Israel free the estimated 7,700 Palestinians, most of whom are held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism. Israel plans to release a few hundred.

Adnan Asfour, a **Hamas** political leader in Nablus, told the crowd that the cease-fire would be threatened if "Israel continues breaching and violating our rights."

Female Hamas activists performed a skit depicting Israeli soldiers and settlers evicting Palestinian villagers from their land to build the security barrier. The mock fence was then blown up by **Hamas**, eliciting cries from the crowd of "God is great."

In meetings with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a week ago and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday, President George W. Bush said the Palestinians must disarm militant groups - as stipulated in the road map - and expressed concern about the security barrier.

Abbas fears that a crackdown on militant groups could spark a civil war. Israel has said it will continue to build the disputed barrier and announced plans for 22 new housing units in a Gaza Strip settlement, despite a road map requirement that it freeze settlement activity.

In remarks published Friday, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bush "doesn't like fences, and he wished it wasn't there."

In an interview with Israel's newspaper Maariv that also was published by the State Department, Powell was quoted as saying that the United States did not dispute Israel's right to erect a fence but that he feared it was "going in ways that will make it very difficult to get to the next phases of the road map."

Although Israel insists that the barrier does not mark a political border, Powell expressed concern that "the fence is producing a fait accompli with respect to what a (Palestinian) state might look like."

Notes

NATION/WORLD

Graphic

PHOTO; Color photo by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - A Palestinian waves an Islamic flag during a rally Friday called by the militant group **Hamas** in Nablus in the West Bank. About 10,000 people called for the release of the estimated 7,700 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Load-Date: August 2, 2003

Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing

The New York Times
January 16, 2004 Friday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 4

Length: 497 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 15

Body

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip on Thursday, keeping out thousands of Palestinians with Israeli permits a day after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed four Israelis near the Erez crossing point.

Israel also closed the Erez industrial area, where the attack occurred and where at least 4,000 Palestinians work. Military officials said it was not certain how long the areas would remain closed.

The Israeli Army said that for now it would allow out of Gaza only those Palestinians who needed to leave for "humanitarian reasons."

As Israel buried its dead -- two soldiers, a member of the border police, and a security guard -- Gazans marched in a funeral procession for the bomber, a 22-year-old mother of two.

It was the first suicide attack by the Islamist group **Hamas** in four months, and its first employing a woman. Other Palestinian factions, including Islamic Jihad, had used **women** as suicide bombers, but **Hamas** leaders had previously argued that Islam did not permit doing so, as long as men were available.

Hamas leaders praised the bomber, Reem al-Reyashi, and thousands joined in the funeral march.

But in a break with customary practice, Ms. Reyashi's family did not set up a condolence tent to receive visitors on Thursday. **Hamas** erected a tent outside a mosque in her Gaza City neighborhood, but few members of her family or other visitors were seen there.

"I don't support what she did," said Yousef Awad, 31, Ms. Reyashi's brother-in-law. "It's not accepted for a woman to do that. This doesn't exist in our traditions."

Ms. Reyashi's brother, Ayman, 35, said: "She was very religious. She prayed all the time." He said he was shocked by the bombing.

Family members of Palestinian assailants sometimes fear Israeli reprisals after their attacks.

Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a violent offshoot of Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed joint responsibility for the bombing.

Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing

While some Gazans privately criticized the attack, the mainstream Palestinian leadership did not. Though they generally condemn attacks on Israeli civilians inside Israel, Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders seldom criticize violence against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

On Wednesday, the army said it was revising the charges against an Israeli soldier accused of shooting a British activist and photography student, Tom Hurndall, after Mr. Hurndall died Tuesday of his wounds.

Witnesses said Mr. Hurndall was shot in the head on April 11 as he tried to protect Palestinian children near an Israeli roadblock in the Gaza Strip. He died in a London hospital after lingering in a coma.

Mr. Hurndall, 22, was a member of the International Solidarity Movement, a group that uses nonviolent tactics to impede Israeli Army actions in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli soldier suspected in the shooting was indicted Monday on six counts, including aggravated bodily assault, but with Mr. Hurndall's death the charges will be revised.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Relatives of Zur Or, an Israeli soldier killed Wednesday by a Palestinian suicide bomber, mourned him at his funeral yesterday near Tel Aviv. (Photo by Getty Images)

Load-Date: January 16, 2004

End of Document

Army of roses

Western Daily Press

June 11, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Bristol United Press

Section: Features; Books; Reviews; Pg. 12

Length: 208 words

Body

Barbara Victor Robinson £8.99 HHHHI MILITANT Palestinian organisations like Hamas once recognised the Koran forbade suicide, but later reinterpreted it as permitting suicide if in a good cause - Israelis were killed at the same time. Men were promised eternal paradise and dozens of concubines, courtesy of Allah, if they were martyrs.

Two years ago, "spiritual" leaders agreed it was acceptable for women to sacrifice their lives for Allah and Palestine. In January 2002, PLO leader Yasser Arafat - seeking to portray a respectable image to the West while pandering to Muslim fundamentalists - celebrated an "army of roses which will crush Israeli tanks". Hours later, the first female suicide bomber completed her mission.

Victor's illuminating account, focusing on the women who blew themselves up, discovers all led unhappy lives. Her book is moving, poignant and deeply depressing. She concludes by urging ineffectual Arafat to go; Hamas in control would be preferable.

While partly blaming the Israeli occupation, she castigates hypocritical fundamentalist leaders (none of whose offspring have been suicide bombers) and bemoans the negative, claustrophobic Palestinian society. Many feel death and glory is the only way out of unrelenting misery.

Load-Date: June 12, 2004

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

The Times (London)

October 23, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; Times Magazine 40

Length: 4049 words

Byline: Kevin Toolis

Body

"She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal. She looked at me. She was three metres away. She smiled, just a little, and then I turned around. And then she exploded."

Kevin Toolis meets the family of a **female** suicide bomber and asks what secrets led this young mother to her murderous fate

A cold winter rain was drumming on the corrugated iron roof as she stood in line with the Palestinian **women** at the checkpoint. It was all very routine; the litter of cigarette butts and sweet wrappers on the concrete floor, the metal detectors, the heavy turnstiles, the misery of the corralled, and the slow dreary progress towards the Israeli soldiers checking documents in the terminal building.

When she triggered the first metal detector, 21-year-old Reem Raiyshi called out to the Israeli guard Gal Shapira manning the heavy armoured door and said she had a pin in her leg. He told her to go home, but she pulled up her long skirt and showed him a bandage. She asked for a **female** guard to come to check her. Relenting, Shapira buzzed her through the turnstile.

Reem looked pregnant but it was hard to be sure beneath the traditional baggy clothes of Palestinian womanhood. There was no hint of danger. She was calm, assured and deliberate. At the anti-blast door she slipped casually past Shapira, stepping into the main screening area with its X-ray machines, sandbags, computer terminals and distracted Israeli soldiers.

Reem, already a mother of two, was next to the X-ray counter when Eli Mazka, the 21-year-old soldier in charge of the shift, first spotted her.

"There was nothing. I looked at her. She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal. She looked at me. She was three metres away. She smiled, just a little, and then I turned round. And then she exploded."

An explosion is pure energy, but the killing mechanism is the blast wave as super-heated gases, moving at 20,000 metres a second in a space no bigger than a small school classroom, shred human flesh and turn every metal or plastic object they encounter into lethal shrapnel. In the instant circle of death around her, four soldiers, including Shapira, were killed. Nine others, including Mazka, were seriously injured. Reem's own body, a human bomb

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

padded with six kilograms of high explosive, disintegrated; her head, with the brown headscarf still attached, was found on the other side of the room.

It was a devastating attack, a blow right in the heart of the security citadel of Israel's heavily guarded frontier zone at Erez, the crossing that separates the Jewish state from the angry chaos of the Gaza Strip.

Within hours, in nearby Gaza City, the militant Islamic faction **Hamas** proclaimed Reem as another of its martyrs, a **female** shahida. That night, Reem's "martyrdom" video, clandestinely shot in the days before the attack, was broadcast across the Arab world. The video shows Reem wreathed in guns and bombs and the green **Hamas** headband of human sacrifice, proudly announcing her desire to "knock at the door of heaven with the skulls of the sons of Zion".

In a catalogue of infamy, Reem Raiyshi's "martyrdom" was another grim first. Reem was **Hamas**'s first and only **female** suicide bomber, a revolutionary step for the deeply conservative Islamic militant organisation which rigidly enforces the veil and the subjugation of **women**.

Reem was also the first Palestinian mother in all of the four long, bitter years of the intifada ever to blow herself up. How could any mother kill herself? How could Reem deny her three-year-old daughter Doha and one-year-old son Mohammed their mother's love?

Soon, Gaza was awash with other rumours. Reem, it was said, was an adulteress, a woman who had offended against the most severe honour codes of Arab culture. The rumours were angrily denied but the rancour over her death spilled over into her funeral; her brothers did not attend the traditional mourning ceremonies and refused to endorse their sister's elevation as **Hamas**'s first "bride of death".

Even by the warped moral calculus of the Arab-Israeli conflict Reem's murderous suicide at the Erez checkpoint was particularly cruel; to beg for mercy and then kill those you have deceived. But if the rumours were true, the real rationale for this young Palestinian mother's actions was truly pitiless. For hidden inside her first act of treachery was another more hideous betrayal: the suicide bombing at Erez was really a blood-drenched atonement for Reem's crime of becoming pregnant by a secret lover. And the first but hidden victim would have been the unborn child she carried.

Until the moment of her death, hers was a very ordinary life. Reem Raiyshi was born in Gaza in 1983. Palestinian families are big. Girls marry in their teens and bear a child a year until their late thirties. Reem was one of ten. When a son gets married, he brings his bride home and builds another storey on to his father's house. Households of 50 or 60, spread across generations, are not uncommon. The tribe, not the individual, is paramount. Western concepts of individualism - the ambitions and dreams, the private bedroom that British teenagers take for granted - are culturally alien.

Her sister Iman, who was 15 years older, was "a little mother" to Reem. At high school, Reem toyed with the idea of becoming an engineer but joined the common exodus into an arranged marriage at 18 to Ziyad Awad, 24, a lifeguard on the Gazan beaches. Doha was born a year later, and Mohammed two years after that. Later Reem would, five days before her death, pose with Doha for a roll of martyrdom pictures. In one picture three-year-old Doha holds a mortar round as her mother balances a Kalashnikov in her right hand.

By Palestinian standards Reem's family were prosperous. Her father Saleh owned a small factory that supplied batteries to the Israeli market. But the couple were not well-off. Ziyad's wages as a lifeguard could barely support the children; Reem once pawned her wedding ring to pay for food.

Reem never left the prison strip of Gaza, a patch of territory 40km long and 6km wide, hemmed in on all sides by the Israeli defence forces, that is crammed with 1.3 million Palestinian refugees. Once, she put her name down for haj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, but such a journey was just a dream. Reem lived in a world of suffocating closeness - a few dusty streets in the sprawling misery of Gaza City. Any other contact with the outside world came through the television. She read the Koran but, according to Iman, there was no personal motivation for revenge.

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

No one in the family had ever been injured or killed by the Israeli Army. Reem never met or spoke to a "son of Zion" until the hour of her death.

"The last time I saw her was ten days before the attack. She brought me a pair of red striped pyjamas. She said, 'Try and remember me when you wear them.' She was a religious person. She prayed a lot but she never told me she wanted to be a martyr. And I was closest to her. I was shocked when word came of her martyrdom," said Iman.

Every Palestinian wants to be a suicide bomber, in public at least. Western reporters' notebooks are filled with page after page of declarations of an imminent self-sacrifice that rarely happens. Like an old coin, the same tired slogans are still passed from hand to hand despite the dawning realisation that the war of martyrs has failed, and the price in Palestinian land and blood has become another Nakba - a catastrophe akin to the dispossession of the first Arab-Israeli 1948 conflict. But to question openly the futility of the suicide bomber war, and the young bleached faces staring out from martyrdom posters plastered along every Gazan street, is, of course, to betray the tribe. "I wish I could sacrifice myself for Allah and my country," said Iman glibly as I interviewed her in the company of her husband and brother-in-law.

For reasons of sexual decorum Iman could only agree to speak in the presence of her male relatives. We sat down on the puffy red sofas lining the walls of the traditional guest sitting room - the only space in the house open to outsiders. It was not so much an interview, more an audience: there were eight people in the room, where truths and lies were hidden together in everything that was said. The rules of reporting are different in the Middle East. You never interview an individual but instead interview a whole family.

According to her sister, Reem had been a brilliant pupil at school, a loving wife, a wonderful mother, a good Muslim, and Reem and Ziyad were always happily married. But Iman's almost childish portrait of Reem only heightened the contradiction; why forsake such an earthly paradise? It was only when Iman began to speak about Reem's alleged adultery that her replies seemed jarringly muted. "No one forced her to do it. People keep saying she was an adulteress but if they have any evidence they should come and show me. Only then will I believe it. I'm happy she killed the soldiers. I'm proud of her."

But when I asked why she didn't follow her sister's example Iman seemed almost shocked at the suggestion. "I have restrictions and responsibilities. I have a husband and seven children." There was a long awkward silence as the implications of her answer sank in. For of course her sister Reem also had a husband and children.

In her official Hamas hagiography Reem simply chose God, and death. "She loved her husband and her children. But she decided because of the occupation to sacrifice her life. She was honouring God and wanted to take revenge on the Zionist terrorist enemy," says Masheer Al-Masri, Hamas's Gaza spokesman.

Other Palestinian observers are profoundly sceptical about Hamas's claims.

"For centuries Arab culture has been clear about the role of women and men," says Dr Eyad Sarraj, who chairs the Gaza Mental Health Project and has studied extensively the motivations of suicide bombers. "Women have responsibility for internal security, the family, the house and children.

Men are responsible for external security, to protect the family from outside invaders in the tribal sense. Men do this and women agree with this. Arab men do not share any household duties. It's disgraceful, shameful, even to do the dishwashing. Given this, women will not go out and take on the role of men, the role of warriors, unless the men are completely destroyed."

Loving Allah is not enough. Something very special has to happen to make anyone, but especially a Palestinian mother, want to become a suicide bomber. As this cult of martyrdom has grown, so has its protocols. Before their mission each would-be martyr records on camera their purported "will" to authenticate each different terrorist faction's righteous claim on the coming bloodshed and to inspire others to join them in death. Confidently or haltingly the "living martyr" stares at the lens and explains in three minutes why they are about to kill themselves. But the videos are just another propaganda device; the bombers simply read out the script dictated to them by their handlers.

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

Female suicide bombers are rare and their videos are especially popular on the Palestinian street. Their testimonies, like Reem's, are suffused with sexual imagery. "I have always wished, and went too far in wishing, that my body would be shrapnel that tears the sons of Zion," she declares, resting her right arm on a Kalashnikov, reading from a script partially hidden behind a mortar round. She is no longer wearing the wedding ring she once pawned out of love for her husband. "Her language is a sign of guilt, of punishment, but in a glorified manner. For whatever reason, she was desperate to get rid of her life. God was just her excuse," says Dr Sarraj.

Even Iman Raiyshi could not hide her doubts. "When I first saw Doha and Mohammed after the martyrdom, my eyes filled with tears. I offered to adopt them, but I was told they already had a father. They kept asking when mummy was coming home."

Hamas's glorification of Reem is among the most elaborate and contrived of all its "bombing martyrs". In addition to the video, she also posed at home with her children and in one chilling picture dressed Doha and Mohammed up in **Hamas** sacrificial headbands. After her death, **Hamas** also produced a commemorative pamphlet and templates for seven different martyrdom posters.

But in a revealing contradiction, the fundamentalist Muslim organisation refused on religious grounds to print them, deeming that showing the face of a married woman on posters in the street was sexually provocative.

Honour killings are clandestine occurrences within Palestinian society, with an estimated 80 **women** or girls being killed by their families each year. Traditionally, a family's status in the community is said to be determined by the sexual honour of the **women** and the virginity of its unmarried daughters. In practical terms Palestinian **women**, particularly from working-class or rural communities, are under the control of their father, their brothers, and after marriage their husband and his brothers.

Without your father's or husband's permission, even a trip to the market is forbidden. Any contact with male non-family members is considered eib - shameful. The only permissible punishment for a woman who offends against this honour code is a death sentence, usually stabbing, to be carried out by male members of her family. The killers are never arrested, never mind prosecuted.

For the woman who has transgressed, there is no escape. "I once had a male patient in his thirties who was profoundly depressed. After a year of therapy he confessed why; he had killed his mother. She had committed adultery and under the law of the tribe she had to be killed. When she was confronted she accepted her fate but said: 'I want the honour of my death to be given to my son. No one else should do this.' He shot her with a pistol," says Dr Sarraj.

"To Europeans, such tribal justice must seem cruel, but remember your history. Four hundred years ago you were brutal, you burnt **women** alive as witches at the stake. Today in the Arab world we still live in the 16th and 17th centuries. It is a nationalist thing, a strict conservative society wracked by turmoil and under chronic stress. The luxuries of the West are unimaginable here."

Before Reem, **Hamas** was always religiously opposed to the use of **women** as suicide bombers because of the danger of breaking this honour code. By necessity, a potential suicide bomber needs to have a secret relationship with their recruiter and attend clandestine training sessions. If the bomber is a woman, such a relationship will always be potentially an affront to the honour of the men in the family. Against the will of her male relatives, a woman could be seduced into becoming a martyr, or worse.

In **Hamas**'s view, the recruitment of **women** for suicide bombing was an assault on Islamic values.

Other Palestinian factions, like the more secular Fatah and its al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade or the fanatical Islamic Jihad, disagreed. Reem after all was not the first but the seventh Palestinian woman to blow herself up. But even these organisations had been careful to recruit **women** who were no longer part of mainstream society. All previous **female** suicide bombers had been either unmarried or divorced. Wafa Idris, the first woman to die, had been divorced because of her infertility and was back living with her father. As "damaged goods", Wafa, old at 26, was deemed a burden on the family; her life was easily expendable. "With **female** suicide bombers the same pattern

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

repeats itself. There are always some family problems: divorce, infertility, or the male authority figures around them are weakened by sickness or death. There is always something about female suicide bombers that is a rupture from the usual social pattern," says Arnon Regular, an Israeli expert who has studied the suicide bomber war.

According to Israeli intelligence, Reem's path to martyrdom began with an illicit affair with a member of Hamas who was a close friend of her husband Ziyad, also a suspected Hamas supporter. In a report leaked to the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot, Israeli military sources say both her lover and her husband colluded in the bombing operation. Reem's lover, it is suggested, became her recruiter for martyrdom and even drove her the short distance from Gaza City to the checkpoint on the morning of the bombing.

"It's true. She was an adulteress. I have spoken to the intelligence sources and they firmly believe it. The situation was not a menage a trois but the lover was the husband's boss in Hamas. They both colluded in her death. This was a woman caught in an impossible situation. She did what she was told to do. What is also unusual is that the lover avoided punishment.

Normally he too would be punished by death," says Professor Ariel Merari, a terrorism expert and psychology professor at Tel Aviv University.

It took many months of negotiations with Palestinian intermediaries, but finally Reem's husband agreed to speak. Ziyad Awad is tall and lean, his frame honed by his passion for long-distance swimming, up to 10km a session, in the sea off Gaza. He was nervous, his fingers flickered and there was a fearful expression around his eyes as if he were still unsure why he was in the room. He came across as naive - as if he had become caught up, by mistake, in someone else's life. It was clear he was a follower, not a leader of men, someone who could be manipulated by stronger personalities.

Even in the endless warren of Gaza City we had to meet in another man's house because Ziyad was afraid that Israel's Apache helicopters would find out where he lived and exact revenge for the dead soldiers. His caution was not just paranoia. Last August, workshops owned by Reem's father were destroyed by Israeli missiles in belated retaliation. And Ziyad came with two minders, unidentified "cousins", probably from Hamas, who said little but who listened to every word spoken. Doha, serious and unsmiling, and Mohammed, a bundle of mischief, played at their father's feet.

At first Ziyad said he knew nothing about Reem's martyrdom plans. "On our last night together I came home and found her cleaning. And then she cooked maglub - rice and meat stew. We had our dinner, I went to sleep and she prayed. The next day I was working on the beach. People came and told me she had committed a martyrdom operation. I was shocked and sad. We slept in the same bed, shared the same house and I did not know. I could not believe it."

And he also denied the claims about Reem's adultery. "It's all lies. She was my wife and I knew her well. She was not an adulteress."

But when I asked him about Reem's martyrdom pictures, the Hamas headbands, the mortar rounds and the guns, his answers began to unravel. "She was always taking pictures with the children. I never thought she was going to go on a martyrdom operation."

It was hard to believe him. The most terrible thing about Reem's martyrdom pictures is their family intimacy. As they pose in the headbands, Doha still holds her favourite teddy bear; Mohammed stands just inches away from a stack of cuddly toys. Far from being simple family snapshots, the pictures are statements of the crime to come. Whoever took them knew that within days Reem would be dead, the children motherless. But even these pictures were not enough. The following day, as we can see from the time code, Reem was conscripted for another photo session. Dressed up in military fatigues, she poses awkwardly on her knees, propping up a Kalashnikov rifle and holding a copy of the Koran. At her feet are Doha and Mohammed. One of Reem's fingers rests on the cover of the book as if she were pedantically instructing the children to follow the word of God. But Mohammed, 18 months, has grown bored with the antics of the adults around him and has taken off his headband and is looking up at whoever is holding the camera. Doha, wearing the Hamas bandanna like a hairband, is still turned towards her mother.

She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal...

Clearly the picture is a set-up, another ritual for Hamas's forthcoming propaganda album. But its clumsiness betrays the truth. Reem's face is drained of the exultancy of martyrdom. She is a portrait of abject misery and fear, and looks longingly towards the children she will soon be torn from. In death, suicide bombers rise up and become blessed "shahid" who dwell with the prophets in heaven, and their families rise up the Palestinian social ladder with them. But Ziyad seemed more keen on obliterating Reem's memory. Forty days after her death, the exact term of the traditional mourning period, he remarried. "I removed all of Reem's pictures and changed the furniture. I am trying not to remind the children of Reem. I want them to consider my new wife as their mother and Reem as an angel. I think it's working. At first they kept on asking for mummy. But recently I asked Doha, 'Where is your mum?' And she said: 'She is in paradise.'"

There is no real place in Arab society for the husband of a martyr.

Regardless of his possible role in his wife's death, Ziyad seems shamed by Reem's martyrdom. Her death in battle mocks his passivity in the face of the Jewish enemy. Perhaps Ziyad was always weak, malleable in the hands of other men, and that flaw broke his marriage and led to Reem's recruitment for death. Whoever it was, it was not her husband who recruited Reem for martyrdom and drove her to the Erez checkpoint. But Ziyad, despite his thin alibi of beachguard duty on a cold, rainy day, almost certainly had to collude in the crime.

On the opposite side of the room, watching and listening, were Ziyad's two "cousins" from Hamas. The leader, a red-haired man in his early forties, never introduced himself, but later spoke of his war against the Jewish state. I wondered if he was the man Israeli intelligence had decided to be both lover and killer. Everyone knew more than was being said but no one was prepared to stray from the official Hamas story. "When the children grow up they will know their mother is a martyr. They will be proud. I don't want them to remember horrible things. Of course Reem was daily thinking of them. It was just that her love for her country was more than her love for her children," said Ziyad, unconvincingly.

According to Israel's Gaza Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Yossi Hadat, Hamas's guerrilla war has grown increasingly sophisticated in the past three years. Twenty-five Israeli soldiers and civilians have been killed in meticulously planned attacks. Hamas's planners obviously spotted that a woman, with a good story, was more likely to be able to lull the suspicious soldiers at the Erez terminal and get within striking distance. And after that, all they needed was the right woman. Reem was just another tactical weapon in an endless war of attrition.

How could, as Israeli military sources insist, a young pregnant mother kill herself and abandon her children? How could any mother, regardless of her "crime", choose death, not life? Perhaps that purported secret pregnancy was her undoing. But the final answer is that Reem Raiyshi seems to have had no choice. If she had transgressed there was in her culture and her religion only one road open: her own death as atonement for having sex with another man.

Unusually Reem's martyrdom video, her will, begins with a long passage giving seven reasons why it's good to become a martyr. "A martyr," she intones, "will be protected from all agony and their soul swiftly transferred to heaven." But it is the second and third reasons that betray her. "Martyrdom purifies you from any sin, and thereby you will not be exposed to any punishment in your grace. So the grave's agony will be lifted from the martyr's shoulders and there will be no punishment whatsoever on the day of judgment." There is only one crime in Arab culture that a young woman could commit that would forever damn her soul - adultery.

A cold winter rain may have been drumming on the corrugated metal roof, but even before she took her place in the line, Reem Raiyshi was a dead woman walking. Whichever way she turned - back to Gaza City, or forward on to the terminal and the waiting Jewish soldiers - death would overtake her.

Load-Date: October 23, 2004

Arafat claims authority over security

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

August 26, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. B8; News

Length: 534 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Yasser Arafat reasserted his authority over Palestinian security forces Monday, appointing a new national security adviser to work on a sketchy reform plan and providing no sign of a major clampdown on militants demanded by the United States.

Drafting Brig. Gen. Jibril Rajoub, a former West Bank security chief, to the new post was Arafat's latest move in a power struggle with Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, a backer of the U.S.-sponsored "road map" peace plan thrown into turmoil by a **Hamas** suicide bombing and Israel's fierce response.

In Gaza City, **Hamas** supporters warned Israel to "prepare coffins" after burying four militants killed in an Israeli missile strike on Sunday, just four days after a similar strike killed a senior **Hamas** leader.

Associated Press

Israel and the United States are pressing Palestinian authorities to unify their security forces in order to dismantle the armed groups, a key proviso of the road map, after a **Hamas** bomber killed 21 people on a Jerusalem bus last week.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell last week appealed in vain to Arafat, accused by Israel of links to terrorism and shunned by Washington for a year, to give Abbas full authority over security.

Palestinian national security forces, who would lead any clampdown, as well as the intelligence services all answer directly to Arafat. Abbas has authority over the rest, including the civil police force.

Members of the central committee of Arafat's Fatah movement have proposed appointing a new interior minister, but without giving him any of Arafat's powers. The committee was to meet again later Monday to discuss the idea.

Abbas has rejected it, saying it will make little difference unless the post carries real clout. But his cabinet had no direct say in Arafat's latest move to appoint Rajoub and establish a new national security council, which Arafat himself will chair.

Arafat fired Rajoub from his role as West Bank security chief in July 2002 after an argument. At the time, Arafat tried to punch Rajoub and pointed his pistol at him. But Rajoub and Abbas' security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, also are adversaries, and it appears Arafat is trying to use Rajoub in his campaign to undermine Abbas' fledgling government.

Rajoub said the security council will oversee "reform of the security forces and its leadership." But he declined to elaborate on the scope or timing of its work, suggesting there is little chance of Arafat yielding any time soon.

Arafat claims authority over security

He was also vague about whether his appointment heralds a crackdown on militants.

"Let's wait and see. We're still starting up."

Ghassan Khatib, a minister in Abbas' cabinet, said Rajoub's arrival was of little significance, but acknowledged that his presence at Arafat's side could further complicate relations between Arafat and Abbas.

"The appointment might add to the tension, but we don't know yet because we don't know what the appointment means," Khatib said.

Rajoub also said the council would "oversee co-operation" with the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union, the four backers of the peace plan, while echoing Palestinian frustration at Israeli's resumption of targeted killings.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; A Palestinian women flashes the victory sign with her symbolically chained hands during a rally organized by Islamic Jihad in Gaza City, Monday

Load-Date: August 26, 2003

End of Document

A familiar tragedy

The Southland Times (New Zealand)

September 9, 2003, Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; EDITORIAL;

Length: 551 words

Body

ON one level, increasing numbers of Israelis and Palestinians are entirely in harmony. For the dead there's no difference between those who met their fate from a suicide bomb or a precision-guided missile from an F16 fighter. People killed through sophistication and those killed through desperation are equally dead.

After the events of the weekend in the Middle East, we will soon be seeing, reading and hearing more of both variations of the same tragedy.

Israel's failed attempts to take out the wheelchair-bound figurehead of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bombastic insistence that all the group's members are "marked for death" have all but guaranteed new momentum for the same old Middle East metronome of tit-for-tat killings. All that changes is the intensity -- and that will be a change for the worse. As a Hamas spokesman declared, Israel has "opened the gates of hell." Horrid though such rhetoric is, the cost must be remembered. And it does not fall equally. The imbalance of the resources that each side has available for the mechanics of killing means that the hundreds who are soon to die will number many more Palestinians than Israelis.

Even so, world leaders like US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair will condemn the Palestinians' suicide bombers, while making scant mention of the Palestinians -- women and children among them -- killed by helicopter gunships and even F16 fighters, when the Israelis seek to check more names off this "marked-for-death" list.

Surely the conflict has reached the stage where the handwringing of the onlooking world has to be replaced by something more useful. In practical terms, the only way that will happen is for Mr Bush to exert real control over Israel, which he can legitimately do given the extent to which the state is supported from the US.

The onlooking world has reached the dismal realisation that the ceasefire declared by the Palestinians was never going to work because Israel was never prepared to set aside its own aggressions, most damagingly its continuing policy of ardently pursuing the assassination of Hamas leaders, wilfully blind to the reality that each strike empowers rather than weakens the martyr philosophy upon which Hamas continues to call.

It needs to be borne in mind that the Israelis, who are calling again for Yasser Arafat to be exiled from Palestine, are the occupiers -- the invaders -- of this land. They certainly aren't going to exercise any control over their occupation unless Mr Bush has the courage to force them to, even though it means he takes a knock from the influential pro-Israel component in his own country.

A familiar tragedy

Mr Bush is staring at the prospect of a continuing, twisting disaster through his invasion of Iraq. For a while there, his administration's road map for peace in the Middle East was serving as an invaluable reminder that he is not an unmitigated disaster internationally. While flawed, the road map was an avenue for some, distinct progress.

Right now, the road map is in desperate need of a minesweeper. And the US is the country to make it happen. Given the parlous state of his international prestige nowadays, the president has more to win than to lose by pressuring Israel. And -- a small point, perhaps -- it is the right thing to do.

Load-Date: September 10, 2003

End of Document

Terrorists Murder Scores In Israel, Russia, and Iraq

New York Sun (Archive)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 206 words

Byline: Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

A day after Republican National Convention speakers Mayor Giuliani and Senator McCain praised President Bush for his courage in the war against Islamist terrorism, deadly bursts of violence erupted in Israel, Russia, and Iraq.

Suicide attackers in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba slaughtered 16 bus riders and wounded dozens in almost simultaneous bombings.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the blasts and said it was vengeance for Israel's assassinations of **Hamas** leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor Abdel Aziz Rantisi in March and April. Hundreds of Palestinian Arabs took to the streets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to celebrate the bombings, the Jerusalem Post reported. Prime Minister Sharon met with security advisers to plan a response.

In Russia, a **female** suicide bomber killed 10 people and wounded more than 50 outside a busy Moscow subway station. The attack comes on the heels of twin jetliner crashes last week that Russian authorities say were terrorist bombings.

In Iraq, 12 men from Nepal who worked as cooks and cleaners were executed on video by terrorists who had taken them hostage three weeks ago. One of the victims was decapitated and the other 11 men were shot, according to the Associated Press.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

**THE BOMBERS FROM BRITAIN;
SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR SUICIDE MISSION, THESE MEN PROCLAIM ON
VIDEO:**

The Independent (London)

March 9, 2004, Tuesday

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Section: Final Edition; TITLE PAGE; Pg. 1,2

Length: 861 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN JERUSALEM Omar Khan Sharif, left, and Asif Hanif in the video. They said they were offering their souls for the sake of Allah

Body

TWO BRITISH suicide bombers are shown rejoicing at the prospect of killing Israelis in a videotape made before their deaths last year and released yesterday by the militant Palestinian group **Hamas**.

Asif Hanif, from Hounslow, south-west London, and Omar Khan Sharif, from Derby, are seen wearing military fatigues as they seek to justify in Arabic and English the lethal attack which they were about to make on a Tel Aviv club last year.

Three people were killed and 55 injured in the attack when Hanif, 22, who was of Pakistani descent, blew himself up at Mike's Place on 30 April. In the videotape, Hanif says: "What can I say? The real terrorists are these Israelis. They're really sickos ... Muslims are being killed every day. It is an honour to kill one of those people Jews ." Hanif also recites traditional Koranic verses and calls on Muslims everywhere to be "people of action".

Sharif, 27, who was married with two children, fled the scene after failing to detonate his bomb. His body was later washed up on the shore in Tel Aviv. Clutching an AK-47 rifle, he says in Arabic: "We wanted to offer our souls for the sake of Allah and to get revenge against the Jews and Crusaders."

The video is believed to be the first of its kind showing suicide bombers talking about their motivation in English. The men, who entered Israel as tourists and had contacts with pro-Palestinian foreign activists in Gaza before the attack, are shown wearing headbands emblazoned with the words "Qassam Brigades" in Arabic.

Hamas said it was issuing the tape in honour of the **Hamas** leader Ibrahim al-Maqadma, who was killed along with two bodyguards in an Israeli air strike on Gaza a year ago. A poster of Maqadma is in the background in the video, apparently to signify that the attack was to avenge his death.

Hanif and Sharif are seen praying in a Gaza flat and at the end of the video they embrace each other and call on God to punish Tony Blair and George Bush. Speaking in a rambling, conversational style, Hanif says that Allah should either "guide" Mr Bush and Mr Blair or "bring down his wrath" on them.

He adds: "Every Muslim who walks the Earth please look into the real facts that are going on. Allah has not created us stupid. He has given us intellect." He describes seeing a pregnant Palestinian woman being stopped at a

THE BOMBERS FROM BRITAIN ; SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR SUICIDE MISSION, THESE MEN PROCLAIM ON VIDEO:

checkpoint and being told to bare her stomach by Israeli soldiers to show her condition. Because of her "modesty" he says she was obliged to stop her journey.

Then he talks about a Palestinian farmer's strawberry plantation apparently destroyed by Israeli forces. He says: "Some dude comes with his truck and runs over it. How would you feel? You'd feel like shooting him." In another passage he talks of "our women" being raped and "our children" being

killed but adds that "some Muslims" are spies. Sharif says he visited a farm destroyed during an Israeli incursion in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia. "What are we doing as Muslims to help?" he asks.

The attack last April on Mike's Bar was exceptional because the two bombers were given instructions in Gaza, which they left to carry out the attacks. Due to the continued vigilance of the Israeli army and border checks carried out on everyone who crosses in and out of Gaza, no other suicide bombing mission has been successfully launched from inside the strip during the three and half years of the intifada.

The fact that the men were non-Palestinians with British passports undoubtedly made it easier for them to escape attention.

Hanif, who was said to have become interested in politics and spiritual matters after attending Cranford Community College in Hounslow, west London, gained a distinction in his business studies GNVQ before surprising his friends and family by announcing that he intended to study Arabic at Damascus University and that he wanted to become an Islamic scholar.

Sharif, the son of a wealthy businessman who emigrated from Pakistan, was expelled from a private preparatory school and then attended a comprehensive school in Derby. He did well in his exams and went on to study at university in London.

In Rafah, the men were known to foreign peace activists and claimed that they were in Gaza as tourists with the Alternative Tourism Group, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to expanding visitor numbers to Palestinian areas.

Videos of suicide bombers are usually released soon after their attacks but Hamas said it had held back the tape for security reasons.

In a statement released alongside the video, Hamas's military wing said that the use of foreigners in the Tel Aviv bombing was meant to send a message "to the Zionists that Qassam Brigades have many options to fight you as long as you occupy our land and commit massacres".

The three victims killed in the Tel Aviv attack were Yanai Weiss, 46, a musician, Ran Baron, 24 and Dominique Hess, 29, a Frenchwoman who emigrated to Israel five years earlier.

The release of the video came as Hamas threatened vengeance for Sunday's incursion into refugee camps in central Gaza which resulted in the deaths of 14 Palestinians.

The dead included 11 militants and three boys aged between eight and 15.

Load-Date: March 9, 2004

Fence, prisoners stir protests by Palestinians

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 2, 2003, Saturday

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Section: World/Nation; Pg. a5

Length: 553 words

Byline: MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press writer

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in the West Bank to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Earlier, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at demonstrators near a disputed security barrier, reportedly injuring at least 11 people.

Conflict over the prisoners and the barrier which had its first 90-mile section completed this week threatens to block the peace effort. Despite White House summits with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent days, progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" has stalled.

The protests, a day after a riot by Palestinian prisoners in an Israeli prison, underscored the growing tensions.

The barrier planned to stretch along 370 miles of electric fences, trenches, concrete blocks and coils of razor wire is designed to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen entering Israel. It has infuriated Palestinians because it cuts into the West Bank in some areas.

The pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement said soldiers fired rubber bullets at about 300 Palestinians and 60 foreign supporters who dismantled a barbed-wire barrier in front of a section of the fence near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank on Friday.

The group said three Palestinians and eight foreigners were injured.

The army said troops had used "non-lethal means of crowd dispersal" against a group of violent protesters who threw stones at soldiers. A spokesman said the army was investigating reports of injuries.

Later Friday, more than 10,000 Palestinians attended a rally organized in Nablus by the Islamic group **Hamas**, which declared a unilateral cease-fire on June 29 along with other militant organizations.

Dozens of militants with plastic machine guns paraded in front of the stage as speakers demanded Israel free the estimated 7,700 Palestinians, most of whom are held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism. Israel plans to release a few hundred.

Adnan Asfour, a **Hamas** political leader in Nablus, told the crowd that the cease-fire would be threatened if "Israel continues breaching and violating our rights."

Fence, prisoners stir protests by Palestinians

Female Hamas activists performed a skit depicting Israeli soldiers and settlers evicting Palestinian villagers from their land to build the security barrier. The mock fence was then blown up by **Hamas**, eliciting cries of "God is great" from the crowd.

In meetings with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a week ago and Israeli premier Ariel Sharon on Tuesday, President Bush prodded both to meet their road map obligations.

Bush said the Palestinians must disarm militant groups as stipulated in the road map and expressed concern about the security barrier. The barrier and the prisoners issues are not mentioned in the road map, a blueprint for ending violence and creating a Palestinian state by 2005.

Abbas fears a crackdown on militant groups could spark civil war. Israel has said it will continue to build the disputed barrier and announced plans for 22 new housing units in a Gaza Strip settlement, despite a road map requirement that it freeze settlement activity.

In remarks published Friday, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bush "doesn't like fences and he wished it wasn't there."

Also Friday, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners refused food, a day after a prison riot involving about 400 Palestinian inmates left 20 prisoners and five guards injured.

Graphic

Foreign activists with the International Solidarity Movement and Palestinian demonstrators try to avoid tear gas thrown by Israeli forces during a protest Friday at the Israeli-built wall near the city of Tulkarem.

Load-Date: August 3, 2003

Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb

The Evening Standard (London)

September 1, 2004

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Section: A_MERGE; Pg. 22

Length: 383 words

Byline: PATRICK SAWER

Body

ISRAELI forces today sealed off the West Bank city of Hebron in retaliation for two deadly suicide bombings which killed 16 bus passengers during a wave of bloody terror attacks around the world.

As Palestinian militants celebrated following the attacks - in which two buses were blown up - Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon vowed to strike back with force.

Already the Israeli army has closed off Hebron - from where the bombers were sent by **Hamas** - and blown up the home of one of them, Ahmed Kawasmeh.

Israeli military sources said soldiers were searching the city.

Top Israeli military commanders met Mr Sharon and defence minister Shaul Mofaz for three hours late last night to discuss further reprisals.

The double bombing in the southern city of Beersheba yesterday was the first suicide attack in Israel in almost six months. One of the dead was a three-year-old boy.

The 16 did not include the bombers, officials said. More than 80 people were wounded and three were still in critical condition today.

The first bomb went off on a bus as it approached a main junction in the city centre. The driver of a following bus, Yaakov Cohen, saw the explosion and immediately ordered his passengers off, undoubtedly saving many lives as it too was blown up.

The bombings were the first attack on Beersheba, a quiet city of 200,000 in Israel's Negev desert.

Israeli officials say this proves the need for the wall which is being built to cut off the occupied West Bank. The wall has yet to be built between Beersheba and the Hebron area of the West Bank, 15 miles away.

A **Hamas** leaflet said the attack was in retaliation for Israel's assassination of its founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, earlier this year.

In Gaza, thousands of **Hamas** supporters celebrated with Rantisi's widow, Rasha, calling the attack a "heroic operation" and saying her husband's soul was "happy in heaven". She threw sweets to the cheering crowd around her house.

Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb

However, in a statement Palestinian president Yasser Arafat condemned the attack. It read: "The Palestinian interest requires a stop to harming all civilians so as not give Israel pretext to continue its aggression against our people."

The attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people last year in Haifa.

Graphic

CARNAGE: POLICE AND RESCUE WORKERS REMOVE A BODY FROM ONE OF THE BUSES DESTROYED IN THE BOMBINGS IN BEERSHEBA

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

End of Document

Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

The International Herald Tribune

July 16, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 2861 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Second of two parts

*

Some of the women wore smart suits. Many modestly covered their hair. Only one wore the most conservative Islamic dress, cloaking herself head to toe in black.

Members of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee of Palestine, they had gathered in a hotel conference room in Gaza City in June for a symposium titled, "After the Withdrawal from Gaza." They were not happy with what they were hearing.

Like Palestinians generally, these women wanted to hear precisely what the Palestinian leadership planned to do. They knew that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said he would withdraw Israeli settlers and soldiers from the Gaza Strip next year.

The New York Times

They knew that Palestinian factions had begun struggling over who will govern Gaza and how -- over whether it will be ruled by agreement, by ballot, by force, or not at all.

Ten years after Yasser Arafat returned in triumph to Gaza under a previous experiment in self-rule, the Oslo peace process, these would-be leaders are scrambling.

Will there be a way forward, or a destitute enclave ruled by warlords and militants who doom the Palestinian cause?

They did not think they had heard answers from the first panel, composed of a legislator, a former minister and a militant leader.

"You make me so depressed," said Rida Awadallah, 59, of the Working Women's Union. "Maybe I'm dumb, but I've heard all this before. What's the preparation for the next stage?"

Finally, one panelist, a Palestinian legislator and political scientist named Ziad Abu Amr, fired back a lacerating question of his own.

Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

"Do you want us to lie to you concerning the depression you are suffering from? You know who is determining everything. Arafat hasn't proposed a vision for the Palestinian people."

While he spoke, a murmur swept the room. Flanked by beefy bodyguards, Muhammad Dahlan strode in to give the next talk, "An Independent Vision."

Dahlan, for years the leader of the Preventive Security force in Gaza, is more feared than loved here. But he is favored by Israeli, European and American officials as strong enough to run Gaza, and he has embarked on a political campaign. He sees the Israeli withdrawal as an opportunity and argues that, if the Palestinians fail here, Israel will point to the example and refuse to cede more of the West Bank.

Dahlan's speech was cautious. But then came the questions.

Dahlan raised his voice in return. He asked if Palestine wanted to go the way of Iraq or Libya. Palestinians could either build a model in Gaza, or embrace "chaos and destruction."

Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued.

"We are deceiving ourselves," he said. "We failed to make peace and to make war. We failed at both. We have to decide now -- are we going to have war or peace? If it's war, I will be the first to pick up a machine gun."

In an interview in his office this month, Dahlan tore a blank sheet of paper from a notebook and held it up. That was all the orders he had ever received in 25 years within Arafat's dominant movement, Fatah, he said. "They are against the intifada -- at the same time, they are with the intifada," he said of Fatah's leaders, without naming the top one. "They are against the terror, and they are with the terror."

It was time, he said, to choose.

"We are in the junction," he said, "either to get to Palestinian independence, or to get back to Somalia."

It is something of a historical paradox that Gaza -- poorer and sharper-edged than the West Bank -- would emerge as the proving ground of a Palestinian state.

But Dahlan and other Palestinian politicians sense beneath the militancy an exhaustion with death and despair and a hunger for change. "Enough is enough," he said.

That attitude is hard to see in the pictures and paintings of the dead that are everywhere here. Their message is usually the same: not of pathos and loss, but of heroism, sacrifice, glamour.

In one such painting, Hamdi Mohsin appears vivid and proud, wearing fatigues and holding a rifle in a ferocious battle, against a sky burning red and gold. Yet Hamdi was not a militant, but a 14-year-old boy shot to death while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When his parents commissioned Fayez al-Hasani, 52, to paint their son, they asked him to show him as a fighter.

Hasani, who longs to paint "something beautiful," like the dark-eyed women who fill his canvases, worries about his own young son, who rushes out to watch whenever the Israeli soldiers raid Gaza City. "I call it watching death," he said. "It scares me."

Armed struggle may still fire the imagination of many Palestinians, or comfort them, and it draws the attention of the world. But while people here rage at Israeli tactics, they also yearn for a more normal, secure life. This struggle is not celebrated in posters, but it is no less insistent.

Palestinian fishing boats string a necklace of light along the coast at night; bathers crowd the beaches by day. In the Rafah refugee camp at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, the area most wracked by violence in the conflict, Mahmoud Juma, 40, is rebuilding his zoo, flattened by Israel in May.

Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

One evening last month along the breakwater that forms Gaza City's small harbor, Sabbagh Ghanem, a 44-year-old school counselor, watched quietly as dozens of sport fishermen lined the breakwater. They were not catching much of anything but enjoying the calm and the sight of Gaza City burnished by the setting sun.

Yet no one could set aside the conflict for long. Fuad al Habeel, 20, chafed at Israeli restrictions that limited fishermen like him to a patch of sea. Ghanem said he was thinking about a 14-year-old student who was wetting his bed. "He wants to die, because everything is sad," Ghanem said.

Muhammad Salama, 14, lifted the hem of his trunks to show a puckered scar on his left thigh. He was shot when, with thousands of other children, he rushed to watch the same Israeli incursion in which Hamdi Mohsin died.

Muhammad said his dream was to become a doctor at a Gaza hospital, "to treat people who get wounded."

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war sparked by Israel's creation, Gaza fell under the control of Egypt, the West Bank under the control of Jordan.

Unlike the Jordanians, the Egyptians did not give citizenship or passports to Palestinians. From the West Bank, Palestinians traveled for schooling and jobs that made some of them wealthy and many of them worldly. Gaza stagnated.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the Six-Day War of 1967. Now, 64 percent of Gazans live under a poverty line of about \$2 a day, compared to just over a third of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Unlike in the West Bank, Hamas, the Islamic militant group, is slightly more popular than Arafat's Fatah movement in Gaza, according to polling by Khalil Shikaki, a Palestinian political scientist. Hamas commands the support of a bit more than a quarter of the population; Fatah, a little less.

But that is not the same as saying the ideology of Hamas is triumphing. "To the contrary," Shikaki said, "the Palestinian public has never been as willing to compromise as it is today."

The growing support for Hamas appears to have less to do with its doctrine than with disgust with the Palestinian Authority and the dominant Fatah.

Dahlan recognized more than two years ago that the Palestinian Authority was losing support and even legitimacy. He resigned as a security chief and distanced himself from the top leadership.

At 43, Dahlan is part of a generation of Fatah men who grew up under the Israeli occupation, then commanded the first uprising against Israel in the late 1980s. In Israeli prisons, they learned Hebrew and read Israeli newspapers. Then they became legislators or security chiefs when Arafat and other revolutionaries returned from exile. Some, like Dahlan, made themselves very rich in government posts.

Yet, these men also watched in dismay as what they call "the opposition" -- Hamas -- gained popularity during the second uprising, which began in September 2000.

Understanding Palestinians, they realized how the collapse of peace talks, supported by Fatah, had discredited their faction. But also understanding Israelis, they saw how Fatah's bloody role in the new uprising was distancing them from their dream of a state.

"There are two ways to achieve change," Dahlan told the women's group. "Coups or elections. A coup is not part of the mentality of the Palestinians."

Dahlan has successfully pressed Arafat to permit elections in Gaza within Fatah. These elections are underway, and to those who demanded them they are a revolution. Dahlan is hoping that they will result in a new governing body for Fatah by early next year.

Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

Some of Dahlan's allies say it is time for Arafat to go. "He's leading us to nowhere," said one of them, Khaled Yazji, the head of a non-government organization in Gaza.

Yazji is Arafat's former chief of protocol.

Dahlan is careful not to challenge Arafat directly. He said he wanted Arafat "to bless the results."

Hamas refused to play a role in the Palestinian Authority, because it was created under the Oslo agreement, which **Hamas** opposed. Since Sharon wants to withdraw without a peace agreement, **Hamas** leaders say they now feel free now to participate in talks about how to govern Gaza after the Israelis leave.

Egypt is mediating, pressing the factions to stop attacks while urging the Israelis to withdraw completely. Palestinian officials say they have asked the Egyptians for guarantees that Israel will permit Gaza's airport and seaport to open, perhaps under international supervision, and that it will remove its armored cordon along Gaza's border with Egypt.

The details are critical, but hazy. If attacks continue in Israel or the West Bank, Israel may strike back at the **Hamas** leaders in Gaza; if Israel does not allow the ports to function freely -- and it says it will not, at least in the short term -- **Hamas** may consider that a deal-breaker.

If Palestinian leaders fail, Shikaki said, "the threats are tremendous." He listed, "the empowerment of **Hamas**, the fragmentation of the Palestinian nationalist movement and the disintegration of the Palestinian Authority."

In 1996, on Arafat's orders, Dahlan cracked down on **Hamas**, earning a reputation for ruthlessness. That was during the Oslo peace process. During this uprising he, like other Fatah leaders, contended that they could not take such action.

For one thing, the Palestinian Authority is far weaker. Having failed for so long to act, the security forces are viewed less as law enforcement arms than as private militias in the service of Arafat and others. Through allies, Dahlan retains control of the Preventive Security force, Palestinian officials and Western diplomats say.

Recently, Gaza's security forces have clashed with each other and with powerful families here.

Unlike in the West Bank, there is no shortage of active, armed security men in Gaza -- some 24,000 in all. What they lack, in the view of Palestinian analysts, is political legitimacy to move against militants or even criminals.

"That's why it's so important to get an agreement among the factions," said Major General Saeb al-Ajez, a commander of the National Security forces here who is particularly close to the Egyptians. "Then we will have the right to enforce the law."

For now, however, Ajez is in charge of the Palestinian investigation into the bombing of an American diplomatic convoy here last Oct. 15 that killed three American security specialists. He suggested he had identified suspects, but said he could reveal no names for fear the culprits might escape. Asked why he did not arrest them, he said, "During this bad security situation, how can we arrest someone? It will endanger the situation."

Meanwhile, the killings have strained the already weakened ties between the Bush administration and the Palestinian Authority, and American diplomats have stopped coming to Gaza.

Arafat's top representative here, Ahmed Helis, has an elegant office lined with large photographs of his son, Muhammad.

At 17, Muhammad died early this year fighting Israeli soldiers on a raid into Gaza City that had forced his school to close. Helis said he was afraid for his son as he left the house with his gun instead of his school bag, but that he did not try to stop him. "I can't push people to go and fight and not let my son go," he said.

A few blocks away, in the same Gaza neighborhood, a backlit sign, roughly four feet, or 1.2 meters, long and two feet high, sits above the entrance to the cinderblock home of Umm Nidal Farahat, 55.

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Against a backdrop of flames, it bears pictures of two of her sons, both Hamas militants. Two other sons have been wounded in the fighting and a fifth, of six, is in an Israeli prison.

Farahat, who wants to drive Israel out of all historical Palestine, saw her sons as carrying the fight to the Israelis. Helis, who favors a two-state solution, saw his son as defending Gaza against invaders.

Yet one of Farahat's sons, Nidal, was an engineer of the crude rockets that Hamas fires over Gaza's fenced boundary into Israel. And it was on a raid to stop Hamas from firing such rockets that Israeli forces killed Muhammad Helis.

There is an elegiac quality to the way some Palestinian reformers and other politicians talk now about the Oslo years and their own faded visions of a democratic Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem.

They hold Israel's occupation, its military pressure on the Palestinians and its attacks on the Palestinian Authority, ultimately responsible. But they also say that Palestinians lost control of their national movement and international image, failing to adapt as American, European and even Arab attitudes shifted under the shock of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

There was a time when Elias Khoury thought of himself as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians. His family lost its land to Israel in the 1948 war, but his father took citizenship in Israel and believed he could work patiently through Israeli law to get the land back. Elias Khoury went to Hebrew University and became a lawyer himself.

In 1975, Khoury's father, Daoud, was crossing Jerusalem Zion Square when a bomb planted by Palestinians exploded, killing him and 13 others.

Elias Khoury went on to win landmark legal cases against Israeli settlements. He sent his children to a Jerusalem school that blended the city's Jewish, Muslim and Christian children.

Then, one evening this March, his son George went for a jog in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood and was shot dead by members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the Fatah militant group. The group put out a statement boasting that it had killed a settler. French Hill sits on land that Israel occupied in 1967.

Fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, friends with Arabs and Jews, George Khoury was studying at Hebrew University. He spoke by telephone every day with his older brother, David, away at school in Scotland, to compare business ideas that each jotted in small notebooks. He played the piano and wanted to learn the saxophone, and he left behind a list of jazz concerts he would attend.

Dead at 20, he embodied the might-have-beens of what was known, a few years ago, as the New Middle East.

He left behind a father who called him "my beloved," and who longed for sleep in the hope of seeing his son in his dreams.

In a conversation in his home two weeks after George was killed, Elias Khoury said he had been thinking about what could explain his losses. When his father was killed in 1975, he said, there was no Hamas, no Oslo process, no Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

"Only the occupation was there," he said, sitting in his darkened living room with George's bronzed baby shoes on a nearby table. "I came to the conclusion that what happened to us, what happened to me, to my father and my son and to others -- to Israelis who lost their beloved -- this is a diagnosis of the sickness.

"And the sickness is occupation."

The occupation was coarsening both societies, he said. Israel did not have the same values it held 20 years ago. Yet, he said, Israel was now "mature" enough to accept a Palestinian state. But he said that the Palestinians needed outside help to run their affairs. He invoked a Koranic verse that he said explained why, after escaping Egypt, the Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years before reaching the land of Israel.

Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

The reason, he said, was that those who had lived in slavery were not capable of building a state.

"It's painful, but we have to look at the truth," he said. "As a lawyer, I look at the facts. The first fact is that the Palestinian society, as a collective, is not ready to lead itself."

The Palestinian leadership had abandoned law and order, he said, and it had shown little respect for basic values. "One of the most important values is the sacredness of life," he said.

After Al Aksa Martyrs discovered its mistake, it put out a statement expressing regret and declaring George Khoury to be a "shahid," or martyr. "It harmed me more," Khoury said. "Let's say Yitzhak had been running that evening. It would have been O.K. if he had been killed? This is how we are going to build our state?"

"My son," he said, "was not a shahid."

Load-Date: July 16, 2004

End of Document

16 dead, peace hopes dashed

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

September 11, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 30

Length: 375 words

Byline: SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON

Body

TWO Palestinian suicide bombings less than six hours apart killed at least 16 people and injured dozens more including three Australian women yesterday.

The attacks -- in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion and at a Jerusalem cafe -- made good on threats from the Palestinian militant group Hamas to avenge a military strike against the organisation's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, last Saturday.

The attack, which didn't kill Mr Yassin, came after Israel vowed to eradicate Hamas after a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on August 19 killed 22 people.

MATP

The violence has eliminated any remaining prospects for peace efforts and made it highly unlikely that the Palestinians and Israelis can get back to the negotiating table.

While there were no immediate claims of responsibility for yesterday's bombings, Hamas' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam, said in a statement that it "welcomed the two suicide attacks".

"It's time for Israel to pay the price of its daily crimes," the statement said, adding that "greater danger is coming".

The first of the bombings came at the height of evening rush hour outside Tzifrin Army Base in central Israel where soldiers packed a bus stop waiting for rides home.

Warnings from Israeli security services about terrorists slipping into Jerusalem quickly followed.

The second bomber blew himself up after running into the Cafe Hillel in the trendy German Colony section of Jerusalem. The blast at the popular coffee shop blew out windows in many other shops along the street.

For an hour after the attack, demolition experts broke into cars and searched rubbish bins for other bombs.

Following news of the blasts, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short his visit to India and flew back to Israel late last night.

US President George W. Bush, speaking at a campaign fundraiser in Florida, said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. We condemn these vicious attacks in the strongest possible terms." Survivor

16 dead, peace hopes dashed

Tova Ross said she'd been aware of the terrorism alerts and decided to sit with two friends toward the rear of the restaurant, away from the windows.

"That is why I'm alive," she said.

Ms Ross said, when the bomb exploded, the restaurant "went dark and there was a flame".

Load-Date: September 10, 2003

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Gaza engulfed in death

Australian Financial Review

June 16, 2003 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS; Opinion; Pg. 62

Length: 764 words

Byline: Nour Odeh. Nour Odeh is a journalist working and living in Gaza. She is the former director of the department of communications in the Palestine Media Centre

Body

Palestinians see themselves making concessions only to suffer more losses at Israeli hands, writes Nour Odeh .

Palestinians have been engulfed in anxiety and death since last Tuesday, when two Israeli helicopters fired six missiles at a car driving next to Gaza City's main hospital. On Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's orders, these missiles were intended to assassinate Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi , a **Hamas** political leader.

Palestinian outrage over this attack was sweeping. Israel had crossed the red line by targeting a political leader, previously seen as off-limits.

This failed assassination was regarded as the last straw. Earlier, only a day after the Aqaba summit which was intended to put the Middle East peace process back on track, Palestinians were shocked by Israel's brutal assassination of two **Hamas** activists near Jenin and the demolition of 20 homes in the Gaza Strip. These Israeli assaults confirmed Palestinian fears that Sharon was intent on destroying the peace road map.

Observers criticised the outcome of Aqaba because the Palestinian delegation came back empty-handed, even though it sent Sharon home with a handful. They pointed out that while the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was literal in his adherence to the road map, Sharon still refused to say the magic words, "sovereign and viable, independent Palestinian state". Instead, he ordered an unprecedented military escalation.

The result was a halt to the inter-Palestinian dialogue, which was about to produce a declaration of a ceasefire with Israel. Instead of a ceasefire, families throughout Gaza City were mourning the death of more than 30 victims, the majority of whom were **women** and children. Calls for establishing calm were drowned by the wailing of grieving mothers and the tears of terrified children. Ironically, Israel claims that assassinating Palestinian political leaders from **Hamas** was "for the sake of the road map". The consequences surely indicate the exact opposite.

It is true; many Palestinians, not just **Hamas**, were dismayed with Abbas's statement in Aqaba but not because he recognised Israel's right to exist and called for an end to the use of arms against Israeli civilians. Rather, Palestinians objected because their Prime Minister did not meet their expectations. He was expected to inform the world of the state of utter misery Israeli punitive measures had forced upon them. Equally, Abbas was expected to declare Palestinian national demands: an end to Israeli occupation, the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state, a just solution for the plight of more than 4 million Palestinian refugees, and the release

Gaza engulfed in death

of 10,000 Palestinian detainees.

Opposition to the outcome of Aqaba does not reflect a Palestinian rejection of the road map. In fact, 65 per cent of the nation was supportive of the Prime Minister's attempts to implement the road map as he flew to Aqaba.

Prime Minister Abbas, of course, also was aware that his popularity was low. Observers were confident, though, that the Prime Minister's popularity, as with that of any leader, could increase only with progress on the ground, which requires Israeli compliance, not escalation. However, observers also agreed that Abbas's failure to deliver on his promises because of Israeli intransigence would keep his popularity minimal as he would be seen as unable to improve or protect the lives of his people.

It is difficult to describe the level of paralysing anxiety that Palestinians feel today. Israeli drones hover over our heads all day and night, and helicopters pay our streets deadly visits at least once a day. With missiles hitting near hospitals and inside markets, the toll on innocent lives is unbearable. In three days, Israeli assaults killed 30 Palestinians, including women and toddlers, and injured another 100.

Is the road map dead? Not yet. However, in order for it to survive this terrible episode of senseless bloodshed, the international community must hold Israel responsible for its actions. The Palestinian government is now attempting to secure Israeli pledges, backed by international assurances, that military assaults would end in order for a ceasefire to be reached. Despite the fiery declarations, Hamas still seems willing to fall into line and commit to the ceasefire if these pledges are made.

The danger threatening the road map is very real. Hope in a better tomorrow can be restored if only collective Palestinian funerals become a painful memory of the past. That requires a genuine commitment, not just to the road map, but to the dignity and life on both sides.

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

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Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 772 words

Byline: Steven Gutkin, Associated Press; Canadian Press

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, Israel

Body

BEERSHEBA, Israel -- Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses almost simultaneously in this southern city Tuesday, killing themselves and at least 16 passengers, and wounding more than 80. It was the first major attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The ***Hamas*** terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack, which came after a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian terrorists and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 metres from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

After the attacks, Sharon met with top security officials to plan a response, and more talks were scheduled later in the evening. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might," Sharon said, adding that he would push forward with the Gaza pullout. "This has no connection to disengagement," he said.

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew expressed "deepest sympathies" to Israel and condemned Tuesday's bombing.

"Resorting to terrorism not only is inhuman and criminal, but it is holding back all Palestinians from their aspirations to peace and statehood," Pettigrew said in a statement. "I call on every Palestinian to reject terrorism and to seek an end to the conflict through a negotiated settlement.

"The Palestinian Authority has condemned the bombing, but this is not enough. It must immediately take meaningful steps to prevent violent acts against Israeli civilians, to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and to restore law and order in the territories under its control."

The attack was the deadliest since a female suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa. Militants hadn't carried out a suicide bombing in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Hamas has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths, but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army surrounded the homes of the two suspected bombers, Ahmed Qawasmeh and Nasim Mohammed Ali Jaabari, and questioned their relatives. Both men were from Hebron, the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba.

Hamas distributed a leaflet in Hebron claiming responsibility for Tuesday's attack, but did not name the bombers.

"If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from Jihad, then you are dreaming," the statement said.

Hamas and other Palestinian groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years, but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Israel has attributed the slowdown to its success in fighting terrorists and the West Bank barrier, not a lack of effort by armed Palestinian groups.

Israel has arrested or killed dozens of militants in recent months, maintains dozens of roadblocks in the West Bank and placed security guards near busy bus stops in Israeli cities. It also operates an efficient intelligence network in the Palestinian areas.

But Israeli officials Tuesday repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the No. 1 reason for the slowdown in attacks. The barrier, which is about one-quarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area.

Graphic

Photo: Reuters; A mangled bus burns Tuesday after bomb blasts ripped through it and another bus less than 100 metres away in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. The bombings broke a five-month lull in such violence inside Israel, which officials credit to stepped-up security measures.;

Color Photo: Associated Press; Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed Tuesday to continue fighting terrorism.

Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

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PALESTINIANS WANT WIDER RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 8, 2003 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 401 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli and Palestinian ministers met yesterday, broadening the contacts between the sides as they worked to fill in details of a new peace plan.

Palestinian ministers warned their Israeli counterparts that a planned Israeli prisoner release, announced Sunday, was not nearly sweeping enough to achieve its stated purpose of generating political support for Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and the peace effort.

Though sharply divided on the issue, the Israeli government decided Sunday to release roughly 300 of more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners. It said it would give priority to women and to prisoners under 18 and over 60, but it would free no members of the militant groups Hamas or Islamic Jihad or anyone involved in attacking Israelis.

Palestinian Minister of Prisoners Affairs Hisham Abdul Razeq, himself a former prisoner of Israel, met with Israeli Justice Minister Yosef Lapid. Afterward, Abdul Razeq told reporters that if Israel did not revise its decision, "it will affect the peace process for the worse."

Hamas leaders said they would consider a refusal by Israel to release all of its prisoners a violation of a temporary truce agreement among Palestinian factions. A week ago, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the mainstream Fatah faction announced that they would suspend violence against Israel, which was not a party to that agreement.

The Israeli government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is under sharp attack from victims' families and Israel's political right wing for releasing prisoners. It has freed about 300 under a previous initiative.

Lapid said Israel could not release prisoners who participated in violence. But he called the meeting yesterday "a very promising beginning."

Also yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom met in Jerusalem with Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr for the first session of a joint committee on "Prevention of Incitement," which is focusing on stopping messages in the schools and media that encourage violence.

In Gaza City yesterday, workers continued to spread whitewash over graffiti extolling violent groups and their deeds.

PALESTINIANS WANT WIDER RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Palestinian forces continued to consolidate their security control of most of Bethlehem and the areas of the Gaza Strip from which Israel withdrew last week. Israel says it will not pull back from any more Palestinian cities until it sees Palestinian officers act to break apart militant groups.

Load-Date: July 8, 2003

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In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

The International Herald Tribune

July 17, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1909 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Second of two parts

*

Some of the women wore smart suits. Many modestly covered their hair. Only one wore the most conservative Islamic dress, cloaking herself head to toe in black.

Members of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee of Palestine, they had gathered in a hotel conference room in Gaza City in June for a symposium titled, "After the Withdrawal from Gaza." They were not happy with what they were hearing.

Like Palestinians generally, these women wanted to hear precisely what the Palestinian leadership planned to do. They knew that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said he would withdraw Israeli settlers and soldiers from the Gaza Strip next year.

The New York Times

They knew that Palestinian factions had begun struggling over who will govern Gaza and how -- over whether it will be ruled by agreement, by ballot, by force, or not at all.

Ten years after Yasser Arafat returned in triumph to Gaza under a previous experiment in self-rule, the Oslo peace process, these would-be leaders are scrambling.

Will there be a way forward, or a destitute enclave ruled by warlords and militants who doom the Palestinian cause?

They did not think they had heard answers from the first panel, composed of a legislator, a former minister and a militant leader.

"You make me so depressed," said Rida Awadallah, 59, of the Working Women's Union. "Maybe I'm dumb, but I've heard all this before. What's the preparation for the next stage?"

Finally, one panelist, a Palestinian legislator and political scientist named Ziad Abu Amr, fired back a lacerating question of his own.

In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

"Do you want us to lie to you concerning the depression you are suffering from? You know who is determining everything. Arafat hasn't proposed a vision for the Palestinian people."

While he spoke, a murmur swept the room. Flanked by beefy bodyguards, Muhammad Dahlan strode in to give the next talk, "An Independent Vision."

Dahlan, for years the leader of the Preventive Security force in Gaza, is more feared than loved here. But he is favored by Israeli, European and American officials as strong enough to run Gaza, and he has embarked on a political campaign. He sees the Israeli withdrawal as an opportunity and argues that, if the Palestinians fail here, Israel will point to the example and refuse to cede more of the West Bank.

Dahlan's speech was cautious. But then came the questions.

Dahlan raised his voice in return. He asked if Palestine wanted to go the way of Iraq or Libya. Palestinians could either build a model in Gaza, or embrace "chaos and destruction."

Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued.

"We are deceiving ourselves," he said. "We failed to make peace and to make war. We failed at both. We have to decide now -- are we going to have war or peace? If it's war, I will be the first to pick up a machine gun."

In an interview in his office this month, Dahlan described Fatah's leaders without naming Arafat. "They are against the intifada -- at the same time, they are with the intifada," he said. "They are against the terror, and they are with the terror." It was time to choose. "We are in the junction," he said, "either to get to Palestinian independence, or to get back to Somalia."

It is something of a historical paradox that Gaza, poorer and sharper-edged than the West Bank, would emerge as the proving ground of a Palestinian state. But Dahlan and other Palestinian politicians sense beneath the militancy an exhaustion with death and despair and a hunger for change. "Enough is enough," he said.

That attitude is hard to see in the pictures and paintings of the dead that are everywhere here. Their message is usually the same: not of pathos and loss, but of heroism, sacrifice, glamour.

In one such painting, Hamdi Mohsin appears vivid and proud, wearing fatigues and holding a rifle in a ferocious battle, against a sky burning red and gold. Yet Hamdi was not a militant, but a boy of 14 shot to death while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When his parents commissioned Fayez al-Hasani, 52, to paint their son, they asked him to show him as a fighter. Hasani worries about his own young son, who rushes out to watch whenever the Israeli soldiers raid Gaza City. "I call it watching death," he said. "It scares me."

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In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the Six-Day War of 1967. Now, 64 percent of Gazans live under a poverty line of about \$2 a day, compared to just over a third of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Unlike in the West Bank, **Hamas**, the Islamic militant group, is slightly more popular than Arafat's Fatah movement in Gaza, according to polling by Khalil Shikaki, a Palestinian political scientist. **Hamas** commands the support of a bit more than a quarter of the population; Fatah, a little less.

But that is not the same as saying the ideology of **Hamas** is triumphing. "To the contrary," Shikaki said, "the Palestinian public has never been as willing to compromise as it is today."

The growing support for **Hamas** appears to have less to do with its doctrine than with disgust with the Palestinian Authority and the dominant Fatah.

Dahlan recognized more than two years ago that the Palestinian Authority was losing support and even legitimacy. He resigned as a security chief and distanced himself from the top leadership.

At 43, he is part of a generation of Fatah men who grew up under the Israeli occupation, then commanded the first uprising against Israel in the late 1980s. They became legislators or security chiefs when Arafat and other revolutionaries returned from exile. These men watched in dismay as **Hamas** gained popularity during the second uprising, that began in September 2000.

Dahlan has successfully pressed Arafat to permit the elections within Fatah in Gaza that are underway. Dahlan is hoping that they will result in a new governing body for Fatah by early next year.

Some of Dahlan's allies say it is time for Arafat to go, but Dahlan is careful not to challenge Arafat directly. He said he wanted Arafat "to bless the results."

Hamas refused to play a role in the Palestinian Authority, because it was created under the Oslo agreement, which **Hamas** opposed but its leaders say they now feel free now to participate in talks about how to govern Gaza after the Israelis leave.

Egypt is mediating, pressing the factions to stop attacks and urging the Israel to withdraw completely. Palestinian officials say they have asked the Egyptians for guarantees that Israel will permit Gaza's airport and seaport to open, perhaps under international supervision, and that it will remove its armored cordon along Gaza's border with Egypt.

The details are critical. If attacks continue in Israel or the West Bank, Israel may strike back at the **Hamas** leaders in Gaza; if Israel does not allow the ports to function freely -- and it says it will not, at least in the short term -- **Hamas** may consider that a deal-breaker.

If Palestinian leaders fail, Shikaki said, "the threats are tremendous." He listed, "the empowerment of **Hamas**, the fragmentation of the Palestinian nationalist movement and the disintegration of the Palestinian Authority."

In 1996, on Arafat's orders, Dahlan cracked down on **Hamas**, earning a reputation for ruthlessness. That was during the Oslo peace process. During this uprising he, like other Fatah leaders, contended that they could not take such action, in part because the Palestinian Authority is far weaker.

Recently, Gaza's security forces have clashed with each other and with powerful families here.

Unlike in the West Bank, there is no shortage of active, armed security men in Gaza -- some 24,000 in all. What they lack, in the view of Palestinian analysts, is political legitimacy to move against militants or even criminals.

"That's why it's so important to get an agreement among the factions," said Major General Saeb al-Ajez, a commander of the national security forces here who is particularly close to the Egyptians. "Then we will have the right to enforce the law."

In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

There is an elegiac quality to the way some Palestinian reformers and other politicians talk now about the Oslo years and their own faded visions of a democratic Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem.

They hold Israel's occupation, its military pressure on the Palestinians and its attacks on the Palestinian Authority, ultimately responsible. But they also say that Palestinians lost control of their national movement and international image, failing to adapt as American, European and even Arab attitudes shifted under the shock of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

There was a time when Elias Khoury thought of himself as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians. His family lost its land to Israel in the 1948 war, but his father, Daoud, took citizenship in Israel and believed he could work patiently through Israeli law to get the land back. He was killed by a Palestinian bomb in 1975.

Khoury, who trained as a lawyer at Hebrew University, sent his children to a Jerusalem school that blended the city's Jewish, Muslim and Christian children.

Then, this March, his son George was shot dead while jogging in Jerusalem by members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the Fatah militant group. The group boasted that it had killed a settler. George, fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, friends with Arabs and Jews, was studying at Hebrew University. Dead at 20, he embodied the might-have-beens of what was known, a few years ago, as the New Middle East.

In a conversation after George was killed, Elias Khoury said the occupation was coarsening both societies. Israel did not have the same values it held 20 years ago, he said, yet it was now "mature" enough to accept a Palestinian state. But he said that the Palestinians needed outside help to run their affairs.

"It's painful, but we have to look at the truth," he said. "As a lawyer, I look at the facts. The first fact is that the Palestinian society, as a collective, is not ready to lead itself."

Al Aksa Martyrs later expressed regret for killing George Khoury and declared him a "shahid," or martyr. "It harmed me more," Khoury said. "Let's say Yitzhak had been running that evening. It would have been O.K. if he had been killed? This is how we are going to build our state?"

"My son," he said, "was not a shahid."

Load-Date: July 20, 2004

**Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed.
Some felt meeting doomed from start**

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 29, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A17

Length: 359 words

Byline: DANIEL WILLIAMS

Dateline: TUNIS, Tunisia

Body

Foreign ministers were hammering out a list of political reforms in advance of an Arab League summit when their Tunisian counterpart, Habib Ben Yahya, left the room and took a phone call from the host president. He returned, participants said, and told everyone to go to dinner.

"It's over," Yahya told the gathering late Saturday night. "There is no summit."
Washington Post

The surprise cancellation of the long-awaited meeting on reform and Middle East peace set off a round of recrimination and finger-pointing. Yesterday, delegates expressed embarrassment and shock at the collapse, which took place two days before the summit was set to begin in the Tunisian capital.

"This was not our finest moment," said Arab League General-Secretary Amr Moussa.

Several participants complained the host president, Zine Abidine Ben Ali, had single-handedly sunk the effort in a fit of pique. He was angry, they said, because his own reform proposals had been rejected and because several countries had decided not to send their heads of state to the summit.

Other participants said the exercise was already doomed - the countries were far from agreeing on the scope of reforms, not to mention ways to implement them.

"Many were hesitant in the first place, so things were always delicate," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian representative. "Weighty reform proposals were just going to be used as doorstops anyway."

The Arab League, a 22-member organization dedicated to unity but which frequently exhibits divisiveness, is in a race against time. The Bush administration hopes to gain support for a democratic reform initiative for the Middle East at a meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations this summer. Arab leaders had expressly set out to pre-empt the proposal with plans of their own in areas including civil rights, women's rights and economic modernization.

In Cairo, Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, quickly offered to host a new summit, but no date was set. In a statement, Mubarak, who is scheduled to visit Washington next month, expressed "astonishment and regret" at the cancellation of summit.

Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed. Some felt meeting doomed from start

Jordan also offered to host a retry.

Graphic

Photo: SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS; New **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz al Rantissi (left) during a rally at the Islamic University in Gaza City yesterday. Thousands of **Hamas** supporters attended a memorial service of **Hamas** leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, assassinated last week in Gaza.

Load-Date: March 29, 2004

End of Document

An unheralded victory over terror

University Wire

March 29, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Cavalier Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 785 words

Byline: By Dan Bagley, Cavalier Daily; **SOURCE:** U. Virginia

Dateline: CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

Body

The leader of a vicious terrorist organization was killed, and the world didn't even stop to say "thank you." Last week's killing of **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin represented an important step in the global war on terrorism, but the worldwide reaction has been mixed at best. In exchange for ridding the world of a man who has ordered the killings of many innocent men, **women** and children, Israel has received a raw deal in the court of world opinion.

Hamas, founded in 1987, has been recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States. Their purpose, according to the U. S. State Department, is "to pursue the goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel." One will note that this goal inherently includes the destruction of the modern state of Israel. These are not rational people who are willing to negotiate peace. The only acceptable "peace" to this terrorist organization is complete and total victory over Israel.

Most rational people can realize that Israel is not planning on keeling over and dying any time soon, but **Hamas** is far from rational. Under the direction of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the organization has conducted terrorist operations throughout the Middle East. Utilizing suicide bombers to maim, injure and kill innocent Palestinians and Israelis alike, **Hamas** has made significant strides into the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.

There is no question that this organization exists only to polarize this already heated conflict, ensuring that some Palestinians become so radical that a peace with the modern state of Israel can never be reached. The existence of **Hamas** as an organization is a direct threat to the peace process in the Middle East. It is only logical that the assassination of its founder can hinder the organizational capacity of this organization to conduct terrorist strikes.

Unfortunately, the media has not given fair treatment to Israel during this entire ordeal and especially not since this killing. The mainstream media have done many features on the frail Sheik, being careful each time to point out to the world that he was killed on his way back from morning prayers, in his wheelchair. It is easy to paint a sympathetic picture of such a man killed by a modern missile, but this gentle, sympathetic picture is definitively one-sided. Where are the CNN slideshows detailing the young men this terrorist leader has sent to their death? Personally, I have a hard time understanding how this man could be going to morning prayers at all, knowing full well the blood of the innocents on his hands.

To its credit, the White House has publicly gone forth with the best reaction of the major Western powers. While noting that the United States did not give Israel the go-ahead to carry out such an attack, a spokesman for the White House affirmed that Israel had a right to defend itself. Considering the scope of the violence against civilians

An unheralded victory over terror

that the Sheik has ordered over the years, one would hope that Israel had a right to defend herself. If the U.S. government had an opportunity to take out Osama Bin Laden via a missile strike, even on his way to a mosque, I would hope that the opportunity was taken. Both men certainly have caused undue suffering of innocents.

I have argued against the death penalty in the United States, and thus it is a little tough to rationalize the killing of someone, even a terrorist, in such a capacity. However, the one situation in which the death penalty is acceptable is when it is used to prevent further violence. By removing the "spiritual leader" of this terrorist organization, it is clear that Israel has taken a step to prevent further violence in the long term.

There will be an immediate backlash from the Palestinians, and world opinion will waver slightly, especially in light of the biased reporting by the international media outlets. However, it is important to keep in mind the greater picture. While this attack may, in the short term, cause one or two more young men to strap explosives to their chest and blow themselves up in a hopeless attempt to kill innocents, the damage to this particular terrorist organization and all such organizations will be worth the price. For too long the leaders of these groups have feigned legitimacy; somehow, claiming that their methods of terrorism are a legitimate way to bring about change.

Israel has taken the gloves off, and rightly so. We all must make it our goal to show the world that being a terrorist is not a healthy occupation. No longer may the leaders of terrorist organizations feel safe in issuing press releases and sending misinformed suicide bombers to kill innocent women and children.

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Load-Date: March 29, 2004

End of Document

Palestinian kills 3 soldiers in attack on Gaza barracks

The International Herald Tribune

October 25, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 620 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Striking at night in a thick fog, a Palestinian man cut through a wire fence and shot five Israeli soldiers in a barracks on Friday, killing three and wounding two before he was fatally shot, in the most serious of several violent episodes in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops and Palestinian militants have been fighting in Gaza almost daily, and Palestinians described the shooting at Netzarim, a combined army base and Jewish settlement, as a response to recent Israeli military actions.

The shooting was highly unusual in that the gunman, Samir Fouda, a 22-year-old member of **Hamas**, was able to pass through the perimeter fence protecting Netzarim. Palestinian gunmen have frequently fired on Israeli soldiers and settlers on the road in and out of the settlement, but had not been able to get inside the seaside enclave, where soldiers guard about 300 settlers.

The New York Times

However, heavy fog rolls in from the Mediterranean Sea at this time of year, and this apparently helped the attacker cross the sand dunes and reach Netzarim without being detected.

Two of the dead soldiers were 19-year-old **women**, and one of the wounded was also a woman. The soldiers were in their barracks when the attacker struck, at 4:30 a.m., and most or all were believed to be sleeping, a military official said.

After the shooting, Fouda was fatally shot by soldiers. An attacker from the Islamic Jihad faction who accompanied him did not get past the fence and fled.

In the Jabaliya refugee camp, not far from the Jewish settlement, thousands of Palestinians cheered a **Hamas** leader, Nizar Rian, who called the shooting retaliation for Israeli military action.

"Our blood is not cheap and our operations will go on until we return all of Palestine," said Rian, a prominent **Hamas** leader who still appears in public despite recent Israeli strikes targeting senior figures in the faction.

Nearby, at Fouda's home, his sister Amal Fouda praised the shooting. "There is sadness. But at the same time I am very proud of this operation. I wish he killed more than three," she said of her brother.

Palestinian kills 3 soldiers in attack on Gaza barracks

In a video released to news organizations, Fouda read from a statement and questioned why Arab and Muslim leaders had not done more for the Palestinians. "You Muslim and Arab leaders, where are you?" he said.

Fouda's fellow attacker, from Islamic Jihad, was also in the video. But since he survived, his faced was blacked out to conceal his identity.

The joint attack by **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad followed a pledge this week by the leaders of the two factions to coordinate their actions. The groups have carried out most of the suicide bombings in Israel, but usually act independently.

Israel did not say how it might respond, but the military has hit hard at militants in Gaza recently. After Palestinian rocket attacks Sunday, Israeli war planes and helicopters carried out five air strikes on Monday in Gaza, killing more than 10 Palestinians and wounding dozens.

"There's an ongoing war on terror and it will continue," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Gaza was the scene of several other violent incidents Thursday night and Friday.

Palestinian medics said an 11-year-old boy, Muhammad Hamaydah, was killed by Israeli gunfire on Friday in central Gaza. Israeli military officials said they were not aware of any shooting in the area.

Also, Palestinians fired three mortars Friday at a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza, causing minor damage but no injuries.

On Thursday night, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian gunman in southern Gaza after he fired on an Israeli car, lightly wounding three civilians, the military said. Troops also shot dead a Palestinian man who approached a settlement in the north of Gaza.

Load-Date: October 26, 2003

16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES

Daily Post (North Wales)

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: North Wales Edition; NEWS; Pg. 23; Newspaper

Length: 425 words

Byline: SARA THOMAS

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group Hamas as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

Witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer, said: "People were screaming and yelling.

"Everybody was running. " Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby.

A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after prime minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period".

After the attacks, Sharon met top security officials to plan a response.

Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies, and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES

The attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants had not carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years, but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Graphic

A rescue worker helps a victim of the explosion in Israel

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 388 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinian guerrillas killed an Israeli-American woman Friday in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The attack, which came just hours before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Palestinian resistance group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for firing two mortar bombs at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A **Hamas** video showed three masked fighters setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently Israeli return fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a four-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the **Hamas** mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two **women** who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the **women**, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, and the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since the latest uprising against the occupation began in 2000. But Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a Gaza settlement had been killed. In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israel town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

"We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. The three attackers also died in the battle.

Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tensions and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Graphic

Photo: Brennan Linsley, Associated Press; A woman cries at the funeral for Tiferet Tratner, a resident of a Gaza Strip Jewish settlement, who was killed earlier Friday in a mortar attack.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004

End of Document

Palestinians express rage after airstrikes ;
Israel contests account of attacks

The International Herald Tribune

October 22, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 608 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: NUSSEIRAT REFUGEE CAMP Gaza Strip

Body

It is not unusual for Israelis and Palestinians to have opposing versions of reality. But it is unusual for both sides to display the kind of concrete, if conflicting, evidence that they presented Tuesday for the violence that convulsed these streets on Monday night.

The Palestinians here had their grief and their rage, their seven dead and their many wounded. The Israeli Air Force had its videotape.

The New York Times

Palestinian witness after Palestinian witness told the same story: An Israeli rocket struck near a car; then, after two, three or perhaps five minutes passed, a second rocket hit.

By then, according to this version, a crowd had gathered. Dr. Zain al Abedin Shahin, 29, had time to run down the street from his clinic to help the wounded; Muhammad Baroud, 12, had time to dash out of his house. Both, with others, died in the second blast, Palestinians here said.

"They are killers," Muhammad's father, Ziad, 42, said of the Israelis. Having been sent by his wife to retrieve his son after the first blast, Baroud had shrapnel wounds to his right knee, left hip, left wrist and neck from what he said was the second rocket.

Yet, after the missile strike, one of five Israeli air attacks on Monday, brought unusual criticism from within Israel, the air force took the rare step of showing reporters video footage it said was taken of the incident by a drone overhead and transmitted live to commanders.

The black-and-white images showed a first missile striking a car traveling an empty street.

The car, which Israel said was carrying Hamas militants, continued for about 50 yards until it appeared to bump a curb. Then it backed up almost to its original spot. A single person appeared to be approaching when the car was destroyed in a direct hit by a second missile. The strikes were a minute apart.

It was at least 90 seconds after the second blast that dozens of people were seen leaving their houses to surround the wreckage. Moments later, the footage ended. The senior air force officer who had presented it said there was nothing more of interest to see.

Palestinians express rage after airstrikes ; Israel contests account of attacks

"We would not allow any munition to be launched on a massive gathering of people," the officer said. "To fire into a crowd is not professional, it is not ethical and it's not moral."

He spoke after Israeli politicians and military analysts sharply criticized Monday's air attacks, citing civilian casualties. Alex Fishman, one of Israel's foremost military journalists and no dove, wondered in the pages of the largest daily, Yedioth Ahronoth, if Israel still imposed any limits on itself. "How long can we hurt innocent civilians?" he asked. "Is it conceivable that somebody on our side has decided that all of Palestinian society is the target?"

He also asked if the military method used on Monday "actually intensifies and broadens the circles of hatred for generations."

Israeli military officers say that it is the militants who endanger Palestinian civilians by hiding among them.

Palestinian hospital officials initially reported eight killed here. But seven bodies, including that of Mohammad, wrapped tight as a mummy in a green **Hamas** flag, were carried Tuesday by a chanting crowd of thousands through the missile-pitted street, past a block-long "condolence tent" set up for the many grieving families.

Inside the houses, weeping **women** mourned separately. Outside, gunmen fired semiautomatic rifles into the air. Against the cinder-block walls of this fetid warren, masked **Hamas** militants armed with hatchets spray-painted tributes to the dead, claiming them as martyrs and heaping them onto their pile of grievances.

Hamas vowed to retaliate for the Israeli airstrike.

Load-Date: October 22, 2003

End of Document

MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF

Birmingham Post

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 445 words

Body

Palestinian suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group **Hamas** as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

'People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running,' said witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat, and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

After the attacks, Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings. 'Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might,' Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the 'heroic operation' over mosque loudspeakers.

MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF

The attack was the deadliest since a female suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa. Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Hamas has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths, but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

'If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from Jihad, then you are dreaming,' the statement said.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

End of Document

*Lessons on converting terrorists ;
Ben-Gurion made extreme politics into political capital*

The International Herald Tribune

August 14, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 966 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

The official offered his prisoners a deal: he might let them go if they agreed to halt their "terrorist activities" and to use only political means to pursue their dream of statehood.

It was a proposal similar to the one Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, is making now to *Hamas* and other Palestinian factions that advocate terrorism. But this particular offer was made by a British officer to a group of Jews, during the time when the British uneasily governed Palestine, before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Among those who heard the proposal out, and rejected it, was a young extremist who went by a nom de guerre, Michael. Michael later escaped and returned to the underground, to a campaign of assassination, bombing and arms smuggling, with bank robbery thrown in to finance the effort.

The New York Times

"Nothing would be permitted to stand in the way of Jewish independence in the land of Israel," Michael wrote 50 years later in an autobiography, "Nothing and No One."

By then, Michael was himself testimony to Israel's success at integrating militants into mainstream society. His violent life in the prestate period had become the stuff of romantic national narrative and broad political appeal, and under a different name, Yitzhak Shamir, he had been one of Israel's longest-serving prime ministers, one who cracked down on Jewish terrorism in the West Bank.

In the view of many historians, it was in no small part the leadership of one man, David Ben-Gurion, that transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers. "Ben-Gurion was a state-builder," said Shmuel Sandler, a professor of democracy and civility at Bar Ilan University. "State-building means that at one point you understand there can't be any more violence or illegal operations in your camp."

Times, terrorist tactics and international realities change; historical comparisons between the Zionist and Palestinian national movements can be easily strained.

Yet there are echoes in Abbas's oratory now of the message of Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. "On this land and for this people, there is only one authority, one law, and one democratic and national decision that applies

Lessons on converting terrorists ; Ben-Gurion made extreme politics into political capital

to us all," Abbas said on assuming his post this spring. His meaning was that Hamas and other groups could no longer, in effect, conduct their own wars with Israel.

In 1944 a representative of Ben-Gurion delivered a similar message to a militant leader: "there must be one Jewish military force in Eretz Israel," or the land of Israel. T

Unlike Abbas, Hamas, which took responsibility for a suicide bombing in the West Bank on Tuesday, officially rejects any two-state solution with Israel. Unlike the pragmatic Ben-Gurion, Begin in those days rejected any partition with the Arabs of what he considered the Jewish biblical homeland.

His printed declaration in 1944 of "war to the end" against the British appeared under a map of Palestine that extended to the border of Iraq, enclosing the image of a rifle by the words "Only Thus."

Eventually, of course, Prime Minister Begin would give up the Sinai Peninsula to achieve peace with Egypt.

Although Abbas has said Hamas must give up its illegal weapons, he has also repeatedly said he will not risk civil conflict to enforce his national vision, and the governing Palestinian Authority has yet to take action against terrorists.

It is something of an Israeli cliché that no Palestinian leader has ever had his "Altalena." The reference is to a fateful decision made by Ben-Gurion in June 1948, after Begin challenged his vision of a single military force by trying to import weapons and fighters from France aboard a ship, the Altalena.

Ben-Gurion called the effort "an attempt to destroy the army, an attempt to murder the state." He ordered the Altalena shelled in sight of Tel Aviv, with Begin aboard.

"Ben-Gurion exercised authority," said Gideon Shimoni, a historian of Zionism at Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. "He drew the line."

Begin swallowed his anger and integrated his forces with the Israeli Army. As Shimoni noted, Begin and others like him had never doubted that ultimately they would yield their arms and take part in an Israeli democracy. "They didn't have a concept that was nondemocratic in its essence," he said, drawing a possible distinction with Hamas.

Palestinian officials call the story of the Altalena a facile history lesson. They note that at the time Ben-Gurion already had at stake what no Palestinian leader has ever had: a state to defend against internal insurgency as well as external attack.

Further, unlike the groups of Shamir and Begin, Hamas does not operate only underground but maintains schools, health clinics and a steady, even celebrity presence on satellite television. As a result, it is broadly popular.

But that analysis tends to slight the severity of Ben-Gurion's efforts over many years to marginalize the extremists, whom he referred to as "Jewish Nazis." Begin, whom Ben-Gurion compared to Hitler, writes with great bitterness of what he saw as Ben-Gurion's collaboration with the British, including the handing over of hundreds of militants.

In April 1938, members of Etzel, the group Begin would later lead, opened fire on an Arab bus in stated retaliation for the killing days before of four Jews, including a child and two women, in a car. No one on the bus was hurt, but the British caught the three perpetrators and hanged one of them, Shlomo Ben-Yosef.

In his "One Palestine, Complete," Tom Segev writes that Etzel supporters tried to "drag the Jewish community into a display of mourning" and to turn Ben-Yosef "into a martyr."

Ben-Gurion resisted. "I am not shocked that a Jew was hanged in Palestine," he said. "I am ashamed of the deed that led to the hanging."

Lessons on converting terrorists ; Ben-Gurion made extreme politics into political capital

End of Document

Palestinians have parallels with Israelis before 1948

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

August 14, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1003 words

Byline: By James Bennet New York Times News Service

Body

JERUSALEM -- The official offered his prisoners a deal: He might let them go if they agreed to halt their "terrorist activities" and to use only political means to pursue their dream of statehood.

It was a proposal similar to the one Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, is making now to Hamas and other Palestinian factions that advocate terrorism. But this particular offer was made by a British officer to a group of Jews, at the time that the British uneasily governed Palestine, before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Among those who heard the proposal out, and rejected it, was a young extremist who went by a nom de guerre Michael. Michael later escaped and returned to the underground, to a campaign of assassination, bombing and arms smuggling, with bank robbery thrown in to finance the effort.

"Nothing would be permitted to stand in the way of Jewish independence in the Land of Israel," 'Michael' wrote 50 years later in his autobiography. "Nothing and No One."

By then, Michael was himself testimony to Israel's success at integrating militants into mainstream society. His violent life in the pre-state period had become the stuff of romantic national narrative and broad political appeal, and under a different name, Yitzhak Shamir, he had been one of Israel's longest-serving prime ministers, one who cracked down on Jewish terrorism in the West Bank.

In the view of many historians, it was in no small part the leadership of one man, David Ben-Gurion, that transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers. "Ben-Gurion was a state-builder," said Shmuel Sandler, the Lerner Professor of Democracy and Civility at Bar Ilan University. "State-building means that at one point you understand there can't be any more violence or illegal operations in your camp."

Times, terrorist tactics and international realities change; historical comparisons between the Zionist and Palestinian national movements can be easily strained.

Yet there are echoes in Abbas' oratory now of the message of Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. "On this land and for this people, there is only one authority, one law, and one democratic and national decision that applies to us all," Abbas said on assuming his post this spring. His meaning was that Hamas and other groups could no longer, in effect, conduct their own wars with Israel.

In 1944, a representative of Ben-Gurion delivered a similar message to a militant leader: "There must be one Jewish military force in Eretz Israel," that is, in the land of Israel. The militant leader, Menachem Begin, recalled the episode in his account of those years, "The Revolt."

Palestinians have parallels with Israelis before 1948

Unlike Abbas, **Hamas**, which took responsibility for a suicide bombing in the West Bank on Tuesday, officially rejects any two-state solution with Israel. Unlike the pragmatic Ben-Gurion, Begin in those days rejected any partition with the Arabs of what he considered the Jewish biblical homeland.

His printed declaration in 1944 of "war to the end" against the British appeared under a map of Palestine that extended to the border of Iraq, enclosing the image of a rifle by the words "Only Thus." Eventually, of course, Prime Minister Begin would give up the Sinai Peninsula to achieve peace with Egypt.

Although Abbas has said **Hamas** must give up its illegal weapons, he has also repeatedly said he will not risk civil conflict to enforce his national vision, and the governing Palestinian Authority has yet to take action against terrorists.

It is something of an Israeli cliché that no Palestinian leader has ever had his "Altalena." The reference is to a fateful decision made by Ben-Gurion in June 1948, after Begin challenged his vision of a single military force by trying to import weapons and fighters from France aboard a ship, the Altalena.

Ben-Gurion called the effort "an attempt to destroy the army, an attempt to murder the state." He ordered the Altalena shelled in sight of Tel Aviv, with Begin aboard.

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Further, unlike the groups of Shamir and Begin, **Hamas** does not operate only underground but maintains schools, health clinics and a steady, even celebrity presence on satellite television. As a result, it is broadly popular -- far more popular than Abbas, though not Yasser Arafat.

But that analysis tends to slight the severity of Ben-Gurion's efforts over many years to marginalize the extremists, whom he referred to as "Jewish Nazis." Begin, whom Ben-Gurion compared to Hitler, writes with great bitterness of what he saw as Ben-Gurion's collaboration with the British, including the handing over of hundreds of militants.

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Load-Date: August 14, 2003

US sends Powell in to rescue road map

The Guardian (London)

June 20, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

Length: 614 words

Byline: Conal Urquhart in Yitzar and Chris McGreal in Gaza City

Body

Hundreds of Jewish settlers wrestled yesterday with Israeli soldiers who were tearing down the first inhabited outpost in the West Bank to be removed in line with the demands of the American-led road map to peace.

The confrontation came ahead of a flying visit to Israel and the West Bank today by the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, whose mission will be to rescue the ailing peace plan. He will arrive amid a surge in violence following a botched Israeli assassination attempt against a prominent Hamas leader last week.

Early yesterday a Palestinian suicide bomber killed the elderly owner of a grocery store in a northern farming community. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Despite court rulings, the closure of Jewish outposts was put on hold because of the latest violence. But the army finally moved in on Mitzpeh Yitzar settlement yesterday.

Hundreds of Jewish settlers from across the West Bank descended on the area to resist. Women climbed on bulldozers and diggers, lay in front of their tyres, or painted their windscreens. Other settlers set fire to the hillside scrub as a diversion. All along the road leading to the outpost were barricades.

The settlement consists of a metal house, a watch tower and a number of tents. Every plank and stone that was taken by the soldiers was argued and struggled over.

Despite the confrontations, the army managed to secure the house and remove all the protesters before knocking it down. Five hundred soldiers and 700 police officers were involved in the operation.

Ephraim Brenner, 18, lives in the outpost and was in the thick of the struggle to obstruct the soldiers.

"From this place we have caught seven terrorists. The army don't realise we are here for them. This is where I do my army service," he said before breaking off to join the struggle for a table the soldiers were carrying away.

Mr Powell yesterday attempted to play down expectations of an imminent deal for Israel to hand over security control of the northern Gaza Strip to the Palestinians.

"Tomorrow is another day, not anything special," he said. But he said he did see some signs of progress in talks between Israelis and the Palestinians. He gave no details.

US sends Powell in to rescue road map

Israel and **Hamas** have come to an informal agreement, brokered by the Americans and the Palestinian authority, to refrain from certain sorts of attacks for six weeks. **Hamas** will respect a temporary ceasefire in its war on Israel, while the Israelis have agreed to stop assassinations in Gaza. But the deal is fragile, particularly as the Israelis say they reserve the right to resume attacks on "ticking bombs", their term for anyone identified as being involved with terror attacks.

Mr Powell's visit to meet the Israeli leader, Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, follows a collapse in confidence in the road map just a fortnight after US President George Bush hailed a breakthrough at a Middle East summit in Jordan.

Efforts to revive the process are now focused on getting Israeli forces out of Gaza. Mr Abbas has offered to expand the PLO to include **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, and to guarantee the two groups a place in the next Palestinian elections, if they commit themselves to a ceasefire with Israel.

But the Palestinian leadership was critical of the Israeli attitude to a withdrawal from Gaza. "The Israeli side shows no seriousness and no credibility during the security meetings," their statement said.

* The Israeli peace laureate Shimon Peres defeated two rivals to be elected interim chairman of the Labour party yesterday. He will hold the post for one year. Many expect him to try to lead the party back into the government.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: June 23, 2003

End of Document

ISRAELI MISSILE STRIKE ON BLOCK IN RETALIATION FOR DEATHS

Birmingham Post
May 3, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 249 words

Body

Israeli helicopters fired four missiles yesterday at a high-rise building housing a Hamas radio station, slightly injuring seven Palestinians.

The air strike took place just hours after Palestinian gunmen ambushed and killed a pregnant Jewish settler and her four young daughters as they were travelling out of Gaza.

The missiles, which hit the top of the 14-storey building near the radio station's offices, caved in part of the roof and cut off electricity to the building.

Screaming women stood on the balconies. The building, filled with apartments and businesses, in the Rimal area is also home to the two main Palestinian newspapers, Al Ayyam and Al Quds.

Military sources said the army had attacked a Hamas radio station that had been broadcasting 'incitement'.

After the first missile hit, the building shook and glass started flying everywhere, said Fathi Sabbah, an editor at Al Ayyam.

'Everybody was trying to get out... but then they hit the building again. Glass flew everywhere, and the building shook,' he said.

Seven people were hurt by shrapnel and glass shards.

The first and second missile were fired about 50 seconds apart, giving people time to flee.

The air strike followed an attack by Palestinian gunmen on a vehicle as it was driving out of Gaza. The attack - in which the two gunmen were also killed - killed a pregnant woman and her four daughters, outraging Israelis. The militant Islamic Jihad and Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group, claimed responsibility.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004

Any bid to save peace is worthy;

Irish News

June 14, 2003

Copyright 2003 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 6

Length: 219 words

Body

PRESIDENT Bush's so-called road map to peace has been ripped to shreds by the shocking escalation in bitter violence in the Middle East.

It is hard to believe that only 10 days ago, the US president, Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, met in Aqaba to map out the latest bid to bring peace and stability to this troubled region.

Since that date, militant group **Hamas** and Israeli forces have been engaged in an unrelenting and bloody cycle of death.

The growing death toll includes 16 bus passengers killed by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem and seven Palestinians who died in an Israeli missile strike.

As ever, ordinary people, **women** and children, are bearing the brunt of this slaughter.

And with the **Hamas** leadership and Ariel Sharon threatening ever more ferocious retribution, the immediate outlook is bleak.

The United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan has called for an armed force of UN peacekeepers to be sent to the region to act as a buffer between the warring factions.

Such a move smacks of desperation, but it is difficult to know how the situation can be calmed sufficiently to allow diplomacy to take over.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell is to return to Aqaba in an attempt to hold the peace plan together.

All the signs are that he faces an uphill struggle.

Load-Date: June 14, 2003

Sharon says Gaza raids will go on

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 4, 2004 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 11

Length: 454 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, has said he will intensify a military raid that has driven deep into the northern Gaza Strip, killing more than 50 Palestinians, wounding hundreds, and devastating infrastructure.

Mr Sharon said he was determined to halt rocket fire on towns inside Israel and shelling of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. He told the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth the operation would last until the threat ended.

Since "Operation Days of Repentance" began last week a force estimated at 200 tanks and armoured vehicles and 2000 troops has bulldozed positions in and around the densely populated Jabaliya refugee camp, nine kilometres inside the heart of the northern Gaza Strip.

Israel has sealed off the entire enclave, home to 1.3 million Palestinians, and banned workers, journalists and humanitarian staff from entering or leaving.

The Islamic militant organisation **Hamas** said that 30 of those killed were militants and 20 civilians or children. Two Israeli soldiers and a **female** settler have also been shot dead since the operation began.

The bloodiest Israeli raid in at least two years began after a Palestinian mortar bomb killed a young Jewish-American settler woman in a Gaza settlement.

It was intensified the following day after another Palestinian missile killed a four-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl as they played in the street of the Israeli town of Sderot, the only big Israeli town in range of the crude home-made missiles.

Israeli Defence Force officials say the depth of the incursion is designed to match the range of the missiles and prevent their being fired at Sderot. Over the weekend, however, at least three more missiles were aimed at Sderot and at a Jewish settlement inside the Gaza Strip, causing no harm.

Israel has accused **Hamas** of using United Nations ambulances to smuggle arms and militants through the Gaza Strip. It has released film taken from an unspecified reconnaissance that shows two men loading what Israel says is a Qassam rocket into a van bearing a large UN logo. Israel reportedly plans to write to the UN to demand the dismissal of Peter Hansen, the commissioner-general of the UN Relief and Works Agency.

Sharon says Gaza raids will go on

At a weekend press conference masked **Hamas** fighters displayed new weapons and vowed to continue to fire missiles at Israel and the settlements despite the heavy response.

The group said it was developing a longer-range missile that would reach the Israel coastal city of Ashkelon, some 15 kilometres north of the strip.

The intensifying conflict comes at a time of serious drift in the Middle East.

The United States is preoccupied with Iraq and its elections and the UN, European Union and other international players enjoy little influence.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel, U.S.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 23, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A11

Length: 653 words

Byline: Hannah Allam INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan

Body

Outrage over the killing of **Hamas'** founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, combined yesterday with a year of pent-up fury at the U.S.-led war in Iraq and exploded in protests throughout the Middle East.

Thousands turned out for demonstrations in Arab capitals as their governments denounced the helicopter attack that killed Yassin as he was returning home from morning prayers. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak canceled plans to participate in a celebration today marking the 25th anniversary of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, the first between Israel and an Arab country. Even members of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council denounced Israel's action.

The protest showed the depth of hostility many in the Arab world feel toward the United States. Despite denials in Washington, many expressed certainty that the United States supported Yassin's killing.

"[Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon would never do this without getting a green light somehow from the U.S. administration," said Labib Kamhawi, a Jordanian political analyst.

"And from where did the Israelis get the helicopters and the rockets they used to kill the sheikh?" Ibrahim Tahir, 29, asked as he sipped tea in an Amman teahouse. "From America."

In Jordan, where more than half the population is of Palestinian origin, marchers thrust photographs of Yassin in the air and called for violence to supplant diplomacy. They pledged revenge, invoking Iraq as well as a Jenin refugee camp leveled by an Israeli incursion in 2002.

"All of us are Ahmed Yassin, from Amman to Jenin, from Baghdad to Jenin," thousands chanted in the Jordanian capital. "Raise your voices and be rid of the peaceful solutions."

Fareed Mohamed, 35, who left the Gaza Strip for Jordan three decades ago, said: "Sheikh Yassin was a symbol for our revolution. He was an Arab patriot, and we loved him for that."

In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel , U.S.

Protesters in Egypt called for bloodshed in Israel. Sudanese in Khartoum flocked to an office of **Hamas** to offer condolences.

Students in Yemen skipped class to shout anti-American slogans. Lebanese protesters burned tires and Israeli flags. Dozens of young men in the Palestinian territories lined up to volunteer as suicide bombers, according to news reports.

"All these demonstrations are one, and the blood of Sheikh Yassin will be fuel to the resistance," said Essam el Arian, a spokesman in Cairo, Egypt, for the Muslim Brotherhood, the Middle East's oldest, most influential Islamic movement. "Our most important reaction now will be to centralize our support of Palestinian resistance groups and to defy the actions of America, Europe and Israel to create chaos in this region."

Most Arab leaders issued statements condemning Israel as "cowardly" for using a gunship to blast Yassin in his wheelchair as he left a Gaza mosque.

The Kuwaiti prime minister predicted more regional violence, and Jordan's prime minister said Yassin's death shelved peace prospects.

"By this crime against a disabled man, the Israeli government has thrown open the door for an unending war in the region," said Abu Emad al Rufay, Lebanon-based spokesman for Islamic Jihad. "Israel dared to do this because it has the green light from the U.S. government on one hand and the shameful silence of Arab leaders on the other."

Members of the Iraqi Governing Council sent a letter of condolence to Palestinian leaders.

"What an end for this great man who spent his life as a militant for the Palestinian cause," said Hatem al Hassani, assistant to council member Mohsin Abdul Hameed. "He wanted to give the Palestinians their rights, their dignity, their freedom. Instead, he went to God as a martyr."

Contact reporter Hannah Allam

at hallam@krwashington.com.

More Coverage

Hamas' founder: A freedom fighter to some, a mastermind
of terror to others. A10.

Arab reaction:

Yassin's killing brings an angry outcry in cities across the Mideast. A11.

Commentary:

Two views on how the death will affect peace process. A13.

Graphic

PHOTO;

NADER DAOUD, Associated Press

In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel , U.S.

Jordanian women Ekram (left) and Leen shout slogans against the killing of Hamas' founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, during a protest in Amman. About 500 Jordanians demonstrated against the Israeli killing of Yassin yesterday.

Load-Date: August 23, 2005

End of Document

Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

January 15, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 811 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Gaza

Body

A 22-year-old Palestinian mother of two small children, pretending to be disabled, killed four Israelis at a Gaza border crossing yesterday after duping soldiers into allowing her a personal security check rather than going through a metal detector.

The Islamic resistance movement **Hamas** and the al-Aqsa Martyrs brigade said the attack by Reem Riyashi, from Gaza City, was a joint operation in revenge for weeks of Israeli incursions into West Bank cities that have left about 25 Palestinians dead.

It was the first time **Hamas** had used a woman as a human bomb.

She left a videotaped message in which she was pictured in combat fatigues, holding an automatic rifle and with a rocket-propelled grenade in front of her. She said she had dreamed since she was 13 of turning "my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists".

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyrdom operation, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said. "God has given me two children. I love them (with) a kind of love that only God knows, but my love to meet God is stronger still."

Mrs Riyashi detonated her 2kg bomb inside a building used to check thousands of Palestinians who cross each day from Gaza to work in a neighbouring industrial zone. The Israeli army said that when she reached the metal detector, the suicide bomber pretended to be crippled and said she had metal plates in her leg which would sound the alarm. She asked to be checked with a body search.

She was taken to an area where a group of soldiers and policemen was checking bags and was told to wait for a woman to come and search her in a cubicle. She then detonated the explosive.

The blast tore open the corrugated iron roof and sent shards of metal and glass ripping through the room. Soldiers used putty knives and pieces of plastic skirting board to scrape strips of flesh from the floor and walls.

All the dead were Israelis: two soldiers, a policeman and a civilian security worker. Seven other Israelis and about four Palestinians were injured.

The Gaza divisional commander, Brigadier-General Gadi Shamni, described the attack as a cynical abuse of his soldiers' attempts to treat **women** with dignity.

Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint

"We're doing our best to be humanitarian, to consider the problems associated with searching women. She said she had a medical problem, that's why the soldiers let her in, to check her in private because she is a woman," he said. "That's a very cruel, cynical use of the humanitarian considerations of our soldiers."

The attack came after months of relative quiet by the Palestinians which has seen few suicide bombings. An attack on Christmas Day by Islamic Jihad killed four Israelis. Last week, a teenage suicide bomber killed himself, but no one else. Prior to those attacks, there had been no bombings since October.

However, the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, yesterday warned that other women would follow Mrs Riyashi's example.

Her family swiftly set up the traditional memorial tent near her home in Gaza City. Her relatives offered neither praise for her attack nor an explanation of why a mother with children just three years and 18 months old should choose to become a suicide bomber.

Her family is wealthy, whereas most bombers come from poorer backgrounds. She is the eighth female suicide bomber, but only one other had children.

At Mrs Riyashi's house, her brother-in-law, Yusuf Awad, was dismantling the main gate and moving out furniture in preparation for the arrival of an Israeli army demolition team, which usually blows up the homes of suicide bombers.

"I denounce her attack," he said. "I support peace. We don't accept women doing such things. She has two children. It is not right."

A Hamas official at a memorial service in the local mosque, who called himself Abu Jihad, said there would be more such women bombers.

"We should expect that more female martyr warriors will do this. It is allowed in Islam because Hamas saw that it is no longer easy to send a male warrior to attack them (the Israelis). This year will see a large number of women joining in the attacks," he said.

The Israeli military responded by immediately closing the Gaza crossings to Palestinians for several days.

"They're always trying to kill, even if they hurt themselves," said Lieutenant Ayelet Kadosh.

"What will happen is that while we are investigating the crossing will be closed and thousands of Palestinians will go hungry because they cannot go to work."

About 4,000 Palestinians work in factories in the sealed industrial zone connected to Gaza, many of them providing for extended families in Gaza where there is 70% unemployment.

A further 14,000 Palestinians cross from Gaza to Israel each day. The military swiftly ordered Palestinians out of the factories and, under heavy guard, sent them home.

Audio report from Chris McGreal: guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

**ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS;
STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM
GAZA**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 6, 2004 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 877 words

Byline: STEVEN ERLANGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

An Israeli helicopter strike killed two senior members of the radical group Islamic Jihad as they rode in a car in Gaza, Palestinians there said last evening.

The dead men were Bashir Al Dabash, 42, a brigade leader and one of Islamic Jihad's top officials in Gaza, the group said, and Zareef Al Araeer, who was said to be his bodyguard. Three bystanders were slightly wounded when one of the two missiles missed the militants' car near the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where Al Dabash had been visiting a wounded fighter, Palestinians said.

Young women and children rushed toward the car, some brandishing remains and shouting, "Welcome to Ezzedine Al Qassam Brigade!" -- the military wing of Hamas.

In a separate action later last night, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile that killed at least two militants and wounded three others near the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, witnesses and Palestinian security sources said. The men, from Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, were preparing to attack Israeli forces, according to witnesses and army officials.

As the Israeli military presses on with its campaign to stop homemade missile strikes from the Gaza Strip on Israeli settlements and towns, the military is also using the opportunity to try to eliminate the leadership of Palestinian radical groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The campaign started Sept. 29, after two children in the Israeli town of Sederot were killed by a Qassam rocket fired by Hamas; since then, at least 70 Palestinians have died, at least 20 of them civilians, as well as one other Israeli civilian and two soldiers.

The Israelis say it is intolerable for their citizens to be subject to rocket attacks even as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vows to withdraw unilaterally from the Gaza Strip, with its 1.3 million Palestinians and 7,500 or so Israeli settlers.

ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA

But the Israeli campaign is also running into more -- and expected -- international criticism, from Egypt, on the 31st anniversary of the Yom Kippur war; from Russia, and even from the United States, as Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said he hoped that Israel's incursion, its bloodiest into Gaza in four years, would be ended quickly.

"The immediate problem right now is that Israeli built-up areas are being hit by rockets, and Sharon finds a need to respond to that," Powell said. "I hope it does not expand. And I hope that whatever he does is proportionate to the threat that Israel is facing, and I hope that this operation can come to a conclusion quickly."

At the United Nations yesterday, supporters of the Palestinians pushed for a Security Council resolution demanding an end to the incursion. And in Washington, a senior U.S. official said the Bush administration hoped that the resolution would not be brought to a vote.

At a briefing yesterday, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli declined to threaten a U.S. veto, but criticized the resolution as not being balanced. Frequently, the United States uses its veto to block resolutions it considers too one-sided in its criticism of Israel, but also has occasionally abstained to show its disapproval while permitting the resolution to pass.

But after British and German efforts to forge a compromise text failed, the United States did veto the resolution. John Danforth, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in New York that the Security Council "acts as the adversary of the Israelis and cheerleaders to the Palestinians."

Israel publicly appears to be in no rush to end its operation. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Monday that "it will take time until we can be sure that we remove the threat" of the Qassam rockets. Other military officials say they are realistic and hope to reduce the number of rockets fired by 70 percent to 80 percent, and that they don't want to be stuck in Gaza indefinitely.

Perhaps to mute criticism, Israeli officials said indirect contacts about ending the operation had begun with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, but the Palestinians denied the suggestion.

Still, Arafat, and especially his government, have been quietly urging **Hamas** not to provoke the Israelis by firing the highly inaccurate Qassams, Palestinian officials have said. But **Hamas** is trying to show that it is fighting the Israelis even as it becomes more difficult to carry out suicide bombings inside Israel proper.

Other Israeli officials say they are working hard at public relations, not wanting the kind of unfair criticism, as they put it, that Israel received in the spring of 2002, with forays into the West Bank, including towns like Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem.

The public relations effort included a fierce attack on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, when an Israeli aerial drone photographed what Israeli officials said was a Qassam rocket being transported in a U.N. vehicle or ambulance. The Israelis called correspondents Friday night to draw their attention to the film, then protested to the United Nations and called for the dismissal of the head of the agency, Peter Hansen.

But Hansen, often critical of Israel, denied the charge and said the film appeared to show a folded-up stretcher, not a rocket, being placed into the vehicle, and promised to investigate.

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Graphic

ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL
FROM GAZA

PHOTO: Kevin Frayer/Associated Press: A Palestinian mourner shouts as he and others run with the body of Wafi Assaliyah along a street residents said was exposed to Israeli army fire during his funeral yesterday in the Jabaliya refugee camp, northern Gaza. Assaliyah, a civilian, was killed by an Israeli army tank shell during an operation in the camp on Monday.

Load-Date: October 6, 2004

End of Document

LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE EAST; How Ben-Gurion Did It: Is Everyone Listening?

The New York Times
August 13, 2003 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 4

Length: 988 words

Byline: By James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 12

Body

The official offered his prisoners a deal: he might let them go if they agreed to halt their "terrorist activities" and to use only political means to pursue their dream of statehood.

It was a proposal similar to the one Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, is making now to ***Hamas*** and other Palestinian factions that advocate terrorism. But this particular offer was made by a British officer to a group of Jews, at the time that the British uneasily governed Palestine, before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Among those who heard the proposal out, and rejected it, was a young extremist who went by a nom de guerre, Michael. Michael later escaped and returned to the underground, to a campaign of assassination, bombing and arms smuggling, with bank robbery thrown in to finance the effort.

"Nothing would be permitted to stand in the way of Jewish independence in the Land of Israel," Michael wrote 50 years later in his autobiography. "Nothing and No One."

By then, Michael was himself testimony to Israel's success at integrating militants into mainstream society. His violent life in the pre-state period had become the stuff of romantic national narrative and broad political appeal, and under a different name, Yitzhak Shamir, he had been one of Israel's longest-serving prime ministers, one who cracked down on Jewish terrorism in the West Bank.

In the view of many historians, it was in no small part the leadership of one man, David Ben-Gurion, that transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers. "Ben-Gurion was a state-builder," said Shmuel Sandler, the Lerner Professor of Democracy and Civility at Bar Ilan University. "State-building means that at one point you understand there can't be any more violence or illegal operations in your camp."

Times, terrorist tactics and international realities change; historical comparisons between the Zionist and Palestinian national movements can be easily strained.

Yet there are echoes in Mr. Abbas's oratory now of the message of Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. "On this land and for this people, there is only one authority, one law, and one democratic and national decision that

LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE EAST How Ben-Gurion Did It: Is Everyone Listening?

applies to us all," Mr. Abbas said on assuming his post this spring. His meaning was that Hamas and other groups could no longer, in effect, conduct their own wars with Israel.

In 1944, a representative of Ben-Gurion delivered a similar message to a militant leader: "There must be one Jewish military force in Eretz Israel," that is, in the land of Israel. The militant leader, Menachem Begin, recalled the episode in his account of those years, "The Revolt."

Unlike Mr. Abbas, Hamas, which took responsibility for a suicide bombing in the West Bank today, officially rejects any two-state solution with Israel. Unlike the pragmatic Ben-Gurion, Begin in those days rejected any partition.

His printed declaration in 1944 of "war to the end" against the British appeared under a map of Palestine that extended to the border of Iraq, enclosing the image of a rifle by the words "Only Thus." Eventually, of course, Prime Minister Begin would give up the Sinai Peninsula.

Although Mr. Abbas has said Hamas must give up its illegal weapons, he has also repeatedly said he will not risk civil conflict to enforce his national vision, and the governing Palestinian Authority has yet to take action against terrorists.

It is something of an Israeli cliché that no Palestinian leader has ever had his "Altalena." The reference is to a fateful decision made by Ben-Gurion in June 1948, after Mr. Begin challenged his vision of a single military force by trying to import weapons and fighters from France aboard a ship, the Altalena.

Ben-Gurion called the effort "an attempt to destroy the army, an attempt to murder the state." He ordered the Altalena shelled in sight of Tel Aviv, with Begin aboard.

"Ben-Gurion exercised authority," said Gideon Shimoni, a historian of Zionism at Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. "He drew the line."

Mr. Begin swallowed his anger and integrated his forces with the Israeli Army. As Professor Shimoni noted, Mr. Begin and others like him had never doubted that ultimately they would yield their arms and take part in an Israeli democracy. "They didn't have a concept that was nondemocratic in its essence," he said, drawing a possible distinction with Hamas.

Palestinian officials call the story of the Altalena a facile history lesson. They note that, at the time, Ben-Gurion already had at stake what no Palestinian leader has ever had: a state to defend against internal insurgency as well as external attack.

Further, unlike the groups of Mr. Shamir and Mr. Begin, Hamas does not operate only underground but maintains schools, health clinics and a steady, even celebrity presence on satellite television. As a result, it is broadly popular -- far more popular than Mr. Abbas, though not Yasir Arafat.

But that analysis tends to slight the severity of Ben-Gurion's efforts over many years to marginalize the extremists, whom he referred to as "Jewish Nazis." Mr. Begin, whom Ben-Gurion compared to Hitler, wrote with great bitterness of what he saw as Ben-Gurion's collaboration with the British.

In April 1938, members of Etzel, the group Mr. Begin would later lead, opened fire on an Arab bus in stated retaliation for the killing days before of four Jews, including a child and two women, in a car. No one on the bus was hurt, but the British caught the three perpetrators and hanged one of them, Shlomo Ben-Yosef.

In his history of life under British rule in Palestine, "One Palestine, Complete," Tom Segev writes that Etzel supporters tried to "drag the Jewish community into a display of mourning" and to turn Mr. Ben-Yosef "into a martyr."

Ben Gurion resisted. "I am not shocked that a Jew was hanged in Palestine," he said. "I am ashamed of the deed that led to the hanging."

LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE EAST How Ben-Gurion Did It: Is Everyone Listening?

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Israelis watched in 1948 as the transport ship Altalena burned in Tel Aviv Harbor. It was bringing arms and militant fighters to reinforce Menachem Begin's underground forces, and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion ordered it shelled. (Photo by Jabotinsky Archives)

Load-Date: August 13, 2003

End of Document

At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

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Section: News; Pg. P2A

Length: 945 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

In a wave of violence around the globe Tuesday:

s A Web site purportedly showed the gruesome killings of 12 hostages in Iraq.

s At least 10 died and dozens were injured in a Moscow suicide blast.

s Suicide bombers blew up two buses in Israel, killing 16.

In Baghdad, Iraq, a gruesome video posted on a Web site purported to show militants beheading a Nepalese worker and shooting 11 others in the first mass slaying of foreign hostages during the Iraqi insurgency.

If confirmed, it would raise the number of foreign workers known to have been slain by extremists to at least 22 and would be by far the most ever killed at one time.

Previously, insurgents killed hostages in ones, and perhaps twos, as part of their campaign to force foreign troops and contract workers out of the country.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi promised retribution. "The only solution with this unjust group is to make them face justice," he angrily told the Arab-language Al-Arabiya television station.

Also, in another hostage crisis, French officials held crisis talks in Paris and around the Arab world seeking to save the lives of journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot in the final hours before a Wednesday morning deadline set by kidnappers demanding that France rescind its ban on Muslim head scarves in French schools.

In Moscow, a woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a busy subway station Tuesday night, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 50 in the second terrorist attack to hit Russia in a week.

Seven days earlier, almost to the hour, two Russian jetliners crashed within minutes of each other in what officials determined were terrorist bombings. All 90 people aboard were killed, and the investigation has focused on two Chechen women believed to have been passengers.

A militant Muslim Web site published a statement late Tuesday claiming responsibility for the subway bombing on behalf of the "Islambouli Brigades," a group that also claimed it caused the jetliner crashes with suicide teams in retribution for Russia's war with Islamic rebels in Chechnya.

At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

The veracity of neither claim could be confirmed.

The statement said Tuesday's bombing was a blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin "who slaughtered Muslims time and again."

Putin has firmly refused to negotiate with the rebels in predominantly Muslim Chechnya, saying they must be wiped out.

In Beersheba, Israel, Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses Tuesday, killing 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in an attack that ended a six-month lull in violence.

The buses exploded into flames just seconds apart and about 100 yards away from each other in the center of Beersheba - the deadliest suicide strike in nearly a year.

Israel had attributed the lull to its separation barrier, arrest sweeps and widespread network of informers.

The **Hamas** militant group claimed responsibility, issuing a leaflet in Hebron - the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba - saying it was avenging Israel's assassinations of two of its leaders earlier this year.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met with his security advisers to plan a response, expected to include a military operation in Hebron.

Just hours before the attack, Sharon presented his hardline Likud Party with the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Despite the bombings, Sharon promised to push forward with the Gaza pullout, while insisting Israel would keep fighting terrorism "with all its might."

"This [the attack] has no connection to disengagement," he said, referring to his program to separate Israel from the Palestinians.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell condemned the bombings and offered condolences to Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, and State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said **Hamas** must be put out of business.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said President Bush had been briefed.

"There's simply no justification for the killing of innocent civilians," McClellan said.

Israeli officials said the bombings proved the need for the barrier now under construction between Israel and the West Bank.

The section between Hebron and Beersheba has not been built.

"We should go ahead speedily now and finish construction of this fence," government spokesman Avi Pazner told The Associated Press.

The barrier, which Israel says is necessary to keep out suicide bombers, has been widely condemned internationally because of the hardships it imposes on Palestinians.

Palestinian analyst Hani al-Masri agreed with the Israeli assessment of the lull in suicide attacks.

He told AP that it resulted from Israel's assassination of **Hamas** leaders and the difficulties of infiltrating posed by the barrier.

At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

"But now, the military operations [attacks] are a way for **Hamas** to increase its popularity among Palestinians," he said, noting that until Tuesday, the Islamic group had not carried out its promise to avenge Israel's killing of its founder and his successor.

It had been nearly six months since Israelis last experienced the scene of charred buses, mangled bodies and screaming sirens that played out in Beersheba on Tuesday.

The last suicide bombing in Israel took place on March 14, when 11 people were killed at the port of Ashdod.

Tuesday's attack was the deadliest since a **female** suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa - an attack that prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Israel's rescue service said 30 of the wounded in Tuesday's attack were in serious condition. Police said the death toll of 16 did not include the bombers.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

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Most Israelis oppose Sharon's assassination policy

Financial Times (London, England)

June 14, 2003 Saturday

London Edition 1

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 417 words

Byline: By SHARMILA DEVI

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Most Israelis say targeted killings of suspected militants should be suspended to allow Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian prime minister, to consolidate his power, according to a newspaper poll yesterday.

The poll was conducted after a particularly bloody few days in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during which 38 people died. A suicide bombing in Jerusalem killed 17, while Israel launched strikes against militants in the Gaza Strip that also brought civilian deaths.

Colin Powell, US secretary of state, said yesterday that Washington wanted re-strait from Israel in the face of Palestinian attacks. "We all are anxious to see restraint and we understand that it's important to get the terror down," he said.

The centre-left Yedioth Ahronoth daily newspaper said its poll showed that 58 per cent of Israelis believed the extra-judicial killing of militants should stop at least temporarily to give Mr Abbas a chance.

"Trapped in the vice of war, in the past the public tended to support any means against terror that the security establishment proposed and executed. No more. The joy over the assassination of (another) senior Hamas operative has given way to deep anxiety over the results of the action," it said.

Israel and Hamas yesterday continued their defiant statements against each other amid diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed as a US envoy prepared to visit the region and some Palestinian factions tried to revive ceasefire talks.

Two Israeli women were wounded by gunmen near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. On Thursday night an Israeli was shot dead near a Palestinian village and Israeli soldiers killed two militants near the city of Jenin.

"As a government responsible for the security of its citizens, we must wage a war to the bitter end (against Hamas) because no one else, at least at this stage, will do it," Ze'ev Boim, deputy defence minister, told Army Radio.

The US, Russia, United Nations and European Union are planning a meeting in Jordan on June 22 to try to save the "road map". In the first stage of the peace plan, violence is supposed to cease among other confidence-building measures before the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Most Israelis oppose Sharon's assassination policy

John Wolf, assistant secretary of state who will lead a US team to monitor progress, was expected in the region this weekend.

Kofi Annan, UN secretary-general, told Ha'aretz newspaper he would like to see "an armed peacekeeping force act as a buffer between the Israelis and Palestinians". Israel is opposed to such inter-vention.

Load-Date: June 13, 2003

End of Document

How Ben-Gurion did it: Mahmoud Abbas's stance against terrorism echoes that of the Jewish leader who transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 14, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A4

Length: 1006 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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It was a proposal similar to the one Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, is making now to Hamas and other Palestinian factions that advocate terrorism. But this offer was made by a British officer to a group of Jews at the time that the British uneasily governed Palestine, before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Among those who heard the proposal out, and rejected it, was a young extremist who went by a nom de guerre, Michael. Michael later escaped and returned to the underground, to a campaign of assassination, bombing and arms smuggling, with bank robbery thrown in to finance the effort.

New York Times

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Unlike Abbas, Hamas, which took responsibility for a suicide bombing in the West Bank on Tuesday, officially rejects any two-state solution with Israel. Unlike the pragmatic Ben-Gurion,

Begin in those days rejected any partition with the Arabs of what he considered the Jewish biblical homeland.

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enclosing the image of a rifle by the words "Only Thus." Eventually, of course, Prime Minister Begin would give up the Sinai Peninsula to achieve peace with Egypt.

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How Ben-Gurion did it: Mahmoud Abbas's stance against terrorism echoes that of the Jewish leader who transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and

But that analysis tends to slight the severity of Ben-Gurion's efforts over many years to marginalize the extremists, whom he referred to as "Jewish Nazis." Begin, whom Ben-Gurion compared to Hitler, writes with great bitterness of what he saw as Ben-Gurion's collaboration with the British, including the handing over of hundreds of militants.

In April 1938, members of Etzel, the group Begin would later lead, opened fire on an Arab bus in stated retaliation for the killing days before of four Jews, including a child and two women, in a car. No one on the bus was hurt, but the British caught the three perpetrators and hanged one of them, Shlomo Ben-Yosef.

In his history of life under British rule in Palestine, One Palestine, Complete, Tom Segev writes that Etzel supporters tried to "drag the Jewish community into a display of mourning" and to turn Ben-Yosef "into a martyr."

Ben-Gurion resisted. "I am not shocked that a Jew was hanged in Palestine," he said. "I am ashamed of the deed that led to the hanging."

Graphic

Photo: FRITZ COHEN, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE; Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, accompanied by the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Abba Eban (centre), gives a present to U.S. President Harry Truman in file photo from May 1, 1951.

Load-Date: August 14, 2003

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WHY THE SHEIKH HAD TO GO

The Sun

March 23, 2004

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Section: MIDDLE EAST ERUPTS AFTER TERROR CHIEF'S EXECUTION; OPINION

Length: 245 words

Byline: Lord Greville Janner, Vice President, World Jewish Congress

Body

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin was the terrorist mastermind behind years of Hamas atrocities.

Just as Britain seeks to rid the world of Osama Bin Laden and of his cronies in Afghanistan, so the death of Yassin should be seen as a major victory in the free world's war against terror.

Sir John Stevens has warned a terrorist attack against London is "inevitable".

The Madrid bombings have shown how vulnerable we all are.

For years, Israel's citizens have been living with the fear and hideous reality of terrorist attacks. Suicide bombers, indoctrinated and trained by Hamas and other terrorist organisations, have constantly destroyed the lives of Israel's people, killing hundreds of innocent men, women and children.

British police and security services are focused on how to deter, to prevent and to combat terrorist attacks here. Equally, the job of Israel's democratically-elected government is to seek to protect their citizens. Every day, Israeli families wait with deep concern for the return home of their children. All expect their Government to do all in its power to keep them safe.

So it should be no surprise when that Government removes the area's terrorist mastermind. Israel is taking anti-terrorist action which we are already using in Iraq and Afghanistan. We should understand the deep problems of our proud, democratic, Western ally.

We should hope and pray the end of Yassin marks the beginning of a real move towards peace which both peoples need so desperately.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

**Mideast blood flows;
Bomb, missiles shred peace map**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

June 12, 2003 Thursday

Home Edition

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**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: News;

Length: 831 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Body

Jerusalem --- U.S. peacekeeping efforts suffered a grave blow Wednesday when a Palestinian suicide bomber disguised as an Orthodox Jew blew himself up on a bus, killing at least 16 other people and wounding nearly 70.

Israeli helicopters retaliated, firing rockets into cars in Gaza City. The Israeli attacks killed nine Palestinians, including four **Hamas** members, and wounded at least 30.

The carnage capped a wave of escalating violence that broke out after last week's peace summit between President Bush and the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers. Israel has carried out daily military operations that have killed at least 24 Palestinians, while attacks by Palestinian militants have killed 21 Israelis.

Cox International Correspondent

As anger, grief and pessimism convulsed both communities, officials weighed in after the attacks in downtown Jerusalem and the crowded Gaza Strip.

Bush, who personally committed himself to establishing peace between Israelis and Palestinians, condemned the latest killings. He called on the international community to "isolate those who hate so much that they are willing to kill" and "use every ounce of their power to prevent them from happening in the future."

Last week, Bush put his prestige on the line, meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in Aqaba, Jordan, and with Arab leaders in Egypt to seek support for the U.S.-backed peace plan known as the "road map."

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell urged all sides to "remain steadfast, to continue moving down the path that was laid out."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, while expressing his commitment to the peace effort, also vowed to continue targeting Palestinian militants, despite Washington's rare condemnation one day earlier after Israel tried to assassinate Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a leader of the **Hamas** militant group.

Mideast blood flows; Bomb, missiles shred peace map

"The state of Israel will continue to hunt down Palestinian terror organizations and their leaders, those who send terrorists on missions to murder Jews," Sharon said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who earlier this week implored Israel to help him bolster his credibility as a peacemaker by halting attacks on militants, called for extremists on both sides to end the violence.

"Stopping this deterioration necessitates that all parties should comply to a cease-fire and end violence and to start serious efforts to implement the road map," a statement from Abbas' office said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat --- whom Sharon and the Bush administration have refused to include in their diplomatic efforts --- went on Palestinian television to condemn the violence and urge both sides "to return to the negotiating table."

Hamas rejected the calls and claimed responsibility for the suicide attack in Jerusalem as its retaliation for Israel's botched attempt to kill Rantisi.

In Wednesday's bombing, a Palestinian dressed as an Orthodox Jew boarded bus No. 14 as it traveled east on Jaffa Street, the main thoroughfare in western Jerusalem's commercial district. The man walked to the center of the vehicle and detonated explosives on his body a few seconds after the bus pulled away from the stop, police said.

The force of the blast ripped off the top of the bus and scattered twisted metal, debris and human remains. Rescue workers lined bodies along the street, where travel agencies, cafes and clothing stores normally do a brisk business during the late-afternoon rush hour.

Police said at least 16 people besides the suicide bomber were killed. An additional 68 people were wounded, including eight who were in critical condition, paramedics said.

"I was around the corner when I heard the explosion. I ran to the scene and simply froze," said Shirli Rafael, a 25-year-old city administrator. "I saw dead people. Severed hands and fingers lay at my feet. I saw a lot of **women** covered with blood and scorched skin."

Palestinians in Gaza witnessed blood-spattered scenes an hour later, after an Israeli helicopter gunship attacked a car carrying two **Hamas** members.

Witnesses said an Apache helicopter fired two missiles at the car, which was stuck in a traffic jam near the Shajiyeh neighborhood's open air market in Gaza City, where shoppers were buying vegetables and bread for dinner. The helicopters fired more missiles at the car after a group of people gathered around the vehicle, witnesses said.

The pinpoint attacks caused little physical damage to the buildings around the vehicle, but the death toll was high. Two bodies were taken from the car, one decapitated, according to television reports. Five bystanders were killed, and 30 people were wounded, according to doctors at Shifa Hospital, where most of the injured were treated.

Hamas identified one of the dead as Tito Massoud, a leader of its military wing.

Early today, just after midnight, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City, according to Israeli and Palestinian news media. Two people were killed, hospital officials said.

Graphic

Photo: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to continue targeting Palestinian militants despite Washington's pleas for restraint.; Photo: A wounded woman is treated Wednesday after a Palestinian suicide bomber dressed as a religious Jew blew up a bus in downtown Jerusalem. / ODED BALILTY / Associated Press

Mideast blood flows; Bomb, missiles shred peace map

Load-Date: June 12, 2003

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Palestinians have media on their side

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 27, 2003 Wednesday

Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial;; Column

Length: 726 words

Byline: VERNADETTE RAMIREZ BROYLES

Body

A 2-year-old lay in the street, both legs blown off, while rescue workers feverishly attempted CPR. His small, torn body was surrounded by the bodies of 20 Jews who were murdered, and 110 who were wounded, when a **Hamas** suicide bomber attacked Israel last week by blowing up a bus filled with innocent men, **women** and children.

Yet, Palestinian leaders --- aided by the liberal Western press --- have the audacity to claim that Israel's retaliatory strike against a leader of the terrorist **Hamas** group is responsible for ending the cease-fire brokered by President Bush. Clearly, it is the actions of Palestinian militants against innocent civilians that torched any prospects for peace.

For the Journal-Constitution

Bush's "road map" for peace included two critical goals: the creation of an independent Palestinian state and the dismantling of terrorist groups in the West Bank and Gaza by Palestinian authorities.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has relinquished Israel's claim to control all of Palestine, moved to dismantle wildcat settlements in the West Bank, allowed more Palestinians to find work in Israel and released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. He even agreed to scale back military operations against terrorist leaders, despite warnings that militant groups were using the cease-fire to develop rocket production facilities to target Israeli cities.

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, by contrast, has failed to do the one critical thing required of him --- take action to dismantle **Hamas**, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups. This past week, **Hamas** bombarded the Israeli town of Sderot with rockets and fired a longer-range rocket from Gaza. Abbas clearly lacks either the will or the authority to stop hardened Palestinian militants.

By their unmitigated acts of terror on the eve of negotiations that were almost certain to lead to an independent Palestinian state, Palestinian militants demonstrate their lack of genuine interest in peace. Indeed, the goal of terrorism is to goad the target to react in a manner that garners sympathy and enables them to be portrayed as victims. Thus, it makes perverse sense that we saw a step up in anti-Israeli terrorism just as the peace process began to show real promise.

Palestinians have media on their side

Palestinian militants have reason to believe their tactics may work, given the growing anti-Israel sentiment in Europe and the United Nations. With the exception of Great Britain, Europe has never shown Israel steadfast support. Holocaust survivors still remember how much of Europe tolerated the destruction of more than 6 million Jews.

Israel is the only country in the world not eligible to sit on the United Nations' principal policy-making body, the Security Council, while oppressive totalitarian states such as Syria, Libya, Cuba and China are accepted.

Last year alone, the United Nations adopted 19 anti-Israel resolutions. It has repeatedly held "emergency special sessions" focused solely on Israel while ignoring genocide in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia and the PLO's aid to terrorism.

Part of the reason for growing anti-Israeli criticism is that the Arab world has successfully shifted focus from the general Israeli-Arab conflict to Israelis-vs.-Palestinians, where Israel no longer appears the underdog. The liberal media have cooperated, often portraying Israel's military might against Palestinian "victims," with only superficial treatment of history and context.

The United States must come to the aid of Israel in the wake of terrorist attacks by militant groups whose sole apparent goal is its destruction. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that shares our democratic ideals. As with Israel, terrorists have also attempted to use America's strength against us.

There is no moral equivalence between Israel's use of force to defend and retaliate against groups that use Israeli citizens as tactical pawns and the terrorist acts of Palestinian militants. Israel must be allowed to do what any sovereign nation has the right to do --- protect its people. In America's war on terrorist thugs, we must be prepared to stand unequivocally behind our Middle Eastern democratic ally.

Vernadette Ramirez Broyles is an attorney with the Atlanta law firm Lawgical Counsel and public policy counsel for a national faith-based nonprofit called "We Care America."

Load-Date: August 27, 2003

End of Document

Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

October 4, 2004

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

Length: 696 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Gaza City

Body

Ariel Sharon said yesterday that an assault on the Gaza strip that has claimed more than 60 lives and injured 250 people - the bloodiest of the intifada - will be expanded until it puts an end to Hamas rocket strikes against Israel.

At least eight people were killed yesterday, most of them insurgents. But the dead also included a 13-year old boy and a deaf and mute man shot in his home by an Israeli sniper.

About 2,000 troops backed by 200 tanks, armoured vehicles and helicopters have reoccupied swaths of northern Gaza in order to carve out a six-mile wide buffer zone along the border. Israeli forces have also for the first time entered the Jabaliya refugee camp, where most of the fighting of the past five days has taken place.

Mr Sharon said Operation Days of Penitence, launched after a Hamas rocket fired from Gaza killed two children in the Israeli town of Sderot last week, will not end swiftly.

"It is necessary to bring about a complete end to the firing of rockets on Sderot and other towns that border the Gaza strip. The current situation cannot continue," the prime minister told Israel radio. "We have to expand . . . the areas of operation in order to get the rocket launchers out of the range of Israeli towns."

Mr Sharon said the assault would not affect his plan to withdraw all Jewish settlers and Israeli military bases from the Gaza strip by the end of next year. But the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said the reoccupation could contribute to a further collapse of difficult conditions in Gaza.

Thousands of people have been trapped for days with no water or electricity, and the chronically ill without access to hospitals.

The death toll continued to rise yesterday. The army killed at least four Palestinian fighters in missile strikes. One was against a group of men who had just fired a rocket into Israel, and a 16-year-old youth with them. Another missile targeted two Islamic Jihad activists in Jabaliya.

More than 30 tanks and bulldozers moved into an area north-east of Jabaliya to demolish houses, factories and a kindergarten, following days of destruction in northern Gaza. Last night the Israeli air force fired two missiles at militants in Gaza city, wounding three people, witnesses said.

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, declared a state of emergency in Gaza and called on the international community to "stop these inhumane and racist crimes". But the Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, urged

Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises

Hamas and similar groups "to think about the higher national interest and not give Israel excuses to continue the aggression against our people in Gaza".

The US urged Israel to avoid civilian casualties but said it had the right to defend its citizens against terrorism.

So far though the Israeli military has avoided the scale of civilian casualties that forced it to curtail its assault on Rafah camp in southern Gaza in May, when a high proportion of those killed were children and **women** shot by Israeli snipers, and a tank fired a shell into a peaceful demonstration.

The fighting in Gaza has prompted a fresh confrontation between Israel and the UN after the military said one of its spy drones spotted a UN ambulance being used to transport a **Hamas** rocket. Israel said its ambassador to the UN, Dan Gillerman, would demand that the UN dismiss the head of its Palestinian refugee agency, Peter Hansen.

But Mr Hansen said the grainy Israeli video showed UN ambulance workers carry ing a stretcher, not a rocket. He said it was not the first time the government had "propagated falsehoods" against the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"A few months ago, two cabinet ministers declared in public that UNRWA ambulances were carrying body parts of fallen Israeli soldiers. When challenged to produce the evidence backing up this claim, or to retract the statement and offer an apology, the ministers in question were not able to provide any response and have remained silent."

In May, Mr Gillerman told the UN security council that an Israeli shell fired into a peaceful demonstration in Rafah had mostly killed gunmen. In fact, the dead were children or unarmed adults.

Battlefield Gaza, page 14

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: October 5, 2004

Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

USA TODAY

March 23, 2004, Tuesday,

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 855 words

Byline: Michele Chabin; Special for USA TODAY

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Cafe Caffit, a fashionable bar-restaurant, usually is packed with diners at dinner time. Not so on Monday night, after a missile fired by an Israeli helicopter killed Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the militant group **Hamas**.

Like most of the other establishments that line trendy Emek Rafaim Street in southern Jerusalem, Caffit was nearly deserted.

"You can see for yourself," owner Gabi Altaratz said, surveying his nearly empty restaurant. "Only four tables out of the 45 tables are occupied."

A year and a half ago, a terrorist carrying more than 40 pounds of explosives tried to blow himself up as he entered Cafe Caffit. An observant waiter spotted the bomb's wires and pounced on the Palestinian and prevented a catastrophe. "Things were slow after that, too, but they rebounded," Altaratz said with a weak smile.

Even though his business has been targeted by terrorists, Altaratz said he opposed Yassin's assassination, mostly on principle. "Personally, I'm against killing of any kind and would have preferred to see Yassin rot in jail."

Then, recalling that Israel released Yassin from prison in the 1990s -- at a time when it looked like Israelis and Palestinians might actually make peace -- Altaratz said he is no longer confident that peace is attainable: "I'm not sure that the Palestinian people really want peace. I'm not sure there is a solution to this mess."

According to preliminary opinion polls conducted Monday, an overwhelming majority of Israelis support the assassination of Yassin. In one survey, conducted Monday by the Channel 3 cable network, 82% of those polled said they favored the killing. Only 16% opposed the attack. The remainder were undecided.

Sam Lehman-Wilzig, an Israeli political scientist and media analyst, said the survey results did not surprise him, given Yassin's repeated calls for Israel's demise.

"**Hamas**' underlying ideology is the destruction of the state of Israel. This means that it's not an issue of how much the Palestinians want Israel to concede. Nothing less than national suicide on the part of Israelis will satisfy **Hamas**," Lehman-Wilzig said.

Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

The assassination, he said, was meant not only to thwart Palestinian violence but also to help Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon win some political points at home. Sharon, a longtime supporter of Israeli settlements in Palestinian areas, recently announced that he intends to unilaterally withdraw Israeli troops from Gaza, which Israel has occupied since 1967. He also plans to dismantle Israeli settlements there.

"Israelis fear that the Palestinians will view a Gaza withdrawal as caving into terrorism, (so) Sharon needs to show that if we get out of Gaza, it will be under our own conditions," Lehman-Wilzig said.

Although many liberal Israelis support Sharon's plan to leave Gaza, they also oppose political assassinations of Palestinian militants. Peace Now, the largest group in the "peace camp," hastily organized a demonstration in Tel Aviv to express its disapproval.

On Emek Refaim Street, where Palestinian bombers have blown up a cafe and a public bus in the past year, the mood was more somber than defiant. Fewer people than usual were on the street, and those who did venture out did not appear to linger.

Female soldiers camped out at checkpoints on either end of the long, narrow road occasionally pulled over motorists and checked their identity cards. Private security guards sat outside every restaurant, in accordance with government security procedures introduced in response to the Palestinian uprising that began in September 2000.

Waiting to board a bus, Netanel Uzana, 14, said he supported the Yassin assassination.

"I was excited when I heard about it. Yassin was a terrorist. He ordered his people to blow up cafes and buses. The world is safer without him," Uzana said.

But Chani Hinker, an educator in her 50s, said she feared that "a lot of innocent Israelis and Palestinians will pay the price for this assassination." Hinker said Yassin's killing was "a sign of arrogance by the state of Israel. There will be even more terror attacks."

In her airy, top-floor apartment around the corner from Emek Refaim Street, Mallory Serebrin, a ceramics artist in her 30s, couldn't decide whether the killing will do more harm than good. "It was a good thing to knock out Yassin, the source of the terrorism. But you have to wonder whether it will lead to an even greater escalation of violence," Serebrin said. "One thing's for certain," she added. "We can't continue to go on like this."

Serebrin ticked off the ways she tries to avoid places likely to be targeted by terrorists. "After the latest bus bombing down the street, I stopped taking the bus. I was an hour away from being on that bus."

When she walks down any street in Jerusalem, Serebrin said, "I wonder if the bus going by will blow up next to me, or if the cafe I'm passing by will blow up. I question all of my choices. Should I walk on a side street or take the main road?"

Despite the constant fear, she said she hasn't changed her routine. "I still go everywhere I want to go," she said. "But these days, I do a lot more walking."

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Suhaib Salem, Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, Adel Hana, AP; In Gaza City: Thousands take part in the funeral procession of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of **Hamas**. He was killed Monday in an Israeli attack. <>Heavily armed: **Hamas** members attend Yassin's funeral Monday.

Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

End of Document

West Bank protests signal growing Mideast tensions

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 2, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; NEWS

Length: 695 words

Dateline: NABLUS, WEST BANK

Body

Thousands of protesters rallied yesterday in the West Bank to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Earlier, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at demonstrators near a disputed security barrier, reportedly injuring at least 11 people.

Conflict over the prisoners and the barrier, which had its first 145-kilometre section completed this week, threatens to block the peace effort. Despite White House summits with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent days, progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" has stalled.

Associated Press

The protests, a day after a riot by Palestinian prisoners in an Israeli prison, underscored the growing tensions.

The barrier, planned to stretch along 600 kilometres of electric fences, trenches, concrete blocks and coils of razor wire, is designed to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen entering Israel. It has infuriated Palestinians because it cuts into the West Bank in some areas.

The pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement said soldiers fired rubber bullets at about 300 Palestinians and 60 foreign supporters who dismantled a barbed-wire barrier in front of a section of the fence near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank yesterday.

The group said three Palestinians and eight foreigners were injured.

The army said troops had used "non-lethal means of crowd dispersal" against a group of violent protesters who threw stones at soldiers. A spokesman said the army was investigating reports of injuries.

Later yesterday, more than 10,000 Palestinians attended a rally organized in Nablus by **Hamas**, which -- along with other militant organizations -- declared a unilateral ceasefire on June 29.

Dozens of militants with plastic machine-guns paraded in front of the stage as speakers demanded Israel free the estimated 7,700 Palestinians, most of whom are held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism.

Israel plans to release a few hundred.

Adnan Asfour, a **Hamas** political leader in Nablus, told the crowd that the ceasefire would be threatened if "Israel continues breaching and violating our rights."

West Bank protests signal growing Mideast tensions

Female Hamas activists performed a skit depicting Israeli soldiers and settlers evicting Palestinian villagers from their land to build the security barrier.

The mock fence was then blown up by **Hamas**, eliciting cries of "God is great" from the crowd.

In meetings with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a week ago and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday, U.S. President George W. Bush prodded both to meet their obligations under the road map.

Bush said the Palestinians must disarm militant groups, as stipulated in the road map, and expressed concern about the security barrier.

The barrier and the prisoners issues are not mentioned in the road map, a blueprint for ending violence and creating a Palestinian state by 2005.

Abbas fears a crackdown on militant groups could spark civil war. Israel has said it will continue to build the disputed barrier and announced plans for 22 new housing units in a Gaza Strip settlement, despite a road map requirement that it freeze settlement activity.

In remarks published yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bush "doesn't like fences and he wished it wasn't there."

In an interview with Israel's Maariv newspaper that also was published by the State Department, Powell was quoted as saying the United States did not dispute Israel's right to erect a fence but he feared it was "going in ways that will make it very difficult to get to the next phases of the road map."

Although Israel insists the barrier does not mark a political border, Powell expressed concern that "the fence is producing a fait accompli with respect to what a (Palestinian) state might look like."

Powell also said terrorism must be "eliminated, not just for the moment . . . but for good" and called on Israel to remove settlement outposts and roadblocks.

Also yesterday, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners refused food, a day after a prison riot involving about 400 Palestinian inmates left 20 prisoners and five guards injured.

Israel's prison service said 550 inmates at two jails in southern Israel were refusing to eat.

It was not clear whether the fast would continue.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; A masked Palestinian militant holds his rifle during a rally yesterday in Maghazi refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: August 2, 2003

Doom & Gloom

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

September 19, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 484 words

Body

FIVE WOUNDED IN **HAMAS** SHOOTOUT

AT LEAST five people were wounded in a shootout between Palestinian security services and members of the radical Islamic group **Hamas** today amid kidnapping accusations.

Al-Shifa Hospital staff in Gaza City said they had admitted five people with gunshot wounds.

The Palestinian security ministry blasted **Hamas** for abducting one of its members the previous day. "This kidnapping is unacceptable, and we have arrested seven suspects who will be interrogated and eventually tried in the courts," it said.

GIRL ELECTROCUTED ON RAILWAY

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl was electrocuted on a railway line yesterday as she played with her twin brother and a friend.

Sophie Storey fell face down on to the live rail in Staines, Surrey. She could not be revived. The three children had been warned 20 minutes earlier not to play on the tracks.

SUPERSONIC RUSSIAN JET CRASHES

A GIANT Tupolyev-160 strategic bomber crashed yesterday in southern Russia, killing all four crewmen.

The supersonic aircraft designed to carry 40 tonnes of weapons, including 12 winged nuclear missiles, was running in a new jet engine when it crashed in the Saratov region.

"There were neither nuclear or conventional weapons on board the aircraft," a military spokesman said.

HIJACKED MAN FOUND IN CAR BOOT

A SOUTH African man spent three days locked in the boot of his car after it was stolen by hijackers in eastern Johannesburg.

"After hijacking him, the men took the man to Boksburg Lake, where they forced him into the boot and drove off," a police spokesman said. He said the victim was extremely disoriented, dehydrated and could hardly stand when he was rescued by state officials who found him in the abandoned car.

BLAST KILLS THREE US TROOPS

Doom & Gloom

THREE US soldiers were killed yesterday in an attack on a convoy in the Iraqi town of Khaldiya.

The truck carrying troops blew up after it drove over a landmine or bomb on a road. Soldiers were fired on as they tried to rescue casualties from the burning vehicle.

Two soldiers were also wounded when the convoy was attacked east of the town of Ramadi.

CHILDREN SWEEPED AWAY BY FLOODS

SURGING floodwaters have swept away six children, inundated villages and left at least 250,000 people stranded in the districts of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj in Bangladesh.

500 BODIES IN MASS GRAVE

THE remains of almost 500 people, including women and children, believed to have been slaughtered by Serbs have been exhumed from the largest mass grave from the Bosnian war.

"So far we have found 364 complete and 121 incomplete skeletons," Ismet Music, a member of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people, said. Experts expect to find between 70 and 100 more bodies.

MEASLES OUTBREAK HITS ISLANDS

AN OUTBREAK of measles in the Marshall Islands has infected nearly 650 people and killed three.

The outbreak is the worst under US jurisdiction since 1992, when 1100 people were infected in Texas.

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

YOUR SAY

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

April 21, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 529 words

Body

Contempt for peace

THE Butcher of Beirut, Ariel Sharon, is at it again. Clearly, the destruction of Palestine is the objective of Sharon and Israel generally.

Since becoming leader in 2001, Sharon has shown nothing but contempt for peace, constantly destabilising the region.

The Berlin-style wall on Palestinian land, the murder of civilians and the assassination of political figures have contributed to the destruction of the peace process.

How long will it be before the world steps in and stops Israel from going too far?

Brian Jones,

East Brighton

Killing in self defence

THE usual complaints have begun about the killing of **Hamas** leader al-Rantissi.

Sure, it would have been better if the Palestinians had been kind enough to hand over al-Rantissi and other terrorists.

Unfortunately, the Arab/Islamic world has a nasty habit of nurturing and glorifying their terrorists, which the hypocritical UN and EU seem to ignore.

Israel tries to protect citizens by destabilising terror groups such as **Hamas**, a group committed to Israel's destruction.

I wonder if there would be complaints about the killing of Osama bin Laden if that opportunity were to arise?

Mary Werther,

Camberwell

US must act in Mid-East

YOUR SAY

YET again Israel carries out a political assassination, this time recently-elected Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

Yet again, Israel's actions are condemned by all except the United States.

On this occasion, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw declares the killing to be wrong and unhelpful to peace and even our Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer, describes the actions as provocative and counter-productive.

When will these influential members of the coalition of the willing demand that the US play an active role in stopping political assassinations?

Such actions do nothing other than strengthen the resolve of those determined to follow their leaders into martyrdom.

Of course, there is no simple solution to this complex issue but for however long Israel continues to receive the tacit approval of the United States, the level of violence will escalate.

Ian De Landelles,

Canberra, ACT

Silent and condemning

SO Kofi Annan and the civilised West condemn the assassination of Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

This is the same Kofi Annan who sat on his hands and allowed 800,000 innocent Rwandans to be slaughtered some 10 years ago. What did Annan and the rest of the West have to say about the latest suicide bombing at the Erez border, which killed a soldier and wounded three people?

That's right, nothing.

Deborah Wiener,

Melbourne

Anniversary of genocide

ON April 15, we remembered the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, when Hutus slaughtered 800,000 Tutsi men, women and children. The UN was there as a peacekeeper but told them not to get involved and removed them.

It sounds familiar, doesn't it? The United Nations never gets involved when it's "internal".

Remember how long it took them to do something about the ethnic cleansing of Moslems in Kosovo?

On this 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, we should all hang our heads in shame.

Michael Scotts,

McCrae

Load-Date: April 20, 2004

First female on death mission

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

January 16, 2004 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 31

Length: 265 words

Byline: MIDDLE EAST Gaza Strip, Thursday

Body

ISRAEL closed a Gaza industrial park after a Palestinian bomber killed four Israelis nearby -- the first time the Islamic **Hamas** sent a woman on a suicide mission.

The aftermath of yesterday's attack meant further hardships for Palestinians.

The impoverished Gaza Strip depends on jobs in Israel for much of its income. In a routine security move, Israel closed the crossing after the attack, turning workers away, and also shutting down the Erez industrial park where 6000 Palestinians work.

Israel Radio reported that workers could cross into Israel today, but the industrial park would remain closed.

Brigadier General Gadi Shamni, the Israeli military commander in Gaza, indicated that Israel would hit back.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing," he said.

The army said four of the seven wounded in the attack were Palestinians.

There was widespread speculation that one of the **Hamas** goals in the attack was to focus blame on Israel by increasing hardships in Gaza. Late yesterday, Palestinian militants fired two mortar rounds at the empty industrial park, but they fell short.

However, Rami Mansour, 39, a Palestinian who works at an Israeli-owned garage in the industrial zone, was angry that militant groups put his income in jeopardy.

"No one is supporting the (Israeli) occupation, but if you want to fight you have to think of others," he said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie declined to condemn the bombing, saying that continued Israeli attacks and restrictions on the Palestinians were leading "to more escalation on both sides".

Load-Date: January 15, 2004

Mother embraces murderous dream

Canberra Times (Australia)

January 17, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 863 words

Body

In the video she left before she died, Reem al-Riashi said she had dreamed of becoming a "martyr"; that she wanted pieces of her body to fly like "deadly shrapnel". In the end they were sponging up her body parts from the floor, indistinguishable from the pieces of flesh of the four other people she murdered on Wednesday when she detonated her suicide bomb belt.

The mother of two was buried on Thursday with a chilling pledge from her hardline Islamic group that she would not be their last **female** "martyr". Riashi was only the second Palestinian mother to become a suicide bomber. She left behind two children: Mohammed, three, and Doha, two. "God gave me two children and I loved them so much," she said in her videotaped suicide message. "Only God knew how much I loved them." Now her children are motherless.

She died just a day after Tom Hurndall, the unarmed British peace activist, who was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier just a few miles south in the Gaza Strip last April, and left in a coma for nine months. Riashi was 22, the same age as Mr Hurndall. He died trying to rescue Palestinian children trapped in the line of fire. Riashi died in order to kill and maim.

Her family disowned her for what she did. "I condemn it," her brother-in-law said. "I support peace." Some said they saw her husband sitting, crying. He did not know what she was going to do. She talked her way past an Israeli security check at a border crossing out of the Gaza Strip, then set off her explosives, killing two Israeli soldiers, a member of the military-style border police, and an Israeli civilian.

Some time before 9.30am, when Riashi detonated her bomb, she arrived to queue at the border crossing for Palestinian workers into an industrial complex on the Israeli side of the border. Some 3000 Palestinians cross to work in the complex every day. This week Israelis were describing it as a symbol of cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis. But it is a symbol of another sort for the Palestinians trapped inside Gaza. Desperate for work, they have to queue for hours in narrow spaces between metal bars to be allowed in to the industrial area. It was Riashi's first time queuing here. She claimed she had come to apply for an ID card with a magnetic strip, which would allow her to cross every day to work in the complex. She was faking a limp to get past security, and witnesses said one woman had helped Riashi, believing she was disabled. Riashi thanked the stranger, then warned her to back away.

The Israeli Army's brigade commander in Gaza, Major Gadi Shamni, said when she reached the front of the queue, Riashi told the Israeli soldiers manning the security check that she had a metal implant in her leg, which she feared would set off the metal detector. Because she was a woman, the soldiers sent for a **female** soldier to check her, and asked her to step inside and wait.

Mother embraces murderous dream

Suddenly there was an explosion. Under her clothes, Riashi was wearing a vest packed with explosives, and once inside the room she set them off. The room was full of people: Israeli soldiers and security guards, and Palestinians waiting to cross. Seven were wounded, four of them Palestinians. One Palestinian woman said she saw the woman ahead of her in the queue, who had just gone into the room, with blood pouring from her legs.

In the upmarket neighbourhood of Gaza City where Riashi lived, the mood was sombre. There was the usual tent for mourners, but little of the mood of defiance and even celebration that usually comes after a suicide bomber's death. Riashi's brother emerged from her funeral prayers in the local mosque, but he would not say anything. At the house where she lived, they were taking the furniture out before the Israeli army got there. The army demolishes the homes of suicide bombers, a practice condemned by international human-rights groups as collective punishment because it is the bombers' relatives who suffer. What prompted a mother of two small children to abandon them and carry out such a terrible deed remains unknown. Gaza is a pressure cooker, where millions of Palestinians are trapped in a small coastal strip, with mass unemployment and poverty. But Riashi's family was well off. There were rumours of a disagreement between her husband and the family, even that he had not been at home for some time. In the video she left behind, Riashi said she had dreamed of becoming a "martyr" since she was 13. Swathed in a green sash and headband of the militant group **Hamas**, clutching a machine-gun and smiling, she said, "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for." She was not the first Palestinian woman to carry out a suicide bombing, but she was the first to do so for **Hamas**. **Hamas** said it had sent a **female** bomber for the first time because Israeli security had created "obstacles" for male bombers, and that there would be more use of this new tactic.

It was the first suicide bombing since Christmas Day, and the first from **Hamas** in months. In recent weeks the talk from **Hamas** has been of a possible cease-fire. Now it seems the killing is back.- The Independent

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?

DAILY MAIL (London)

January 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 38; Pg. 39

Length: 1805 words

Byline: SARAH CHALMERS

Body

SHE GAZES straight at the camera, tightlipped, her face devoid of expression as she brandishes an AK-47 in one hand and her young daughter in the other.

Only her eyes hint at any sign of emotion and they are heavy with resignation.

Nestling close to her is two-and-a-half-year-old Duha, her body language betraying fear and bewilderment as her tiny hand grips the grenade that has been forced upon her - just as she might hold on to her favourite teddy bear or toy.

Both mother and daughter sport the green headbands of the Palestinian terror group **Hamas**.

It is as chilling an image as you are likely to see, encapsulating the fanaticism, misery and evil that has poisoned the Middle East.

Just five days after posing for this photograph, 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi blew herself to pieces at an Israeli army checkpoint in an appalling act of terrorism which also claimed the lives of four Israelis and injured 10 others.

Her death on January 14 marked a new milestone, a sinister escalation in the continuing horror.

Since January 2002, six woman suicide bombers have brought varying degrees of death and destruction to this region. But Reem al-Reyashi was the first mother to achieve 'glory' as a martyr for the Palestinian cause by turning herself into a human bomb.

But did she go willingly to her death - or was she coerced into this barbaric act? As the Mail has discovered, there are many curious twists to this latest tragedy. Just days after the bloodbath at the Erez border crossing - the only passage for 15,000 Palestinians who travel daily into Israel to work - an Israeli journalist reported that Reem had been having an adulterous affair with the **Hamas** operative who trained her.

She was, he claimed, forced to go ahead with the mission to restore her family's honour.

The notion was quickly dismissed as 'Zionist propaganda' by **Hamas**, who claimed joint responsibility for the attack with terror group the Al Aqsa Brigade.

MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?

And in an attempt to kick-start the mythology and rejoicing which surrounds the death of a suicide bomber, they released a video of Reem - shot the same day as the chilling photograph - in which she declares her fervent desire to be the first mother to carry out a suicide attack.

'I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of the Zionists,' she announced.

Whatever the truth about Reem's alleged adultery, her death has driven a bitter wedge between her own comfortably off, middleclass family who are bewildered by her suicide, and that of her husband, Ziyad Awad.

Even more surprisingly, a week after Reem's death the celebrations that typically herald the creation of a new martyr have yet to begin.

This week, in the neighbourhood in Gaza City where Reem lived with Awad and their two children - a son, Mohammed, is 18 months old - there was not a single poster proclaiming her heroism or any sign of the exultant graffiti that usually springs up all around the home of a suicide bomber.

My Palestinian guide, who has regularly visited the homes of many bombers in the aftermath of their gruesome deaths, became extremely agitated and said: 'There is something very strange going on here. Normally everyone will be celebrating the life of the martyr and would be eager to talk.' BOMBINGS such as these have been Palestinian terrorists' weapon of choice since the second uprising or intifada began in 2001. More than 100 men have blown themselves to bits, killing hundreds more as they did so.

But incredibly, even this most barbaric of killing methods was beginning to lose its shock value.

So in January 2002, the Al Aqsa Brigade terror group sent Wafa Idris, the first woman suicide bomber, to her death.

Female activism caught the Israelis off-guard and generated the desired headlines worldwide.

But scratch beneath the surface of this disturbing trend and ambiguous details begin to emerge.

Rumours surrounding one bomber suggested she had been carrying an illegitimate child at the time of her death, a source of great shame to her and her family. It was a convenient end, it was suggested.

Another - who failed in her bid for mass destruction - later revealed she had been deeply upset by the end of a love affair when the terrorists recruited her.

And in the case of Wafa Idris, the first **female** Palestinian suicide bomber, she may not have intended to die at all. She left no suicide note or video and many have speculated that she was the victim of a bomb that detonated early.

Yoram Schweitzer, an academic at Tel Aviv University who has studied the **female** suicide bombers, believes that the terrorists make a point of recruiting extremely vulnerable **women**.

'These **women** are not suicidal. The whole process is about manipulation and sometimes coercion or blackmail. The Palestinian terrorist groups find the **women**'s weaknesses and exploit them.' So how did Reem al-Reyashi fit into the grim scenario?

THE most disturbing fact is, of course, that she was a devoted mother. At the time of her death, Mohammed was mastering his first unsteady steps and little Duha was emerging as something of a joker.

Reem's elder brother Seif, 25, says: 'She loved those children so much, she always put their needs first. We never, never expected her to do anything like this.' And if he is baffled by the finality of her decision to deprive her children of their mother, so too are those who have studied the phenomenon of suicide bombers. For Reem was a far from typical candidate.

MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?

Her childhood was very comfortable by Palestinian standards. She was one of ten children - she had six brothers and three sisters - and her father, who died seven years ago, was a well-respected local figure who ran a successful car battery shop that relied on good relations with the Israelis for survival.

Pictures of him adorn the walls of the shop on the main street in Gaza City and suggest a cultured and educated man who, says his family, had travelled widely.

The young Reem attended a girls' school in Gaza City, where she is remembered as a good student who loved poetry and wanted to study engineering at university.

Neither family nor friends thought of her as radical - although it seems there have been belated attempts to paint her as such.

A Palestinian writer closely linked to Hamas claimed this week that Reem was so upset at the treatment of her people that she 'tried to stab a soldier when she was 14'. It is an allegation that has been dismissed by her family.

The only possible cause for her adoption of fanatical ideology - if that is what happened - could have been the man who became her husband, Ziyad Awad, who is said to be a Hamas sympathiser.

Reem never pursued her dreams of university and married Awad shortly after leaving school in 1999.

They bought a four-bedroom apartment in a relatively affluent area of Gaza City.

Reem remained close to her own family and travelled to the centre of Gaza City to visit them regularly. On such trips Duha would cycle along behind on her green tricycle.

A week before her death, Reem visited her mother and siblings for the last time. She ate lunch and chatted animatedly about the children. Her husband joined them for an evening meal and then the family headed back to their own home. That was the last time Reem's family saw her.

This week, a steady stream of family, friends and customers have filed into the car battery shop to pay their condolences. They cannot hide their shock, and speak of Reem as a balanced and tolerant young woman, incapable of such an atrocity.

They say that for the four years of her marriage not a word or action betrayed any growing radicalism - if that indeed is what drove her. Yet it seems she was under the influence of Hamas and a few weeks ago was selected for this mission.

For some time the terrorist group had been trying to find a way of penetrating the heavily guarded Erez border crossing. They had concluded that it was most vulnerable on Wednesdays, a day reserved for women only to apply for permission to work in Israel.

Apparently Reem made several reconnaissance visits, and then, in the early hours of Wednesday, January 14, she kissed her children one last time as they slept. She was driven to Erez by her husband just as daylight was breaking.

She had been fitted with a specially designed bomb which was attached to her leg rather than her waist, as was normal practice, and she carried a pair of crutches. According to Hamas insiders, the engineer who made the device constructed it in such a way that it forced the wearer to walk with a convincing limp.

When the Israeli border guards asked Reem why the alarm had sounded during the security check, it would be apparent that she was not carrying explosives around her waist and she would be able to explain that it was the titanium rods in her crippled leg that were causing the problem.

So, leaning heavily on the crutches, Reem passed unhindered through the cursory Palestinian checkpoint before being apprehended at the Israeli crossing when, as expected, the alarm sounded.

MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?

AND then she began to weep.

Hamas insists it was a fine piece of acting that disarmed the Israelis - but perhaps it was the horrifying realisation of what she was about to do and her regrets about the children she was leaving behind.

In between sobs, she recounted her well-rehearsed tale about metal rods in her leg.

A guard took her to an internal security room to be hand-searched by a **female** officer and it was here, while she was waiting for the officer to arrive, that Reem suddenly delved beneath her clothes and detonated the bomb.

Within hours her devastated family had erected the traditional condolence-tent and were burying what remained of their beloved sister.

Still too upset to comprehend the magnitude of Reem's deed, they sought no answers from her husband and his family when they encountered them at the funeral.

And now their questions might never be answered.

The Awads, as is the Muslim tradition, are now caring for Reem's children but have disappeared with them to a safe house in anticipation of the demolition of their home by the Israeli authorities - standard punishment for the families of suicide bombers.

Some time in the next few weeks, Reem's family will receive the traditional greeting card from **Hamas** - just like the ones that have been sent on six previous occasions to the families of other **female** suicide bombers.

It will carry a photograph of their martyred daughter and the words: 'A nation whose **women** will always fight will eventually reach victory.' Tragic and bloodcurdling both - but without the horrific poignancy of that final image of a mother and her little daughter.

END

Graphic

HOW COULD ANY MOTHER OF YOUNG CHILDREN EMBRACE DEATH AND MURDER? REEM WITH HER DAUGHTER DUHA

Load-Date: January 25, 2004

Israeli troops blow up Gaza buildings;

Morning Star

October 27, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 296 words

Body

ISRAELI troops briefly evacuated 2,000 Palestinians from their homes in southern Gaza City on Saturday night before blowing up three empty high-rise blocks of flats.

The 12-story buildings were destroyed in retaliation for an attack early on Friday in which two Palestinian guerillas infiltrated an army outpost at the Jewish settlement of Netzarim and killed three soldiers, including two **women**.

Israel claimed that the buildings, which belonged to Palestinian Preventive Security, the main Palestinian force in Gaza, had been used to plan the attack.

"The terrorists who carried out the attack on Netzarim last week used the buildings for several weeks and collected prior intelligence for the attack," Brigadier-General Gadi Shamni, commander of the Gaza division, claimed.

The explosion caused damage to many nearby Palestinian homes.

Before dynamiting the three buildings, Israeli troops blew up a Palestinian police post to which, the military claimed, one of Friday's attackers had fled. He received shelter and assistance from Palestinian police, the army said.

Israeli troops also clashed with suspected Palestinian militants early yesterday, killing at least one, and a home-made Palestinian rocket fired from the Gaza Strip landed near the southern Israeli town of Sderot. No injuries or damage were reported.

Meanwhile, Palestinian militant group **Hamas** said that it would be meeting Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie in the near future.

Mr Qurie's office could not confirm that the invitation had been issued, but it reiterated the Palestinian Authority's interest in gaining **Hamas**'s assent to a ceasefire.

In Jerusalem on Saturday night, an estimated 4,000 Israeli activists of the Peace Now group demonstrated in front of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's official residence.

Load-Date: March 1, 2004

News in Brief

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
September 7, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; Brief

Length: 552 words

Body

Suicide bomber kills seven U.S. soldiers

BAGHDAD A suicide attacker sped up to a U.S. military convoy outside Fallujah yesterday and detonated an explosives-packed vehicle, killing seven marines and three Iraqi soldiers. It was the deadliest day for American forces in four months.

The bombing underscored the challenges U.S. commanders face in securing Fallujah and surrounding Anbar province, the heartland of a Sunni Muslim insurgency bent on driving coalition forces from the country.
Spectator wire services

With yesterday's deaths, 990 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to a count by The Associated Press based on Defence Department figures.

Israeli helicopter attack kills 13 Palestinians

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP Israeli helicopters attacked a field in Gaza City early today, killing 13 Palestinians and wounding 25, in the bloodiest incident there in four months.

The Israeli military said the air force targeted a field used by the Islamic Hamas for training.

Hamas threatened to hit back. Angry militants gathered at the hospital, some with blood on their clothes from carrying victims, and shouted, "Revenge, revenge."

Hamas had claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing in Israel's south last Tuesday, killing 16 Israelis. The bombers came from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Spa day in women's jail

denied by Corrections TORONTO Conflicting reports about a spa day at a women's prison in Kitchener need to be clarified, says a spokesman for the deputy prime minister's office.

Anne McLellan's office was responding to a request for a meeting from Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, who was outraged after reading reports that inmates at Grand Valley Institution for Women were treated to manicures, pedicures and tea served on fine china.

News in Brief

The report suggested the day was one of luxury, but Corrections Canada disagreed. They were simply routine seminars to try to prepare the women for life after they are released, said Diane Russon, spokeswoman for the Ontario region of the Correctional Service of Canada.

"And a lot of these women lack some very basic hygiene skills and that can cause difficulties with incarceration as well, living in small quarters," she said.

Man arrested in fires set at Chum building

TORONTO A man tried to torch the nerve centre of one of Canada's largest broadcasters early Sunday, causing \$100,000 damage at the Chum-City building.

Police said that at about 1:40 a.m., a man broke into the building and went to the "on air" production room on the fifth floor, setting fires in several locations.

Police arrested a suspect without incident.

Chum-City operates 27 local, specialty and digital television stations including Citytv, Cable Pulse 24, Much Music, Much More Music, Space and Bravo.

Purple martin may have been blown over ocean

LONDON The sighting of a North American purple martin, a bird probably never seen before in Europe, in the Hebrides Islands has excited bird watchers in Britain.

Experts said the bird may have been blown across the Atlantic to the Hebrides, off the northwest coast of Scotland, by recent hurricanes.

North American purple martins, the largest of the continent's swallows, are found across the eastern half of the United States and on the Pacific coast.

Spectator wire services

Load-Date: September 7, 2004

Into the fire

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

September 12, 2003 Friday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2003 Times Publishing Company

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 14A; EDITORIAL

Length: 502 words

Series: EDITORIALS

Body

Ahmed Qureia originally said he wouldn't be willing to serve as the Palestinians' new prime minister unless he received specific assurances from all of the major players in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He demanded that Israel, the United States and the international community renew their commitment to the concessions required under the road map to peace. And though Qureia was less explicit in his demands of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, he insisted on greater control than his predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas, had been given over Palestinian security forces and other sources of Arafat's longstanding power.

In the end, Qureia took the job despite receiving no concrete concessions from his adversaries or his ostensible friends. Given Abbas' fate under similar circumstances, Qureia may quickly regret his decision.

At least Qureia, unlike Abbas, comes to the job under no illusions. Barely four months ago, Abbas took the prime minister's post at a time of rare optimism in the Middle East. The Bush administration appeared to have succeeded in pushing Arafat to the sidelines and drawing Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon into a genuine commitment to the road map.

Since then, of course, the moment of optimism, like so many before it, has died in another spasm of violence. **Hamas** and other Palestinian terrorist groups broke their pledge to refrain from attacks against Israel. Abbas, undercut by Arafat, was powerless to crack down on the Palestinian enemies of peace. Sharon, outraged by increasingly vicious attacks against civilians within Israel, ordered a new campaign to kill **Hamas** leaders. But those attacks have killed and wounded more **women** and children than terrorists. And so the cycle of killing and revenge has spun out of control again.

During the brief window of optimism, progress in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict appeared to be a tangible benefit of the war in Iraq. When the early stages of the war were going well, the Bush administration was emboldened to pressure both sides into new concessions. But the war began to go badly, the White House's attention shifted and neither Abbas nor Sharon demonstrated the courage to make the decisive steps needed to break the impasse. Abbas utterly failed to neutralize **Hamas**. Sharon made only marginal efforts to reduce Israeli settlements in the West Bank and to ease the checkpoints and other barriers that disrupt Palestinians' daily lives.

Abbas recognized his impotence and quit. In that environment, he probably feels fortunate to have been able to walk away instead of being carried in a box. Qureia, who served as speaker of the Palestinian parliament and has won respect among diplomats on all sides, has some political advantages over Abbas. But the big picture that greets him is just as bleak as the one Abbas left behind. Qureia didn't get the guarantees he originally demanded.

Into the fire

Without them, he is at the mercy of Arafat, Sharon and the extremists on both sides who continue to rationalize the suffering of innocents.

Load-Date: September 12, 2003

End of Document

Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli-American

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 25, 2004 Saturday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 26

Length: 573 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

* A Palestinian dies and five are wounded in an Israeli missile strike.

An Israeli missile strike killed one Palestinian and wounded five early today, hours after militants killed an Israeli-American woman in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in Gaza in four years of fighting.

The settlement attack, which came just before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year. The militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for firing two mortar rounds at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A **Hamas** video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. After the round was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently the Israelis returning fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a 4-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the **Hamas** mortar rounds hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two **women**, who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the **women**, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds; the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Early today, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a nearby refugee camp. Hospital officials said the dead and wounded were civilians.

Later, about 70 tanks and army bulldozers drove toward the Khan Younis camp, setting off heavy exchanges of fire, as soldiers called on residents over loudspeakers to leave their homes, witnesses said. Palestinians detonated a roadside bomb next to one bulldozer, setting the front of the vehicle on fire.

The Israeli military said the helicopter opened fire when four militants tried to launch a rocket or a rocket-propelled grenade from that area. The military said at least two of those involved in the attack were hit.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of mortar rounds and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since 2000. Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a Gaza settlement was killed. In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israeli town of Sderot.

Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli - American

The shelling took place a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. After a protracted gunbattle, the three attackers were killed by the army.

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tension and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

"The Palestinians are doing everything they can to scuttle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," said David Baker, an official in Sharon's office. "We will take any measures necessary to defend our citizens."

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Sharon has said he believes Israel's presence in Gaza is untenable. He said evacuating the Gaza settlements and four isolated West Bank enclaves was a way of strengthening Israel's hold on parts of the West Bank, where most of its 236,000 settlers live.

The violence Friday took place hours before Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, when much of Israel shuts down for fasting and prayer. Israeli security forces have been on high alert since last week, the start of the Jewish New Year.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004

**Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others;
Sharon hints he will have Yasser Arafat killed**

Ottawa Citizen

September 23, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 527 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, The Ottawa Citizen; with files from The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian teenager blew herself up at a busy Jerusalem bus station yesterday, killing two Israeli police officers who stopped her for a security check and wounding 16 bystanders in an attack that evaded Israel's clampdown on the West Bank for the Jewish holidays.

The police officers died when they challenged the teen to identify herself and show them the contents of a bag she was carrying at a checkpoint beside a crowded bus stop in French Hill, a Jewish neighbourhood across the road from an Arab neighbourhood about two kilometres north of Jerusalem's Old City.

Of at least 16 passersby injured by the bomb two were critically hurt, including a nine-year old boy. The explosives the suicide bomber carried weighed between three and five kilograms, police said.

"The actions of the border police at French Hill prevented a much more serious attack," district police commander Ilan Franco told reporters who gathered at the scene as ultra-Orthodox burial workers began the gruesome job of meticulously collecting small pieces of human remains from the road and from a hillside overlooking the road.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which is affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, called a news agency soon after the terror attack to say the suicide bomber was one of its members -- 19-year-old Zainub Abu Salem, a recent high school graduate and one of 10 children from a family living in the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus.

The caller said the blast was in retaliation for recent Israeli military attacks in Nablus and Jenin.

"She said that if we refused, she would attack an army post with a knife," an Al Aqsa member said. "So we organized quickly. We set up the attack within 17 hours and we chose this site in Jerusalem because we know it."

After learning of the latest terrorist incident during an interview with Israeli TV, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon described it as "a grave attack" and vowed to strike back "with all force."

"In many cases, we prevent major disasters," Mr. Sharon said. "Sometimes things happen like what happened today."

Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others; Sharon hints he will have Yasser Arafat killed

Earlier, Mr. Sharon hinted Israel might kill Mr. Arafat, as it did with **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

"We acted against **Hamas** people, and since then, more people have been added to this list. When the time is right, we will act the same way with Arafat," he told Israel radio before the bombing.

The explosion occurred two days before Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Because of the threat of attacks during Yom Kippur and the Jewish New Year, which was celebrated last Thursday, movement to and from the West Bank by Palestinians has been cut off by Israeli authorities since last week.

The suicide bombing, which was the first to rock Jerusalem in seven months, was the eighth attack by a **female** suicide bomber and the latest in a series of more than 100 such incidents since Palestinian groups began to use suicide bombers as agents of terror four years ago.

Three weeks ago, two **Hamas** bombers blew themselves up in southern Beersheba, killing 16 Israelis. The bombings ended months of relative calm.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004

End of Document

Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

January 20, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 470 words

Byline: JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hard-liner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Also Monday, the **Hamas** founder announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit **female** suicide bombers. Last week, **Hamas** sent its first **female** assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier next month before the world court in The Hague, Netherlands. The government is also considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

In an interview published Monday in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Assad appeared pessimistic about the chances of talks with Sharon.

"From the beginning and until this moment, the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process. As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform," Assad said.

The Syrian president has said talks must resume where they broke off under Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak. But Sharon wants to start from scratch and also has demanded that Syria crack down on militant groups.

Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace

Meanwhile, Israel blamed Syria for an attack by Hezbollah militants on Monday at the Israeli-Lebanese border that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded two others, one of them seriously.

Syria is widely believed to support Hezbollah.

In a broadcast by Hezbollah's Al Manar Television, the militant group said the bulldozer had crossed the border into Lebanon, but Israeli commander Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz denied their accusation.

Gantz, told The Associated Press the bulldozer was clearing land on the Israeli side when it was attacked.

Graphic

Spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, is pushed in his wheelchair through a crowd of students by bodyguards before speaking to students outside his home in Gaza City on Monday.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

End of Document

[View on Iraq](#)

The Gloucester Citizen

October 21, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 The Gloucester Citizen

Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 12

Length: 307 words

Body

Sir - Having lived in the Middle East for some years, I have no fear of Islam and deplore the more xenophobic tabloids generating fear and possibly hatred of Moslems, just because Tony Blair is in a quagmire over his disastrous Iraq war. Tony Blair led us to war on Iraq alleging weapons of mass destruction.

Tony Blair now says that Iraq was not invaded over WMD but because Saddam Hussain was evil and had killed many Kurds.

Sadam had killed many Kurds, but had broken no UN resolutions, and many British would prefer had Tony Blair been as firm in disarming the IRA.

Sadam took Iraq to war with Iran when the West was terrified that Ayatolla Khomani might support Hiz-bolla and **Hamas** while Israelis and their Marronite allies were turning the Lebanon into a slaughter-house.

The Shi-ite uprising in Iraq started in March (corresponding to the Eid at the end of Muhhram) when the Israelies assassinated Sheik Yassin (the Shi-ite spiritual leader of **Hamas**). That bloody uprising was led by Maqtada Al Sadr but was ended by Ayatolla Al Sistani. If Mqtada behaves himself for a while, he will almost certainly win Democratic elections due in Iraq in 2005.

I am impressed by the fortitude shown by Gloucester's Moslem community. Their young men, no alcohol fuelled yobs, get arrested, under the provocative Terrorism Act only to be released after 3 weeks for lack of evidence. Young Moslem **women**, demure in black abbayas, walk to school - not a smoky 4X4 in sight. Gloucester's last coalition council oddly proposed closing Barnwood girls' school, (despite it's popularity with Moslems and its excellent record). Enshalla the present council may reverse that proposal.

I urge Gloucesters' Moslems to follow the example of Maqtada and wait for the general election. Then decide who to vote for, or who to vote against.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Load-Date: October 22, 2004

**Gaza raid meets fierce resistance ;
Night of fighting leaves 5 Palestinians and an Israeli dead**

The International Herald Tribune

September 26, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 719 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Israeli troops staged nighttime raids Thursday against Palestinian militants in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that left five militants and one soldier dead in the bloodiest day of fighting in more than two weeks.

The Middle East peace talks are frozen, and Israeli forces are carrying out almost nightly incursions aimed at the militants. Palestinians also continue to fire regularly at Israeli targets, though most of these clashes have been on a small scale in recent days.

But in a predawn charge Thursday, Israeli troops and armored vehicles faced fierce resistance when they rumbled into the Al Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip searching for wanted Palestinians.

The New York Times

In sustained gunbattles, Israeli troops killed two Palestinians, one a member of the **Hamas** faction, the other belonging to Islamic Jihad, while eight Palestinians were wounded, according to Palestinian hospital officials. One Israeli soldier was killed and seven more were wounded, the military said.

The military found rockets and mortars in one home, which was bulldozed, part of an Israeli policy to tear down the houses of Palestinians involved in violence.

The Israeli forces staged a similar raid in the West Bank city of Hebron, surrounding a house and exchanging fire with wanted Palestinians inside. Two members of Islamic Jihad were killed and another was seriously wounded, a military official said.

In the southern Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian man who appeared to be planting a bomb outside the Jewish settlement of Morag, an Israeli military official said. After daybreak, the army searched and found a pipe bomb on the dead man.

The six deaths marked the highest toll since Palestinian suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis in two separate attacks on Sept. 9.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government, along with much of the media and many ordinary Israelis, criticized 27 air force reserve pilots who said a day earlier that they would not carry out bombing missions in Palestinian areas. The air strikes target Palestinian militants, but civilians are sometimes among the casualties.

Gaza raid meets fierce resistance ; Night of fighting leaves 5 Palestinians and an Israeli dead

The issue dominated radio talk shows and television news broadcasts, with most people coming down against the pilots.

Nahum Barnea, one of the country's most respected commentators, said the pilots raised serious issues in the letter they signed, but did not support their claim that the Air Force was giving illegal orders to pilots.

"There is not an iota of proof in the letter," Barnea wrote in Yediot Ahronot, a leading daily. "Let them either shelve their immature letter or be discharged from army service."

Most of the pilots have not flown in years and are effectively retired. Nine who remain on active duty will be grounded for now, and could face additional punishment, the air force said.

Still, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called it a "severe, serious incident," adding, "It must be dealt with quickly."

The Israeli military "does not target civilians, unlike terrorists," Sharon said in an interview Thursday night on Israeli television.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said military planners went to great lengths to avoid civilian casualties.

He said strikes in residential areas were often carried out during the day, when children are away at school. Also, the air force sometimes selects less powerful bombs than it would like in order to reduce the possibility of wounding bystanders, Shalom told Israel radio.

Zeev Rotem, a retired pilot speaking in support of the pilots, said the airmen had decided to go public because so many of the missions were in crowded urban areas.

"The norm we were taught was that we do not go to places where we know civilians are present," said Rotem. The air force strikes places "where there are civilians women and children knowing there's a good chance they will die."

After a Hamas suicide bomber killed 23 people on a Jerusalem bus a month ago, Israel has stepped up its air strikes against Hamas leaders. Thirteen members of the group have been killed along with six civilians.

Most strikes are carried out by helicopters, using small missiles. However, in one attack last year, an F-16 warplane dropped a one-ton bomb in Gaza City that killed a senior Hamas leader, Salah Shehadeh, but also took the lives of more than a dozen civilians, most of them children.

Load-Date: September 26, 2003

BURNING HATRED

The Sun

March 23, 2004

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Section: MIDDLE EAST ERUPTS AFTER TERROR CHIEF'S EXECUTION

Length: 537 words

Byline: Nick Parker and Clodagh Hartley

Body

Revenge mob torches troops

BRITISH troops were set ablaze in a firestorm of fury yesterday over the assassination of Muslim terror boss Ahmed Yassin.

Fourteen soldiers were injured - three seriously - in petrol-bomb attacks by hate-filled mobs screaming Yassin's name in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Wheelchair-bound cleric Yassin, spiritual leader of the suicide bombers of Hamas, was executed by an Israeli gunship strike in Gaza City at dawn yesterday.

Yassin - dubbed the Bin Laden of Palestine - had been blamed by Israel for sending out dozens of fanatics to kill women and children.

The quadriplegic leader and seven followers were blown to pieces by missiles as they left prayers at a mosque. Israeli politicians said his hands were tainted with blood and he deserved to die.

But the assassination was widely condemned, including by Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, and sparked fears of unprecedented acts of bloody revenge across the Middle East and around the world.

The Basra assault on Our Boys came at what was initially thought to be a regular street protest by disgruntled jobseekers.

But the first soldiers on the scene were met by a baying mob armed with sticks and rocks. The troops donned riot gear and took up position behind clear plastic shields as they were pelted with rocks and chunks of concrete.

As one squad took cover behind Warrior armoured vehicles several explosions erupted, engulfing them in flames.

Helmets

The soldiers frantically broke for shelter, tearing loose their helmets and equipment straps while comrades tried to beat out the flames.

One man stumbled across the debris-strewn ground with his helmet, neck and back ablaze.

Other troops fired rubber bullets to disperse the mob but no teargas or live ammunition was used.

BURNING HATRED

The injured men were rushed to Shaibah Hospital, where they were being detained for treatment last night. Their injuries were not said to be life threatening.

The MoD declined to identify the men or their units last night while next of kin were informed.

However the 1st Battalions of both The Light Infantry and Royal Regiment of Wales are in Basra.

Hamas immediately pledged bloody vengeance for Yassin, saying Israeli PM Ariel Sharon had "opened the gates of hell".

And an Islamist website fired an al-Qaeda warning to avenge Yassin "by attacking the tyrant of the age, America, and its allies".

Some 200,000 poured out for Yassin's funeral at a martyrs' cemetery, chanting "revenge, revenge". The cortege was guarded by tanks and 400 armed militia.

One **Hamas** supporter, Salman Bdeiri, 24, said: "We will get revenge for every drop of blood that spilled from him."

Jack Straw called the killing "unacceptable, unjustified and very unlikely to achieve its objectives."

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged restraint.

But in hours, Israeli armoured vehicles moved into the Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants fired rockets from the territory at Israeli towns.

The armour took up position 300 yards from the fence which divides the Strip from Israel. There were no reports of casualties.

DO YOU know the British soldier whose head and neck were set alight in the Basra attack? Call The Sun on 020 7782 4105.

The Sun Says -- Page 8

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS BY ARAB BOMBERS

The New York Times

August 13, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1407 words

Byline: By IAN FISHER

Dateline: ROSH HAAYIN, Israel, Aug. 12

Body

Two Palestinian teenagers blew themselves up today in separate suicide bombings, killing two Israelis and inflicting another serious blow to the fragile American-led plan to forge peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

The attacks, which officials said appeared to be uncoordinated even though they came only a few miles and less than an hour apart, jarred Israelis after more than a month of relative calm.

They also evoked outrage, as the familiar images of blood and spattered glass mixed with doubts about the peace plan.

"I hope we'll have peace," said Judith Azar, 39, a cashier in the supermarket here where the first bomber struck this morning, blasting her to the floor while she still clutched the change she was about to hand to a customer. "But I don't believe in it anymore."

Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade, a militant offshoot of Yasir Arafat's Fatah organization, claimed responsibility for the first attack. **Hamas**, the Islamic militant group that has carried out the greatest number of suicide bombings, claimed responsibility for the second, at a bus stop near the entrance to Ariel, a large Jewish settlement in the West Bank, east of Tel Aviv.

With all sides denying any intention to step up the violence, the attacks did not seem to signal the unraveling of a peace plan that despite strong American pressure has moved ahead haltingly and with very little trust.

By tonight the Israeli military had not retaliated, as it often has after suicide bombings in nearly three years of renewed fighting here.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon spoke in angry but measured tones, even as he repeated his warnings that Israel would not go forward significantly on the plan -- and Palestinians would not realize the goal of their own state -- unless the Palestinian Authority cracked down forcefully on the militant groups. Palestinian leaders have refused, saying that doing so could provoke a civil war.

"In the end, the Palestinians are liable not to get what they want," Mr. Sharon said in a speech after the attacks, "because Israel will not be able to continue with the process, despite her strong desire to do so, if terrorism does not stop completely."

2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS BY ARAB BOMBERS

In Texas, where President Bush is on vacation, a White House spokeswoman echoed Mr. Sharon's demands for the Palestinian Authority to disarm the groups. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell pledged that the attacks would not derail peace efforts.

"We will not be stopped by bombs," Mr. Powell told a gathering of Israeli and Palestinian teenagers in Washington. "We will not be stopped by this kind of violence."

Leaders of Hamas, apparently reluctant to shoulder blame for scuttling peace negotiations, denied that its attack marked the end to a three-month cease-fire proclaimed by the major Palestinian militant groups on June 29 -- a cease-fire that Israel has not formally recognized even while acknowledging its utility in getting the peace plan off the ground.

Rather, Hamas leaders said, it was specific retaliation for the killing of two of its militants in an Israeli raid last week in the West Bank city of Nablus.

"We are committed to suspending military attacks," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a top Hamas leader, told reporters in Gaza today. "We are defending ourselves. If we don't defend ourselves, then the Zionist enemy will continue its aggression against our people."

Hamas's contention that Israel has been violating the terms of the peace plan was echoed by the Palestinian Authority, which has complained, among other things, that Israel is failing to withdraw its military from Palestinian areas. Today the Authority condemned the attacks but nonetheless held Israel responsible, in a statement, for the "security deterioration in the region."

The suicide bombings were the first since July 7, when an unusual attack inside a private house killed a 65-year-old Israeli woman.

The attacks prompted the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, to say he would cut short a diplomatic trip to visit other Arab leaders, and Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli defense minister, to return home from a vacation in Europe.

At the same time, an American official, William J. Burns, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, was in Israel, scheduled to meet with Mr. Sharon today and with Mr. Abbas in Jordan on Wednesday.

In the only immediate reaction to the attacks, Israel put off the release of some 70 Palestinian prisoners. The 6,000 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel have been another source of contention as the peace effort has sputtered forward.

The Israeli police said today that they had received warning of a possible suicide bombing this morning, and officers were already near the small two-story mall here when the first bomb exploded at 9:20 a.m.

Omer Ozer, 21, who works in a shop next to the supermarket, was moving coolers for cold drinks outside the store when, he said, "Suddenly, there was a huge explosion."

The windows of the supermarket were blasted out by a bomb packed with steel ball bearings, shredding the metal blinds, blackening boxes of cereal and toppling towers of paper towels. Mr. Ozer said he had run inside to see two women lying on the floor, covered with blood, and one of them calling for help. Doctors from a medical center on the second floor rushed to help them.

"Before, I wanted to live in peace with them," said an Israeli woman who gave her name as Pnina, who was walking down a set of steps to fill a prescription at the market when the bomb went off. "But obviously they don't want to live in peace with us."

One of Mr. Ozer's regular customers was killed in the attack. He was identified tonight as Yehezkel Yakutieli, 43, a building contractor and father of two who lived in this town just east of Tel Aviv.

2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS BY ARAB BOMBERS

The bomber, identified as Khamis Ghazi Gerwan, 17, of Nablus, entered the store carrying the bomb, described by the police as weighing nearly 10 pounds, in a backpack. He managed to get past a guard at the entrance before setting off the bomb near the cash registers.

The second attack was carried out about 40 minutes later and about 15 miles away, near the entrance to Ariel. A local official said a Palestinian teenager, carrying two plants under his arms, had aroused suspicion among three people standing at a bus stop, but that he had detonated his bomb before they could do anything.

One of the Israelis at the stop, Erez Hershkovitz, 18, who enlisted in the army two months before, was killed in a huge blast -- fueled by a bomb that the police said weighed about 20 pounds -- that hurled pieces of the bomber several hundred yards away.

"It was the biggest noise I ever heard in my life," said an employee of a nearby gas station. It was the third suicide bombing near the entrance to Ariel in the last three years.

The bomber was identified as Islam Yousef Qteishat, 17, also from Nablus.

Few issues are as thorny as Mr. Sharon's demand -- which is also a key part of the peace plan -- that Mr. Abbas and the Palestinian Authority move more forcefully against groups like Hamas. Hamas has wide support among many Palestinians for its willingness to engage in violent conflict against Israel.

Mr. Abbas has been trying to convince the Bush administration that time and persuasion are more productive than an outright confrontation that could lead to deadly fighting among Palestinians. But Israel says it will never be secure as long as the groups are armed and active, and has resisted moving forward on the plan until Mr. Abbas acts.

The attacks today also provided a platform for another issue of concern for the Israeli government: the barrier against Palestinians that Israel has been building on long stretches of its boundary with the West Bank, and in some cases over it. Palestinians object to the barrier, a network of fencing, concrete wall and barbed wire, as a provocation aimed at creating a border advantageous to Israel. In recent days President Bush has expressed reservations about it.

The barrier stops near this town, only several miles from the West Bank, and Israeli officials were quick to say the attack today showed why it was necessary.

"I think that the argument for a strategic barrier separating Palestinian population centers from the Israeli coastal plain is only strengthened when the Palestinians demonstrate that they are just not going to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure or disarm organizations that are in their area of jurisdiction," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Mr. Sharon.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A sister, center, at the funeral of Yehezkel Yakutieli, who was killed by a suicide bomber in Israel. (Photo by Associated Press)

Load-Date: August 13, 2003

2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS BY ARAB BOMBERS

End of Document

Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed in deadliest 48-hour period since this intefadeh began

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 13, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A12; News

Length: 749 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

Five more Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza last night when an armoured troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in a similar attack to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In the deadliest 48 hours for the Israeli army since the beginning of this intefadeh more than three and a half years ago, an armoured troop carrier exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer which ran over a landmine in Rafah at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And as heavy Israeli forces moved immediately into the area, members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and some clothing from the victims.

Early today, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at the Rafah refugee camp, next to the site of yesterday's explosion, killing six Palestinians, residents and medical officials said.

The Hamilton Spectator

The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Residents said the Israeli helicopter fired at a group of Palestinians, including gunmen, who were in the camp. Palestinian officials said all the casualties were civilians.

In all, 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians were killed in Gaza fighting Tuesday and yesterday, and more than 175 Palestinians were wounded.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitun area of Gaza city on Tuesday, the vehicle, which appeared to have been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, was already laden with explosives, in this case for blowing up houses and tunnels used for smuggling weapons across the border.

The fresh blow to the army came as its spokespeople refused to confirm that the armed factions were ready to hand back the remains of the soldiers killed in the Zeitun area after a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority designed to end the fighting in the city which left at least four Palestinians dead and over 40 injured, including children.

Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed in deadliest 48-hour period since this intefadeh began

Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitun. One hit a building, wounding nine people. The second hit a crowd of people outside a mosque, killing three Hamas members and wounding 28 others, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian sources.

Two girls were among the wounded. The army said both attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah camp when he heard a very loud explosion. "Many windows in many houses were broken," he said. "I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. There was a cloud of black smoke. We are happy. We are in a war. This is jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Iyad Nasr, the International Red Cross spokesperson in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly standoff in Zeitun since being contacted by the Israelis on Tuesday afternoon.

He added: "We are neutral and we can talk to everybody at every level, including the military wings of the factions."

He warned of a mounting humanitarian crisis in Zeitun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that between 8,000 and 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and, increasingly, food.

He added: "It's really disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitun from families short of medicines, with pregnant women about to deliver, with fathers who left the house before the incursion and now can't get home."

As helicopters had patrolled over Zeitun and the Israeli army prepared to extend its zone of control toward Gaza City centre, crowds of onlookers fled for cover after explosions and gunfire some 500 metres to the south.

Balaclava-clad Hamas crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south toward the front line of the fighting before it was pushed northward by an Israeli advance.

Earlier Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-Hamas newspaper al Risala, had predicted an end to the standoff, suggesting that both the fatal attack on the armoured troop carrier and the seizure of the remains of the dead soldiers would "increase pressure [on the Israeli government] from those saying that it should not stay in Gaza."

He said the strong resistance offered by Palestinians in Zeitun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters." He added: "Israel will understand that the Palestinians have the ability to harm the big armaments of Israel."

The Independent

Graphic

Photo: Suhaib Salem, Reuters; A Palestinian militant from Hamas is in the midst of a gun battle with Israeli troops.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004

Under orders

Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia)

February 1, 2004 Sunday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 56

Length: 1836 words

Byline: Sarah Chalmers

Body

She blew herself to bits at an Israeli checkpoint, leaving behind a husband and two young children. Her last words were chilling and full of hate. But 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi may not have been what she seemed.

As SARAH CHALMERS reports, new evidence is emerging that the young mother may have been a reluctant martyr.⁵

SHE gazes straight at the camera, tight-lipped, her face devoid of expression as she brandishes an AK-47 in one hand and her young daughter in the other. Only her eyes hint at any sign of emotion and they are heavy with resignation.

Nestling close to her is 2 1/2-year-old Doha, her body language betraying fear and bewilderment as her tiny hand grips the grenade that has been forced upon her -- just as she might hold on to her favourite teddy bear or toy.

Both mother and daughter sport the green headbands of the Palestinian terror group Hamas.

It is as chilling an image as you are likely to see, encapsulating the fanaticism, misery and evil that has poisoned the Middle East.

Just five days after posing for this photograph, 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi blew herself to pieces at an Israeli army checkpoint in an appalling act of terrorism which also claimed the lives of four Israelis and injured 10 others.

Her death on January 14 marked a new milestone, a sinister escalation in the continuing horror.

Since January 2002, six female suicide bombers have brought varying degrees of death and destruction to this region. But Reem al-Reyashi was the first mother to achieve "glory" as a martyr for the Palestinian cause by turning herself into a human bomb.

But did she go willingly to her death -- or was she coerced into this barbaric act? As I have discovered, there are many curious twists to this latest tragedy.

Just days after the bloodbath at the Erez border crossing -- the only passage for 15,000 Palestinians who travel daily into Israel to work -- an Israeli journalist reported that Reem had been having an adulterous affair with the Hamas operative who trained her.

She was, he claimed, forced to go ahead with the mission to restore her family's honour.

Under orders

The notion was quickly dismissed as "Zionist propaganda" by Hamas, which claimed joint responsibility for the attack with terror group, the al-Aqsa Brigade.

And in an attempt to kick-start the mythology and rejoicing which surrounds the death of a suicide bomber, they released a video of Reem -- shot the same day as the chilling photograph -- in which she declares her fervent desire to be the first mother to carry out a suicide attack.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body fly all over," she said.

"That is the only wish I can ask God for. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of the Zionists."

Whatever the truth about Reem's alleged adultery, her death has driven a bitter wedge between her own comfortably off, middle-class family who are bewildered by her suicide, and that of her husband, Ziyad Awad.

Even more surprisingly, a week after Reem's death the celebrations that typically herald the creation of a new martyr had yet to begin. In the neighbourhood in Gaza City where Reem lived with Awad and their two children -- a son, Mohammed, is 18 months old -- there was not a single poster proclaiming her heroism or any sign of the exultant graffiti that usually springs up all around the home of a suicide bomber.

My Palestinian guide, who has regularly visited the homes of many bombers in the aftermath of their gruesome deaths, became extremely agitated and said: "There is something very strange going on here. Normally everyone will be celebrating the life of the martyr and would be eager to talk."

Bombings such as these have been Palestinian terrorists' weapon of choice since the second uprising, or intifada, began in 2001.

More than 100 men have blown themselves to bits, killing hundreds more as they did so.

But incredibly, even this most barbaric of killing methods was beginning to lose its shock value.

So in January 2002, the al-Aqsa Brigade terror group sent Wafa Idris, the first woman suicide bomber, to her death.

Female activism caught the Israelis off-guard and generated the desired headlines worldwide.

But scratch beneath the surface of this disturbing trend and ambiguous details begin to emerge.

Rumours surrounding one bomber suggested she had been carrying an illegitimate child at the time of her death, a source of great shame to her and her family. It was a convenient end, it was suggested. Another -- who failed in her bid for mass destruction -- later revealed she had been deeply upset by the end of a love affair when the terrorists recruited her.

And in the case of Wafa Idris, the first female Palestinian suicide bomber, she may not have intended to die at all. She left no suicide note or video and many have speculated that she was the victim of a bomb that detonated early.

Yoram Schweitzer, an academic at Tel Aviv University who has studied the female suicide bombers, believes that the terrorists make a point of recruiting extremely vulnerable women.

"These women are not suicidal. The whole process is about manipulation and sometimes coercion or blackmail," he said. "The Palestinian terrorist groups find the women's weaknesses and exploit them."

So how did Reem al-Reyashi fit into the grim scenario? The most disturbing fact is that she was a devoted mother. At the time of her death, Mohammed was mastering his first unsteady steps and little Doha was emerging as a joker.

Reem's elder brother Seif, 25, says: "She loved those children so much, she always put their needs first. We never, never expected her to do anything like this."

Under orders

And if he is baffled by the finality of her decision to deprive her children of their mother, so too are those who have studied suicide bombers. For Reem was a far from typical candidate. Her childhood was comfortable by Palestinian standards.

She was one of 10 children -- she had six brothers and three sisters -- and her father, who died seven years ago, was a well-respected local figure who ran a successful car battery shop that relied on good relations with the Israelis for survival.

Pictures of him adorn the walls of the shop on the main street in Gaza City and suggest a cultured and educated man who, says his family, had travelled widely.

The young Reem attended a girls' school in Gaza City, where she is remembered as a good student who loved poetry and wanted to study engineering at university.

Neither family nor friends thought of her as radical -- although it seems there have been belated attempts to paint her as such.

A Palestinian writer closely linked to Hamas claimed that Reem was so upset at the treatment of her people that she "tried to stab a soldier when she was 14".

It is an allegation that has been dismissed by her family.

The only possible cause for her adoption of fanatical ideology -- if that is what happened -- could have been the man who became her husband, Ziyad Awad, who is said to be a Hamas sympathiser.

Reem never pursued her dreams of university and married Awad shortly after leaving school in 1999.

They bought a four-bedroom apartment in a relatively affluent area of Gaza City.

Reem remained close to her own family and travelled to the centre of Gaza City to visit them regularly.

On such trips, Doha would cycle along behind her on her green tricycle.

A week before her death, Reem visited her mother and siblings for the last time.

She ate lunch and chatted animatedly about the children.

Her husband joined them for an evening meal and then the family headed back to their own home.

That was the last time Reem's family saw her.

A steady stream of family, friends and customers have filed into the car battery shop to pay their condolences.

They cannot hide their shock, and speak of Reem as a balanced and tolerant young woman, incapable of such an atrocity. They say that for the four years of her marriage not a word or action betrayed any growing radicalism -- if that indeed is what drove her.

Yet it seems she was under the influence of Hamas and was selected for the mission.

For some time the terrorist group had been trying to find a way of penetrating the heavily guarded Erez border crossing.

They had concluded that it was most vulnerable on Wednesdays, a day reserved for only women to apply for permission to work in Israel.

Apparently Reem made several reconnaissance visits, and then, in the early hours of Wednesday, January 14, she kissed her children one last time as they slept.

Under orders

She was driven to Erez by her husband just as daylight was breaking.

She had been fitted with a specially-designed bomb which was attached to her leg rather than her waist, as was normal practice, and she carried a pair of crutches.

According to **Hamas** insiders, the engineer who made the device constructed it in such a way that it forced the wearer to walk with a convincing limp.

When the Israeli border guards asked Reem why the alarm had sounded during the security check, it would be apparent that she was not carrying explosives around her waist and she would be able to explain that it was the titanium rods in her crippled leg that were causing the problem.

SO, leaning heavily on the crutches, Reem passed unhindered through the cursory Palestinian checkpoint before being apprehended at the Israeli crossing when, as expected, the alarm sounded.

And then she began to weep.

Hamas insists it was a fine piece of acting that disarmed the Israelis -- but perhaps it was the horrifying realisation of what she was about to do and her regrets about the children she was leaving behind.

In between sobs, she recounted her well-rehearsed tale about metal rods in her leg.

A guard took her to an internal security room to be hand-searched by a **female** officer and it was here, while she was waiting for the officer to arrive, that Reem suddenly delved beneath her clothes and detonated the bomb.

Within hours her devastated family had erected the traditional condolence tent and were burying what remained of their beloved sister.

Still too upset to comprehend the magnitude of Reem's deed, they sought no answers from her husband and his family when they encountered them at the funeral.

And now their questions might never be answered.

The Awads, as is the Muslim tradition, are now caring for Reem's children but have disappeared with them to a safe house in anticipation of the demolition of their home by the Israeli authorities -- standard punishment for the families of suicide bombers.

Some time in the next few weeks, Reem's family will receive the traditional greeting card from **Hamas** -- just like the ones that have been sent on previous occasions to the families of other **female** suicide bombers.

It will carry a photograph of their martyred daughter and the words: "A nation whose **women** will always fight will eventually reach victory."

Tragic and blood-curdling -- but without the horrific poignancy of that final image of a mother and her little daughter.

Load-Date: January 31, 2004

Gunmen kill 3 soldiers at Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip

The International Herald Tribune

October 25, 2003 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 329 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and two were wounded early Friday when at least one Palestinian gunman entered a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and opened fire, Israeli security officials said.

The soldiers, two women and a man, were shot dead in the heavily guarded Netzarim settlement in central Gaza and two others were wounded, the authorities said. One of the gunmen, armed with an automatic rifle, was killed by security forces, officials said.

The New York Times

At daybreak, Israeli troops were searching the small community for other attackers who might have entered the settlement.

Palestinian attackers often target Israeli soldiers and settlers in Gaza, but the shooting Friday was extremely unusual in that at least one gunman managed to breach the perimeter fence protecting the settlement. Palestinians have often shot at Israelis outside Netzarim but had not previously been able to get past the fence. "The incident is not yet over," a security officer said.

In a phone call to The Associated Press, the militant Islamic Jihad said one of its members carried out the shooting together with a gunman from Hamas. The caller identified the attacker killed by soldiers as Samir Fouda, 21, a Hamas militant from Gaza's Jebaliya refugee camp, and said the other attacker escaped.

The attack followed a series of Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip earlier this week that killed at least 11 Palestinians, including militants and civilians, drawing vows of revenge from Islamic militant groups and their supporters.

About 7,000 Israelis live in Jewish settlements in Gaza, amid about 1 million Palestinians. The Gaza Strip is surrounded by a security barrier, which has prevented most attempted infiltrations from Gaza into Israel.

Israel says the barrier is necessary to keep suicide bombers and other Palestinian attackers out. But Palestinians say the barrier, a complex of fences, walls, electronic sensors and barbed wire, is designed to confiscate their land.

Load-Date: October 26, 2003

Gunmen kill 3 soldiers at Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip

End of Document

LETTERS

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NATION/WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 1307 words

Body

A Balancing Act

I am a second-semester junior at the University of South Florida majoring in management information systems, and it deeply disturbs me that politicians and university leaders want to expedite the graduation process (Nation/World, March 22). It is very rare that any student graduates in four years; in my opinion, the average student takes about 4 1/2 or five years. I distinctly remember my adviser in my freshman year telling me not to take more than 12 credits until I could get acclimated to the college environment.

College is where students find themselves, where they can be involved in different organizations that give them meaning and self-worth. Balancing work to pay for school funds such as books and meal plans, balancing schoolwork and trying to be a part of different organizations is stressful and very difficult to maintain. I am not against trying to rush college students out of school in four years, but I am against penalizing them for certain circumstances that may be beyond their control.

JEVONE LOVETT

Brandon

Will Take Longer

The governor proposes "block tuition" and out-of-state tuition to force students to graduate college in four years (Nation/World, March 22). There is also a proposal to take away the Florida Prepaid College Program and the Florida Bright Futures scholarships, two things that enable me to afford college and still manage 12 credit hours, if the classes I need are even offered. Limited class availability because of government-imposed budget cuts is the real reason most students cannot graduate on time.

Taking away our scholarships, forcing us to pay for a class load that we cannot take while working part time, and increasing tuition after 120 credit hours will only extend my stay in college. I would have to work full time and take even fewer classes just to earn the money for tuition. It would take more, not fewer, years to graduate.

ALLISON TAYLOR

Lutz

We're Part Of Problem

LETTERS

With Ariel Sharon's assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, I'm concerned the world is heading toward some cataclysmic event. No civilized nation should be supporting anything Sharon does. And yet our so-called leaders have America drowning in hypocrisy.

Israel is the occupier and the victim too? Since when is the occupier the good guy? And yet America's so-called fourth estate seems more than willing to paint Israel exactly in that light. Why is that?

I'm not optimistic. Calamity can't be far away, not as long as America continues to be a part of the problem in the Middle East.

SKIP MOLANDER

Seffner

Yassin No "Militant"

Regarding "**Hamas** Leader A Martyr To Enraged Palestinians" (Nation/World, March 23):

I must question the misuse of terms by the media. The media persistently refer to terrorists as militants. This is a very dangerous tactic, as it establishes a false mind-set in readers.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin is described as the "spiritual leader of the militant group **Hamas**." It is a fact that **Hamas** has been designated a terrorist organization by our government, as has Islamic Jihad. Describing this evil advocate of homicide bombers as a "militant" is outrageous. It is akin to giving a similar title to Saddam Hussein.

The term "militant" is usually seen as a somewhat honorable term for those who are aggressive for a cause. It is a stretch to use "militant" to describe those who bomb innocent civilians. Finally, it denigrates the efforts of our servicemen and **women** who are fighting "terrorists," not "militants." The media should cease and desist in the use of this questionable practice.

NORMAN N. GROSS

Palm Harbor

The writer is president of Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting and chair of the Anti-Hate Committee, Greater Florida B'nai B'rith.

Silence Is Dangerous

And we keep quiet! While our government denounces the suicide bombers, we support by our silence the Israeli assassination of Palestinian leaders. Americans will be unfairly targeted because of our government's convenient moral righteousness.

MIKE CONNELL

Lutz

Eliminate Terrorists

Israel's elimination of the **Hamas** leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin should have surprised no one. Can anyone expect a nation to sit idly by and ignore the repeated calls of a leader who urges his followers to wage acts of terror against its citizens? Yassin not only called for the wholesale destruction of Israel, he also openly advocated acts of terror against Israelis and anyone who supports them. Few would bat an eye or shed a tear if U.S. forces were to eliminate Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of 9/11 and countless acts of terror against Americans and others. So why all the fuss about eliminating Yassin? Why the double standard? Only those who are cowards or who believe that the lives of Israeli civilians are worthless would condemn Israel's action.

LETTERS

The only effective response against terror is to pursue those who perpetrate it and eliminate them, regardless of their popularity among their followers. Many in the Muslim world support Osama bin Laden, but that doesn't mean we should abandon our quest to eliminate him.

Maybe if the U.S. government had shown the same resolve toward the leaders of al-Qaida as Israel has shown toward Yassin, then perhaps Sept. 11, 2001, would have passed as any other day instead of the calamity that it became. We should applaud Israel for demonstrating such resolve and use this opportunity to put the world's remaining terrorist leaders and their supporters on notice. They can run but they cannot hide.

RON TENENHAUS

Tampa

Condemn Israel's Actions

Israel proves yet again that it is not interested in peace. By assassinating the **Hamas** leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, it knows the Palestinians will want to avenge his illegitimate assassination, thus perpetuating the circle of violence in the region.

As an American Muslim, I condemn all acts of terrorism, but let us not forget that killing religious leaders is also an act of terrorism, whether it is carried out by a "terrorist" or the government of Israel. Time and time again, the American media depict Muslims as terrorists. They are quick to seek condemnation from our communities whenever there is mere suspicion about any Muslim allegedly involved in anything related to terrorism. Why don't the media apply the same level of scrutiny toward Israeli acts of aggression and murder? The international community has condemned it. It is time to step up and call it as it is.

LAYELLE SAAD

Tampa

A Biased Headline

Your headline "**Hamas** Leader A Martyr To Enraged Palestinians" (Nation/World, March 22) shows your bias to the Palestinian cause.

Never forget that this man sent dozens upon dozens of children to blow themselves up on buses packed with civilians. We are not talking about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. or Gandhi here — both proponents of nonviolent protest. But that is just the background, not the point.

"Enraged"? Why not just write "justifiably enraged"? That's the sense your headline conveys. Was that your intention? The headline conveys blame to the Israelis for enraging the Palestinians. How about the Israeli and Palestinian victims of this man's insane homicide bombing campaign? How come they are not enraged after year upon year of never-ending terror? Do the Jewish families feel less pain? Have they no right to be enraged? Are they less human? Do they not have the right to emotion because they occupy the Gaza Strip?

Every one of us is entitled to support whoever he wants in this most difficult issue. A newspaper, however, should not be using headlines as a substitute for the editorial page. This was a very powerful and unprofessional piece of work. Those who buy their ink by the barrel have a responsibility to be fair and impartial. The Tampa Tribune has failed miserably in this regard.

ERIC SCHILLER

Tampa

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LETTERS

Notes

LETTERS

Load-Date: March 25, 2004

End of Document

Prisoner release found wanting

The International Herald Tribune

July 8, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 606 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Israeli and Palestinian ministers sat down together in meetings here Monday, broadening the contacts between the two sides as they worked to fill in details of a new peace plan.

Palestinian ministers warned their Israeli counterparts that Israel's planned prisoner release, announced Sunday, was not nearly sweeping enough to achieve its stated purpose of generating political support for the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, and the peace process.

Though sharply divided on the issue, the Israeli government decided Sunday to release some 300 of more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners. It said it would give priority to women and to prisoners under 18 and over 60, but that it would free no members of the militant groups Hamas or Islamic Jihad or anyone involved in attacking Israelis. The New York Times

Hisham Abdul Razeq, the Palestinian minister of prisoners affairs and a former prisoner of Israel, met with Yosef Lapid, the Israeli justice minister. Afterward, Abdul Razeq told reporters that if Israel did not revise its decision, "it will affect the peace process for the worse."

Hamas leaders said that they would consider a refusal by Israel to release all its prisoners a violation of a temporary truce agreement among Palestinian factions. A week ago, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the mainstream Fatah faction announced they would suspend violence against Israel, which was not a party to that agreement.

The Israeli government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is under sharp attack from victims' families and the Israel's political right for releasing prisoners. It has freed about 300 under a previous initiative.

Lapid said that Israel could not release prisoners who participated in violence. But he called the meeting today "a very promising beginning," and said that the two sides agreed to set up committees to discuss "the legal problems shared" by Israel and the governing Palestinian Authority.

Official contacts at all levels were all but severed during the 33-month conflict.

Also Monday, the Israeli foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, met here with Nabil Amr, the Palestinian minister of information, for the first session of a joint committee on "Prevention of Incitement," which is focusing on stopping messages in the schools and news media that encourage violence.

Prisoner release found wanting

Shalom said he had been pleased recently to note "a measure of positive change in the degree of anti-Israel incitement and hatred." In Gaza City on Monday, workers spread whitewash over graffiti extolling violent groups and their deeds.

Palestinian forces continued to consolidate their security control of most of Bethlehem and the areas of the Gaza Strip from which Israel withdrew last week. Israel says it will not pull back from any more Palestinian cities until it sees Palestinian officers act to break apart militant groups.

Palestinian security officials in Gaza said Monday that they had released nine militants from a group known as the Popular Resistance Committees. The men were being held on charges they participated in firing grenades at Israeli settlements in Gaza in recent days. They were released after the group said it would abide by the factions' decision to suspend all attacks.

Also Monday, Palestinian security officials gave conflicting accounts of what some said was the arrest of a would-be suicide bomber. One Palestinian security organizations said it had arrested an 18-year-old woman planning a suicide attack after her family found a letter describing her intentions. But a senior official with another organization said that the young woman had problems with her family, was not carrying an explosive, and was released.

Load-Date: July 8, 2003

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Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

The Toronto Star
March 24, 2004 Wednesday
Ontario Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 1126 words

Byline: Rosie DiManno

Body

Bomb-mangled commuter buses, blood-splattered survivors wandering in a daze, the keening of mourners: These are the images of the second intifada in Israel, an orchestrated uprising that has achieved not a sliver of its purported aim.

Or maybe there is no point beyond the random killing of Jews, a scatter-shot genocide by attrition, where murder becomes so commonplace that it takes on the blanched hues of mere nuisance.

Bald numbers cannot compete with the emotionalism of photographs and news footage. But it's instructive to remember that suicide bombings in Israel were more than halved in 2003 from the previous year, dropping from 54 to 20; Israeli deaths resulting from such attacks fell by half over the same period.

Those figures are open to interpretation. What they tell me is this: Israel, the target, must know what it's doing. Because the perpetrators of such crimes despised their "occupiers" no less than 24 months ago and their fury hasn't dwindled. Or perhaps even the most radical militants arrayed against Israel have taken sombre note of the painful losses to their own in a conflict that has brought Palestinians no closer to the realization of statehood: 2,700 deaths on the Palestinian side since Intifada II was launched in 2000, eclipsing in numbers if not agony - which isn't quantifiable - the 900 Israelis who've been killed.

In the process, every blueprint for resolving the conflict politically, every proposal put forth in capitals from Washington to Cairo, has been shredded.

So perhaps the Israeli military and the cabinet - there were only two dissensions around the table - knew what they were doing in authorizing the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Monday's missile strike, even if the immediate repercussions will no doubt be convulsive and bloody in the extreme. Tit-for-tat carnage has become the pattern of what passes for dialogue in the Middle East, and who can keep track of grievance versus catalyst?

The Arab world is in acute lamentation over Yassin's extermination, which says a lot about what passes for leadership in societies infused with choler, where wickedness is bred in the bone, and where the very idea of Israel as a sovereign state, with the right to exist, is anathema. Yassin was an arch-terrorist by any definition of the term, a viper in a wheelchair, and if his murder is now inducing shrill promises of revenge from radical groups that actually have little use for each other, sharing only an irreversible enmity for Israel, then it only underscores how depraved some societies have become, how far they have slithered away from even the most basic respect for human life.

Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

Those who cheer the death of innocents can expect to find little sympathy when they mourn their own.

Yassin died the victim of what he preached - undiluted, unbridled hatred and the veneration of violence to achieve political ends.

The cripple in a wheelchair was, in life, routinely referenced as the "spiritual" leader of **Hamas**, the terrorist organization that he co-founded in 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood at the start of the first Palestinian uprising. Well, spirituality is a euphemism for abomination in some quarters, the kind of moral relativism that is gaining traction far and wide in a don't-hurt-us world that cowers before militant Islam.

However revered - and such worship is a shame, testament to the barrenness of Palestinian leadership - Yassin was an evangelist of odium and a strategist of terror who, in his miserable life, never accepted anything less than the destruction of Israel, the reclamation of an idealized Palestine that never existed, and the creation of an Islamic state in the ashes of Zion. To that end, **Hamas** trained and dispatched its army of brainwashed suicide bombers on **women** and children and elderly civilians. This brigade of the disenfranchised has killed no fewer than 377 Israelis in 400 attacks and terrorist bombings.

So let's dispel with the fiction of **Hamas** as segregated political from military, as if one wing were not attached to the other. Or, more preposterously still, the notion that any agency can be simultaneously humanitarian and murderous. It was, and is, all of one piece, although Canada was laggard in recognizing that fact, not outlawing **Hamas** until just two years ago.

It is depressingly predictable that the assassination of Yassin, certainly in the short term, will provoke more attacks, more pointless retribution. The reverberations are even now being felt in Iraq, where the vestigial loathing of Israel has been imparted to U.S. troops representative of an occupying regime in cahoots with a more intractable enemy. But imagine a world where Israel did not have a resolute friend in America. Once the darling of idealists and intellectuals, the embodiment of hopefulness, Israel has become a pariah state, ridiculed when it negotiates and vilified when it digs in its heels.

Discourse and compromise have made no headway in the Middle East. With every passing year, every rejected proposal, the Palestinian leadership - in an immeasurable betrayal of the people it claims to represent - has simply furthered the suspicion that Palestinians are undeserving of the statehood they covet. There are enough rogue states in the world already without adding another one, slathered in blood, to the list.

Assassination by the state is a dirty business but not necessarily the last refuge of scoundrels. As a pre-emptive strike, it is preferable to the conventional combat that kills in the multitudes. And the very world capitals that are today condemning Israel for what it did, cold-bloodedly, to Yassin have themselves either engaged in or tacitly endorsed the practice when it's suited their purpose.

It is possible that Yassin's murder will galvanize the forces of rejection, forging solidarity between political activists who blow up people and religious jihadists who blow up people. That is unfortunate, maybe even ruinous, particularly if Yassin's assassination whelps a third, fourth, fifth generation of militants whose only objective is the destruction of Israel.

But the fear of acting - which is the posture that invested organizations such as **Hamas** with a legitimacy that was never its due - has done nothing to further peace and co-existence in the Middle East, or anywhere else for that matter.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin viewed negotiation and engagement as weakness. Israel, a fingernail of land in the Arab fist of the Middle East, cannot afford to be seen as weak.

If hell is indeed unleashed, remember who groomed the dogs of war.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. E-mail: dimanno @ hotstar.net.

Those who cheer the death

Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

of innocents can expect to
find little sympathy when
they mourn their own

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

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**Mediators seek ceasefire from militants;
Egyptian negotiators ask Palestinians to halt attacks on Israel**

Windsor Star (Ontario)

June 16, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8; News

Length: 547 words

Byline: Ravi Nessman The Associated Press

Dateline: Gaza City, Gaza Strip

Body

Egyptian mediators asked Palestinian militants Sunday to halt attacks on Israel in an effort to rescue a U.S.-backed peace plan that foundered after more than a week of violence. Israel's prime minister suggested he might accept a limited truce.

Palestinian officials said there were expectations that the current ceasefire efforts might succeed where others had failed, despite militia leaders' renewed assertions they will not lay down their arms.

AP

In Maine, U.S. President George W. Bush said he was confident of eventual peace between the longtime enemies, with a Palestinian state existing in peace beside Israel.

After a weekend meeting between Israeli and Palestinian security officials, both sides said Israel was considering a gradual withdrawal from Bethlehem and parts of the Gaza Strip, leaving security to the forces of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

Addressing a cabinet meeting Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that if militants agree to a ceasefire, Israel would, for the most part, respect it.

"If no one fires on us, we will not return fire, except in cases of ticking bombs," a cabinet official quoted Sharon as saying.

Until now, Sharon had rejected a truce out of hand, demanding an immediate crackdown on the militants, including arresting their leaders.

However, Sharon's new comments appeared highly conditional. Until recently, the phrase "ticking bomb" defined a militant about to carry out an attack. Then the Israelis widened the definition after a botched effort to assassinate **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi last week, calling him a "ticking bomb." That indicated that even if **Hamas** agrees to a truce, its leaders might not be safe from Israeli strikes that could rekindle violence.

In a reflection of the unpredictable dynamic of the conflict, other hopeful signs emerged over the weekend for the so-called "road map" plan, which envisions an end to 32 months of violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Mediators seek ceasefire from militants; Egyptian negotiators ask Palestinians to halt attacks on Israel

In talks Saturday with Israeli Maj.-Gen. Amos Gilad, Dahlan proposed that Israeli troops withdraw from large areas of Gaza to positions held before the outbreak of fighting in September 2000. He asked Israel to pull out of the West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Ramallah, the Palestinians' administrative centre.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Sunday he is considering a withdrawal from Bethlehem and parts of Gaza and said meetings with the Palestinians would continue.

In a first phase, Israel would pull out of the northern Gaza towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. Despite the talks, Israeli forces entered Beit Hanoun early Sunday, setting off a firefight that killed one Palestinian and wounded seven, doctors said.

And U.S. officials, underscoring their country's commitment to the peace plan, arrived in the region to monitor its implementation.

The two Egyptian mediators, assistants to Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, arrived in Gaza City on Sunday for ceasefire talks with Palestinian militants, most importantly with the group **Hamas**. They held a preliminary meeting with top members of Abbas' mainstream Fatah movement Sunday afternoon; Fatah also has carried out attacks, despite Abbas' call for them to stop.

Graphic

A GLIMPSE: Palestinian **women** peer from a window Sunday as Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas arrives at his office to attend a cabinet meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Associated Press photo: Muhammed Muheisen

Load-Date: June 16, 2003

Both sides must speak out against the use of violence

Chicago Daily Herald

June 13, 2003, Friday Cook,Lake,D1,D2,D4,F1,F2,F3,McHenry

Copyright 2003 Paddock Publications, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; An Arab perspective;

Length: 577 words

Byline: Ray Hanania

Body

When I turned on the television news Thursday morning, I had a hard time telling dead Palestinians from dead Israelis, although the media seemed to focus only on the latter.

That's what is so sad. Rather than seeing terrorism as a Middle East problem, it has become the fundamentals of political ideology. Those who support Israel point to the suicide bombings as reasons for their own extremist causes, while Palestinians turn to Israeli airstrikes and killing of civilians as justification, too.

But both sides are wrong. None of this is new. It has been going on for generations. Both sides are responsible for the problem and neither is doing enough to achieve peace.

Hamas is a terrorist organization. I am most disgusted that they have hijacked the Palestinian cause and imposed themselves as the representatives of the Palestinian people. They are not. They believe in a fundamentalist Islamic state that discriminates against Christians and Jews. Their leadership is driven not by reason and logic but by the same emotion and hatred that drives their extremist movement.

But they are not the only ones out there who use violence to achieve their fanatic dreams. The Israeli settler movement, which Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is a mentor to, is a terrorist organization that uses violence, provokes conflict and preaches a hatred of Christian and Muslim Palestinians. Sharon's attacks using his military are no different from **Hamas** attacks using suicide bombers.

Both should be equally denounced, and while I applaud President Bush for having the courage to stand up to Sharon and the powerful Israeli lobby in America, his criticism of Israel's military strikes is insufficient, far less than the outrage he displayed when Israelis were killed in the Jerusalem suicide murders.

When Israel's jets and soldiers attacked Palestinian targets in Gaza, they murdered many Palestinian civilians. **Women**. Children. Hundreds were wounded, and many homes were destroyed.

In all the news coverage, I did not hear one reporter talk about who those Palestinians were who were murdered. But I heard about the Israelis who were killed. I heard witness accounts from Israelis. I even heard about the deadliness of the weapons the suicide bombers use.

But the Israeli military uses weapons that are just as deadly and indiscriminate. For example, much was made of the "nails and metal" scraps that were packed into the suicide bombs. Israel's military uses the same types of weapons. It doesn't refer to the metal included in its weapons as "nails and metal" scraps, but calls them flachettes, a just-as-grisly term intended to make it sound acceptable.

Both sides must speak out against the use of violence

And that is the tragedy of the Palestinians and Israelis.

To many Americans, and especially to those in the media, the murder of one seems acceptable while the murder of another does not.

Those who use the murder of Israelis and Palestinians to justify political goals are accomplices to these crimes. Those Jews and Palestinians who refuse to speak out are also a part of the problem.

Hamas is a terrorist organization and Palestinians must stop pretending that the revenge they achieve is somehow justified. They must break their silence and speak out against this inhuman practice of suicide bombings.

Israel's settler movement and its supporters are terrorists, too, and those Jews and Israelis who fail to speak out against their crimes or the violent actions of Sharon are just as guilty, too.

Load-Date: June 19, 2003

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Israelis fire rockets near refugee camp

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 324 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a refugee camp early Saturday, killing a 55-year-old man and wounding five people, hospital officials said.

The army said the air strike was aimed at four men about to launch a rocket or rocket-propelled grenade and at least two of those involved in the launch were hit. Hospital officials said the dead man and the wounded were all civilians.

The air strike hit near the Khan Younis refugee camp, close to the Jewish settlement Neve Dekalim where a 24-year-old Israeli-American woman was killed in a mortar attack by Hamas militants Friday.

Early Saturday, dozens of Israeli armoured vehicles moved from Neve Dekalim toward Khan Younis, drawing a crowd of onlookers that included gunmen and civilians, witnesses said. Tanks fired machine-guns from time to time toward a large housing project in the refugee camp, the witnesses said.

The air strike came during Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, when much of Israel shuts down, with borders closed and streets deserted.

The mortar attack on Neve Dekalim marked the first time in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting that a resident of a Jewish settlement in Gaza has been killed by Palestinian shelling. Since 2000, Palestinians have fired hundreds of mortars and homemade rockets at Gaza settlements and Israeli border towns.

The death in Neve Dekalim is expected to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza next year.

A Hamas video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. One of the mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two women who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the women, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds and the second was lightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Streets in downtown Jerusalem are nearly deserted shortly after the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year on Friday. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

End of Document

16 KILLED IN BUS BOMB ATTACKS; **INJURY TOLL OVER 100**

Daily Post (North Wales)

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: NW Merseyside Edition; NEWS; Pg. 17; Newspaper

Length: 331 words

Byline: LIAM CHRISTOPHER

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel today, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 100.

It was the first suicide bombing inside Israel for six months. It was claimed by militant group Hamas as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running, " said witness Tzika Schreter, a college lecturer.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed plan yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. It warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period". Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings. "Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pull-out.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

The attack was the deadliest since a female suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in Ashdod. It prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

16 KILLED IN BUS BOMB ATTACKS; INJURY TOLL OVER 100

Graphic

A rescuer carries an injured woman; Police and rescue workers examine one of destroyed buses

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

End of Document

Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants

The New York Times

October 6, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 772 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Taghreed El Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza City for this article, and Warren Hoge from the United Nations.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 5

Body

An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at a car in Gaza City, killing a senior member of the radical group Islamic Jihad and his bodyguard, Palestinians in Gaza said Tuesday evening.

The two were Bashir al-Dabash, 38, the leader of Islamic Jihad's military wing and one of its top officials in Gaza, the group said, and Ahmed al-Araeer, who was said to be his bodyguard. One missile missed the car and lightly wounded three bystanders. The strike occurred near the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where Mr. Dabash had visited a wounded fighter, Palestinians said.

Young women and children rushed toward the car. Some of them were shouting, "Welcome to Izzedine al-Qassam." That is the name of the armed wing of Hamas, which has carried out dozens of rocket attacks and suicide bombings in Israel since the uprising began.

Later Tuesday night, another Israeli helicopter fired a missile toward the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, killing at least two militants and wounding three others, witnesses and Palestinian security sources said. The men, from Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, were preparing to attack Israeli forces, witnesses and army officials said.

[In an attack on Wednesday, Israeli forces killed a militant leader and a father and his son, The Associated Press reported, quoting Palestinian officials, bringing to 75 the number of Palestinians killed in the weeklong offensive, which is aimed at halting Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli towns. Nearly half the dead and 60 percent of the 400 wounded in the campaign were civilians, Palestinian hospital officials said.

[The Israeli Army identified the official of Islamic Jihad as Bashir al-Dabash, 40, saying he was "responsible for dozens of terrorist attacks."]

The Israelis also shot and killed a Palestinian girl, Imam al-Hams, 13, on Tuesday from an observation post near the Rafah refugee camp. Israeli military officials said troops posted along the Egyptian border had fired after she crossed into a restricted zone and was spotted planting "what seemed to be an explosive charge." The army said that when she threw away her school bag, troops mistook it for a bomb and shot her. Palestinian residents said the girl had been shot 20 times, 5 times in the head.

Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants

As Israel presses on with its campaign, the military is also using the opportunity to try to remove the leadership of radical groups of Palestinians like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The campaign started a week ago, after two children in the Israeli town of Sederot were killed by a rocket fired by Hamas.

The Israelis say it is intolerable for their citizens to be subject to rocket attacks, even as the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, vows to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

But the Israeli campaign is also running into more -- and expected -- international criticism, from Egypt and Russia. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said Monday that he hoped Israel's incursion -- its deadliest into Gaza in four years -- "can come to a conclusion quickly."

Israel appears to be in no rush. The defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, said Monday that "it will take time until we can be sure that we remove the threat" of the Qassam rockets. Other military officials, however, say that they simply hope to reduce the number of rockets fired by 70 percent to 80 percent, and that they do not want to have to stay in Gaza indefinitely.

Perhaps to mute criticism, Israeli officials said indirect contacts about ending the operation had begun with the Palestinian Authority, which is led by Yasir Arafat, but the Palestinians denied that. Other Israeli officials openly say they are working hard to avert the kind of unfair criticism, as they put it, that Israel got in the spring of 2002, when it pushed into West Bank towns like Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem.

That effort included an attack on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, when an Israeli drone photographed what Israeli officials said was a Qassam rocket in a United Nations vehicle. The Israelis called reporters to draw attention to the film and asked for the dismissal of the head of the agency, Peter Hansen.

But Mr. Hansen, who is often critical of Israel, said the film appeared to show a folded-up stretcher, not a rocket, being placed in the vehicle. On Tuesday, the ambulance driver, Wail Raban, said the object was a stretcher, as did Wahel Ghabayen, a relief worker who identified himself as the person in the film.

At the United Nations on Tuesday night, the United States vetoed an Arab-backed resolution demanding an immediate halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian woman and her children in the Jabaliya refugee camp yesterday passed by a fighter holed up in a defensive position. The Israeli military effort in Gaza started a week ago, after a Hamas rocket attack. (Photo by Scott Nelson/Getty Images)

Load-Date: October 6, 2004

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

The New York Times

July 16, 2004 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 3837 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Series: A PEOPLE ADRIFT -- Second of two articles

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Some of the women wore smart suits. Many modestly covered their hair. Only one wore the most conservative Islamic dress, cloaking herself head to toe in black.

Members of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee of Palestine, they had gathered in June in a hotel conference room in Gaza City for a symposium titled "After the Withdrawal From Gaza."

They were not happy with what they were hearing over the crash of the surf beyond the windows.

Like Palestinians generally, these women wanted to hear precisely what the Palestinian leadership planned to do. They knew that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said he would withdraw Israeli settlers and soldiers from the Gaza Strip next year. They knew that Palestinian factions had begun struggling over who will govern Gaza and how, whether it will be ruled by agreement, by ballot, by force, or not at all.

They did not think they had heard answers from the first panel, composed of a legislator, a former minister and a militant leader.

"You make me so depressed," said Rida Awadallah, 59, of the Working Women's Union, when she got her chance to ask a question. "Maybe I'm dumb, but I've heard all this before. What's the preparation for the next stage?"

Some Palestinians glimpse in an Israeli pullout a new chance at statehood, a chance to create a model of self-rule that will spread to the West Bank, leading to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

But 10 years after Yasir Arafat returned in triumph to Gaza under a previous experiment in self-rule, the Oslo peace process, these would-be leaders are scrambling for a way forward. The alternative, they say, is all too clear: a destitute enclave ruled by warlords and militants, an outcome they fear will doom their national movement.

As the panelists suffered under the lacerating questions, one of them, a Palestinian legislator and political scientist named Ziad Abu Amr, finally fired back: "Do you want us to lie to you concerning the depression you are suffering from? You know who is determining everything. Arafat hasn't proposed a vision for the Palestinian people."

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

While he spoke, a murmur swept the room. Flanked by beefy bodyguards, Muhammad Dahlan strode through the door. He was to give the next talk, "An Independent Vision."

Mr. Dahlan, for years the leader of the Preventive Security Force in Gaza, is more feared than loved here.

But he is favored by Israeli, European and American officials as strong enough to run Gaza, and he has embarked on a political campaign. He sees the Israeli withdrawal as an opportunity -- for the Palestinians and maybe for himself -- and he is determined to take advantage of it.

Like many other Palestinians, he says Israel has deliberately sown chaos by striking at the Palestinian Authority during the conflict, an accusation Israel denies. Now, he argues, if the Palestinians fail here, Israel will point to the example and refuse to cede more of the West Bank.

Mr. Dahlan is not a reckless man, and his speech was cautious. But then came the barrage of questions. The moderators tried to avoid the woman in black, but she would not be denied, seizing the microphone to stridently challenge what she saw as a muddled speech.

Mr. Dahlan raised his own voice in return, and his message grew stronger as well. He asked if Palestine wanted to go the way of Iraq or Libya. Palestinians could either build a model in Gaza, or embrace "chaos and destruction."

Over and over, Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued. "We are deceiving ourselves," he said. "We failed to make peace and to make war. We failed at both. We have to decide now: Are we going to have war or peace? If it's war, I will be the first to pick up a machine gun."

In an interview in his office one recent evening, Mr. Dahlan tore a blank sheet of paper from a notebook and held it up. That was all the orders he had ever received in 25 years within Mr. Arafat's dominant movement, Fatah, he said. "They are against the intifada; at the same time, they are with the intifada," he said of Fatah's leaders, without naming the top one. "They are against the terror, and they are with the terror."

It was time, he said, to choose.

"We are in the junction," he said, "either to get to Palestinian independence, or to get back to Somalia."

Trying, Grimly, to Be Normal

It is something of a historical paradox that Gaza -- poorer and sharper-edged than the West Bank -- would emerge as the proving ground of a Palestinian state. But Mr. Dahlan and other Palestinian politicians sense beneath the militancy an exhaustion with death and despair and a hunger for change. "Enough is enough," he said.

That attitude is hard to see in the pictures and paintings of the dead that are everywhere here. Their message is usually the same: not of pathos and loss, but of heroism, sacrifice, glamour.

In one painting, Hamdi Mohsin appears vivid and proud, wearing fatigues and holding a rifle in a ferocious battle, against a sky burning red and gold.

Hamdi was not a militant, but a 14-year-old shot dead while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When his parents commissioned the painting from Fayez al-Hasani, 52, they asked him to show their boy as a fighter.

Mr. Hasani, who longs to paint "something beautiful," like the dark-eyed women who fill his canvases from before the uprising, worries about his own young son, who rushes out to watch whenever the Israeli soldiers raid Gaza City. "I call it watching death," he said. "It scares me."

Armed struggle may still fire the imagination of many Palestinians, or comfort them, and it draws the attention of the world. But while people here rage at Israeli tactics, they also yearn for a more normal, secure life. This struggle is not celebrated in posters, but it is no less insistent.

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

Palestinian fishing boats still string a necklace of light along the coast at night; bathers still crowd the beaches by day. In the Rafah refugee camp at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, the area most wracked by violence in the conflict, Mahmoud Juma, 40, is rebuilding his zoo, flattened by Israel during an incursion in May. He hired Hani al-Najar, 23, to paint a new mural on one rebuilt wall.

On a blazing June morning, Mr. Najar was relishing sketching a rose-breasted cockatoo, rather than the kind of mural that makes up most of his commissions. "People will enjoy this," he said. "Children love it. The intifada is all about death."

One evening in June, along the breakwater that forms Gaza City's small harbor, Fuad al-Habeel, a 20-year-old commercial fisherman, stretched his arms in an arching swan dive from the pale-blue deckhouse of a fishing boat.

Sabbagh Ghanem, a 44-year-old school counselor, watched quietly as dozens of sport fishermen lined the breakwater. They dangled a paste of flour and water from their hooks, not catching much of anything but enjoying the calm and the sight of Gaza City burnished by the setting sun.

Yet no one could set aside the conflict for long. Mr. Habeel chafed at Israeli restrictions that limited fishermen like him to a patch of sea. Mr. Ghanem said he was thinking about a 14-year-old student who was wetting his bed. "He wants to die, because everything is sad," Mr. Ghanem said

After diving off a nearby dock, two boys emerged dripping from the sea. One of them, Muhammad Salama, 14, lifted the hem of his trunks to show a puckered scar on his left thigh. He was shot when, with thousands of other children, he rushed to watch the same Israeli incursion in which Hamdi Mohsin died.

Muhammad said his dream was to become a doctor at a Gaza hospital, "to treat people who get wounded."

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war at Israel's creation, Gaza fell under the control of Egypt, the West Bank under the control of Jordan.

Unlike the Jordanians, the Egyptians did not give citizenship or passports to Palestinians. From the West Bank, Palestinians traveled for schooling and jobs that made some of them wealthy and many of them worldly. Gaza stagnated. Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the war of 1967.

Now, 64 percent of Gazans live under a poverty line of about \$2 a day, compared to just over a third of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Unlike in the West Bank, **Hamas**, the Islamic militant group, is slightly more popular than Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement in Gaza, according to polling by Khalil Shikaki, a political scientist with the Palestine Center for Policy and Survey Research. **Hamas** commands the support of a bit more than a quarter of the population, Fatah a bit less.

But that is not the same as saying the ideology of **Hamas** is triumphing. "To the contrary," Dr. Shikaki said, "the Palestinian public has never been as willing to compromise as it is today." Even in Gaza, more than 70 percent of Palestinians support reconciling with Israel after a peace agreement, according to a poll in March by Dr. Shikaki. (The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.)

The growing support for **Hamas** appears to have less to do with its doctrine than with disgust with the Palestinian Authority and Fatah, which dominates the government.

The pain here has bred anger not only at Israel, but also at the Palestinian leadership. In late June, one group of Palestinian protesters demanding housing blocked a road leading to the Egyptian border, threatening to kidnap any Palestinian minister who passed by. The next day, Gaza City demonstrators demanding jobs stoned a personnel office of the Palestinian Authority. "Our kids, what are they going to do?" asked one of the demonstrators, Ahmed Suker, 37. "Become thieves? Murderers? Terrorists?"

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

In interviews, protesters said they blamed not Mr. Arafat, who they said was powerless under Israeli siege, but rather the ministers around him.

Mr. Dahlan recognized more than two years ago that the Palestinian Authority was losing support and even legitimacy. He resigned his post as a security chief and distanced himself from the top leadership.

At 43, Mr. Dahlan is part of a generation of Fatah men who grew up under the Israeli occupation, then commanded the first uprising against Israel in the late 1980's. In Israeli prisons, they learned Hebrew and read Israeli newspapers. Then they became legislators or security chiefs when Mr. Arafat and other revolutionaries returned from exile. Some, like Mr. Dahlan, made themselves very rich in their government posts.

Yet these men also watched in dismay as what they call "the opposition" -- **Hamas** -- gained popularity during the second uprising, which began in September 2000.

Understanding Palestinians, they realized how the collapse of peace talks, which were supported by Fatah, had discredited their faction. But also understanding Israelis, they saw how Fatah's bloody role in the new uprising was distancing them from their dream of a state.

"There are two ways to achieve change," Mr. Dahlan told the **women**'s group. "Coups or elections. A coup is not part of the mentality of the Palestinians."

Mr. Dahlan has successfully pressed Mr. Arafat to permit elections in Gaza within Fatah. These elections are under way, and to those who demanded them, they are a revolution. Mr. Dahlan is hoping that they will result in a new governing body for Fatah by early next year, giving him and his allies legitimacy to set policy for Fatah and govern Gaza.

Some of Mr. Dahlan's allies say it is time for Mr. Arafat to go. "He's leading us to nowhere," said one, Khaled Yazji, the head of a nongovernmental organization in Gaza. Mr. Yazji is Mr. Arafat's former chief of protocol.

Mr. Dahlan is careful not to challenge Mr. Arafat directly. Told that Mr. Arafat's representatives here claimed their candidates were winning the Fatah elections, Mr. Dahlan grinned. "That's excellent," he said. "That means we are part of Arafat. We are not against Arafat. We are against the people around Arafat who are corrupted."

He said he wanted Mr. Arafat "to bless the results."

While Mr. Dahlan pursues his own strategy, Mr. Arafat's representatives are conducting negotiations among the Palestinian factions over governing Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal.

Hamas refused to play a role in the Palestinian Authority, a creation of Oslo, which **Hamas** opposed. Since Mr. Sharon wants to withdraw without a peace agreement, **Hamas** leaders say they now feel free now to take part.

Egypt is mediating, pressing the factions to stop attacks while urging the Israelis to withdraw completely. Palestinian officials say they have asked the Egyptians for guarantees that Israel will permit Gaza's airport and seaport to open, perhaps under international supervision, and that it will remove its armored cordon along Gaza's border with Egypt.

The gamble is that an Israeli withdrawal, coupled with an infusion of foreign aid, will give Gazans a new stake in tranquility and turn them against militant groups that put it at risk.

The details are critical, but hazy. If attacks continue in Israel or the West Bank, Israel may strike back at the **Hamas** leaders in Gaza; if Israel does not allow the ports to function freely -- and it says it will not, at least in the short term -- **Hamas** may consider that a deal-breaker.

If Palestinian leaders fail, said Dr. Shikaki, the social scientist, "The threats are tremendous." He listed "the empowerment of **Hamas**, the fragmentation of the Palestinian nationalist movement, and the disintegration of the Palestinian Authority."

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

Violence Turns Inward, Too

In 1996, on Mr. Arafat's orders, Mr. Dahlan cracked down on Hamas, earning a reputation for ruthlessness. That was during the Oslo peace process. During this uprising he, like other Fatah leaders, contended they could not take such action.

In an interview in the fall of 2001, shortly after he left his security post, Mr. Dahlan said the Palestinian Authority could not hope for public support to act against violence when Israeli was killing militants and putting military pressure on the Palestinians.

"The Palestinian Authority cannot succeed under the circumstances," he said then. "They're asking the P.A. to attack Palestinians, and that's not possible."

More than two years later, the Palestinian Authority is far weaker. Having failed for so long to act, the security forces are viewed less as law enforcement agencies than as private militias in the service of Mr. Arafat and others. Through allies, Mr. Dahlan retains control of the Preventive Security Force, Palestinian officials and Western diplomats say.

Recently, Gaza's security forces have clashed with one another and with powerful families here.

There is no shortage of active, armed security men in Gaza -- some 24,000 in all, far more than in the West Bank. What they lack, in the view of Palestinian analysts, is political legitimacy to move against militants or even criminals.

"That's why it's so important to get an agreement among the factions," said Maj. Gen. Saeb al-Ajez, a commander of the National Security forces here who is particularly close to the Egyptians. "Then we will have the right to enforce the law." He sat in his office in Gaza City, its windows cross-hatched with tape against the possibility of an Israeli missile strike.

General Ajez said he was asking Egypt for riot control equipment, including shields, tear gas and rubber bullets. He said that after a new government was formed, he would act against people "with no political goals but destruction" who "fire on Israel to ruin this agreement."

Any such action seems a very long way off. General Ajez is in charge of the Palestinian investigation into the bombing of an American diplomatic convoy here on Oct. 15, which killed three American security specialists.

He suggested that he had identified suspects, but said he could reveal no names for fear the culprits might escape. Asked why he did not arrest the suspects, he said: "During this bad security situation, how can we arrest someone? It will endanger the situation."

The killings have badly strained the already weakened ties between the Bush administration and the Palestinian Authority. American diplomats have stopped coming to Gaza. General Ajez approved of that decision.

"I encourage the Americans not to come here," he said. "I cannot ensure their safety."

As the security forces stand by, the martyr posters multiply, and violence drags at the society.

Mr. Arafat's top representative here, Ahmed Helis, has an elegant office lined with large photographs of his son, Muhammad. Muhammad died early this year fighting Israeli soldiers on a raid into Gaza City that had forced his school to close. He was 17. Mr. Helis said that he was afraid for his son as he left the house with his gun instead of his school bag, but that he did not try to stop him. "I can't push people to go and fight, and not let my son go," he said.

"Would you say he had the desire to go and fight, or that it was imposed on him?" he asked. "Would you call him a terrorist?"

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

A few blocks away, in the same Gaza neighborhood, Umm Nidal Farahat, 55, also surrounds herself with pictures of the dead.

A backlit sign, roughly four feet long and two feet high, sits above the entrance to her cinderblock home. Against a backdrop of flames, it bears pictures of two of her sons, both Hamas militants. Two other sons have been wounded in the fighting and a fifth, of six, is in an Israeli prison.

Mrs. Farahat, who wants to drive Israel out of all historical Palestine, saw her sons as carrying the fight to the Israelis. Mr. Helis, who favors a two-state solution, saw his son as defending Gaza against invaders.

Yet one of Mrs. Farahat's sons, Nidal, was an engineer of the crude rockets that Hamas fires over Gaza's fenced boundary into Israel. And it was on a raid to stop Hamas from firing such rockets that Israeli forces killed Muhammad Helis. Maybe, if Hamas was not pursuing its own form of conflict, Muhammad Helis might have gone to school.

Nidal Farahat left behind a four-year-old boy, Imad, who dreams of his father and begs his grandmother to bring him home. "I tell him, 'You will be a martyr one day, and then you will go and see your dad,'" she said.

A Sad 'Might Have Been'

Four years ago, Palestinian negotiators were debating with Israeli counterparts how to share Jerusalem. Now, with not only the United States but also the United Nations and Egypt lining up behind Mr. Sharon, Palestinian leaders are haggling with each other over how to run Gaza.

There is an elegiac quality to the way some Palestinian reformers and other politicians talk now about the Oslo years and their own faded visions of a democratic Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem.

They hold Israel -- its occupation, its military pressure on the Palestinians, its attacks on the Palestinian Authority -- ultimately responsible. But they also say that Palestinians lost control of their national movement and international image, failing to adapt as American, European and Arab attitudes shifted under the shock of the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

They speak of historic opportunities lost, obliterated by inchoate violence that has scarred a generation. They wonder how a process of reconciliation symbolized by a handshake on the White House lawn became a process of separation and alienation symbolized by the Israeli barrier around Gaza, and the new one rising at the West Bank.

There was a time when Elias Khoury thought of himself as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians. His family lost its land to Israel in the 1948 war, but his father took citizenship in Israel and believed he could work patiently through Israeli law to get the land back. Elias Khoury went to Hebrew University and became a lawyer himself.

In 1975, Mr. Khoury's father, Daoud, was crossing Jerusalem Zion Square when a bomb planted by Palestinians exploded, killing him and 13 others.

Elias Khoury went on to win landmark legal cases against Israeli settlements. He sent his children to a Jerusalem school that blended the city's Jewish, Muslim and Christian children.

Then, one evening this March, his son George went for a jog in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood and was shot dead by members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the militant group linked to Fatah. The group put out a statement boasting that it had killed a settler. French Hill sits on land that Israel occupied in 1967.

Fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, friends with Arabs and Jews, George Khoury was studying at Hebrew University. He spoke by telephone every day with his older brother, David, away at school in Scotland, to compare business ideas that each jotted in small notebooks. He played the piano and wanted to learn the saxophone, and he left behind a list of jazz concerts he would attend. Dead at 20, he embodied the might-have-beens of what was known, a few years ago, as the New Middle East.

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

He left behind a father who called him "my beloved," and who longed for sleep in the hope of seeing his son in his dreams.

In a conversation in his home this spring, Elias Khoury said he had been thinking about what could explain his losses. When his father was killed in 1975, he said, there was no **Hamas**, no Oslo process, no Yasir Arafat in Ramallah.

"Only the occupation was there," he said, sitting in his darkened living room with George's bronzed baby shoes on a nearby table. "I came to the conclusion that what happened to us, what happened to me, to my father and my son and to others, to Israelis who lost their beloved, this is a diagnosis of the sickness. And the sickness is occupation."

The occupation is coarsening both societies, he said. Israel does not have the same values it held 20 years ago. Yet, he said, Israel was now "mature" enough to accept a Palestinian state. But he said the Palestinians needed outside help to run their affairs. He invoked a Koranic verse that he said explained why, after escaping Egypt, the Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years before reaching the land of Israel. The reason, he said, was that those who had lived in slavery were not capable of building a state.

"It's painful, but we have to look at the truth," he said. "As a lawyer, I look at the facts. The first fact is that the Palestinian society, as a collective, is not ready to lead itself."

The Palestinian leadership had abandoned law and order, he said, and it had shown little respect for basic values. "One of the most important values is the sacredness of life," he said.

After Al Aksa Martyrs discovered its mistake in French Hill, it put out a statement expressing regret and declaring George Khoury to be a shahid, a martyr. "It harmed me more," Mr. Khoury said. "Let's say Yitzhak had been running that evening. It would have been okay if he had been killed? This is how we are going to build our state?"

Mr. Khoury wanted no part of a culture that could celebrate the death of its own sons, or anyone else's. "My son," he said, "was not a shahid."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Fishermen in Gaza say they cannot earn a living because Israel still limits where they can work. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A1)

ABANDONMENT -- Owners of a gas station in Rafah have decided not to repair damage from an Israeli raid.

MARTYRS -- Nidal Farahat at her home, where a lighted poster is a memorial to two of her sons who died in suicide missions against Israelis. Such posters are common throughout the Gaza Strip.

RECONSTRUCTION -- Zacharia Najar, left, and Muhammad Jimmah with friends at the Rafah zoo, which is being rebuilt. It was damaged in May by Israeli troops hunting for militants in southern Gaza. (Photographs by RUTH FREMSON/The New York Times)(pg. A12)

MOURNERS -- Elias and Rima Khoury in the room of their son George, who was mistakenly killed in March by Palestinian militants in Jerusalem. An Arab bomber killed Mr. Khoury's father there in 1975. (Photo by Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

NEXT GENERATION -- Muhammad Dahlan, in suit, has broken with Yasir Arafat and the original Fatah faction. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A13)Chart: "POLL: Gaza Residents' View on the Intifada"THE ELECTIONDo you support conducting elections now or postponing them until a cease-fire agreement and Israel withdraws from Palestinian towns?NOW: 24%POSTPONE: 74%NO OPINION: 2%END OF VIOLENCEDo you support or oppose a call for cessation of violence by both sides?SUPPORT: 16OPPOSE: 83NO OPINION: 1After reaching peace and establishing a Palestinian state recognized by Israel, would you support or oppose reconciliation between the two?SUPPORT: 27OPPOSE: 72%NO OPINION: 1How soon do you think that reconciliation could be achieved?NOT EVER: 46%IN MANY GENERATIONS TO COME: 17THE NEXT FEW YEARS, DECADE OR GENERATION: 28NO OPINION: 9Based on 495 surveys at 45 randomly chosen locations in the Gaza Strip from March 14 to 17, 2004. Conducted by the Palestine Center for Policy and Survey Research. The margin of error is 3 percentage points. (pg. A13)Map of Gaza Strip highlighting Gaza: Residents of Gaza are poorer than the West Bank Palestinians. (pg.A12)

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Dispute deepens between Israelis and Palestinian over release of prisoners

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

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Byline: By Jason Keyser Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM -- A dispute over the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails deepened today, as Israeli security officials warned that the Palestinian Authority will have to move soon against militant groups they say are using the break in Mideast fighting to rebuild.

There has been a week of relative quiet and a series of confidence-building measures, including Israeli troop pullbacks, since militants announced a halt to attacks on Israelis and the two sides' governments resumed close contacts in efforts to promote the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

In Gaza, Palestinian security sources reported the arrest of a young woman suspected of planning a suicide bomb attack on Israelis. However, an Israeli security expert said the arrest might have been staged.

Disputes over prisoner releases and Israel's demands that the Palestinians forcibly disarm and dismantle the militant groups threaten to scuttle what all agree is a fragile -- if promising -- truce.

On Sunday, Israel's Cabinet approved guidelines for freeing several hundred of the thousands of prisoners it holds. Women and those under 18 and over 60 can be released, but members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and anyone involved in attacks on Israelis, cannot.

Palestinian officials say the limited release makes it difficult for them to build public support for the cease-fire.

After meeting Israeli Justice Minister Yosef Lapid today, the Palestinian minister of prisoner affairs, Hisham Abdal Raziq, warned: "If the decision (on prisoners) won't be changed it will affect the peace process for the worse."

In the West Bank town of Nablus, meanwhile, about 2,000 Palestinians marched to demand the immediate release of prisoners. Some children carried pictures of their jailed fathers. Other protesters wore handcuffs and hoods.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Israel is holding more than 7,000 Palestinians, including about 1,000 held in "administrative detention" without trial or charges.

The truce was partly enabled by the June 30 promise by three main militant groups -- Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Yasser Arafat's Fatah -- to halt attacks against Israelis for at least three months.

Within days, Israel pulled out of parts of Gaza and the West Bank town of Bethlehem, and more pullouts from West Bank towns are expected.

But the groups demand that Israel release all prisoners -- which Israel refuses for fear of aiding what it views as the militants' rebuilding effort.

Dispute deepens between Israelis and Palestinian over release of prisoners

A senior Israeli security source said today that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are exploiting the cease-fire to recruit a new base of activists and re-establish a command structure largely destroyed during 33 months of fighting.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also pointed to a large-scale weapons smuggling effort and stepped-up construction of Qassam rockets in the Gaza Strip. The rockets are fired at Jewish settlements and nearby towns in Israel, and Israel demands that the workshops where they are made be destroyed.

The security source said Israel is still waiting for a decision by Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan to move against Hamas in Gaza -- where Dahlan has 9,000 armed men, compared with perhaps 500 militants -- and will act itself if he does not.

Israeli troops arrested six Islamic Jihad activists near the West Bank town of Jenin, said the group's West Bank leader, Sheik Bassam Saadi. A military spokesman said the six were part of a squad preparing explosives in the area.

Saadi said if arrests continued the group would abandon the truce: "We agreed on the truce based on conditions (including) to stop arresting our activists."

Meanwhile, Palestinians attacked an Israeli construction crew working on a security fence to separate Israel from much of the West Bank. Shots were fired at the crew and a bomb exploded nearby. No one was hurt.

There also was a positive development concerning what Israel calls "incitement" against it, as the sides said they were forming a joint committee to monitor language in official media, textbooks and other areas.

In Gaza, workers today began painting over anti-Israel graffiti on the walls of homes and markets.

The woman arrested in Gaza, who is in her 20s, was caught late Sunday by Palestinian security forces near the fence between Gaza and Israel. Police were alerted by her family, who found a note saying she planned to carry out a suicide attack, a Palestinian security official said on condition of anonymity.

The woman was interrogated today and released to her parents. Investigators provided no details about her identity or her target.

Boaz Ganor, director of the International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, said it was unusual that the suspect is a woman, because Gaza is a conservative territory and the Islamic groups prevalent there have been reluctant to recruit women bombers.

"This could be another spin," he said.

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As deadly as the male; Insight

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

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Late Edition

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Byline: Ed O'Loughlin

Body

What turns women into suicide bombers? The Israelis say it's coercion; the Palestinians say it's anger. Ed O'Loughlin investigates.

RAHMA Jaradat sat in the parlour of her new apartment in Jenin last week, surrounded by photographs of her daughter Hanadi. "I don't think anyone forced her to go," she says. "She wasn't a kid of 15 whose mind they could play on. She was a lawyer . . . She could beat 10 male lawyers all together."

Hanadi Jaradat was 29 and only nine days short of finishing her long and expensive legal training when, on October 4 last year, she blew herself up in a crowded Haifa restaurant, murdering 21 men, women and children and wounding more than 50.

In doing so, she became the sixth Palestinian woman to "successfully" (a strange usage heard on both sides of the conflict) mount a suicide bomb attack, "successful" in that she did not surrender or get caught en route, and that she managed to kill Israelis as well as herself.

In the highly patriarchal Palestinian society, where war is man's business and women are mostly meant to stay at home, the use of females by militant groups has long been controversial.

Even so, Hanadi's action was regarded as particularly unusual by virtue of her profession and that after her long and expensive education, she was expected to be the main financial support for her mother, her two brothers and five sisters, and her father, who is seriously ill.

Although criticism of the armed militants is usually muted, some Palestinians questioned why, given the circumstances, the Islamic Jihad militant group used her as a suicide bomber.

Then two weeks ago the bar of terror was raised yet further when Reem Salah al-Rayashi, 21, killed three Israeli troops and a security guard by detonating herself at the entrance to an industrial estate on Gaza's border with Israel.

The daughter of a respectable and as far as anyone knew moderate Gaza merchant family, al-Rayashi was married and the mother of two young children. She was also the first female suicide bomber to be dispatched by the conservative Islamic movement Hamas, albeit in conjunction with the more secular Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade.

As deadly as the male Insight

In a video recorded before her attack, al-Rayashi cradled an assault rifle and smiled beatifically, wearing the green headscarf of a **Hamas** "martyr". She said: "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over."

As for her children, aged three years and 18 months, "God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them."

The use of such **women** as suicide bombers has stirred fresh controversy, even though it is two years since the first **female** "martyr", a 27-year-old volunteer medic named Wafa Idriss, killed herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man in a Jerusalem clothes store.

On the Palestinian side, one controversy has centred on whether it is morally right for the militant groups to send to their deaths not only **women** but also the young and impressionable, male or **female** alike. A parallel but often very different debate focuses on whether it is spiritually right for them to do so in view of Islam's conservative teachings on the subservient role of **women**.

"We all know that the Messenger [Muhammad], may he rest in peace, refused to enlist young boys to take part in his battles. It is also our right to ask what prompted **Hamas** to recruit the mother of two children to carry out an operation," said a recent article in the newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, one which cited religious and secular objections. "Even though **Hamas** was not the first to do so, the rest of the factions have stopped **women's** involvement in operations of this type. The reason is that the occupation's harassment of **women** will increase . . . Involving her in these operations will increase the burden and the brutality against her."

As ever, there is little debate on the morality of suicide attacks in general, with at least 60 per cent of Palestinians still supporting them.

In Israel much attention has focused on the supposed fanaticism of the Arab Muslim mind-set and on the psychological states of the **women** suicide bombers, in line with a popular belief that Palestinian suicide bombers are coerced into action.

A number of reports in the Israeli press sourced to Israeli military intelligence claim al-Rayashi carried out her attack because she was caught having an affair with another man and was given the chance to atone for the dishonour.

Similar recent Israeli press reports again sourced to military intelligence claim other **female** suicide bombers and would-be suicide bombers were deliberately impregnated, seduced or raped by male militants who then used the threat of exposure to force them to carry out attacks.

At a less lurid level, one recent article in the weekly Yerushalayim interviewed two **female** Israeli academics who suggested that all of the **female** suicide bombers were motivated by the fact that they were in some way misfits divorced, unhappy in marriage or single and too old to get married. They noted allegations that Hanadi Jaradat, single at the advanced (for Palestinian society) age of 29, had deliberately blown herself up beside a line of parked prams.

"A society that prefers to have its **women** produce babies causes a woman who is unable to sever herself from her unmarried status, and realise herself according to the social codes, immense frustration, and it is likely that that was one of the problems that led her to commit suicide," Mira Tzoref, a doctoral student of Middle Eastern studies at the University of Tel Aviv, told the magazine.

As one may expect, Palestinians see things differently. Islah Jad, a Palestinian academic who is studying the role of **women** in the present uprising, says that Israeli stories of the coercion of **female** suicide bombers through rape or blackmail are baseless.

"They are very clever at making up these stories," she says. "I don't think anyone is pressurised into it. There are many volunteers. Some people do back out, and if you were forced to do it you could give yourself up at the last moment. Who would stop you?"

As deadly as the male Insight

She also rejects the claim that fanatical Islamic beliefs are a main cause of suicide attacks.

"The Israelis say that suicide bombers only do it because the Koran promises martyrs that they will live in heaven with 72 virgins. But these women weren't promised any virgins.

"They just say that to bypass the problem and not look at it in the face, which is that they [the Israelis] are the problem, that they are driving people crazy."

Jaradat became literally the poster girl for the theory that women are joining men in a traditional Arab quest for revenge. Her attack was mounted three months after Israeli troops shot dead her favourite brother and her cousin outside the family home. Moreover, the family says that the Israeli occupation authorities had repeatedly refused her application for a permit to allow her gravely ill father to obtain treatment in Haifa.

"Every action has a reaction," says her mother.

"Had Hanadi ever turned against them, until they came and killed her brother? They took away her dreams from her, and because of this she blew herself up."

Yet most of the 130-odd suicide bombers launched in the past three years are not known to have had direct revenge as a motive, so other factors must also come into play.

"This is a very individual decision and you never know what are the psychological and other circumstances affecting this particular person," says Islah Jad.

Whatever the motives of female suicide bombers, the overwhelmingly male and Muslim Palestinian "street" seems to be overcoming its original qualms about this feminist invasion of the male preserve of martyrdom.

Attending al-Rayashi's official mourning outside her Gaza home earlier this month, a local imam maintained that there was nothing wrong with women joining the fight.

"Islam allows women to struggle against enemies even in the time of Muhammad women were doing jihad," he said.

A young Hamas member, Abu Jihad, said his only wish was to join al-Rayashi on the list of "martyrs". The reason why Hamas had used her, he said, was because it was easier for a woman than a man to penetrate Israeli security measures.

Asked if the dead woman had harboured any personal grievances to avenge, the young Hamas member admitted he did not know of any "personally she had nothing against them, but she saw other Palestinians and Muslims killed by Israel every day".

Earlier this month Hanadi Jaradat's face was again flashed around the world after Israel's ambassador to Sweden attacked an art exhibit in which it featured. In her home town of Jenin, though, it is no longer in evidence except, that is, in the parlour of her half-proud, half-grieving parents.

Instead, the walls of the city are plastered with already-fading posters of dozens of other deceased "martyrs", most of them clutching weapons and religious symbols, all of them men. "Her picture was everywhere a few months ago but now it has been posterized over," said a guide. "It's like the cinema here it changes every week."

Graphic

THREE ILLUS: Grief and sacrifice . . . a relative comforts Rahma Jaradat, the mother, right, of suicide bomber Hanadi Jaradat, above, and below, the first female suicide bomber, Wafa Idriss.

As deadly as the male Insight

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Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people

University Wire

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Body

On Saturday Israeli leaders targeted yet another Palestinian leader, killing **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi and his son as they rode in his car. This is the second strike by Israel with the express intent of targeting leaders of the Palestinian people.

Claiming them to be detrimental to the peace process and the safety of the Israeli people, Israel has been relentless in its pursuit of Palestinian leaders, having killed the **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in an air strike last month.

While Israel may claim these strikes to be essential in wedding out "terrorism" and "Islamic fundamentalism," there seems to be a basic fault in their premise and argument. Israel argues these leaders are the masterminds behind terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens and they are merely protecting their citizens, but in their zeal they seem to forget the plight of the Palestinian people.

Does the Israeli government not have any responsibility to towards the Palestinian people? Having sequestered them inside the confines of the Gaza strip, enclosing them like prisoners in their own homes, does the Israeli government harbor any misbegotten illusions, that they are liked even minutely amongst the Palestinian or Muslim communities?

These constant Israeli attempts at undermining Palestinian authority and subsequently either sidelining Palestinian leadership or assassinating leaders is garnering no sympathy for their cause amongst anyone except the United States which seems to agree with every morally objectionable thing Israel seems to be doing, regardless of its consequences.

While Israel is so vehement about protecting its territory and the rights of its citizens, it seems that within the scope of their myopic vision the atrocities they commit upon the Palestinian population is forgotten or not even considered.

The Israeli Army has kept the West Bank under a constant war-like and siege situation because of constant terrorizing.

Examples of their atrocities extend to the destruction of the Jenin Refugee camp in 2002 by blasting concentrations of the refugee camps with helicopters, to preventing any medical aid from going into the camp for 11 days, letting the injured people suffer and die an agonizing death.

Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people

A trip through history very effectively strips away the mask Israel wears of being the wronged party who has been terrorized by the Arab countries, **Hamas** and PLO. The Dir Yassin Massacre is one such incident that comes to mind.

On the morning of April 9, 1948, Irgun commandos attacked Deir Yassin, which was a purely Arab village known to be peaceful. By midafternoon more than a 100 men, **women** and children had been massacred. A number of men who resisted were loaded up in trucks, paraded around, labeled as "terrorists" and shot to death.

The remaining villagers were forced to leave their village and were herded to refugee camps, where to this day many of them still live in squalor. Does the world and Israel merely turn a blind eye to these atrocities they committed?

Killing off every Palestinian leader will not serve to help the Israeli cause, rather an effective dialogue free of the Israeli terror techniques and blackmail is required. With Israel's persistence in continuing with their policies of terrorism, they can rest assured that for every one Palestinian leader they kill, 10 more people with even more radical ideologies are waiting in the wings to take their places.

When history will be written, Israel will be viewed as the country, which not only robbed the Palestinian people of their homeland and identity, but a terrorist state which hides under the guise of protecting its people, by terrorizing and sequestering the Palestinian people.

Ironically this very sequestering is eerily reminiscent of the ghettos in which the Jew's were "banished" to during Hitler's reign of terror. The choice rests squarely upon Israel now.

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Load-Date: April 20, 2004

End of Document

Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

January 31, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 359 words

Body

ISRAELI forces pushed into Bethlehem yesterday for the first time in six months in a sweep for militants.

The push came a day after a Palestinian policeman from the city killed 10 Israelis in a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus.

Near the West Bank city of Hebron, soldiers shot dead a **Hamas** militant who the army said had opened fire as they entered his house to arrest him.

Reuters

Palestinians said Israeli armoured vehicles rumbled into Bethlehem before daybreak and troops fanned out to search houses, including one where the policeman -- a member of the militant Al Aqsa Brigades -- lived.

Witnesses said soldiers detained 12 Palestinians. About 15 Israeli armoured vehicles took part in the operation.

"The operation was launched after we made clear the Palestinians had not fulfilled their obligations to stop terror, something which was made clear in yesterday's bombing," an army spokesman said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed the bombing and issued a letter left by the bomber that said he was avenging an Israeli raid that killed eight Palestinians in Gaza on Wednesday.

The militant group **Hamas** also claimed responsibility.

It was the deadliest suicide bombing since an October 4 attack on a Haifa restaurant, when a **female** bomber killed 23.

The bombing overshadowed the latest push by a US envoy to revive the "road map" for peace.

But in a hopeful sign for peace mediation efforts, US officials said Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie had indicated he was ready for a summit with Israeli leader Ariel Sharon.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bombing and also called for a halt to Israeli violence. Sharon expressed his condolences for families bereaved by the bus attack at a ceremony yesterday for three dead soldiers brought home in a deal with Lebanese guerilla foe Hezbollah.

Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Israel freed hundreds of Arab prisoners -- including prominent Lebanese militiamen Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani -- in exchange for the three soldiers and a captive businessman, Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was to be questioned by security services after returning to Israel.

Load-Date: January 30, 2004

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IRAQ THE AFTERMATH: GUARDED WELCOME FOR ISRAELI MOVES TO RELAX GRIP ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Independent (London)

July 28, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 311 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM AND SAID GHAZALI IN THE WEST BANK Ariel Sharon: Sweetener before talks with Mr Bush

Body

AS ARIEL Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, prepared to fly to Washington for talks with George Bush, his cabinet voted yesterday to free 100 **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad prisoners as well as 400 from the mainstream Al Fatah movement still awaiting release.

The army began dismantling roadblocks and easing trade and traffic in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Bulldozers removed the Surda checkpoint north of Ramallah, and the Ein Arik barrier west of the city. Public transport has been restored between Nablus and Jenin. Soldiers also opened a road from Hebron to the south and between Bethlehem and three satellite villages. The government authorised 4,000 workers and businessmen and 500 Christians to enter Israel from Bethlehem. In Gaza, 18,000 workers were given permits to work in Israel, if they can find a job.

The moves were designed to sweeten the atmosphere for Mr Sharon at the White House and to gain support for Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Prime Minister. Palestinians say Israel has 6,000 prisoners, including 351 under 18 and 75 **women**.

The Palestinians gave the gestures a qualified welcome. Ali Abu Samra, 15, was happy because he will be able to go back to school. "I'll be able to see my friends again and work with my father in the holidays without being checked or harassed," he said. Ahmed Daoud, director of the Palestine Media Centre in Ramallah, said: "I am very happy. But it is a minor step. They removed four of 174 checkpoints. If these measures are not followed by something more solid, we shall see them simply as a way of beautifying the ugly occupation."

Ismail Haniya, a **Hamas** leader, said: "Our people did not fight for three years to remove a checkpoint here or there, or to release a few score prisoners. These measures are only sprinkling dust in Palestinian eyes. We demand the release of all prisoners and the removal of all settlements."

Load-Date: July 28, 2003

Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

September 23, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A9; NEWS

Length: 385 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew herself up in Jerusalem yesterday, killing two Israeli policemen who had stopped her as she approached a crowded bus stop. At least 16 people were injured.

The bombing came two days before the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, the fast of Yom Kippur, and at a time of heightened police presence throughout the country. Israel has imposed a closure on the West Bank since last week.

Associated Press

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a militant group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the first in Jerusalem since Feb. 22. The group identified the bomber as Zainab Abu Salem, 19, a woman from the Askar refugee camp near Nablus.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, under fire from his traditional hard-line supporters for a plan to pull out of the entire Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements next year, said Israel's fight against militant groups would continue "unabated."

"It was a grave attack, something which obliges us to continue fighting terrorism as we have in the past," Sharon said.

Hours before the attack, Sharon had hinted that Israel would one day kill Arafat, the same way it has attacked leaders of the militant **Hamas** group.

"We acted against **Hamas** people and since then more people have been added to this list," Sharon said. "When the time is right, we will act the same way with Arafat."

Sharon has made similar threats in the past but never taken any action.

The suicide bomber was headed for a crowded bus stop when two paramilitary officers approached her and apparently prevented her from reaching the area.

The blast destroyed the bus stop, killing the two policemen, leaving shards of glass scattered in the road as the smell of burnt rubber wafted in the air. Police said the woman was carrying up to five kilograms of explosives.

Palestinian militants have staged more than 100 suicide bombings inside Israel in four years of fighting. **Women** have carried out at least eight of those.

Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers

Some counterterrorism experts have speculated that the militant groups have turned to using women because they raise less suspicion among Israeli soldiers.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat condemned the attack, calling on the United States to use its influence to bring the Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004

End of Document

SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROM GAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

The Express

May 3, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 359 words

Byline: By Jane Young

Body

A MOTHER-TO-BE and her four young daughters were murdered by Palestinian gunmen yesterday, in a slaughter that provoked another wave of violence in Israel.

Tali Hatuel, 34, who was eight months pregnant, and her children were ambushed as they drove through the Jewish area of the Gaza Strip. The bodies of Hila, 11, Hadar, nine, Roni, seven, and two-year-old Meirav were found still strapped into the family car.

Mrs Hatuel had been on the way to campaign against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to abandon Jewish settlements, like the one where they lived at Gush Katif, in a pull-out from Gaza.

The gunmen opened fire just minutes before the car left the Gaza Strip to enter Israel. They were shot dead by Israeli troops as they tried to flee.

One was named later as Faisal Abu Naqira. A rescue worker said: "At first we thought we could do something to save the mother, but it was too late.

The children were already dead, with bullets in the head."

The family - the first Jewish settlers killed in Gaza since 2002 - died as Sharon's right-wing Likud party voted by 60 per cent to 40 per cent to reject a plan to abandon territory Israel has held since the 1967 Middle East war.

The killing was certain to harden the views of those who are against a plan they see as a victory for terror.

But it was also likely to reinforce the opinion of many Israelis that it is not worth paying the price of keeping 7,500 settlers in heavily-defended enclaves, among more than 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza.

The militant Islamic Jihad Popular Resistance Committee later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Spokesman Abu Abir said it was revenge for Israel's assassination of **Hamas** militant leaders.

The organisation also claimed it would send a message to Sharon that he would never be able to portray a pullout from Gaza as a triumph.

SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROMGAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

Israeli forces hit back with a helicopter strike on a building in Gaza City housing a radio station linked to **Hamas** and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah party.

Israel military sources said the army had attacked the radio station for broadcasting "incitement". Several **women** and children were reported wounded.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004

End of Document

How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 27, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FOCUS; Pg. F06; News

Length: 1158 words

Byline: Johann Hari

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was a far-right theocrat. If the Hamas program he inspired is ever put into practice, the dream of Palestinian liberation will turn into a nightmare on the day of an Israeli withdrawal. He explicitly wanted to turn a Palestinian state, when it finally came into existence, into a fundamentalist state under shariah law.

There would be no liberation for women in his Palestine. Dissenters would be dealt with as they are in all fundamentalist states. The savagery inflicted on any Jews who remained there would be too horrible to describe. The Independent

Gays would be stoned to death.

It is understandable that some Palestinians, driven to psychosis by the ethnic cleansing of 1948 and the occupation forced on them since 1967, have sympathy for this program.

No outsider should weep for Yassin or support Hamas.

Yet we should weep for this assassination. Some of our tears should be for the consequences in Israel itself. When Ariel Sharon gave the order to incinerate Yassin, he guaranteed the incineration of countless Israeli civilians -- innocent people -- in retaliation attacks.

But we should grieve mostly because it reveals a startling ignorance on the part of the Israeli government. This ignorance will ensure they carry on slaying and oppressing Palestinians.

The Likud government still fails to understand the causes of suicide bombing. Encouraged by the American right, Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu imagine that suicide bombing is the work of a few evil masterminds brainwashing impressionable young people into committing suicide massacres.

This is why they have killed Yassin and may yet kill Yasser Arafat. They genuinely believe that if you take out these "terror masters" the attacks will be reduced.

I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The suicide bombers currently massacring civilians in Israel are the children of the first Intifada. The formative experience of their lives was watching their parents stage a massive program of peaceful resistance to occupation. Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones."

How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

No brainwashing is needed to turn these men to crazed violence. They learned it in their childhood from Israeli occupiers.

All that happens when Israel kills Palestinian figureheads is that humiliation stabs deeper into their gut.

Yassin will now become a ghost at every Palestinian feast, urging martyrdom. He is far more dangerous -- both to Israelis and to the cause of a secular Palestinian nationalism -- dead than alive.

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once widely regarded as a terrorist: "All we wanted was to be a free people in our own country ... our enemies called us terrorists, but we used physical force only because we were faced by physical force ... For this reason, we delivered attack after attack against the oppressor and our revolt burst into a great flame."

These are the words of Menachem Begin, who went on to become Israel's first Likud prime minister. He led the Irgun, a terrorist group that fought against the British occupation of Palestine in the 1940s.

If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis.

Begin's compelling autobiography, *The Revolt: Story of the Irgun*, is a mirror image of the writings of contemporary Palestinian terrorists. He coldly justifies the massacre of 91 people at the King David Hotel as "necessary" to ensure a free Israel.

It is a simple truth that if you deprive people of a state, they will fight for one. What we are witnessing today is a straightforward Palestinian war of independence. The only way to bring it to an end it is to grant independence.

This can only mean a state comprising Gaza and the West Bank.

This would not be a magical solution to everything. There will still be some fanatics who seek not a two-state solution but a Greater Palestine cleansed of Jews.

Yet opinion polls suggest that such Islamic fundamentalists would be a minority in a free Palestine, even after years of psychosis-- inducing abuse.

But how much longer can this last?

How many more provocations before they are all driven mad?

The tragedy is that Israel is cursed with a leadership that is psychologically incapable of taking the road to peace.

All opinion polls show most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples who share the tiny patch of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Yet Sharon sees all Arabs as part of a seething mob with whom there can be no discussion, no reasoning, no co-existence.

Peaceniks and suicide bombers, Abu Mazen and Sheikh Yassin: they are all equally murderous and only a fool would try to compromise with such savages.

Sharon grew up in Kfar Malal, a Jewish village that was eternally besieged by Palestinians. This sense of an absolute threat -- they're coming for us, pass the ammunition -- has never left him. For Sharon, the entire Middle East is an eternal Kfar Malal.

He is tipping Israel/Palestine towards a situation from which there can be no return. At the moment, a majority of Palestinians seek their own state divided from Israel along the 1967 borders. This is an agenda which can be met

How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon is making it impossible to return to those borders by constructing a fence that cuts deep into Palestinian territories.

The effect of this will not be what Sharon hopes: that the Palestinians will be so terrified that they will settle for the scraps that Likud is prepared to leave behind after a unilateral withdrawal.

It will be that Palestinians will ditch the goal of two states altogether.

Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian prime minister, made this clear when he explained that Sharon's unilateral moves would render the drive for a Palestinian state a "meaningless slogan."

No viable state could exist on what Sharon proposes to -- perhaps -- leave behind. So the Palestinian goal will change.

"If the situation continues as it is now, we will go for the one-state solution," Qureia says.

One big state encompassing both the Occupied Territories and Israel proper would mean an Arab majority and the end of Israel.

Sharon -- by refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians -- is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards **Hamas** fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.

He has just united all Palestine behind a **Hamas** fanatic.

If one state becomes the Palestinian raison d'etre, there will be perpetual war with no possibility of compromise and I will still be writing laments for peace in the Middle East when I am an old man.

This is the abyss towards which Sharon is dragging his people. Unless he radically changes direction, his legacy will be rows of Jewish and Arab graves stretching out into infinity.

Graphic

Photo: Nayef Hashlamoun, Reuters; By refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians, Sharon is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards **Hamas** fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.; Photo: Gil Cohen Magen, Reuters; For Ariel Sharon, the Middle East is like the village where he grew up that was constantly besieged by Palestinians. This sense of threat has never left him.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004

Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA / Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 655 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza -- Palestinian terrorists killed an Israeli-American woman Friday in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The attack, which came just hours before the beginning of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Palestinian resistance group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for firing two mortar bombs at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A **Hamas** video showed three masked fighters setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently Israeli return-fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis.

The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a four-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the **Hamas** mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two **women** who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment.

One of the **women**, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, the second suffered only slight injuries.

Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since the latest uprising against the occupation began in 2000. But Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a settlement had been killed.

In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israel town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA | Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins

"We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza.

The three attackers also died in the battle.

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tensions and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Sharon has said he believes Israel's presence in Gaza, home to 1.3 million Palestinians, is untenable.

He contends that evacuating the Gaza settlements and four isolated West Bank enclaves is a way of strengthening Israel's hold on other parts of the occupied West Bank, where most of its 236,000 settlers live.

Friday's violence came hours before Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, when much of Israel shuts down for fasting and prayer.

Israeli security forces have been on high alert since last week, the start of the Jewish New Year, which ushers in a series of holidays that last until October.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz on Friday ordered troops to tighten a blanket closure of the West Bank and Gaza, which has been in effect since last week.

In 2002, a Palestinian suicide bomber targeted a Passover gathering, killing 29 people.

Before the start of Yom Kippur at sundown Friday, observant Jews swung live chickens over their heads in a Jerusalem outdoor market.

The ritual, known as kapara, is meant to expiate sins.

"It is our pleasure to do kapara," said Rabbi Avraham Goldstein. "It means redeeming ourselves, trying to get ourselves clean before the big day of Yom Kippur."

Throughout the country, an air of sombre tranquility prevailed.

There was no public transport and the airport shut down. Border points to Egypt and Jordan were sealed.

In most neighbourhoods, even the non-religious do not drive.

Israeli radio and TV channels went off the air, while shops, restaurants, cafes, cinemas and all places of entertainment were closed.

Yom Kippur ends after sundown Saturday.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004

Israel, Palestine a collaborative suicide

University Wire

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Iowa State Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 655 words

Byline: By Nicolai Brown, Iowa State Daily; **SOURCE:** Iowa State U.

Dateline: AMES, Iowa

Body

The other day I was walking through Campustown when a newspaper image caught my eye. On the other side of the news laid a picture of a bloodied, pregnant Israeli woman who had been staying at the Red Sea Hotel in Taba, Egypt when it was bombed by an undetermined group.

Much like the unborn fetus inside the woman, the health and future of the Israeli and Palestinian people laid in doubt. What both groups don't seem to realize is that their actions aren't leading to safety or independence, but rather to mutual self-destruction.

We must not allow ourselves to take sides with either the Israelis or Palestinians in this matter, because the opposition mentality is what perpetuates the cycle of violence. By taking a neutral stance, we can bypass the runaway emotion felt by many of those directly involved and therefore serve as a legitimate and calm mediator between two groups stained by unspeakable horror.

However, in our effort to bring peace, we must have a clear understanding of the situation we seek to improve. We can't afford to pretend that either the Israelis or Palestinians are wholly innocent. They're not.

While Palestinians do live under the brutal occupation of the Israeli military, suicide bombings must not be glossed over or viewed as leading to Palestinian liberation. Rather, we must view these suicide bombings for what they are: Repugnant and shameful attacks that kill innocent people.

There is no honor or integrity in killing children. When a suicide bomber walks into an Israeli cafe, hoping to spark Palestinian "liberation," the opposite is accomplished. The attacker detonates his or her bomb, and gas expands from the explosion at a speed of many thousands of feet per second.

The bomber is instantly ripped in half (or worse), and whoever isn't decimated by the shockwave then faces deadly shrapnel, fire and building structure collapse. How would you feel if a loved one was reduced from a smiling human being to a pile of scattered body parts? Think hard about what that might feel like.

Such attacks, no doubt, give many Israelis the impression that Palestinians are more animal than human. This dehumanizing view is then used to justify savage violence employed not only against members of **Hamas** but also against innocent Palestinians. You can guess where this is going. After forcing Palestinians into homelessness and claiming their homes and neighborhoods for Israel, the Israeli military swoops in to bomb suspected (and not always proven) **Hamas** members and whoever else happens to be nearby.

Israel , Palestine a collaborative suicide

Israeli bombs tear through buildings, cutting apart men, women and children like pieces of paper. Israeli troops gun down unarmed, rock-throwing Palestinian kids -- pumping bullet streams into young human flesh, destroying organs and breaking bones.

The crime? Throwing rocks. Try to imagine what it might feel like to have a loved one murdered in cold blood or to return home to find your family incinerated in a pile of rubble with the smell of burning flesh still hanging in the air. Go ahead, picture it.

There is no "side" for us to take in this matter other than peace. The Israelis and Palestinians both have a right to defend themselves, but they must understand that their methods only produce more hate and violence.

Therein lies the irony of the conflict: By seeking to protect themselves, they effectively sow their own seeds of destruction.

They live in a symbiotic relationship -- both need each other in this double-suicide arrangement.

The Israeli government can and will conscript its citizens into military service for as long as it has to. Groups like Hamas can and will recruit new members for as long as they have to. Neither entity, nor their respective goals, can be effectively opposed through violent means.

There will always be another generation -- and some of the young are taught from even before birth on which side of the line they stand.

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Load-Date: October 11, 2004

Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target

The New York Times

April 4, 2004 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 370 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, April 3

Body

The Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said Saturday that he was not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could act against him.

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said in interviews published Friday that Mr. Arafat had "no insurance policy" against Israeli action.

In his first response, Mr. Arafat said: "I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our women, for our students."

He spoke to journalists outside his badly damaged compound in Ramallah in the West Bank after meeting with the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, the Rev. Michel Sabbah.

In violence on Saturday, the Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for an overnight shooting in which a gunman killed an Israeli man and wounded his 12-year-old daughter at a West Bank settlement. The gunman was then shot and killed by Israeli soldiers.

Hamas said the attack was in retaliation for an Israeli helicopter strike on March 22 that killed the group's founder and leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, Reuters reported.

The gunman apparently slipped through a hole in a perimeter fence in the Jewish settlement of Avnei Hefetz, near the Palestinian town of Tulkarm, the Israeli military said.

He fired into a house and wounded the girl, prompting her father to go outside with a pistol in search of the attacker. The father was then shot and died of his wounds. Soldiers rushed to the scene and killed the gunman, the military said.

Meanwhile, an Israeli cabinet minister again warned that Palestinian leaders linked to violence could be targets for attack by Israel.

"It is important that those who send suicide bombers know that they no longer benefit from the least immunity, as the prime minister said," Tzachi Hanegbi, Israel's internal security minister, told the Israeli radio.

Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target

The Israeli military said a Palestinian was killed Friday night in the central Gaza Strip, near the boundary fence with Israel. An army patrol spotted two "suspicious figures" near the fence and fired, killing one, the military said. The dead man was carrying two explosives, and the second man escaped, it added.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 4, 2004

End of Document

A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

The New York Times

March 25, 2004 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

Length: 1156 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 24

Body

On Wednesday, the scarred Israeli veteran, a man who struck some of the most painful blows to Egypt, celebrated the 25th anniversary of Israel's treaty with that nation, a peace he helped secure.

But the veteran, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, celebrated pretty much alone. Two Egyptian legislators who had planned to attend the ceremony at the Israeli Parliament here canceled on Monday, after Israel killed the spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas with a missile strike.

Mr. Sharon, a symbol to Arabs of ruthless Israeli force, spoke with unusual eloquence of friends lost in battle, of leadership triumphing over hatred, of a dream of peace. But he began his speech to a lot of empty seats, because most members of the Israeli Parliament did not show up.

To many, for many different reasons, the words of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin of a quarter century ago -- "No more wars, no more bloodshed" -- echoed Wednesday less with prophecy than with poignancy. In Jerusalem and elsewhere, Israelis were braced for retaliation from Hamas.

Twenty-five years is not so much time. Grievances are deep here, memories long. This week, Israeli Jews also began to celebrate the month of Nisan, marking Jews' freedom from Egypt thousands of years ago.

On a day that tightly entwined his state's story with his own, Mr. Sharon invoked Jewish scripture, if not without a note of grievance. He said, "The Torah explicitly commands that, despite the horrible things the Egyptians did to the people of Israel, and I quote, 'You shall not reject an Egyptian, for you were a sojourner in his land.' "

Some Israelis said their countrymen continued to sojourn in Arab land, not as captives but as occupiers, and so they had not yet found peace. Egypt withdrew its ambassador just after the start of the Palestinian uprising more than three years ago. About the same time, Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, chose not to send a new ambassador here.

"A just peace can only be achieved with a solution to the Palestinian problem -- a just and honest solution," said Azmi Bishara, an Israeli-Arab legislator who attended the ceremony. He said Israel under Mr. Sharon was not seeking peace but to "control Palestinian areas without Palestinians."

A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

But Dr. Aryeh Eldad, a Jewish legislator who boycotted the commemoration, said Egypt never truly made peace with Israel. "This is really not anything connected with peace," he said. "This is a cold war, between us and Egypt."

He said Israel was "historically wrong" to give up the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for this peace. Israel captured that territory in the 1967 war.

The original Israeli plan was for a limited offensive into the northern Sinai. But Moshe Dayan, then the defense minister, feared that if Israel stopped there, the Egyptians would not bother to negotiate for peace, but would say, as he put it at the time: "Keep Gaza with its 400,000 Arabs. Choke on them."

In the ensuing war, Mr. Sharon, a brigadier general at the time, commanded an intricate assault on an Egyptian redoubt that is still taught in military schools around the world. Six years later, when Egypt and other Arab nations stunned Israel with an attack on Yom Kippur, he led a counterattack across the Suez Canal to within 60 miles of Cairo.

After the peace treaty with Egypt, it was Mr. Sharon, as minister of defense, who tore up Israel's settlements in the Sinai.

But the peace treaty left Israel still occupying Gaza. It was Mr. Sharon who mapped out and built Israeli settlements there, home now to 7,000 Jews, among 1.3 million Palestinians.

It seems that General Dayan's fears have been realized. Mr. Sharon is struggling to extricate Israel from Gaza -- but without any peace agreement.

He says the present Palestinian leadership has proved it is no peace partner. Palestinian officials say Mr. Sharon is trying to avoid negotiations and a peace, like the one signed with Egypt, that would compel him to yield the West Bank and part of Jerusalem as well as Gaza.

In his speech on Wednesday, Mr. Sharon said, "We still must make efforts to foster a culture of peace in the Middle East." He said Israel wanted peace "with all the other Arab states, first and foremost our neighbors Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority."

Mr. Sharon wants Egypt's help in the withdrawal. He wants the Egyptians to secure Gaza's southern boundary, and to prevent any weapons smuggling to the Palestinians.

It is not certain how, beyond Mr. Sharon's lonely peace ceremony on Wednesday, the killing of the **Hamas** leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, will affect the Israeli-Egyptian relationship. Palestinian Authority officials say that the Egyptian government was not happy to see the Islamic fundamentalists of **Hamas** gaining influence in Gaza. But Sheik Yassin was a symbol to Muslims far beyond the Gaza Strip.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said Monday that the killing "aborted the peace process." He called for direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

In 1977, Anwar el-Sadat, then the president of Egypt, paved the way to the peace accords signed at Camp David with a visit to Jerusalem so astonishing that top Israeli officials feared until the last minute that it was a bluff to cover an Egyptian attack. Then, at Ben Gurion airport, President Sadat appeared at the open door to his jet.

"I had planned to capture you over there," he said, referring to the West bank of the Suez Canal as he shook hands with Mr. Sharon, who had become agriculture minister.

"And I am glad to welcome you here," Mr. Sharon replied, according to "The Year of The Dove," an account of the peace treaty by three Israeli journalists.

The signing of the accords, presided over by President Jimmy Carter, created euphoria in Israel in 1979. It seemed Israel's isolation in the region was shattering, that the rest of the Arab world would shortly follow Egypt's example.

A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

"Back then, when you walked around the streets of Jerusalem, you saw groups of Egyptian women shopping," said Michael Oren, an Israeli historian. "I can close my eyes and see them."

He added, "That's unthinkable today."

Yet the treaty has proved resilient, Mr. Oren noted. There has been no war between Israel and Egypt. Economic bonds have tightened, and some Israeli tourists still visit the Sinai and even Cairo.

But it is a cold peace. There was no celebration in Egypt of the anniversary of the accords.

In his speech, Mr. Sharon sketched his own image of what peace can look like in the Middle East. He described being asked by President Sadat in 1981 to scout land suitable for Israeli agricultural methods.

The two Egyptian pilots who escorted Mr. Sharon turned out to have joined in an attack on his forces during his assault to cross the canal. Together, they circled lower and lower, studying the land. "I told myself, 'This is peace,' " Mr. Sharon said.

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Graphic

Photo: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel commemorated the 25th anniversary of Israel's treaty with Egypt yesterday. But Israelis are bracing for retaliation from Hamas after the killing of the militant group's leader. (Photo by Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)

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