

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

Job Number: 223361696

Documents (100)

1. [*Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [*In the city of Bethlehem, disarray and desperate times*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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3. [*Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [*TWO DEAD AFTER BOX ROW*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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5. [*Harsh realities of fight for Palestine*](#)

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. [*Palestinians urge liberty; 'All prisoners must be released'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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7. [*DOOM & GLOOM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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8. [*Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [*14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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10. [*U.S. seeks 'concrete steps' in Mideast*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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12. [Withhold Palestinian aid, Israel urges U.S.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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13. [Israel plots Arafat exile:](#)

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

14. [BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [US vents fury at Israel over peace setback](#)

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

16. [International Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [Day of the terrorist](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [Our say](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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20. [UN IN CRISIS TALKS OVER SYRIA ATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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21. [Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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22. [ISRAELIS BACK SHARON AS ARAFAT APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL HELP](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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23. [Bombing After Lull: Israel Still Believes the Worst Is Over](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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24. [TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR; THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX. SOON THEY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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25. [AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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26. [Dems' GM crop fears a lot of mumbo jumbo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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27. [History paints an awful future](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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28. [Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights](#)

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

29. [Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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30. [Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
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31. [WORLD DIGEST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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32. [*Palestinians count the cost of five air strikes*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

33. [*Ashrawi speaks her mind*](#)

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

34. [*DOOM & GLOOM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

35. [*Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

36. [*EPA: Mercury contaminates almost all lakes and rivers*](#)

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

37. [Israel to release some Palestinian prisoners; Members of militant groups and those who attacked Israelis will not be set free](#)

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

38. [ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES":](#)

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

39. [SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
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Oct 31, 2004

40. [PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/ PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION BARRIER](#)

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

41. [FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES](#)

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

42. [*MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

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43. [*Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by

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

44. [*Leading Israel to suffering; Likud: out of touch*](#)

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. [*Two await fate as US recoils at video*](#)

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. [*Now Palestinians are turning on Bush*](#)

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. [Israel strikes back after settler slain](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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48. [Israeli pilots' stand of conscience](#)

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

49. [Sharon Says Israel May Extend Barrier Deeper in West Bank](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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50. [Middle East Crisis: Syria calls on UN to condemn attack: Raids: Air strikes were aimed at specific camps used to train terrorists, including one which was financed by Iran , says adviser to Sharon](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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51. [News in Brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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52. [*News 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

53. [*14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

54. [*Israel Hit by 2 Suicide Attacks; Bus stop, cafe bombed at least 13 die*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

55. [*Raid kills six refugees Palestinian UN envoy warns of perpetual conflict ahead of vote*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

56. [*Frozen accounts jeopardize learning, healing in Gaza*](#)

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

57. [*BLOODY WEEKEND; THE U.S. MUST INTERVENE IN THE MIDDLE EAST*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [NATION; WORLD](#)

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

59. [Blair's myopic vision on 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

60. [Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS](#)

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. [Israel To Release Some 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

63. [NEWSDESK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border](#)

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. [Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS](#)

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

68. [*Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [*Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [*Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [*Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal; A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [*LEADER COLUMN; TIME FOR VIGILANCE BY ALL IN WAR AGAINST TERRORISTS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [Sharon's Risks - and Why He Took Them](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [TEL AVIV SUICIDE BOMB KILLS THREE AFTER HELICOPTER STRIKE ON GAZA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [Disputes over prisoner releases threatens to derail peace plan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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76. [In This Week's Yiddish Forward](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [Israel OKs prisoner releases with conditions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [*Palestinians freed amid joy and scepticism PEACE PROCESS:*](#)

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

79. [*World datelines*](#)

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. [*ISRAEL FREES 334 PRISONERS BUT FAILS TO SATISFY PALESTINIANS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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81. [*Freeing terrorists is not the way to achieve peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [*Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [Out of Egypt ... and Into Gaza Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice THE STRATEGIC INTEREST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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84. [Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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85. [The dark heart of terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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86. [Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp; Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt . Palestinians fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at least seven.](#)

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

87. [Israel releases prison-swap list](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

88. [The DIY terror threat](#)

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

89. [Israel , Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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90. [Time to denounce failed leaders](#)

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. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

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

92. [27 Israelis won't fly air strikes; The elite pilots have stirred debate by refusing to raid Palestinians.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

93. [Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace](#)

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

94. [Israeli army blows up Gaza apartment towers](#)

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. [LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL 'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE ACTIVIST](#)

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. [World datelines](#)

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. [Does Outrage! have genuine concerns?:](#)

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. [\[No Published Headline\]](#)

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

99. [*Us Snipers Kill Two*](#)

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. [*It was a massacre - not a killing*](#)

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

Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber

DAILY MAIL (London)

January 15, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 31

Length: 350 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Body

A YOUNG Palestinian mother proudly declared her love for her two children in a chilling videotaped message before setting off on a suicide mission against Israelis.

Reem Al-Reyashi, 22, killed herself, three Israeli soldiers and an Israeli civilian when she detonated a bomb strapped to her body at the main crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday morning.

At least a dozen more victims were injured, one seriously.

Al-Reyashi, smiling at the camera and cradling a rifle for the video, said she wanted to turn her body into 'deadly shrapnel'.

She said she loved her 18-month-old daughter, Doha, and son Obedia, three, but had dreamed of 'becoming a martyr' since she was 13.

Dressed in combat fatigues, she said: 'God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them.

'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.

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.'

The Israeli army commander at the crossing point at Erez said the bomb strapped to Al-Reyashi's body had set off metal detectors at the entrance to a heavily secured inspection hall.

According to Brigadier-General Gad Shamni, the woman had pretended they were triggered by a metal plate in her leg and a **female** soldier was to examine her.

'While she was waiting, she apparently succeeded in penetrating a metre or two into the hall and blew herself up.' Last night, outside her home in a Gaza City neighbourhood known as a stronghold of the fundamentalist terror group **Hamas**, her husband of five years sat crying.

He said he had not known of her plans.

Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber

Her middleclass family which became estranged from her and her husband two months ago was also stunned that she had abandoned her children. 'We were not expecting that. We would not have thought it possible,' said brother-in-law Yusef Awad.

The attack was a joint operation by **Hamas** and Yasser Arafat's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

END

Load-Date: January 16, 2004

End of Document

In the city of Bethlehem, disarray and desperate times

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

February 26, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 07

Length: 879 words

Byline: By Ilene R. Prusher Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: BETHLEHEM, WEST BANK

Highlight: The two most recent suicide bombers to strike Israel were from the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

Body

The images of the young men's faces, painted with stencils in haunting repetition, reverberate across the city walls like an echo without end.

They are the faces of the men - and on rare occasions, women - whom Palestinians call martyrs and Israelis call terrorists. And their numbers are continuing to grow, many here say, with little connection to shifts in the bigger picture of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This city and its nearby villages, known for its shrinking Christian population and once viewed as a hub of moderation, is the hometown of the last two suicide bombers to strike Israel, including the one who blew himself up on a commuter bus on Sunday and another who killed himself and 10 others on Jan. 29.

Israeli officials say that Bethlehem, the Palestinian city closest to Jerusalem, has emerged as the new hotbed of bombers because it has no wall around it to deter would-be bombers from getting into Israel.

Palestinians here argue that on the contrary, the encroaching wall only gives young people the impression that hopes for a negotiated political solution are unrealistic, and that their lives about to get to get worse.

That Palestinians would send a suicide bomber into Israel on the eve of an unprecedented case in the International Court of Justice on the legality of Israel's growing separation wall across the West Bank seems, even to many Palestinians, a disturbing sign of their own state of disarray. Sunday's bombing, which killed eight Israelis and wounded more than 60, came at just as Palestinians had the world tuned into their case and Israelis were frustrated with what they viewed as lack of understanding for theirs.

"This last operation, this bombing, leads to a new idea - it shows that the people are acting without any proper plan and without any relationship to the situation," says Sheikh Abdul Majid Amarneh, an influential Islamist in Bethlehem. "They are not looking at the circumstances to see whether it is good or not. The pain is deep, and when it is deep, you start acting [without reason]."

Many Israelis and Palestinians seem to agree on one thing: that there's a growing disconnect between the Palestinian Authority leadership and average Palestinians, most of whom express little interest in taking cues from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat or his prime minister Ahmed Qureia, also known as Abu Ala.

In the city of Bethlehem, disarray and desperate times

Naturally, both sides differ on whom to blame. Palestinians see several phenomena. Anger over the construction of the barrier - prompting the fear of being separated from Jerusalem - is only one of the reasons, but a still a significant one.

"Bethlehem and Jerusalem were always considered the same area and have branches of the same families, so to separate [them] is a disaster," says Nasser Laham, a prominent journalist from Bethlehem Television. "It's like cutting any city in two."

But beyond the barrier, Bethlehem suffers from its position as a sort of test case: it was to be Israel's litmus on whether the Palestinian Authority still had the will and capability to thwart violence against Israelis. After reoccupying all the major cities of the West Bank, Israel turned over security control of Bethlehem to the Palestinian Authority almost eight months ago.

Palestinian security officials here say they are getting hit at both ends of the spectrum.

On the one hand, they don't have full control: there are almost nightly raids by the Israeli army, and in a bilateral meeting Tuesday, the Israeli army informed the Palestinian preventive security forces that they are no longer allowed to carry weapons on the streets of the city. On the other hand, the image that Bethlehem is supposed to be under Palestinian Authority control makes it the ideal place for Muslim militants in **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad to recruit bombers, because the end product is for them a dual victory: it hits Israelis but also the PA, viewed by Islamists as secular and corrupt.

"It's clear that we have tens of young people who are willing to become suicide bombers," says Col. Majdi Atari, the head of Bethlehem's Preventive Security Force. "We are being targeted because there are some Palestinian elements who want us to be a failure, because they don't want us to survive."

It is not by chance that so many bombers are coming from Bethlehem, he says, but neither do the PA's forces have the ability to stop all of them. Sunday's bomber, Colonel Atari points out, came from the village of Husan, which is under Area C, or regions of the West Bank that the Oslo Accords left under complete Israeli control.

"There is no such thing as coincidence in security," says Atari. "Because the ground here is fertile with Al Aqsa," a militant brigade that is an offshoot of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction, "**Hamas** seeks them to carry out their bombings." Or, as described by one political source here, "**Hamas** has no people in Bethlehem to explode themselves and Fatah has no technology."

Palestinians here say that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement that he would pull all Jewish settlements out of Gaza is also fueling the internal struggle. If Israel leaves Gaza, Palestinians say, major factions will vie for power with Arafat's weakened Fatah - and **Hamas** expects to emerge as the victor.

(c) Copyright 2004. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: February 25, 2004

Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 5, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; News

Length: 636 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his pledge to the United States not to harm Yasser Arafat no longer holds, declaring that the Palestinian president and the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah are potential targets for assassination.

In an interview set for broadcast today by Israeli army radio, Sharon said that three years ago he promised President George W. Bush that Israel would not harm Arafat, but circumstances have changed.

"Arafat was (then) given red carpet treatment everywhere in the world. Today it is clear to the United States and to everyone just who Arafat is," Sharon said.

Israel and the U.S. are boycotting Arafat, charging he is responsible for Palestinian violence. Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said he was not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could act against him.

The Associated Press

"I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our women, for our students."

On March 22, Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder and leader of the violent Islamic Hamas movement, and officials said Israeli forces would mete out similar treatment to others involved in the organization or execution of attacks on Israel.

Asked by the army radio interviewer if that meant Arafat and Hezbollah's Sheik Hassan Nasrallah were targets, Sharon replied: "Whoever aims to kill Jews, whoever sends murderers to kill Jews, is marked for death."

Israel accuses Arafat of not only ignoring violent groups operating from territory under his control, but actively encouraging attacks against Israelis. Nasrallah said last week that his Lebanese militant group will help Hamas avenge Yassin's death.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a bloody 18-year guerrilla war in south Lebanon before Israel's withdrawal in 2000 and the two are still bitter enemies.

Sharon said he had not sought American approval for any strike against Arafat or Nasrallah.

Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

"I didn't ask permission from anyone," he said. "I want to emphasize again that anyone who kills Jews because they are Jews is marked for death."

Hamas has claimed responsibility for suicide bomb attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis in over three years of conflict.

Sharon made similar threats in other interviews ahead of the Jewish Passover holiday, which starts at sundown today.

Sharon got into a heated argument yesterday with hardline cabinet ministers opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, government officials said.

The spat reflected the tough internal pressure Sharon faces as he tries to move forward with his proposal. Sharon has proposed leaving the areas, removing troops and uprooting settlements in the process, to reduce friction between Israelis and Palestinians after more than three years of fighting.

He has said he will carry out the plan next year if peace efforts with the Palestinians remain stalled.

In weekend interviews, Sharon said for the first time that Israel would pull out of all of Gaza, uprooting all the settlements there, reversing an earlier indication that three settlements in northern Gaza would remain. The pullback in the West Bank would be much more limited, with only four of about 135 settlements being removed.

Palestinians charge the plan is a ruse to trade Gaza for a permanent grasp over most of the West Bank. They insist such moves must be co-ordinated with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which leads to a Palestinian state.

However, neither side has carried out its initial obligations under the plan, leading Sharon to his proposal for unilateral action.

Sharon's plan faces considerable opposition within his coalition government and some hardline members have threatened to pull out.

If any coalition partners leave, Sharon is expected to court the dovish Labour party to keep his government afloat.

Graphic

Photo: David Silverman, the Associated Press; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says he didn't seek American approval for a strike against Arafat.; Photo: Associated Press; Yasser Arafat has shrugged off the Israeli threat.

Load-Date: April 5, 2004

TWO DEAD AFTER BOX ROW

Western Mail

August 9, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 Western Mail and Echo Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4; Newspaper

Length: 355 words

Body

A FIREMAN stands beside a burnt pine tree while he and colleagues battle a raging wild fire in a forest near Padrones in northern Spain.

The number of fire and heat deaths in Spain jumped from 16 to 19 yesterday.

Around Europe, about 40 deaths have been blamed on fires and the still soaring temperatures.

PALESTINIAN terror group **Hamas** last night threatened to tear up a six-week-old cease fire deal after two of its bomb makers were killed during an Israeli raid in the West Bank.

A 20-year-old Israeli soldier was also killed during the fierce battle in the Askar refugee camp.

Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab said the Israeli incursion violated the cease fire.

US SNIPERS killed two men and wounded two others yesterday in a raid on a weapons market in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

The US military had posted marksmen around the marketplace after learning that weapons and ammunitions were being sold there every Friday.

US commanders fear markets like the one targeted are helping supply insurgents.

FRENCH rock star Bertrand Cantat was yesterday charged with murdering his girlfriend, actress Marie Trintignant, who was beaten into a coma in a Lithuanian hotel room.

Trintignant died in Paris on August 1 after being transferred from Vilnius, where she had been in hospital with severe head injuries for five days.

Meanwhile, a row was brewing over Lithuanian objections to French calls to extradite the lead singer from Noir Desir.

A FIGHT between two families over a box of biscuits left two **women** dead and seven people injured in remote north-western Pakistan, police said yesterday.

The violence began when a teenage boy snatched a girl's box of biscuits. The boy and two friends later returned to the girl's house with guns and broke down the door before opening fire.

TWO DEAD AFTER BOX ROW

THE jackpot in Italy's lottery has reached a record pounds 43m after rolling over for the 43rd week in a row.

With many shops shut for the summer holidays, long queues were seen in open outlets across the country ahead of today's Superenalotto draw.

The prospect of winning the jackpot has been attracting players from as far away as Hawaii.

Load-Date: August 12, 2003

End of Document

Harsh realities of fight for Palestine

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

October 11, 2003

default

Copyright 2003 Western Morning News

Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 11

Length: 890 words

Body

Several months ago on TV news we were shown two Israeli tanks' guns trained on a large area of rubble. Those heaps were the remains of what an hour before had been an inhabited Arab settlement. On a pretext, as so often false, that they contained elements of Hamas, those probably to swell the ranks of the already 12 million Arab refugees. A few women had returned to search among the ruins.

Also, 15 boys aged 10-15 started throwing pieces of broken masonry, once part of their homes, at the tanks. A member of the leading tank was half out surveying his handiwork. The shot suddenly broke off. We were informed that an Israeli gunship had been called in and had rocketed the children. Nine were killed and the rest injured.

The Israelis then impeded access to Arab medics seeking to tend those injured children. That was one such incident that was caught, the others being hidden from the world at large by Israeli security - even if that means shooting reporters or crushing them with a bulldozer.

I really cannot believe that the media or any fair minded person can have any sympathy for a nation that condones and even encourages its armed forces to commit such monstrous atrocities.

Of course, one has to have sympathy for the relatives of the victims of terrorism, no matter who they are or who were the terrorists. And so, in this so unholy holy land, who are the terrorists? As Gerry Adams once said, and he should know, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.

Yes the Arabs did say they were going to push the Israelis into the sea. But surely that was in response to Ben Gurion's original declaration that the Jewish people were going to take over the whole of Palestine, evicting the then indigenous Arab population.

The Arabs tried twice but were soundly beaten by American financed, armed and intelligence warned Israeli forces. The inexorable encroachment following armed invasion of Arab land gets ever closer to the fulfilment of Ben Gurion's declaration.

Taken to its logical conclusion they will at some time arrive at the border with Jordan, I think we can safely assume the Arab retaliation terrorism will continue, probably intensify. What does Israel do then? Have we treaty obligations with Jordan the UN certainly has? It is a scenario that gives me great disquiet.

E Burrage Callington Cornwall "WE do not just want to liberate Palestine. We want all countries to live under the Caliphate, (Islamic religious government). The Islamic army once reached the walls of Vienna. It will happen again."

Harsh realities of fight for Palestine

These words of a **Hamas** member last month were quoted by Stephen Pollard in the Sunday Telegraph (September 14).

How much starker or more unequivocal a statement is needed to reveal the futility of the calls for negotiation with **Hamas**? Nikita Khrushchev's threat to the West, "We will bury you," was hardly more brutal or candid back in the days of the Cold War, of distant memory.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

If Vienna, why not Paris or London? There are organisations in both cities which share those aims, whose members are quite prepared to kill and to die themselves to further the cause.

If the zealots of **Hamas** and kindred groups were ever able to destroy the state of Israel, as is their declared intention, there is no reason not to believe that they would seek expansion into Europe.

The fact that Nato forces fought in the Balkans and bombed Serbia to protect the Muslims there is conveniently brushed under the carpet, and recapturing the parts of south-eastern Europe which were part of the Ottoman Empire for 500 years (1350-1850) remains a dream for the fanatics as a first step westwards.

If the present generation does not successfully prosecute the War on Terror, or War of Values as I prefer to term it, their grandchildren may well find themselves fighting an infinitely bloodier conflict on a far wider scale for very high stakes indeed.

J Ward-Hayne Modbury South Devon Will of the people I FIND the attitude of Warren Truss, the Australian Agriculture Minister, towards the 57,000 sheep that were stranded on the Cormo Express, in the Gulf, absolutely disgusting.

His government is directly responsible for this particular tragedy and for those that have gone before it, in having ever allowed live exports at all.

In the same way, our own Government, is just as responsible for live food animals, if it allows the continuation of live exports outside the UK.

It is clear that the British People do not want the export of live animals, for slaughter, and since any government is in office only at the behest of the people, to carry out a duty and responsibility on their behalf, they have no choice, whatever the EU says, but to ban live exports from the UK.

This is the will of the people.

Tess Nash Mawgan, Helston It's our money WHY all this shouting and excitement over the £1.5 million "European funding" for the Goss Moor bypass? Let's put this into perspective. It is not European money - it is British taxpayers' money.

Our Government in its infinite wisdom(?) supports the European Union financially with taxpayers' money to the tune of over £1 million for every hour of the day, 365 days per year, and then reacts with hysterical gratitude when a minute amount (less than two hours' subscription) is handed back in the form of a grant.

Alan Walters Saltash

Load-Date: October 12, 2003

*Palestinians urge liberty;
'All prisoners must be released'*

Morning Star

July 05, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 367 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

PALESTINIAN resistance groups urged Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners yesterday or risk the collapse of a ceasefire that is vital to the success of the US "road map" peace plan.

Israel's government is expected to consider releasing hundreds of prisoners tomorrow, but the key question is whether the list of those to be freed is long enough and includes names that satisfy the Palestinians.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas dismissed Thursday's release of 53 prisoners as cosmetic, with both groups insisting that Israel must free all the thousands of Palestinians it holds.

"We have made it very clear that all prisoners must be released.

Otherwise, it will be a serious violation to the truce, " said top Hamas official Abdel-Aziz alRantissi.

Islamic Jihad leader Mohammed al-Hindi said: "We are looking for the release of all the prisoners and the top priority are those serving long sentences, as well as women, children and ill people."

Israel is unlikely to release all the prisoners, but several hundred could soon be freed.

"In the framework of painful concessions to attain our goal, in this area, we will undoubtedly have to take these steps and others, " Israeli cabinet minister Gideon Ezra told Israel Radio.

He did not say how many prisoners would be freed.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas said earlier this week that he was seeking the release of thousands.

He considers this crucial for the success of the planned threemonth ceasefire and the road map to peace, which both sides have accepted.

Nr Abbas put the number of Palestinian prisoners at about 8,000, while Mr Ezra said that there were 5,900.

Israel followed the truce with partial troop withdrawals from the northern Gaza Strip and from the West Bank city of Bethlehem, but it briefly restored a roadblock on the main Gaza road on Thursday.

"If these continue, it will certainly threaten the truce, " said Mr Hindi.

Palestinians urge liberty; 'All prisoners must be released'

Israel says that resistance groups will use the truce to regroup and demands a crackdown on them by the Palestinian Authority, whose security forces arrested five activists on charges of firing mortar bombs against illegal Jewish settlements in Gaza, security officials and militants said on Thursday.

Load-Date: July 8, 2003

End of Document

DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

June 11, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 383 words

Body

HANDYMAN ADMITS TO SEX KIDNAPS

A RETIRED New York handyman has admitted holding five women captive as sex slaves in an underground bunker over a 15-year period.

John Jamelske, 68, was arrested in April and charged with holding a 16-year-old girl hostage for almost seven months.

She was put in a two-room concrete dungeon he built under the back yard of his Syracuse home. Following his arrest, police identified four other women who said they had been abducted and raped by him since 1988.

TOLL OF THOUSANDS IN IRAQ WAR

AT LEAST 3240 civilians died across Iraq during a month of war, including 1896 in Baghdad, according to a five-week Associated Press investigation.

The count is still fragmentary, and the complete toll if it is ever confirmed is sure to be significantly higher.

The AP count was based on records from 60 of Iraq's 124 hospitals and covers the period between March 20-April 20.

MASSIVE ECSTASY DOSE KILLS TEEN

A UK TEENAGER died after taking one of the biggest doses of ecstasy ever recorded during a night out with her boyfriend, an inquest has heard.

Wendy Papas, 18, died in a hotel room she was sharing with James Hatcher, 26, who had taken a much smaller amount of the drug. Pathologist Allen Anscombe told the Southampton hearing that Papas had 4100mg a litre of blood of the drug in her body after taking up to eight tablets.

ISRAELI TROOPS SHOOT PROTESTER

A PALESTINIAN was shot dead today by Israeli troops near the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, sources said.

Amjad Nabriss, 23, was killed after a demonstration organised by the hardline group Hamas to vent anger at Israel's attempted liquidation earlier in the day of Hamas political leader Abdul Aziz al-Rantissi, the sources said.

DOOM & GLOOM

Since September 2000, 3301 people have been killed, including 2494 Palestinians and 747 Israelis.

LIBERIA EXPLODES INTO VIOLENCE

GUNFIRE and explosions erupted today on the north-western outskirts of Liberia's besieged capital as international officials tried to broker a truce in fighting that threatens the government of President Charles Taylor.

Frightened residents took advantage of a brief lull in fighting to stock up on food and essential supplies. People lined up at stores in Monrovia's diplomatic quarter, where many have flocked to seek shelter in foreign compounds.

Load-Date: June 11, 2003

End of Document

Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 29, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A9; News

Length: 420 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Eight Palestinians died Wednesday in gunbattles with Israeli troops in Gaza City, a fierce flare-up of violence that complicated a new U.S. effort to restart peace talks.

At angry funeral processions, Palestinians shouted for revenge. The deaths and the calls for reprisals threatened another escalation in more than three years of Palestinian-Israeli violence.
The Associated Press

Palestinian officials complained that the fighting frustrated a visit by U.S. officials, who are trying to revive long-stalled peace efforts.

The fighting on a chilly, cloudy day turned the rundown Zeitoun neighbourhood into a deadly battlefield.

As Palestinians paramedics tended to the wounded, militants scrambled through the streets hoisting rocket launchers. A group of boys took cover behind a tin shack as gunfire crackled.

During the long battle with an unusually large force of as many as 200 Palestinian gunmen, an armoured Israeli bulldozer uprooted a small patch of olive and orange trees, and tanks crushed some parked cars.

At least five of the dead were armed men, including four from the Islamic Jihad group and one from **Hamas**, and three were believed to be bystanders, hospital officials said.

Israel's military said no soldiers were hurt and claimed that all the Palestinian dead were armed.

Later Wednesday, Thousands of Palestinian mourners jammed Gaza streets for funeral marches. Some fired weapons in the air, and **women** watched from balconies as the bodies wrapped tightly in flags of Islamic groups, were carried above the crowd on stretchers.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing of its gunmen.

The fighting erupted near the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the heart of the crowded, poverty-stricken Gaza Strip.

The army said militants fired anti-tank missiles and set off a bomb, prompting the troops to fire back. Two Palestinians were killed in that first skirmish, said Dr. Moawia Hassanein, a Palestinian hospital official.

Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis

The army then entered a Gaza City neighbourhood near Netzarim, and a fierce battle flared. Six other Palestinians were killed and several were wounded, Hassanein said.

As two Israeli tanks rumbled slowly along one road, a rocket-propelled grenade whizzed just a few metres in front of the two vehicles. The tanks swivelled their barrels and fired machine-guns.

The violence complicated renewed efforts to restart stalled peace talks.

Hamas said the "barbaric Zionist aggression is a greeting and a reception for the American delegation."

Load-Date: January 29, 2004

End of Document

14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 28, 2004 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 16A; DIGEST

Length: 398 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: CAIRO; VANCOUVER, British Colombia; CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico

Body

Rescue workers Tuesday pulled the bodies of 14 people from the rubble of an 11-story apartment building that collapsed after fire broke out on a bottom floor.

All but two of the dead were firefighters and police who had rushed inside to help.

Most residents had been evacuated Monday night by the time the building came down in the middle class Cairo suburb of Nasr City, avoiding a disaster. Officials said 33 people were hospitalized with injuries.

Compiled from Times Wires

Rescue officials said 14 bodies had been recovered. They include 12 firefighters and police officers who were in the building trying to evacuate tenants and put out the blaze in a ground-floor appliances store.

Nine more bodies found

at Canadian pig farm

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - Canadian police on Tuesday said they found the remains of nine more women for a total of 31 at a pig farm owned by the man alleged to be Canada's worst serial killer.

Authorities said six of the women had vanished from the drug-infested east side of downtown Vancouver. Three others have not been identified.

Robert William Pickton, 54, has been charged with 15 counts of first-degree murder in the disappearances of women over 20 years. No court date has been set.

Mexicans call 11 corpses

evidence of drug war

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico - Police have dug up 11 bodies in the back yard of a house in this Mexican border city, in what they called the latest evidence of a growing drug battle being waged along the U.S.-Mexico frontier.

14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building

The victims apparently were rivals of the Vicente Carrillo drug gang and were executed with "extreme violence" as long as six months to one year ago, said Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha. Several of the victims had been strangled or suffocated.

Mexican investigators said the property appeared to be a safe house for Humberto Santillan Tabares, who was arrested Jan. 15 across the border in El Paso, Texas. Mexican authorities identified Santillan as one of the chief lieutenants of Carrillo, who is alleged to be one of Mexico's major drug traffickers.

Elsewhere Tuesday . . .

HAMAS ORDERED TO PAY: A federal judge in Providence, R.I., ordered the Palestinian group **Hamas** to pay \$116-million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996. The ruling upheld a magistrate judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar.

Load-Date: January 28, 2004

End of Document

U.S. seeks 'concrete steps' in Mideast

The Philadelphia Inquirer

DECEMBER 14, 2003 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A05

Length: 400 words

Byline: Steve Weizman ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A U.S. envoy sought "concrete steps" yesterday from Israel and the Palestinians to revive peace talks, the latest indication of Washington's impatience with the two sides' inability to resolve more than three years of conflict.

David Satterfield, a senior State Department official, met Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia on a visit to the region that is meant to help restart the U.S.-backed road map to peace.

"We very much hope that concrete steps can be taken by all sides on all the issues necessary to see progress restored," Satterfield said after the meeting.

In the latest violence, Israeli troops fired at a taxi that evaded a West Bank checkpoint before dawn yesterday, killing a Palestinian female passenger.

Israeli and Palestinian officials have met repeatedly in recent weeks to set up a meeting between Qureia and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, but no date has been set.

Meanwhile, Palestinian militants staged a show of strength for a second straight day in Gaza, with thousands of activists from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade - an armed group loosely linked with Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement - firing automatic weapons into the air and denouncing recent peace efforts.

At a Gaza rally on Friday, a leader of the radical Hamas movement pledged a new wave of attacks against Israelis. The threat came less than a week after Qureia and Egyptian mediators failed to persuade Hamas and other militants to halt attacks as part of efforts to broker a cease-fire.

Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, 1,000 people from all over Israel spent the Jewish Sabbath on a solidarity visit to the Jewish enclave of Netzarim, where 60 Israeli families live - guarded by hundreds of troops - between a scattering of Palestinian refugee camps.

U.S. seeks 'concrete steps' in Mideast

The heavily publicized Friday-Saturday visit was organized in response to hints by Sharon and his deputy that if talks with the Palestinian leadership failed to produce a peace deal, Israel could take unilateral action, including abandoning some settlements.

A statement by the main settler organization said last night that the mass visit was the first in a series of events planned to mobilize public opinion against any pullout.

A small group of Israeli reserve soldiers who have served in Gaza protested across the road from Netzarim at the drafting of huge numbers of soldiers to protect the 7,000 settlers who live among one million Palestinians in the Strip.

Load-Date: August 19, 2005

End of Document

Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes

The International Herald Tribune

August 23, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 732 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: SALFIT, West Bank:

Body

The Palestinians are engaged in an intifada against Israel, in a political challenge to Yasser Arafat, in a hunger strike by prisoners in Israeli jails, and in meeting regular incursions by Israeli troops into Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

But Palestinians are utterly consumed by the fate of Ammar Hasan, 26, who was competing Sunday night in Lebanon against a Libyan in the final of a televised contest to be named the Arab world's finest singer.

The finalists will sing three songs each, and viewers will then have a week to vote -- great for the station and the telephone companies. On Sunday, a final broadcast will declare the winner.

The New York Times

Hasan, who lives in this village, has received a telephone call of support from Arafat, and some Palestinian women bear his poster the way they might one of a martyr to the intifada. Many West Bank towns and villages are setting up large televisions or screens in city centers so that everyone can watch the finals of "Super Star 2," a hugely successful production of the Lebanese satellite station Future Television, which is owned by the prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

The Palestinian mobile telephone company Jawwal has offered a 20 percent discount on text messages so people can vote for Hasan, while rumors spread throughout the West Bank and Gaza that the Libyan leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, is offering free telephone calls and investing millions to defeat the Palestinian champion in league with the Syrians, whose champion lost out in the semifinals.

Hasan's father, Hasan Ahmed Daqrouq, 63, sitting in a small room festooned with posters and photos of his son, is overwhelmed with pride.

"Palestinians, wherever they are, they see Ammar as an ambassador for them," Daqrouq said. "The Palestinian people are not just throwing stones and bombs. In the struggle we have educated people -- doctors, intellectuals, musicians -- and we have a singer. Ammar, too, is a defender of the people."

But the focus on Hasan has produced political criticism, too, from Palestinian militants who think his celebrity is diverting attention from the important issues of the Palestinian struggle, like the prisoners' strike, Israel's security barrier and the intifada.

Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes

Hamas in particular has condemned the singing contest as trivial and a harmful diversion from real problems. **Hamas** criticized Jawwal and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture for not allocating money to support prisoners and victims "instead of the Super Star program that contradicts Islamic values."

Daqrouq is dismissive. "**Hamas** should look to itself first," he said.

A week ago Sunday, when Hasan survived the semifinals along with his Libyan rival, Ayman al-Atar, Palestinians rejoiced. There were parties in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Gaza City, some sponsored by Jawwal.

But that Sunday was also the first day of the prisoners' hunger strike, which continues still, and even Hasan's cousin Nizar Daqrouq is troubled by the competing furor over "Super Star."

He is running Salfit's committee to support the prisoners, and in a storefront covered with photos of the 38 sons of Salfit who are in Israeli detention, he is clearly upset.

"With respect to Ammar and his voice, all this comes at the wrong time for Palestine," he said.

"It draws people's attention from the prisoners and the struggle. We believe the arts should be part of our struggle; it should be committed art."

But Hasan, speaking in a telephone interview from Lebanon, rejects such criticism. He knows he has become a symbol of the Palestinians, but he wants to show the world the broader culture of a civilized people.

"I want to reflect a human image of the Palestinian people, that despite all the difficulties we face, we exist, that there are people like me, and that creativity is our weapon," he said.

The prisoners are an important issue, "much more important than what I'm doing," he said. "But the occupation is not afraid of kids throwing stones. The occupation is afraid of scientists, intellectuals and musicians who reflect the humanity and express the message of the people."

When he was at school in Salfit, he said, he threw stones at Israeli soldiers and saw how his classmates welcomed it as a way to avoid school. "Do you think throwing stones will lead to victory?" he asked. "There is no victory with ignorance. Let's educate our children and plant the seeds of hope and humanity in their hearts."

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Load-Date: August 23, 2004

Withhold Palestinian aid, Israel urges U.S.

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 30, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a4

Length: 374 words

Byline: STEPHEN GRAHAM, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli settler and exchanged fire with troops in the West Bank on Friday, while Israel's prime minister suggested that Washington link U.S. aid to Palestinians to a crackdown on armed groups.

Israeli soldiers kept up their hunt for militants, smashing through the walls of houses in Nablus and uprooting orchards in the Gaza Strip apparently used to launch rockets at the Israeli city of Ashkelon.

Hours earlier, an Israeli helicopter in southern Gaza killed a **Hamas** fugitive driving a donkey cart, the fourth missile strike against members of the Islamic militant group in eight days.

Israel marked all **Hamas** members for death after 21 people were killed in an Aug. 19 bus bombing in Jerusalem. Israel says the Palestinian Authority is sabotaging the U.S.-backed peace plan by failing to curb the militants.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told visiting U.S. congressmen that the United States could help by exerting economic pressure on the Palestinians, a senior official in Sharon's office said Friday.

At a meeting Thursday with Republicans Thomas Reynolds of New York and Eric Cantor of Virginia, Sharon suggested tying financial aid to progress on shutting down the armed groups, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Palestinians are to receive \$ 200 million in U.S. aid in 2003, distributed through Washington's foreign aid agency, USAID.

The money is allocated for specific development and relief programs, such as improving water supplies. The U.S. government also made a special payment of \$ 20 million to the Palestinian Authority earlier this year after Yasser Arafat agreed reluctantly to appoint a new prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who backs the peace plan.

Palestinian Labor Minister Ghassan Khatib said any reduction in aid would only make Abbas' task even more difficult, by creating "fertile ground for the extremist groups."

"Our experience shows that the more economic hardship you see the more you see extremism," he said. "It would definitely backfire."

In Friday's shooting, Al Aqsa gunmen killed settler Shalom Har-Melech, and seriously wounded his pregnant 24-year-old wife, Limor, causing their vehicle to turn over near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Withhold Palestinian aid, Israel urges U.S.

Graphic

Women and children look at the damage caused by the Israeli army during an operation at the Balata refugee camp Friday on the outskirts of Nablus, on the West Bank.

Load-Date: September 1, 2003

End of Document

Israel plots Arafat exile;

Morning Star

September 03, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 383 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

ISRAEL threatened to exile Palestinian President Yasser Arafat yesterday, alleging that he is an obstacle to the region's peace process.

"Arafat is a very major obstacle for Mahmoud Abbas and for the whole political process, " Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told military radio.

"We made a historic mistake by not expelling him two years ago, but we are going to address this issue in the short term, without doubt before the end of the year."

Mr Mofaz said that the government had to "find the right moment" to act in order to not damage its preferred Palestinian leader Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Mr Arafat has been effectively confined to his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah by the Israeli army for the past 20 months.

Mr Mofaz told cabinet colleagues on Monday that the security establishment had declared "an allout war against **Hamas** and other terrorist elements, including continuous strikes at the organisation's leaders, " a government statement said.

Army chief of staff General Moshe Yaalon said that the army was ready to spring into action if given the order to launch a "largescale operation."

Mr Mofaz confirmed yesterday that Israel was ready to "increase the pressure" against **Hamas** after six air strikes in 13 days against the radical Islamist group in Gaza.

"We have opened a new chapter in the battle against the terrorist organisations. As the Palestinian Authority is not acting against these organisations, we will take care of them, " he added.

Islamic Jihad activist Abdul Qadr Dahami was shot dead at an army roadblock near Jenin yesterday.

Military sources claimed that Mr Dahami had been gunned down after aiming a pistol at soldiers and also accused him of dispatching a suicide bomber who killed an elderly Israeli woman in July.

Israel plots Arafat exile;

Mr Arafat chaired two separate meetings of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee and Fatah central council at his Ramallah headquarters to overcome differences between him and Mr Abbas.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said that the two meetings had discussed the current crisis between the two leaders and how to resolve it.

More than 200 Palestinian dignitaries, politicians and intellectuals published a newspaper appeal yesterday urging the two men to end their disputes and maintain national unity.

Graphic

SMART: Libyan fighter pilots saluting at a female-themed celebration on Monday marking the 34th anniversary of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi taking power.

Load-Date: March 1, 2004

End of Document

BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

Section: 1st Edition; NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 437 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.

They were the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and were 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 that 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.

A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

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.

The blasts came hours after premier Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and warned party rebels that 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.

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 the port of Ashdod.

BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. * At least six people were killed in a blast outside a busy Moscow underground station last night by a suspected woman suicide bomber.

The blast hit in an area between the Rizhskaya subway station in northern Moscow and a supermarket-department store complex.

Initial casualty reports varied but police spokesman Valery Gribakin said on Russian television that six people were killed and more than 20 wounded.

The blast came a week after two Russian airliners crashed within minutes of each other. The crashes that killed 90 people were declared terrorist acts.

Load-Date: September 3, 2004

End of Document

US vents fury at Israel over peace setback

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

June 24, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 395 words

Byline: Nidal al-Mughrabi in GAZA CITY

Body

THE US yesterday cautioned Israel for assassinating Palestinian militants as it faced up to a weekend of setbacks across the Middle East.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the killing of a senior ***Hamas*** commander on Sunday could hinder the "road map" peace plan championed by Washington, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union. The Americans are reportedly furious that Israel is hampering efforts for a ceasefire at a time when the situation in Iraq is worsening.

Reuters

The killing of Abdullah Kawasme in the West Bank city of Hebron was denounced as an "assassination" by Palestinians even though Israeli sources said their forces had tried to arrest him first.

Mr Powell and representatives of the other peace plan sponsors met in Jordan in a bid to salvage the road map which is designed to create a Palestinian state by 2005.

"I regret that we continue to find ourselves trapped in this action and counter-action, provocation and reaction to provocation," Mr Powell said.

On Sunday, four Palestinian militants were killed in an explosion in the Gaza Strip. Witnesses initially said the members of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades -- an armed offshoot of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction -- were killed by Israeli tank rounds fired into Gaza's Beit Hanoun, a frequent flashpoint in the almost 33-month-old conflict.

But other witnesses said the four were planting a bomb that exploded prematurely.

The military wing of ***Hamas***, Islamists bent on destroying Israel, vowed "thundering retaliation" for Kawasme's death and said a call by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas for a truce was inconceivable while its men were being killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the weekly meeting of his right-wing Cabinet that the Government had demanded Palestinian authorities "act in the most serious manner against terrorist organisations".

In another development, the Israeli army has charged a ***female*** soldier with forcing a Palestinian woman at a checkpoint to drink the cleaning fluid she was carrying.

US vents fury at Israel over peace setback

The charge sheet said the incident occurred four months ago in the Gaza Strip when the soldier pointed her assault rifle at the Palestinian woman, shouted at her and demanded she drink from the bottle she was holding. Sources said the soldier was arrested over the incident, and that the Palestinian woman received treatment in hospital.

Load-Date: June 23, 2003

End of Document

International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 11, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a9

Length: 754 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: VATICAN CITY

Body

Pope blesses flame of tall candle at vigil

Looking weak and speaking with great effort, Pope John Paul II blessed the flame of a tall candle at the start of a long Easter vigil service Saturday night in a packed St. Peter's Basilica. The pontiff baptized people from Europe, Africa and Asia in a solemn, chant-filled ceremony.

The pope's right hand trembled as he poured water from a gold-colored, shell-shaped scooper over the heads of a young man from Italy, a toddler from Togo, two Japanese women in kimonos and three others during baptism.

Earlier, John Paul slowly leaned forward in his chair to insert five grains of incense into the cream-colored candle's wax.

"Very dear brothers and sons, in this most holy night, in which Jesus Christ our Lord, passed from death to life, the Church, spread throughout the Earth, calls her children to hold a vigil of prayer," John Paul said. He then blessed the flame and intoned a prayer in Latin.

Sri Lankan military goes on high alert

KAJUWATTE, Sri Lanka - Renegade Tamil rebels braced for a showdown with the mainstream Tamil Tiger movement, as the Sri Lankan military went on high alert Saturday, intent on maintaining a truce that has given this island nation its best chance of peace in two decades.

The unconfirmed death toll from heavy fighting Friday between rebel factions was put at 33 by rebel and military officials.

Residents in the area of fighting along the Verugal River, off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast and some 150 miles from the capital, Colombo, fled gunfire again early Saturday in a mopping-up operation by the mainstream Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam, or LTTE.

The military hopes to prevent the internal clash between rival Tamil Tiger factions from spilling over into civilian areas and sucking the army into the conflict.

"We don't want to be dragged into the situation, but will be taking all necessary steps for the safety and security of the people in the government-controlled areas," said a military spokesman, Col. Sumeda Perera.

International Briefs

More than 50 inmates escape in Philippines

ISABELA, Philippines - More than 50 inmates, including many suspected members of a Muslim extremist group, used a smuggled pistol to escape from a southern Philippine prison on Saturday, officials said. At least nine were killed by police.

Provincial spokesman Christopher Puno said 53 of 137 inmates at the Basilan Provincial Jail, including many members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, escaped.

At least nine were killed and eight others were recaptured, said Senior Inspector William Gadayan, police chief of Isabela city, the capital of Basilan. He said three guards were injured in the breakout, one seriously.

The escape came just two days after soldiers outside Isabela killed six alleged Abu Sayyaf members, including Hamsiraji Sali, one of five guerrilla leaders wanted by Washington in the deaths of two American hostages.

Gadayan said the escape might have been in retaliation for Sali's death and an effort by the Abu Sayyaf to regroup.

Thousands wait in lines to give aid to **Hamas**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Thousands of Palestinians in impoverished Gaza waited in long lines outside mosques Saturday to contribute what little funds they had to **Hamas**' fight against Israel, the Islamic militant group said.

Hamas, the largest opposition group, is negotiating with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority on how to run Gaza after a planned Israeli withdrawal. The group, which opposes the existence of Israel, has killed more than 300 Israelis in attacks since 2000.

Late Saturday, two Israeli tanks moved about 100 yards into Palestinian territory near the Gaza Strip settlement of Netzarim, witnesses said. They said the tanks fired machine guns and three shells. There were no reports of injuries.

The military denied its troops were operating in the area.

Also Saturday, an 11-year-old girl was killed in her kitchen in the Gaza town of Khan Younis when she was hit by a stray bullet, witnesses said.

Protest turns violent

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Tossing bottles and rocks, hundreds of Taiwanese protesters were blasted by police water cannons Saturday after a rally demanding an independent investigation of the bizarre shooting that injured President Chen Shui-bian one day before his narrow re-election.

The rowdy protests have become a weekend tradition since Chen won the March 10 vote and opposition candidate Lien Chan challenging the results. Lien has insinuated that Chen might have staged the unexplained shooting, and he wants a special task force to probe the event.

Load-Date: April 11, 2004

Day of the terrorist

DAILY MAIL (London)

September 1, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 8

Length: 1133 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Body

AT LEAST 16 people were killed in suicide bombings on two buses in Israel yesterday.

Nearly 100 were injured in the simultaneous attacks by Palestinian terrorists in the southern city of Beersheba, many seriously.

They were the first deadly bombings in Israel for five months, despite weekly attempts by militants.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the blasts, on two crowded buses about 200ft apart and within seconds of each other.

The bombs were packed with bolts and shards of metal, causing maximum injury and death.

But the actions of one of the bus drivers saved many lives.

Having seen the explosion on the other bus in front of his, Yaacov Cohen opened the doors to allow passengers off to help, meaning many had escaped to safety by the time of the second blast.

'I opened the doors and most of my passengers got off the bus,' said Mr Cohen, who was being treated in hospital last night.

'Then I felt the explosion.

'I got off, wiped the dust and fragments off myself and looked behind me. I couldn't cope with the sight. Then the emergency services arrived.' Regional police commander Dudi Cohen said: 'His courage and alertness prevented a much bigger disaster.' The attacks, shortly before 3pm local time, came a day after the Israeli transport minister requested funding for an extra 500 guards on public transport across the country.

They demonstrated that **Hamas** militant groups were not a spent force despite repeated Israeli assassinations of their leaders and the building of the West Bank barrier.

A cell from nearby Hebron claimed responsibility. The same cell blew up a bus in Jerusalem a year ago, shattering a weeks-old ceasefire.

A leaflet distributed in Hebron by **Hamas's** terror wing, the Kassem Brigades, said the attack was in revenge for Israel's assassination of its leaders Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel-Aziz Rantissi in March and April.

Day of the terrorist

'This is but one of a series of responses in which the Iz a Din al-Kassem Brigades have vowed to carry out in response to the martyrdom of the leaders of our movement,' said the leaflet.

Last night, as thousands of supporters took to the streets in Gaza, **Hamas** released a video of the two suicide bombers.

Nassem Jabari, 22, and Ahmad Qawasme, 26, posed self-consciously next to rifles and posters of the two assassinated leaders.

Palestinian leaders officially condemned the bombing.

'The Palestinian Authority condemns any attacks that target civilians, whether Israelis or Palestinian,' said cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

However, only a few weeks ago Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat led a chanting crowd at his Ramallah headquarters, urging them to send 'a million martyrs' to liberate Jerusalem.

Beersheba, which has a sizeable Arab population, has been largely spared the bloody attacks carried out in other major Israeli cities.

The only incident during the current intifada was a shooting at the gate of an army base in October 2002 in which two **women** died.

The city is only 25 miles east of Gaza City, but lies behind a border fence which has proved almost impenetrable to would-be terrorists.

Just yesterday morning, a potential suicide bomber was stopped and disarmed at the Erez crossing point from Gaza.

The Beersheba attack could make it harder for Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon to overcome resistance to his plan to evacuate occupied Gaza and parts of the West Bank to 'disengage' from conflict with Palestinians.

Protesters quickly descended on the scene, waving banners condemning the plan.

In Iraq, 12 hostages executed on video

AN EXTREMIST Iraqi group has killed 12 Nepalese hostages and showed grisly pictures of the executions.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna posted on a website a statement, photographs and a video showing a beheading of one hostage and the shooting of 11 in the back of the head.

It was the worst violence against captives since a wave of kidnappings began in April.

The horrific pictures were released as France intensified its efforts to save two French reporters held hostage in Iraq by a separate militant group.

The Nepalese were kidnapped earlier this month after going to Iraq to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian firm.

The killing of men from a tiny country that had nothing to do with the invasion will send shockwaves through foreign firms doing business in Iraq.

The Ansar al-Sunna statement said: 'We have carried out the sentence of God against 12 Nepalese who came from their country to fight the Muslims and to serve the Jews and the Christians believing in Buddha as their God.' A dozen foreign hostages had been killed previously.

Day of the terrorist

Around 20 hostages are still being held, many of them truck drivers from poor countries seeking good money by plying Iraq's dangerous highways.

The kidnappings have scared away some foreign firms, disrupted supplies to U.S. troops and discouraged investment in the ravaged economy.

In Russia yesterday, French President Jacques Chirac renewed his call for the release of the two journalists. He was meeting antiwar allies Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

The kidnappers had demanded that France repeal its ban on headscarves in schools, which is part of a broader law that also bars Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

The journalists were kidnapped by the Islamic Army in Iraq, a little known group which claimed responsibility for the death of an Italian journalist last week.

In Moscow, widow's revenge

TEN people were killed last night when a woman blew herself up in a Moscow shopping street.

At least 50 others including children were wounded in the blast near an underground station on Prospekt Mira, ironically meaning Avenue of Peace.

Ten were said to be 'very seriously injured' by the bomb, which was filled with metal bolts.

It came as Russian secret services scoured the country for two suspected Chechen 'black widow suicide bombers'.

A week ago two Russian passenger jets were destroyed, killing 89 people.

The main suspects for the downing of the jets were two Chechen women, Amnat Nagayeva and Satsita Dzhebirkhanova, both thought to have died in the crashes.

But police said two more Chechen women, linked to the pair, were on the run and thought to be planning another attack.

Earlier, there were warnings about the two, Roza Nagayeva, 29, sister of Anmat, and Maryam Taburova, 27, who shared a flat in the Chechen capital Grozny with the suspected plane bombers.

The two plane bombers had both lost their brothers allegedly killed by Russian paratroopers in the military conflict that has engulfed the Caucasus region, it was claimed yesterday.

Relatives of all four women deny that they were politically active, and insist they would not get involved with terrorism.

A group calling itself the Islambouli Brigades has claimed responsibility for both crashes.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

Our say

The Cairns Post/The Cairns Sun (Australia)

April 19, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 12

Length: 411 words

Body

Monday, April 19, 2004

Isabel a star on the rise

AUSTRALIA'S television fans have confirmed what Far North Queenslanders already knew: Isabel Lucas is simply sensational.

The former St Monica's College student last night won a Logie for most popular ***female*** talent for her starring role on Channel 7's Home and Away.

Discovered under a mango tree at the Port Douglas markets, Isabel is now a household name across the country.

Her onscreen debut started with small steps. For her first few episodes she was known simply as Jane Doe after being found wandering on a beach.

This beautiful girl who apparently couldn't speak was new to Home and Away's Summer Bay and new to television and the fans loved her.

Before long, her secret identity was revealed.

Jane Doe was actually Natasha "Tasha" Andrews, a girl apparently brought up by survivalists who taught her to distrust everything and dropped out of society to live in a fortress preparing for Y2K.

The fans just couldn't get enough of her struggle to cope with the real world after the death of her mysterious parents, a struggle that continues to be played out in their living rooms five nights a week.

Isabel has come a long way in a very short space of time and with the continued support of her family she can look forward to a bright and successful future in the sometimes demanding and unforgiving world of showbiz.

Young hopefuls will think of her when they wonder if dreams can come true, especially if they live a long way away from the big smoke.

Yes, dreams to come. Our girl Isabel is proof positive of that.

No end to killing

AND the killing goes on.

Our say

Israel's assassination of top **Hamas** leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi will ensure there will be peace no time soon in the Middle East.

Israel believes it was acting justifiably when one of its helicopter gunships slammed two missiles into Rantissi's car on Saturday.

It's a safe bet the Palestinian suicide bombers will also believe they have right on their side when they detonate their deadly payloads on Israeli buses, in Israeli restaurants and on packed Israeli streets in retaliation.

Rantissi was assassinated less than a month after Israeli military might eliminated **Hamas**'s spiritual leader and co-founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

The assassinations were in response to deadly Palestinian suicide attacks that have killed scores of Israelis.

Hundreds have already died. Hundreds more will die as both sides exact their revenge.

What will it take for it all to end?

Load-Date: April 18, 2004

End of Document

ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

March 23, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

Section: 1st Edition; NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 431 words

Body

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

An Arafat aide said: "He feels his turn is next and he is sad and worried."

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

Yassin, in his 60s, 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 Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and **women** ululated and threw flowers and candy.

Two Israeli helicopters flew above and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was carried to the grave between two rows of 200 militants each. The men were armed with antitank 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," said Ismail Haniyeh, a close Yassin associate.

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

Sharon said Israel will press ahead with its war on terror, signalling 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 Yassin's "hands are soaked in the blood of Israeli children".

ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST

In addition to 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," Rice said.

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

The dead included several bodyguards and Yassin's son-in-law.

Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons. Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

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UN IN CRISIS TALKS OVER SYRIA ATTACK

The Scotsman

October 6, 2003, Monday

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Section: Pg. 1

Length: 734 words

Byline: Tim Cornwell Deputy Foreign Editor

Body

THE United Nations Security Council went into emergency session last night after Israeli war planes hit an alleged Palestinian terrorist training camp barely ten miles from the Syrian capital Damascus.

Israel said the air raid was a "measured defensive response" after Saturday's suicide bombing that killed 19 people, which it blamed on militants backed by Syria and Iran. One guard was injured in the attack.

But there were fears that the strike - the first in 30 years to reach so deep into the territory of Israel's long-time enemy - may have crossed a diplomatic threshold in the Middle East at a time of high tension.

During an emergency open council meeting, Syria's UN ambassador, Fayssal Mekdad, said "the flagrant Israel aggression was not an isolated incident".

He charged that Israel continues "to flout the Charter of the United Nations to the point that Arabs and many people across the globe feel that Israel is above the law, above international law, and acts outside the resolutions adopted by this council".

Syria, the only Arab country on the council, was seeking a resolution from the 15-member council condemning "the military aggression carried by Israel against the sovereignty and territory of Syria".

Any resolution, however, appeared certain to be blocked by the US, and possibly Britain.

The Israeli ambassador, Dan Gillerman, said it was ironic that Syria should call for a meeting to condemn the attack. It was "as if (Osama) bin laden would have asked for a Security Council meeting after 9/11", Gillerman said before the meeting.

The United States has repeatedly blamed Syria for allowing "foreign fighters" to cross its borders to stage attacks on US troops inside Iraq, after a war which Syria bitterly opposed.

Washington was cautious in its response yesterday. The White House called for restraint on both sides, but said that the US president, George Bush, and the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, in a telephone conversation, had "agreed on the need to continue fighting terrorism".

US supporters of Israel insisted that Mr Sharon had done the right thing. With spokesmen in the Arab world voicing outrage, France and Germany yesterday were quick to denounce the Israeli strike as "unacceptable", revisiting the divides of the Iraq war. There was no immediate response from Downing Street.

UN IN CRISIS TALKS OVER SYRIA ATTACK

Israel announced its warplanes had hit a training base used by "terror groups" including Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for Saturday's suicide attack on the eve of the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday.

It was the first time Israel had struck so far inside Syrian territory since the 1973 Middle East war, when Egypt and Syria attacked Israel, military commentators said. Israel bombed a Syrian radar position in Lebanon in 2001 and targets just inside Syria in the 1982 Lebanon war.

The Israeli army said the base in Syria was funded by Iran and used to train Palestinian militants, mostly from **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, in bomb-making and guerrilla fighting tactics. "We will not tolerate the continuation of this axis of terror between Tehran, Damascus and Gaza, to continue to operate and kill innocent men, **women** and children," said Raanan Gissin, a top adviser to Mr Sharon.

Syrian security personnel blocked the site of the attack, near Ein Saheb, a Palestinian camp. But a villager living nearby described the attack as "like an earthquake... We heard three explosions then the door blew open".

Syrian-based Palestinian groups have been keeping a low profile in the wake of US and Israeli demands that Syria act against them. They claim their offices merely house media spokesmen for **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Islamic Jihad issued a statement denying it had any training camps in Syria, although its leader, Ramadan Shallah, is said to be based in Damascus.

But **Hamas**'s armed wing, the Izz al-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, claimed Israel had targeted a Palestinian refugee camp and threatened retaliation.

Syria's recourse to the Security Council was seen as evidence that the government of its president, Bashar Assad, had ruled out military retaliation that would further provoke Israel.

Syria's armed forces are seen as a spent force compared with the Israeli military. George Jabbour, a Syrian legislator, ruled out a military response against Israel, saying Syria would have to deal "rationally" with the attack.

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 29, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 437 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli troops clashed with militants yesterday in prolonged street battles across Gaza City, killing eight Palestinians. The flare-up of violence complicated a new U.S. effort to restart peace talks.

The Palestinian deaths - and subsequent demands for reprisals made at angry funeral processions - jeopardized modest moves toward reviving the U.S.-backed road map peace plan and threatened yet another escalation in more than three years of Middle East violence.

Palestinian leaders said the fighting had frustrated the first high-level U.S. diplomatic mission in a month, by envoys John Wolf and David Satterfield. The two Americans met with Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia in the West Bank city of Ramallah in a bid to revive long-stalled peace efforts.

The fighting began near the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the heart of the Gaza Strip.

The army said militants fired antitank missiles and set off a bomb, prompting troops to fire back. Two Palestinians were killed in that skirmish, said Dr. Moawia Hassanein, a Palestinian hospital official.

The army then entered a Gaza City neighborhood near Netzarim and a fierce battle began. Six other Palestinians were killed and several were wounded, Hassanein said.

A rocket-propelled grenade whizzed just a few yards in front of two Israeli tanks, leaving a streak of white smoke. The tanks swiveled their barrels and fired machine guns.

During the long battle with an unusually large force of as many as 200 Palestinian gunmen, an armored Israeli bulldozer uprooted a small patch of olive and orange trees, and tanks crushed some parked cars.

At least five of the dead were armed men - four from the Islamic Jihad group and one from ***Hamas*** - and three were believed to be bystanders, hospital officials said. Israel's military said that no soldiers were injured and that all the Palestinians slain had been armed.

Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians

Later yesterday, thousands of Palestinians jammed the streets of Gaza to mourn the dead. Some fired weapons in the air, and women watched from balconies as the bodies, wrapped tightly in flags of Islamic groups, were hoisted above the crowd on stretchers.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing of its gunmen. Hamas said the "barbaric Zionist aggression is a greeting and a reception for the American delegation."

Wolf and Satterfield urged Qureia to meet soon with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Qureia wants assurances a summit will produce results.

"We told them, 'OK, help in the preparation for the meeting,' " Qureia told reporters afterward. "If there is a successful meeting, a meeting with good indications for our people, we are ready."

Load-Date: August 21, 2005

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ISRAELIS BACK SHARON AS ARAFAT APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL HELP

Independent on Sunday (London)

September 14, 2003, Sunday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 703 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN JERUSALEM Women and schoolchildren show their support for Yasser Arafat outside the Palestinian leader's office in Ramallah MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/AP

Body

Liav Tzioni, 27, was unmoved yesterday by the international pressure on Israel not to fulfil its threat to expel Yasser Arafat. This, after the double suicide bombing which killed 15 people last Tuesday at a bus stop at the Tzirifin military base and at a busy Jerusalem cafe.

In response to the UN's call not to move against Mr Arafat an Israeli government source declared: "If they tell us not to react after a big bomb, people here are going to say: fuck the sons of bitches."

Yet Mr Tzioni, enjoying a coffee at the Aroma Cafe, with his girlfriend, isn't some ultra-rightwing fanatic. Rather, like other secular Jews out in the city yesterday despite the Sabbath shutdown, he is true to the old pollsters' maxim that many Israelis are short-term hawks and long-term doves. He believes in two states with Palestinians and Israelis living side by side in peace.

When his parents and brother were badly wounded in a bombing nine years ago, he reacted by joining Peace Now. However, after army service, the collapse of the Oslo accords and three long years of the intifada, he is no longer in the peace movement.

Instead he mentions the deaths in the Cafe Hillel bombing of David Applebaum, the emergency room director at the Share Zadek medical centre, and his daughter Zava on the eve of her wedding. "How would you feel if that was your daughter?" He rejects international criticism of Ariel Sharon's systematic policy of "targeted killings" of Hamas militants, saying: "I believe in an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." In this Mr Tzioni is squarely in the majority of Israeli electors. For despite the widespread criticism that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's security policy is not working, public support remains strong.

Even with muted opposition from the US and strong criticisms from moderate Arab leaders of the failed attempt on the life of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza last weekend, a poll taken before the suicide bombings showed that 68 per cent of Israelis believed that the attack on him was right. Despite the vengeance that followed, 59 per cent thought it should be tried again. They are less sure about expelling Mr Arafat with between 28 and 38 per cent in favour.

Nevertheless 18 per cent - including an admittedly hesitant Mr Tzioni - are in favour of assassinating him. Hanan Pinhas, a 22-year-old who runs a tobacco and confectionery kiosk across the road from Aroma, holds views in line with the Israeli majority on the Sharon security policy. He says he came to understand something of the burning

ISRAELIS BACK SHARON AS ARAFAT APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL HELP

sense of injustice among Palestinians much better during his just completed army service in Gaza and the West Bank. He was disappointed when Mahmoud Abbas resigned as Palestinian Prime Minister because he had high hopes that it could lead to a settlement.

He is against the expulsion of Mr Arafat because "it will just make him more popular". But Mr Pinhas, whose uncle was killed in a suicide bombing, adds that "we don't have anything else" apart from a policy of targeting militants which he says cautiously will "maybe" slow them down. Acknowledging that for every dead **Hamas** militant there are several ready to take their place, he adds: "What do you want - that we just sit back and take it?" Most typical of all, perhaps, is that Mr Pinhas sees no end to the cycle of killings and absence of political dialogue.

Yesterday, as Mr Arafat appealed to the international community to stop Israel from moving against him, the cycle continued. An old Palestinian man was shot dead in the West Bank city of Nablus, and Israeli police said they had foiled another suicide attack in east Jerusalem. Now Palestinians and Israelis alike wait to see what Mr Sharon's response will be and what retaliation it may provoke.

Against this bleak background perhaps the nearest thing to optimism that could be found among Israelis came from 62-year-old ex-paratrooper Menachem Tal. Even though he voted for Mr Sharon, his hero was Yitzhak Rabin. Yes, he said, it was true that the Rabin tendency, let alone the peace- oriented Israeli left, had been marginalised during the last three years. "But that's temporary," he added. In Israeli politics, temporary can be a very long time indeed.

Load-Date: September 14, 2003

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Bombing After Lull: Israel Still Believes the Worst Is Over

The New York Times

December 27, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 995 words

Byline: By RICHARD BERNSTEIN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 26

Body

The day after the first suicide bomb attack in Israel in almost three months, senior Israeli officials were offering what might seem a paradoxical assessment: Despite the bombing, the worst of the terrorism is already over because Israel is winning its war against the terrorists.

Of course, as with every other aspect of the tormented politics of the Middle East, that is a matter of some dispute.

The basic official position of Israel is that since the Palestinian Authority has not been able, or willing, to dismantle what Israel calls the terrorist infrastructure, the Israelis have been doing the job themselves, using two techniques. One is to step up work on the barrier they are constructing along a twisted north-south axis on the West Bank; the other is to undertake almost constant nighttime military operations in the centers of militant activity, most recently in and around the town of Nablus.

"I believe we have passed the peak of the violent confrontation," Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, the Israeli Army's chief of staff, said in an interview published in the newspaper Yediot Ahronot on Friday, giving credit to those policies.

General Yaalon went on to say that Hamas, the Islamic group responsible for most of the suicide bombings that have taken place during the three years of the current Palestinian uprising, had now chosen to stop such attacks, making a cease-fire possible within a matter of weeks. At the same time, security officials, cited by The Associated Press, said Israel would stop its policy of carrying out what it has called "targeted killings" of Hamas leaders.

"It is no coincidence that a group like Hamas decides to stop attacks within Israel," the general said. "It comes from the realization that their organization is in danger." Responsibility for Thursday's bombing was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

A senior commander in Nablus, widely seen by Israelis as the most hostile Palestinian area, put it this way in an interview just on Thursday: "We've captured a lot of terrorists in the city, so the situation is not the way it was a year ago."

"Our operations are aimed at the people who design the attacks," he said, describing a series of nightly incursions that have been taking place in Nablus for the last 10 days or so.

Bombing After Lull: Israel Still Believes the Worst Is Over

"We've captured a lot of labs and a lot of engineers," he continued, meaning bomb-making labs and bomb-making engineers. "Now there are almost no bombs in Nablus."

He spoke just before the suicide bombing, which claimed four Israeli lives. The bomber was from a village near Nablus.

"The fact that he came from Nablus shows that security cannot be attained by unilateral measures," Saeb Erekat, the Palestinians' chief negotiator, said Friday.

Israeli officials have offered positive assessments of the barrier and their raids before, but mostly in the last two and a half months, during which there were no suicide bombings against Israelis, and Israel undertook no "targeted killings" of what it regards as terrorist leaders.

But General Yaalon's comments came with the renewal of a sadly familiar ritual, part mourning, part retaliation, that follows terrorist attacks. On Friday, there were the funerals of the victims of the bus-stop bombing in a Tel Aviv suburb, including those of three soldiers, two of them young women and the other a young man. Meanwhile, Israeli troops destroyed the home of the suicide bomber, an 18-year-old man.

If the latest bombing was a reminder to Israelis of the worst days of the recent past, some, like General Yaalon, do not believe that it portends a full resurgence of terrorism. Israel may not be able to stop every attack, the reasoning goes, but the calm of the last months took place because Israel was able to stop most of the numerous terror attempts that were made. The fact that Thursday's attack was not carried out by Hamas is in its way a hopeful sign for the Israelis, who see the group's relative inaction as a product of their policy of targeted killings and not some change of heart.

Palestinian spokesmen, by contrast, say the relative lull that had lasted until Thursday was a result of restraint among the militant Palestinian groups, not to Israeli military operations.

"I think there were no suicide bombings because these factions are for a while trying to give a chance," Ghassan Khatib, the minister of labor in the Palestinian Authority, said in an interview on Friday. "My view is that these factions can carry out suicide bombings, unfortunately, whenever they want."

In addition, the Palestinians say, the constant Israeli pressure only intensifies the hatred that prompts the attacks in the first place.

That is the fundamental question: Will the measures taken by Israel to stop extremist attacks have long-term success, or will they, in the long term, lead to more violence?

For the Israelis, the likelihood that the measures aimed at stopping terror will produce more terror is the crux of the dilemma. An example: A few days ago, in the operation in Nablus, a 5-year-old boy, Muhammad Naim Isryda, was shot dead, and Palestinian witnesses said Israeli troops, who are commonly described as shooting indiscriminately, were responsible. The senior commander in Nablus hotly disputed the Palestinian account on Thursday.

"There are a lot of stories like this," he said, "and most of the time you can't prove it, because they bury the body before there is an investigation."

A postmortem examination of the bullet, the commander said, could determine who killed the boy.

"There were three bullets shot in this incident, and I can assure you that no Israeli soldier fired in the direction of that boy," he said.

But the boy is dead, and as long as the Israeli raids continue, there will almost certainly be more like him.

"It will add to the anger and to the desperation," Mr. Erekat warned. "And desperation will lead to desperate acts, and desperate acts will lead to more bullets, and that's very unfortunate."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Friends of Sgt. Angelina Shahirov, 19, an Israeli soldier, mourned over her grave in Kfar Saba yesterday. She was one of four Israelis killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber on Thursday in Petah Tikva, outside Tel Aviv. (Photo by Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: December 27, 2003

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**TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR;
THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX.
SOON THEY**

The Independent (London)
September 27, 2004, Monday

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Section: First Edition; TITLE PAGE

Length: 685 words

Byline: COLIN BROWN AND HUGH MACLEOD IN DAMASCUS ASSASSINATION Hamas leader killed by car bomb in Damascus - Syria condemns terrorist act' by Israel KIDNAP British hostage Ken Bigley reported still alive' on 11th day in captivity - but under threat of death BOMBING US targets Zarqawi loyalists in Fallujah, but doctors say many innocent civilians were killed

Body

THE WAR in Iraq last night cast a pall over Tony Blair's hopes for using the Labour Party conference in Brighton as the springboard for his ambitions for a third term.

The Prime Minister, who was swept to power on a wave of optimism about the new politics he would introduce, was brought down to earth by the hostage crisis surrounding Kenneth Bigley, the assassination a Palestinian Hamas leader in Syria, death and suicide bombs in Iraq and a rebel vote by delegates to force Iraq on to the agenda for the conference.

Mr Blair, who prayed for Mr Bigley yesterday at a church service with his wife, Cherie, was left wondering how he can draw a line under the war and move back on to the domestic agenda, on which he has to fight the general election. Nothing seems to be working for him.

Iraq's collapse into chaos has made the country a rallying point for an endless supply of young extremists willing to die in a jihad, or holy war. Iraq has now replaced Afghanistan and Chechnya as the magnet for foreign fighters. New American new figures also show that insurgent attacks on contractors and US, British and Iraqi forces have increased dramatically since sovereignty was handed back in June.

As many as seven car bombs have been detonated in a single day this month and two more detonated yesterday. The US also claimed to have killed or captured more than 100 militants loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Fallujah over the past four weeks, while local doctors and residents say the US attacks have killed innocent women and children.

Attacks on the insurgents continued over the weekend as appeals went out for the release of Mr Bigley who was abducted in Baghdad 11 days ago.

Two American contractors taken with him have been beheaded with the grisly video evidence broadcast on the internet. Yesterday the temperature escalated once again as the Hamas leader Izz El-Deen Sheikh Khalil was killed

TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR; THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX. SOON THEY

when his car exploded as he tried to start it at about 10.45 am outside his home in the south of Damascus. Israel refused to confirm or deny its involvement, but unofficial sources said its security services carried

out the attack. Damascus denounced the bombing as an act of "Israeli terror".

Three years ago, Mr Blair spoke of the "high ideals" that were the driving force behind his Government. When he makes his keynote speech to the conference tomorrow, he is planning to strike a defiant note, insisting that the war on Iraq was right. The Prime Minister dismissed reports on BBC's Breakfast with Frost that he had undergone a "wobble" earlier this year over his low personal standing in the polls as a result of the Iraq war. "I am not the wobbling sort," he said.

Iraq now threatens to be his nemesis. One poll yesterday showed that Labour's majority could be slashed to 24 seats at the general election. The Cabinet, as this newspaper revealed last week, has been warned that Labour could lose three million votes because voters are dismayed at the way Mr Blair has been blown off course.

The leadership planned to recover the momentum at this week's conference, by rolling out policies on pensions, working families and schools that will form the centrepiece of the general election manifesto.

Mr Blair prepared the ground by announcing that the second war for Iraq had begun, thus challenging supporters to back him or the terrorists who are wreaking mayhem in Iraq.

The hostage crisis brought home the bloody conflict that ordinary Iraqis are living each day. Paul Bigley, a brother of the hostage, issued a warning to Mr Blair yesterday at an anti-war rally at the conference: "My brother is still alive - and you need to keep him alive." He bitterly protested that Mr Blair would have "blood on his hands" if his brother is murdered.

The Prime Minister used a series of interviews to stand firm over his policy on Iraq, insisting that he could not countenance giving in to the terrorists. He invoked the wartime spirit in an interview in The Observer to rally support in the country for the war. He did concede, however, that the coalition had made an error in disbanding the Iraqi army after the war.

Load-Date: September 27, 2004

AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN

The Express

July 7, 2004

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 485 words

Byline: By James Slack Home Affairs Correspondent

Body

THE visit to Britain by a hate-filled Muslim cleric who supports wife beating and suicide bomb attacks by children should be banned, the Government was urged last night.

Extremist Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, who has defended the beheading of a Western hostage in Iraq, is already barred from visiting America. But Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has issued the Egyptian with a visa to speak at a London conference for Muslim women next Monday.

Labour MP Louise Ellman called for the trip to be blocked. She pointed to alleged links between Dr Al-Qaradawi, who is the spiritual leader of the Egyptian terror group The Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas. She said: "It is outrageous that at a time of heightened security concerns and when the Government is clamping down on terror, somebody with close links to Hamas who has already been outlawed in the US is permitted to come to this country. He may well make inflammatory speeches inciting hatred. It will create enormous security problems at a very sensitive time."

Dr Al-Qaradawi is based in Qatar but was born in Egypt - the same country as hook-handed cleric Abu Hamza. AlQaradawi insists Israeli civilians are legitimate targets for Palestinian attacks and has even encouraged women and children to become suicide bombers.

Asked about children launching suicide attacks, he said: "The Israelis might have nuclear bombs but we have the children bomb and these human bombs must continue until liberation."

Al-Qaradawi, who is also head of the European Council on Fatwa and Research, has condemned the September 11 attacks, but describes Western civilisation as "wretched". He has attacked homosexuality as a "disease that needs a cure" and has discussed whether the punishment should be death.

Al-Qaradawi says women who are "disobedient" should be beaten and he has also refused to condemn outright the beheading of American hostage Nicholas Berg in Iraq. The cleric said the brutal slaughter, which was video taped, must be viewed "in the right context".

He is to be guest of honour at a conference on Muslim women's dress organised by The Muslim Women Society and the Muslim Association of Britain. The groups set up the "Assembly for the Protection of Hijab", the religious dress which has been banned in France and Germany.

Ms Ellman said Home Secretary David Blunkett had the power to ban AlQaradawi. In 2002, Mr Blunkett successfully prevented Louis Farrakhan, controversial leader of The Nation of Islam, from entering Britain.

AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN

But last night a Home Office spokesman insisted Al-Qaradawi's visit was a matter for the Foreign Office, which was asked to grant his visa application.

The Foreign Office said Mr Straw had granted the application. A spokesman refused to comment on his application but said: "Everyone applying for a visa has to satisfy the visa regulations. Visa officers will carry out a number of checks and will also ensure all criteria are satisfied."

Load-Date: July 7, 2004

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Dems' GM crop fears a lot of mumbo jumbo

Canberra Times (Australia)

March 26, 2004 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: A;

Length: 479 words

Body

AS A LONG-time supporter of environmental groups and a Greens voter at the last Federal election, I am mystified by the irrational opposition to GM crops, exemplified in comments by Democrats Senator John Cherry (CT, March 24, p12). As agriculture spokesman, he claims the recent decision by Western Australia to ban GM crops is "extremely sensible in light of all the scientific evidence". Like so many unthinking opponents of this technology, he has apparently jumped on a political bandwagon that presumably he considers will earn the Democrats some environmental votes. However, I can assure the Democrats that some greens supporters are disillusioned with the ill-informed, unscientific and blatantly opportunistic campaign against GM crops, and consider it a wanton waste of hard-won public moneys that could be put to better use in the conservation movement. What scientific evidence does Senator Cherry have to support his dire warnings of potential environmental disasters? An unbiased look at the wealth of information does not support this view. Furthermore, is he really suggesting that the existing regulatory controls over environmental releases and food approvals are not scientifically robust? I put my faith in the evidence based regulatory processes already in place, rather than the mumbo jumbo that appears to be driving the Democrats' environmental policy on this issue. NEIL BULLEN

Hughes Terrorists' aim is kill and maim

ALL THE things Charles Dearling (CT Letters, March 24) accuses Israel of can be attributed to the Palestinians. Does he not realise the suicide bombers do not have a specific target but are used to kill as many innocent civilians as possible. The suicide bombers only incite more violence and revenge killings. Hamas leaders declared the gloves are off a long time prior to this recent killing. The suicide bombers are not mourned after their cowardly deeds but looked on as heroes. I can't say I have heard any comment from Kofi Annan to the effect that any cowardly acts by Hamas (orchestrated by the blind quadriplegic in the wheelchair) were legal. If Weetangera was continually targeted by suicide bombers, and relatives and friends of Charles were continually being killed and maimed, what sort of a reaction would Charles take? I think the gloves would be off, quick smart. T. JONES Calwell Murderers all BALANCE in politics is rare. Balance in the under-world of terrorism is hallucinatory. Unless you are hallucinating, it should be remembered that Sheik Yassin sent many young politicians to their deaths on the false premise that, somehow, by murdering innocent men, women and children, a special place exists for the killers: it does - but it is not in any heaven. Murderers, whether clothed in sack-cloth or white silk, and those that incite murder, all end up in the one place, and it is not next to any God. ROSS LIGHTFOOT Senator for Western Australia

Load-Date: March 25, 2004

Dems' GM crop fears a lot of mumbo jumbo

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History paints an awful future

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

March 25, 2004

default

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Section: Features; General; Others; Pg. 15

Length: 806 words

Body

How do you defend yourself against an enemy, bent on your extermination? N May 27, 1942, SS General Reinhard Heydrich was fatally wounded when a bomb was lobbed into the front seat of his Mercedes by two Yugoslav Partisans, Jan Kubis and Josef Gabcik. Kubis and Gabcik had been trained in Britain and parachuted in by the RAF.

Heydrich was a Nazi's Nazi. He had presided over the Wannsee Conference, convened to settle arrangements for the extermination of European Jewry. In the reprisals that followed, the towns of Lidice and Lezaky were erased from the face of the earth.

Kubis and Gabcik were regarded as heroes at the time; that reputation remains to this very day.

On March 21, 2004, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was killed instantly by an Israel Apache helicopter. Yassin was the founder of **Hamas**, an organisation which holds that Israel, by its very existence, is an affront to Islam and that Palestine is the property of Muslims until the Day of Judgement.

That vision of Israel's destiny has led to the mutilation and murder of hundreds of men, **women** and children, Jewish and Muslim, at the hands of suicide bombers. Yassin was not merely complicit in that vision; he both conceived and gloried in it. His view of Israel's right to exist and his estimation of the worth of individual Jewish lives mirrored Heydrich's precisely.

On this occasion, however, the British government is not training those responsible for the assassination. Instead, it is to the forefront of condemnation of the Israeli government which sanctioned the assault. With the weasel-worded casuistry of his trade, the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, declared that while "All of us understand Israel's need to protect itself ... it is not entitled to go in for this kind of unlawful killing." A Conservative Foreign Secretary would probably have taken the same line.

But how do you defend yourself against an enemy, bent on your extermination, with a proven track record of mayhem and murder to that end? Where law conflicts, which duty prevails? Should the protection of your own citizens take second place to the rag-bag morality of the United Nations? And even if the justification for this approach is at the very least questionable, even more so is the assumption that, again in Jack Straw's words, "the assassination was very unlikely to achieve its objectives". It has already. Yassin is dead. That was the intent. It is wholly simplistic to say that this will provoke **Hamas** to reprisals. **Hamas** is Reprisal Incarnate. It already does everything it can to slaughter Jews and destroy the state of Israel. Killing its leaders inhibits its ability to do that. That is the brutal, bloody logic of Yassin's passing.

History paints an awful future

And the future? The comedian, Jeremy Hardy, came closer to it than he meant when he said that under George Bush's now defunct Road Map for Peace, "Yasser Arafat and Ariel Sharon should sit down and talk things over like good Christians." The point here is that you cannot come to a judgement about whether Jews or Arabs are right, merely by examining the chronology of outrage. You can only play that game if you trace the conflict back to the atrocity of your choice and then look no further.

Yet if Western politicians, our own included, are ever to make any meaningful contribution they will need to have at least a rudimentary understanding of how the West has contributed to this nightmare.

How many government ministers, let alone our Members of Parliament, have ever heard of the Balfour Declaration? Pronounced on November 2, 1917, and adopted by the League of Nations in 1922, the Declaration called for "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people", irrespective of the rights and wishes of those who were already living there, for reasons which owed rather more to the convenience of the European powers than they did to any genuine concern for the interests of Europe's persecuted Jewish minorities.

Incredibly for some years earlier, the British government had been working for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Uganda, a proposal only abandoned when it was finally rejected by the Seventh Zionist Conference in 1905.

"Peace," Mao Tse Tung famously declared, "comes through the barrel of a gun." In that sense Sharon and Yassin are right. They both represent a vision of the future, which their respective adherents will defend to the death of every last one of them.

For those raised on European liberal principles, this seems as tragic as it is incomprehensible. To those involved, it is merely the inexorable denouement of their own shared history.

If there is a lesson here, it is surely that European intervention has compounded, rather than alleviated, the misery. History as ever is the best guide to the future. It's just that for politicians the implications of history are sometimes too awful to contemplate.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004

Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A9; News

Length: 463 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told legislators Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and he ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hardliner. 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.

Associated Press

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 founder of **Hamas** 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 fulfil 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. The government also is 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," Assad said. "As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform."

Sharon was asked by a legislator at Monday's parliamentary committee meeting if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights

"No one should have any illusions: the price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz party, said Sharon suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

"His main declaration was that he is not ready to withdraw from the Golan, even for peace with Syria," Cohen said.

"He didn't agree to pay the price that President Assad asks to complete a peace treaty with Syria."

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

End of Document

Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 21

Length: 772 words

Byline: Anas Altikriti

Body

The three rocket missiles that were fired yesterday from a US-supplied Israeli helicopter at the break of day, on a procession of 15 Palestinians returning home after dawn prayers in a nearby mosque, may have brought to an end any prospect of peace in the Middle East.

At the centre of the group of worshippers was no ordinary individual. Ahmed Yassin was neither ordinary in his physical appearance, nor in his stature at the heart of a conflict at the root of global problems over the past five decades.

A 67-year-old quadriplegic, paralysed from the neck downwards and suffering from serious ailments, including severe visual and hearing disabilities, Sheikh Yassin was considered by some to be Israel's worst nightmare. But for millions of Muslims all over the world, he was seen not only as the founder of ***Hamas***, but as the spiritual father of the latest phase of Palestinian armed struggle for freedom, liberation and the reclamation of their occupied homeland. It was also Yassin who insisted that his people's struggle must remain within the boundaries of Palestine, and continuously offered Israel the chance of a truce, which was repeatedly turned down.

Yesterday the Israeli forces were issued with a direct order from the highest level to target and kill this man in his wheelchair. The aims of this mission may seem obscure to some, but to many they are cynically cold-blooded and foolish.

If the Israeli prime minister and his cabinet thought that eliminating Ahmed Yassin would bring closer the chance of peace and resolution to a conflict that has brought unspoken misery and bloodshed, then it is a government suffering from serious self-delusion.

Already ***Hamas***, Islamic Jihad, the al-Aqsa Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups have pledged to fight an open war against Israel, and, in the process, to stop at no boundary and to shy away from no target. One can only expect more bloodshed and an escalation of the cycle of violence that will scupper any prospect of a settlement within the foreseeable future.

The foreign secretary's statement yesterday denouncing the Israeli attack - as well as the French government's similar response - was welcomed by Muslims in Britain and throughout the world. But these responses also raise the question of where Europe truly stands on Israeli killings in the occupied territories and the Palestinians' right to resist.

Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands

Only last year, the European Union decided to proscribe Hamas - under pressure from the British government - condemning it as a terrorist organisation and thereby effectively granting Israel a licence to kill at will. And that is what it has been doing ever since. But this latest prize is likely to be one that will haunt not only Israel, but also those who have one way or another encouraged Sharon's "hunting season". In the eyes of Muslims and all those horrified by recent events, Jack Straw and his counterparts across Europe have blood on their hands.

In an attempt to legitimise its actions, Israel has invoked a language calculated to go down well with the global powers-that-be, such as "terrorists", "war on terror" and "the Palestinian al-Qaida". In the midst of all the blood and suffering, the world has managed to offer carte blanche to a government in breach of numerous UN resolutions, to kill citizens whose lands it occupies. And while we condemn without question a suicide attack carried out by a lone Palestinian youngster, we accept the legality and even applaud the courage of a soldier armed to the teeth, firing rocket missiles into densely populated residential areas from hundreds of feet up in the sky.

The Muslim community in Britain, together with Muslims worldwide, criticised the US-made "war on terror", not because they somehow condoned or welcomed terrorism. They do not. But at the heart of this staged and false campaign is a grave and dangerous principle. It is the principle that terrorism and bloodshed unleashed by states and elected leaders is somehow excusable and acceptable. It is the principle that might is right, and whoever holds the gun must be the bearer of truth.

If ever an example of state terrorism was called for, Israel unequivocally fits the bill. But the world's standards continue to be overturned and transformed. As a result, nations linger under occupation, innocent women and children die, and the future of us all is bleaker than ever before.

The murder of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is a turning point in the history of the struggle of a people. Alas, it is not a turning point that brings promise or hope.

Anas Altikriti is president of the Muslim Association of Britain

anas@fastmail.fm

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

October 2, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 454 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip

Body

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip -- Armoured vehicles massed on Gaza's border Friday after Israel's security cabinet approved a large-scale military operation -- dubbed Days of Penitence -- to stop Palestinian rocket fire.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz had ordered troops to "exact a price" from the terrorists, security officials said, after a **Hamas** rocket killed two children, aged two and four, in an Israeli border town.

Later, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a house in Gaza City, Palestinian witnesses said. Israel often carries out targeted killings of terrorist leaders.

Hundreds of troops, backed by tanks and helicopters, have been operating in northern Gaza since Wednesday, but more soldiers were expected to move into the area in the coming hours.

The cabinet approved the offensive late Thursday, at the end of a day of heavy fighting between troops and Palestinian gunmen in the Jebaliya refugee camp, the Palestinians' largest and most densely populated.

On Thursday, 28 Palestinians were killed and 139 wounded, most of them in Jebaliya. It was the highest single-day toll in 30 months.

On Friday, five Palestinians were killed and at least 22 were wounded in fighting in the camp. The army said troops fired at one group of gunmen planting explosives and at another setting up a rocket launcher.

A sixth Palestinian died of injuries sustained the day before.

On Friday, in separate incidents, Israeli troops fired two tanks shells and a missile from an aircraft at a group attempting to launch a rocket.

Several people were wounded, one critically, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said. At least three of the wounded were gunmen involved in the fighting.

Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the security cabinet he was determined to stop the rocket fire. "What can we do?" a participant quoted Sharon as saying. "The Jews, too, have a right to live."

In addition to the two children, three Israelis were killed in Gaza on Thursday: two soldiers and a woman settler.

However, Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, a member of the security cabinet, said it would be impossible to stop the crude rockets for good.

"It's such a simple weapon," he said. "It's impossible to ensure there won't be some pipe with explosives hidden in somebody's backyard."

Palestinians have been stepping up attacks in recent months in hopes of portraying Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 as a retreat under fire. The army has been pounding the terrorists in intensifying strikes to deny them such claims.

After a relatively quiet night, gunmen were taking up positions in Jebaliya alleys Friday. In one incident, two **Hamas** members were killed by an Israeli missile as they tried to fire a homemade Qassam rocket, the army said.

Graphic

Photo: Kevin Frayer, Associated Press; Israeli soldiers comfort one another at the graveside of Victor Ariel, killed along with a **female** Israeli settler in attacks on Thursday.

Load-Date: October 2, 2004

WORLD DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 24, 2004 Sunday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; World Digest; Pg. A16

Length: 475 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

Serbs boycott general elections

Kosovo's Serb minority largely boycotted general elections Saturday, dealing a blow to international efforts to create multiethnic harmony in the province.

The Albanian majority, however, eagerly cast ballots it hoped would bring the former Yugoslav territory closer to independence, but the lopsided turnout could further delay talks on Kosovo's future.

Kosovo's ethnic Albanians want independence, while Kosovo Serbs and Belgrade want the province to remain part of Serbia-Montenegro, the successor to Yugoslavia.

The election is Kosovo's second since it came under U.N. and NATO rule in 1999. Preliminary results from Saturday's vote were expected Monday, and final results a week later.

KAZAKHSTAN

Crew returns home from space station

The Soyuz spacecraft carrying a U.S.-Russian crew landed safely and on target Sunday in Kazakhstan.

The bell-shaped Soyuz TMA-4 made two orbits of the Earth before landing.

The craft carried Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka and American partner Mike Fincke. Padalka and Fincke had been in space since April on the international space station.

Seated in the Soyuz alongside them was cosmonaut Yuri Shargin, who had spent eight days on the station.

GAZA STRIP

Hamas militants kill suspected informer

Hamas militants killed a Palestinian whose information they said helped Israel assassinate the group's founder and nine others, dumping the collaborator's bullet-ridden body on a Gaza City street where it was found Saturday.

WORLD DIGEST

Palestinian militants have killed dozens of alleged informers in the West Bank, but such attacks have been rare in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian security services still function to some degree.

Also Saturday, a team of Tunisian doctors arrived in the West Bank city of Ramallah to examine Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, 75, who is recovering from the flu. The doctors met briefly with Arafat and were expected to examine him Sunday, officials said.

MEXICO

Gunmen abduct 3 U.S. citizens, kill 2

Four gunmen abducted three U.S. citizens on a rural highway in southern Mexico, fatally shot two of them and left the third -- a pregnant woman -- bound and gagged, authorities said Saturday. Four suspects were later arrested.

Reynaldo Valdez, 22, from Houston, was traveling with Miami natives Ashley Linn Diniger, 16, and Vanessa Burgos, 22, to visit Valdez's mother in Cutzamala de Pinzon, according to investigator Antonio Nogeda.

The three had left Cutzamala de Pinzon late Thursday when a vehicle carrying four men forced their vehicle off the road near Tierra Caliente, Nogeda said.

The gunmen put the Americans into a sedan without license plates, drove them to a nearby community and robbed them. The abductors later tried to sexually assault the two women, then shot Valdez and Diniger at close range, Nogeda said.

They spared the life of Burgos.

Graphic

photo; Photo by AFP/GETTY IMAGES - Serbs in Kosovo gather Saturday to attend prayer in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica. Serbs mostly boycotted general elections in the province.

Load-Date: October 24, 2004

Palestinians count the cost of five air strikes

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 22, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 428 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent in Gaza City and agencies

Body

Israeli attack helicopters and jets were still circling overhead yesterday as the people of Gaza prepared to bury the last seven victims of the worst day of air strikes since the peace process broke down.

At least 10 Palestinians were killed and more than 100 injured on Monday in five attacks by Israeli jets and helicopters.

The attacks followed an ambush by gunmen in which three Israeli soldiers were killed in the West Bank and the launch of eight makeshift rockets from Gaza into Israel on Sunday.

Two of the dead Palestinians are known to have been militants. The rest were bystanders, including at least one child.

The biggest Israeli attack occurred in the central Gaza town of Nuseirat when an Israeli Apache helicopter fired two missiles at a car in a crowded street.

Witnesses said the first missile narrowly missed the car but injured its occupants suspected **Hamas** militants and several bystanders. The second missile hit the car two or three minutes later, striking the car as it was surrounded by people.

Among those killed was Dr Zenadin Shahin, who had come to treat the injured, including a 10-year-old boy. More than 100 more people were injured as shrapnel from the second missile scythed through the crowd.

The first missile struck outside the house of Raid Baroud, 14, who ran home from the nearby mosque. "We were carrying away some of the injured when another missile hit the car," he said.

"We fell to the ground from the blast of the explosion. My brother, [Mohammed Baroud, 10] and father were lying on the street injured . . . They put my brother in an ambulance because he was bleeding badly, but it was too late. He died."

Tensions are high in Gaza, with many Palestinians fearing that Israel's emergency call-up of 1800 reservists at the weekend could signal the escalation of raids into the Gaza Strip.

At least 14 Palestinians were killed and many more injured in the previous week as Israeli tanks and helicopters destroyed more than 100 homes in the southern Gaza town of Rafah.

Palestinians count the cost of five air strikes

The Israeli Defence Force says its troops were searching for tunnels used by arms smugglers.

On October 4 a **female** Palestinian suicide bomber from the West Bank killed 21 people in a Haifa restaurant.

* Doctors say the Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, will require surgery soon to remove gallstones but otherwise his health is fine, aides said yesterday.

Murray Mottram reports from Melbourne, meanwhile, that the former Labor prime minister Bob Hawke is at the centre of a new peacemaking initiative in the Middle East, with the backing of the Howard Government.

Graphic

TWO ILLUS: Funeral rites . . . Palestinians pray around the bodies of **Hamas** members in Gaza City. Photo: AP/Kevin Frayer P Israeli soldiers mourn at the funeral of one of their colleagues. Photo: AP

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Ashrawi speaks her mind

Australian Financial Review

November 7, 2003 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 449 words

Byline: Julie Macken

Body

This peace-prize winner prefers to express herself in her own terms. Julie Macken reports.

Councillor Lucy Turnbull reckons she doesn't speak the language of peace, Prime Minister John Howard and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer think some other Palestinians should have got the gong, but 1500 Sydneysiders gave her several standing ovations at her first and only public discussion last Wednesday night.

So what is it about Hanan Ashrawi that has so polarised this year's Sydney Peace Prize?

Her CV, while impressive, offers few clues.

Ashrawi is an academic Christian-Palestinian woman and mother. Between 1991 and 1994 she served as spokeswoman for the official Palestinian delegation at the Madrid and Washington peace talks that led to the Camp David peace agreement.

In 1996 Ashrawi was elected as an independent candidate to the Palestinian Legislative Council and served as Minister for Higher Education. But she resigned in August 1998 in protest against corruption within the Palestinian Authority.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women identified her as one of three significant women in global peace negotiations in its Women at the Peace Table report in 2000.

So that's what she does, but what do her critics find so threatening in all of this?

Howard suggested to Sky Television yesterday that Ashrawi was not critical enough of Palestinian suicide bombers, saying, "I deplore the suicide bombings that take place against the Israeli state. You can't ask the Israeli people to accept goodwill from the Palestinian side when the leadership there in their eyes legitimately, I think continue to turn a blind eye to those attacks."

Ashrawi told a Sydney media conference yesterday that she had condemned groups such as Hamas but that she also condemns all forms of violence.

"I condemn violence against civilians and I condemn anybody that takes the law into their own hands. I looked at Hamas and [Islamic] Jihad and said military wings should not be allowed to continue and usurp the agenda. And anybody who breaks the law has to be held accountable in accordance with the law."

Ashrawi speaks her mind

It is Ashrawi's refusal to take on what she describes as the language of the "pro-Israeli lobby" that seems to infuriate her detractors in Sydney. Councillor Turnbull recently told The Sydney Morning Herald, "I'm concerned that people who are awarded the peace prize should speak the language of peace."

"I have my own language," Ashrawi responded. "It seems to me that it's very presumptuous and there is a certain degree of hubris that says, the only good Palestinian is the one who adopts someone else's language."

"They want me to represent a message in Israeli terms? I think that would be really dishonest."

Graphic

ILLUS: Hanan Ashrawi delivers the Sydney Peace Prize lecture. Photo: TAMARA DEAN

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

End of Document

DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

September 28, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 475 words

Body

CEREMONY CUT AFTER BUS TRAGEDY

THE Athens Paralympics cancelled celebrations at its closing ceremony after seven schoolchildren travelling to watch the event died in a bus crash yesterday.

The school bus, on its way to Athens from central Greece, collided with a truck. Thirty people were injured, 26 of them pupils in their teens, police said. Only four people escaped unscathed.

TERROR CHIEF DIES OF HEART ATTACK

THE alleged top al-Qaida operative in Lebanon, who was arrested 10 days ago after authorities uncovered a plot to bomb embassies and kill diplomats, died of a heart attack today.

Ismail Mohammed al-Khatib, in his early 50s, was rushed from police custody in Beirut to the Bahanes Hospital after suffering a heart attack, but doctors were unable to save him.

THE MOTHER OF ALL CLEAN-UPS

FLORIDA embarked on one of the biggest clean-up operations in US history today after Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth hurricane to hit the state in six weeks, killed at least six people and left more than 1 million without power.

More than 5000 emergency workers have been sent to Florida, joining thousands of police and other rescuers involved in the operation.

CALL FOR REVENGE AT FUNERAL

THOUSANDS of Palestinians, many shouting calls for revenge, today buried a member of the militant group **Hamas** who was killed in a car bomb assassination.

Izz Eldine Subhi Sheik Khalil, 42, was killed in al-Zahraa neighbourhood in Damascus yesterday when a bomb tore apart his car. The killing was the first of a **Hamas** member in Syria.

THAIS CONFIRM BIRD FLU CASE

THAI officials today confirmed a woman had caught bird flu, but played down fears of the first case of human-to-human transmission of the virus after the deaths of two relatives.

DOOM & GLOOM

The woman, who had been in contact with dead chickens, was the second Thai confirmed with the deadly H5N1 form of the disease.

ALLIGATOR KILLS WOMAN SWIMMER

A US woman, 20, died after an alligator bit off her arm as she apparently went out for a late-night swim in a lake near her grandparents' house in Florida.

The body of Michelle Reeves was found by her father in a lake, sheriff's spokeswoman Ileana LiMarzi said.

MUM IN COURT OVER SON'S DEATH

A BRITISH woman, 22, appeared in court in the south of England today, charged with the murder of her 15-month-old son.

Marianne Williams appeared at Winchester Crown Court on suspicion of giving her son Joshua a salt overdose in February.

AIRPORT COLLAPSE KILLS 8

A HUGE wall collapsed at an unfinished terminal at Dubai airport yesterday, killing at least eight workers.

"The wall fell down, and we all ran to help, but there wasn't anything we could do," worker Daljinder Singh said.

NURSE CHARGED WITH MURDER

BRITISH police today charged a nurse, 51, with three counts of murder after the deaths of three elderly **female** patients.

Ann Grigg-Booth will appear in court on October 12.

Load-Date: September 28, 2004

Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East

Canberra Times (Australia)

October 8, 2003 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2003 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 458 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Tension in the Middle East was further heightened yesterday after an Israeli soldier and a Lebanese child were killed in firing across their border.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia made a cease-fire with Israel the top priority of his new government as his emergency cabinet prepared to hold its first session.

Responsibility for the deaths was not immediately clear, as Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas denied shooting an Israeli soldier on border patrol on Monday, and Israel said it had not fired into the area where Ali Nader Yassin was killed and his brother Ahmed, eight, was wounded in the head.

Lebanese police said an Israeli shell had hit the boys' home in the village of Houla, 5km from the border. Its target was apparently a Hezbollah anti-aircraft battery which had fired at Israeli helicopters violating Lebanese airspace.

The deaths ratcheted up tension in the region off the back of an Israeli air strike on a target close to the Syrian capital Damascus, which the Jewish state says was a training camp for Palestinian militants.

The attack on Syrian soil, which provoked widespread condemnation, came in response to a suicide bombing in the northern Israeli city of Haifa on Saturday which left 19 people dead as well as the female attacker.

Funerals for 12 of the victims of the Haifa attack took place yesterday.

Retired navy admiral Zeev Almog was due to be buried in Haifa along with his wife, son and two grandsons. And in the nearby kibbutz of Yagur, five members of the Zer-Aviv family, whose ages range from 14 months to 59, were also being laid to rest.

The latest crisis prompted Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to declare Mr Qureia the head of a nine-member cabinet late on Sunday in a decree which also ushered in a state of emergency. The cabinet was to hold its first meeting in the West Bank yesterday.

Asked about his top priorities ahead of the meeting, Mr Qureia said, "Trying to reach a mutual cease-fire with the Israeli side."

The outgoing speaker of Parliament also said he wanted "an inter-Palestinian dialogue more serious than anytime before in order to reach a common ground on the way of ending the present crisis".

Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East

Sources close to Mr Qureia had said on Monday the Government would move against hardline factions such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad but Mr Qureia was also determined to avoid any descent into civil war in Palestinian ranks.

Israel has been reluctant to embrace appeals for a ceasefire, with a recent offer by Mr Arafat dismissed as a "honeytrap" by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesman.

The Government has said it would only talk with Mr Qureia if he was willing to dismantle the infrastructure of groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, which was behind the Haifa attack.

_ AFP

Load-Date: December 31, 2003

End of Document

EPA: Mercury contaminates almost all lakes and rivers

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 25, 2004 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 7A; DIGEST

Length: 506 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: WASHINGTON; DENVER; BALTIMORE

Body

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday that fish in virtually all of the nation's lakes and rivers are contaminated with mercury, a highly toxic chemical that poses health risks for pregnant women and young children.

EPA administrator Michael Leavitt drew his conclusion from the agency's latest annual survey of fish advisories, which showed that 48 states - all but Wyoming and Alaska - issued warnings about mercury last year. That compared with 44 states in 1993, when the surveys were first conducted.

Compiled from Times Wires

"Mercury is everywhere," Leavitt said.

Leavitt said that the widespread presence of mercury reflected a surge in monitoring - not an increase in emissions - as part of growing state efforts to warn local anglers about the fish they are catching. Last year, states issued 3,094 advisories for toxic substances, compared with 1,233 in 1993.

Florida issued 66 fish consumption advisories for its lakes and rivers in 2003.

Time reporter speaks to prosecutors in leak case

WASHINGTON - Avoiding potential jail time, a Time magazine reporter has given a statement to prosecutors investigating the Bush administration leak of a covert CIA officer's identity.

In a statement Tuesday, Time said reporter Matthew Cooper agreed to give a deposition after Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, released Cooper from a promise of confidentiality about a conversation the two had last year.

Cooper was held in contempt this month by U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan for refusing to testify in the leak probe. Hogan rejected Time's claims, as well as those of Meet the Press host Tim Russert, that the First Amendment protected them from having to testify.

Investigators are trying to find out who in the Bush administration leaked the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame, whose name was published by syndicated columnist Robert Novak on July 14, 2003. Novak cited two "senior administration officials" as his sources. It can be a felony to leak the name of an undercover officer.

EPA: Mercury contaminates almost all lakes and rivers

Judge restricts use of cameras in Bryant case

DENVER - The judge in the Kobe Bryant rape case on Tuesday sharply restricted how the news media may cover the trial using television and still cameras, saying he was worried too much exposure could threaten the fairness of the proceedings.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle said no cameras will be allowed during witness testimony or jury selection. Still photography will be allowed during opening statements and closing arguments. Video and audio coverage will be allowed during closing arguments.

Hamas operative arrested

BALTIMORE - A man described as a high-ranking **Hamas** operative was arrested after he drove across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge while his wife videotaped close-up shots of the structure, authorities said Tuesday.

Ismael Selim Elbarasse, long suspected by authorities of having financial ties to the Palestinian extremist group, was taken into custody last week and held as a material witness in an unrelated terrorism case in Chicago.

Load-Date: August 25, 2004

Israel to release some Palestinian prisoners; Members of militant groups and those who attacked Israelis will not be set free

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 7, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. d5

Length: 456 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand by agreeing Sunday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the limited move will be conditioned on the Palestinians dismantling militant groups.

The release aims to strengthen the rule of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has vowed to carry out the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

A top Palestinian official, however, expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, immediately condemned it.

The United States and Israel are strongly backing Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasser Arafat and as a Palestinian leader they believe can crack down on radical groups and help bring peace.

"All professional assessments which were submitted to Prime Minister Sharon indicated that releasing prisoners is likely to significantly contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, with whom we are negotiating," Israel's Cabinet said in a statement agreeing to the release.

"A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest," the statement said.

Sunday's Cabinet decision excludes members of militant groups like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel and excludes Palestinians who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Arafat's Fatah movement are observing a cease-fire of at least three months.

It was unclear how many prisoners would be released, but Sharon met earlier Sunday with Avi Dichter, head of the Shin Bet security service, who presented him with a list of several hundred prisoners slated for release. Israel's Channel 2 TV said 400 would be released.

In Israel, the arrest of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the Cabinet vote was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10-10 and only confirmed the measure 13-9 after the Cabinet agreed to set up a committee to monitor Palestinian compliance with the peace plan, said Tourism Minister Benny Elon.

Israel to release some Palestinian prisoners; Members of militant groups and those who attacked Israelis will not be set free

"The release would be carried out in tightly supervised, small and measured doses in relation to proven Palestinian actions in the security sphere; in other words, if terror continues and there is no genuine Palestinian effort to fight and eliminate it, the releases will stop," Sharon said after the Cabinet meeting.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the releases will not begin immediately.

Most of the prisoners who will be released have been detained without trial, have only a few months to serve, are either younger than 18 or older than 60, or are women, an Israeli official said.

Load-Date: July 7, 2003

End of Document

ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES";

Sunday Tribune

June 06, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Sunday Tribune plc

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 495 words

Byline: Eoghan Rice

Body

THE suicide bomber has become the defining image of the Middle East conflict. The civilian who walks into crowded public areas before detonating explosives wrapped around his waist; the civilian who will happily take his own life so long as one of 'the enemy' is also being killed.

It is a phenomenon that both intrigues and appals onlookers. Over the past two years, it has taken a new twist: women have joined the ranks of those willing to sacrifice their lives in order to kill Israeli civilians.

The sudden emergence of female suicide bombers is largely the consequence of a bitter struggle for control of the Palestinian people between Yasser Arafat and Hamas, according to Barbara Victor, author of a book on the subject, 'Army of Roses'.

Until 27 January 2002, women had been effectively barred from playing an active role in the intifada by Hamas.

On that day, Arafat, aware of his dwindling popularity, called on women - his 'army of roses' - to join the struggle against Israel. Later that day, Wafa Idris (26), entered a Jerusalem shopping centre and blew herself up, killing one Israeli man.

Victor, a CBS journalist, met Idris two months earlier in the Palestinian Red Crescent, where the future suicide bomber worked. "She was so charming and exuberant and full of life," recalls Victor. "At one point, there was a picture on the screen in the office of a male suicide bomber about to go off to blow himself up. I watched her watch him and she became completely focused." The glorification of suicide bombers through posters and videos has led to what Victor describes as "a culture of death". She recalls interviewing children as young as six years of age who dream of becoming "martyrs". While Palestinian organisations glorify the bombings, Victor does not hesitate to identify the real problem.

"Everyone has a choice to do it suicide bombings," she says, "but it is only the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised who are carrying out these attacks. The children of the leadership aren't blowing themselves up." Male and female bombers are treated differently by the leadership. Male bombers are promised 72 virgins in Paradise for carrying out such acts, while females are merely told that they will be more beautiful than the virgins.

According to Victor, "Paradise is just one big singles bar".

ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES";

Likewise, the families of male suicide bombers are given \$ 400 a month, but the families of females are given just \$ 200.

Victor analyses the cases of the four women who have joined the ranks of the suicide bombers and argues that, for many bombers, a martyr's death is merely the only alternative to suicide.

"There are suicides in every society. When you have a society which condemns suicide through the Koran but at the same time reveres it if it's done in a certain context, why wouldn't a depressed woman choose to take her own life under the guise of liberating Palestine? Some people just want to die and isn't this a wonderful way of doing it?"

Graphic

Wafa Idris: first bomber

Load-Date: June 8, 2004

End of Document

**SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL
WAR AND DEATH;
YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A
GHOST AT**

The Independent (London)

March 24, 2004, Wednesday

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Section: First Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 29

Length: 1182 words

Byline: JOHANN HARI

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was a far-right theocrat. If the Hamas programme 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. I would be stoned to death there for being gay. 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 programme. 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. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The wave of 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 programme of peaceful resistance to occupation. Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones". 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.

SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once universally regarded in Britain as "Terrorist Number One": "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 who 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 that 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 small 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 while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon 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. No; 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'être* 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

SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

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.

j.hari@independent.co.uk

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

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**PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/
PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION
BARRIER**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 492 words

Byline: Josef Federman/ The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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 said he had ordered a review of the West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments to Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee were seen as an unprecedented admission. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted that a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Sharon was asked by a lawmaker if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

"No one should have any illusions. The price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz Party, said Sharon had suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

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 also is considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

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.

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.

Syria is widely believed to support Hezbollah.

PEACE WITH SYRIA WOULD MEAN LOSS OF GOLAN, SHARON SAYS/ PRIME MINISTER SAYS HE HAS
ORDERED REVIEW OF SEPARATION BARRIER

In a broadcast by Hezbollah's Al Manar Television, the militant group said a bulldozer that was attacked had crossed the border into Lebanon. But Israeli Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz said the bulldozer was clearing land on the Israeli side.

At Monday's meeting, Sharon also said he had asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government had asked committees to study possible changes in the route as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Israel says the 440-mile barrier, which is one-quarter built, protects against suicide bombers and other attackers. But the barrier has severely disrupted the lives of tens of thousand of Palestinians, separating them from their farmland, jobs, hospitals and schools.

Also Monday, the founder of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** said it 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 said in Gaza that **women** must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested that male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

End of Document

FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES

The Independent (London)

May 13, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: Final Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 789 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN GAZA Smoke billows from houses in the Zeitun neighbourhood of Gaza City after two missiles were fired on the area during clashes between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces Brennan Linsley/AP Photo

Body

FIVE ISRAELI soldiers were killed in Gaza yesterday when a troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in an attack similar to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In one of deadliest 48-hour periods for the Israeli army since the beginning of the intifada more than three-and-a-half years ago, an armoured vehicle exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer that ran over a landmine in Rafah, at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And, as tanks and Apache attack helicopters moved into the area - including vehicles deployed to protect the remains of the soldiers from being seized by militants as they were in the first attack - members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and clothing from victims. One missile was reportedly fired at an unspecified target in the Rafah refugee camp.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitoun 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.

After a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, army spokesmen announced that they had identified the bodies of all six soldiers killed on Tuesday.

Palestinian militants said early this morning they had handed over the remains of the six Israeli soldiers to Egyptian mediators.

Last night, a missile attack by the Israeli army in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza killed at least seven Palestinians.

Earlier, Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitoun, which claimed the lives of at least 13 other Palestinians over the two days and injured up to 175.

Hospital officials said 30 per cent of the injured were children under 15.

FIVE ISRAELIS TROOPS KILLED IN FEROCIOUS GAZA CLASHES ESCALATES

One of the missiles hit a building, injuring nine people; the second hit a crowd outside a mosque. Three Hamas members died and 28 people, including two girls, were wounded. The army said the attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah refugee camp when he heard an explosion. He said: "Many windows in many houses were broken. I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. We are happy. We are in a war. This is Jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Dozens of Palestinian families were reported to have hurriedly packed their belongings and fled the area of the attack in fear of reprisals.

The escalation of the conflict in Gaza is bound to complicate the attempt by the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, to persuade his political allies to support his plan for disengagement from the strip. He is as determined to show that withdrawal of settlers and military posts from inside Gaza is not a retreat in the face of the militants, as the militants themselves are to proclaim it as a victory. Iyad Nasr, the Red Cross's spokesman in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly stand-off in Zeitoun.

He warned of a mounting humanitarian crisis in Zeitoun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that up to 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and food in a 500 square metre area of the neighbourhood since the incursion began. "It's disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitoun 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," he said.

As helicopters patrolled over Zeitoun and the Israeli army prepared to extend their zone of control towards Gaza City centre along the main Salahadeen Street, crowds of onlookers scattered repeatedly and fled for cover after explosions and gunfire 500 metres to the south. Balaclava-clad Hamas crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south towards the fighting before they were pushed north by an Israeli advance.

Earlier, Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-Hamas newspaper al-Risala, said that the 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 resistance offered in Zeitoun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters".

Mr Hamad said he did not believe the seizure of the body parts had been part of a strategy but had arisen because of the unusual circumstances in which they had been "scattered everywhere" in Palestinian territory.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004

MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION

The Independent (London)

May 13, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 810 words

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Body

FIVE ISRAELI soldiers were killed in Gaza yesterday when a troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in an attack similar to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In the deadliest 48 hours for the Israeli army since the beginning of the current intifada more than three-and-a-half years ago, an armoured vehicle exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer that ran over a landmine in Rafah, at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And as tanks and Apache attack helicopters moved into the area - including vehicles deployed to protect the remains of the soldiers from being seized by militants as they were in the first attack - members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and clothing from victims. One missile was reportedly fired at an unspecified target in the Rafah refugee camp.

The fighting has also claimed the lives of at least four Palestinians and more than 40 injured, including children.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitoun 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 in Gaza came as its spokespeople refused to confirm reports that the armed factions were ready to hand back the remains of the soldiers killed on Tuesday after a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority designed to end the fighting in the city.

Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitoun. One hit a building, injuring nine people. The second hit a crowd outside a mosque. Three ***Hamas*** members died and 28 people, including two girls, were wounded. The army said the attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah refugee camp when he heard an explosion. He said: "Many windows in many houses were broken. I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. We are happy. We are in a war. This is Jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Iyad Nasr, the Red Cross's spokesman in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly standoff in Zeitoun since being contacted by the Israelis on Tuesday afternoon.

MORE ISRAELI SOLDIERS DIE IN GAZA CITY INCURSION

He said: "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 Zeitoun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that up to 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and food in a 500 square metre area of the neighbourhood since the incursion began. "It's disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitoun 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," he said.

As helicopters had patrolled over Zeitoun and the Israeli army prepared to extend their zone of control towards Gaza City centre along the main Salahadeen Street, crowds of onlookers scattered repeatedly and fled for cover after explosions and volleys of gunfire some 500 metres to the south.

Balacava clad Hamas crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south to the front line of the fighting before it was pushed north by an Israeli advance which left it in control of around two square miles of the city. In the city's Shifa Hospital yesterday, Mohammad Nabil Zered, 10, who suffered a flesh wound when he was shot through his shoulder on Tuesday, said his cousin, also 10, had gone to a nearby house to get a better view of the fighting. "I called to him to come home because I was frightened he would get killed. We walked along the road by the wall and then they shot at us. I fell to the ground and my cousin ran to tell my father. I am happy because I was not killed."

Earlier, Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-Hamas newspaper al-Risala, had predicted an end to the stand-off, suggesting that 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 resistance offered in Zeitoun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters ... Israel will understand that the Palestinians have the ability to harm the big armaments of Israel." Mr Hamad said he did not believe the seizure of the body parts had been part of a strategy, but had arisen because of the unusual circumstances in which they had been "scattered everywhere" in Palestinian territory.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004

Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 499 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

A Palestinian woman suicide bomber struck at the main border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least four Israelis and wounding seven people in another blow to a US-backed peace "road map".

The woman blew herself up in a terminal where Palestinian labourers were going through Israeli security checks before entering a nearby industrial complex. "Glass and black smoke flew everywhere. Arabs were screaming, Jews were screaming, nobody knew what was going on," a Palestinian witness said.

The crossing is the main entry point into Israel for thousands of Palestinian workers.

It was the first Palestinian suicide attack since a bombing that killed four Israelis near Tel Aviv on December 25.

A caller to the Reuters news agency in the Gaza Strip claimed responsibility for the bombing in the name of the militant Islamic group **Hamas** and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. **Hamas** said the bomber was a 21-year-old woman from Gaza City.

Security sources said all of the dead and most of the wounded were Israelis. They said two Palestinians were among the wounded.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, faces intensifying corruption allegations following the publication of a clandestine tape recording and reports that prosecutors will next week indict a former associate on charges of bribing him.

With new revelations expected shortly in the so-called "Cyril Kern" and "Greek island" scandals the Israeli media are speculating that further damage to Mr Sharon's credibility could force him to resign, or spark a leadership battle within his Likud party.

The linked scandals involve payments of millions of dollars by overseas donors to companies and charities under the control of Mr Sharon or his sons Gilad and Omri, and allegedly used in part to fund his campaign to win control of the right-wing Likud party in 1999.

Female bomber claims at least four Israeli lives

In the "Greek Island" affair, a Likud member and Sharon associate, David Appel, paid nearly \$US500,000 (\$645,000) to Gilad Sharon, ostensibly in return for consultancy work on the tourist potential of a casino Mr Appel was hoping to build on a Greek island.

Prosecutors allege Mr Appel was trying to enlist Mr Sharon's support in gaining permission for the project from the Greek authorities. Israeli media reports say Mr Appel is likely to be charged with bribery as early as next week, and even if Gilad and his father escape related charges, revelations from the case could severely embarrass them.

On Monday, another former Sharon adviser and associate, David Spector, a private investigator, showed a September 2000 tape on Israeli television in which Mr Sharon presses him for detailed information on overseas payments to a political front organisation.

While the organisation in question was examined by Israeli courts and not found to be criminal, Mr Sharon's conversation is seen at the least as contradicting his claim to have no involvement in his own financial affairs.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Leading Israel to suffering;
Likud: out of touch

Canberra Times (Australia)

March 28, 2004 Sunday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 1177 words

Body

S HEIKH 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. I would be stoned to death there for being gay. 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 his assassination this week. 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. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The wave of 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". 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.

Leading Israel to suffering; Likud: out of touch

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once universally regarded in Britain as "Terrorist Number One": "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 who 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 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 that 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.

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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 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. No; 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'être* 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. - THE INDEPENDENT

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

Two await fate as US recoils at video

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 22, 2004 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 550 words

Byline: Marian Wilkinson Herald Correspondent in Washington

Body

Two hostages, one American and one British, were under threat of execution as President George Bush arrived in New York to ask the United Nations for more help in Iraq and to meet Iraq's interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi.

The beheading of an American hostage, Eugene Armstrong, put the Iraq invasion at the forefront of the US election campaign.

The execution video that showed Mr Armstrong, a construction contractor, blindfolded and screaming, brought home the horror of the war. It was released as Mr Bush and his Democratic opponent, John Kerry, stepped up their debate about Iraq.

A US official in Washington confirmed that Mr Armstrong's body had been recovered soon after the videotape was posted on an Islamic website. It showed a terrorist, believed to be the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, carrying out the murder while a statement was read.

It referred to Mr Bush as "a dog" and said "the mujahideen will give America a taste of the degradation you have inflicted on the Iraqi people".

Mr Bush described the killers as "ideologues of hatred" who carried out the beheading "in order to shake our will".

The two other hostages kidnapped with Mr Armstrong, an American, Jack Hensley, and a Briton, Kenneth Bigley, remained under threat of execution.

Zarqawi's followers kidnapped the three Westerners last week and are demanding the release of all **female** prisoners from US custody in Iraq. The US military say two of Saddam Hussein's senior scientists are the only **women** being held. One of them is "Dr Germ", Rihab Rashid Taha.

On the eve of Mr Bush's speech to the UN, Senator Kerry issued his most trenchant attack yet on Mr Bush's Iraq policy.

Senator Kerry, who appeared to accept that the invasion would dominate the remainder of the campaign, called for "a great honest national debate on Iraq".

Two await fate as US recoils at video

For the first time, he said Mr Bush's Iraq policy "has not strengthened our national security. It has weakened it". He accused Mr Bush of "colossal failures of judgement" and "incompetence", and said that the overthrow of Saddam had not made America safer.

"The satisfaction we take in his downfall does not hide this fact: we have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure."

Mr Bush hit back, accusing Senator Kerry of "twisting in the wind, with new contradictions of his old positions on Iraq". He noted Senator Kerry's vote last year to support the war and his continued justification of that vote. "Incredibly, he now believes our national security would be stronger with Saddam Hussein in power, not in prison," he said.

Polls show that Mr Bush is still significantly ahead of Senator Kerry on the question of which of them is better suited to handle the Iraq crisis, even though half of the country believes the war was a mistake.

* The leader of the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which has claimed a string of suicide bombings in Israel, has urged Iraqi guerillas to stop taking hostages and concentrate on fighting the occupation of their country, Associated Press reports.

"We are against kidnappings and we wish the Iraqi resistance would stay away from this behaviour and concentrate on its natural right in defending its land and people, by resisting the occupation forces, foremost the American occupation," the Hamas political bureau head, Khaled Mashaal, said.

Graphic

PHOTO: The video showing Armstrong moments before execution.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Now Palestinians are turning on Bush

Canberra Times (Australia)

April 19, 2004 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: A;

Length: 871 words

Body

Y OU NEVER know which straw will finally break the camel's back, but it may have been Wednesday's meeting between President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The public endorsement Bush gave to Sharon's abandonment of the "peace process" in favour of "unilateral disengagement" was mostly symbolic, since the Israeli leader was committed to doing it anyway. But in the Middle East, patience is finally running out.

The people of the Arab countries have been remarkably patient as they watched their living standards decline under corrupt and oppressive governments backed by the West.

They have been patient as Israel sat on the conquered Palestinian territories for 37 years, pushing Arabs off the land and planting their own settlements on it. They have been patient about a lot of things - but that dry, snapping sound you heard a moment ago may have been the camel's back breaking.

Look at the past month from an Arab perspective. At the end of March, Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and leader of the Palestinian Islamist organisation **Hamas**.

Yassin was a staunch supporter of the use of terror against the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territory - but he was also an elderly paraplegic who was widely seen as a holy man, and for many years Israel avoided attacking him.

Many Palestinians saw Yassin's murder as a deliberate attempt by the Israeli Government to stimulate massive terrorist attacks which would distract international attention from Sharon's massive land grab in the West Bank.

They were probably right, though the attacks have not yet come. What did come was a statement by Dr Abdelaziz Rantissi, **Hamas**'s new leader in the Gaza Strip, that "America has declared war on Allah. Allah has declared war on America and Bush".

Most people in the West have forgotten that international terrorism was once the specialty of secular Palestinian nationalists.

They stopped all that dead in 1988, after they got international recognition that the Palestinians were a people with a claim to their land and not just anonymous "Arab refugees" who could be put anywhere. All subsequent Palestinian terrorism has been directed exclusively against Israel, whose soldiers occupy that land - until now.

What Rantissi was saying is that America's complicity in what Israel is doing to the Palestinians is so great that the United States will also become a target of Palestinian terrorism.

Now Palestinians are turning on Bush

Of course, Hamas hasn't even retaliated against Israel for Yassin's death yet. Still ...

Spin forward a week to Iraq, where the ham-fisted mismanagement of the US occupation regime turns the killing of four men in Falluja and the banning of a 10,000-circulation newspaper published by a radical young cleric into two full-scale sieges of major Iraqi cities.

It will be a miracle if the US military don't kill a thousand Iraqis this month (they're already up to 800), and no matter what the American military spokesman says, people watching Arab television can see the makeshift hospitals are full of wounded women and children as well as young men. Perhaps the United States is not the Arabs' enemy, but look at it through Arab eyes.

And finally, Wednesday at the White House. It was obvious why Sharon, in trouble at home on several fronts, needed Bush's support for his radical plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip (where there are only 7500 Jewish settlers among 1.3million Palestinians). He hangs on to almost all of the far bigger settlements on the West Bank, confining the Palestinians there behind his "security fence", thus unilaterally settling the new borders of an emasculated Palestinian pseudo-state. It is less clear why Bush had to give it to him. For 37 years, Republican and Democratic administrations alike have insisted, along with everyone else in the world, that Israel's legal border is the pre-1967 one, and that it can only be changed by freely negotiated agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yet there was Bush, with Sharon beaming by his side, announcing a new US policy: "In the light of new realities, including already existing Israeli population centres, it is unrealistic that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the [pre-1967 borders]."

Not a word about how those "already existing Israeli population centres" were planted there by force after the Israeli military occupation in 1967; not even a nod to the United Nations resolutions that have been the bedrock on which every previous negotiation was built.

There aren't going to be any more peace negotiations, of course, which suits Sharon fine - but why does it suit the US? Bush's unnecessary concessions to Israel were so effective in alienating Arab opinion that his speech might have been ghost-written by Osama bin Laden. This may not prove to be the final straw, but we are getting very close. For 40 years the US has managed to preserve a dominant position in the Arab world despite its permanent disagreement with the Arabs about Israel, but now it is throwing it away.

The Arab regimes that depend on US backing are getting very worried, and five or 10 years from now the Middle East may look a lot more like bin Laden's dream than Bush's. - The Independent

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

Israel strikes back after settler slain

The Toronto Star

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 543 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

An Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza early today, killing at least one man in apparent retaliation for a Palestinian militant mortar attack a day earlier that killed an Israeli-American female settler.

The Israeli army said it had taken out a group of militants in Khan Younis preparing to fire a rocket into Neve Dekalim, the nearby Jewish settlement. A mortar bomb launched yesterday from the same spot on the edge of the camp killed settler Tiferet Tratner, 24. That was the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

Tratner's death, on the eve of Yom Kippur, Judaism's most solemn day, is likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Israeli military response to Tratner's killing was to prevent another such attack, an Israeli army spokesman said.

"Before they managed to launch that projectile, we identified the terrorist cell from the air and fired at it, scoring a hit on at least two men, although we know there were at least four of them," the spokesman said.

Residents of the refugee camp said the missile crashed near a mosque. Hospital officials said the dead man was a civilian aged 55 or 60 and three other people were wounded.

Violence has surged in Gaza ahead of the planned withdrawal of Israeli settlers and soldiers from the occupied land by the end of 2005. Militants are eager to say they drove out the Israelis and the army is keen to hit them hard before it leaves.

The Islamist militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the shelling of Neve Dekalim, a day after three Palestinian gunmen killed three soldiers on the fringes of another settlement to the south. On Wednesday, a teenaged suicide bomber killed two Israeli border policemen in Jerusalem.

A Hamas video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar yesterday. One of the shells crashed through Tratner's house. She was wounded in the head and died shortly afterward in a hospital, according to the Israeli military.

Israel strikes back after settler slain

Tratner, who also had U.S. citizenship, worked at a children's zoo in Gaza, according to a settlers spokesman.

Later yesterday, Israeli forces fired guns into the Khan Younis camp. Palestinian residents reported two people wounded.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since 2000, but yesterday's attack marked the first time a Gaza settler was 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."

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said, "The Palestinians are doing everything they can to scuttle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. We will take any measures necessary to defend our citizens."

With files from the New York Times, Reuters

Load-Date: September 25, 2004

Israeli pilots' stand of conscience

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 26, 2003 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 446 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem

Body

The Israeli Government says it plans disciplinary action against a group of air force pilots who have refused to take part in assassination operations in the occupied territories.

Although scores of Israeli ground soldiers have already been jailed or disciplined for refusing to serve in occupied Palestinian territories on grounds of conscience, this week's declaration is the first act of open dissent by air force pilots the elite of Israel's highly militarised society.

Signed by 27 active and reserve officers, a letter released on Wednesday said: "We, who were raised to love the State of Israel and to contribute to the Zionist enterprise, refuse to take part in air force strikes in civilian population centres.

"We, for whom the Israel Defence Forces and the Israel Air Force are an inseparable part of us, refuse to continue to hurt innocent civilians.

"These acts are illegal and immoral and are a direct result of the ongoing occupation that corrupts all of Israeli society."

The protest has shocked Israel, with the balance of opinion against it. Several commentators said that whatever the rights and wrongs of the occupation, serving officers should not take political stands against obeying orders.

The head of the air force, General Dan Halutz, said only nine of the 27 were on active service and they would be asked to retract their statements or be dismissed. The other signatories are said to be older officers seldom if ever called up for active duty. One, Brigadier General Yiftah Spector, commanded a squadron in the Yom Kippur war 30 years ago.

In media interviews some of the signatories said their protest had its genesis in July when the Government ordered an F-16 jet to drop a one-tonne bomb on a **Hamas** leader, Salah Shehade, in Gaza at a time of relative quiet in the conflict.

The attack took place in a residential area late at night and nine children were among those killed. It was followed by a renewed wave of terrorist attacks in Israel. Defending the assassination as a strike against terrorism, General Halutz said his pilots could sleep well at night.

Israeli pilots' stand of conscience

"I grew up on the slogan 'The best become pilots'," one of the letter's signatories, identified as Captain Alon, told the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

"But when I heard Halutz talking about Shehade's assassination the worst strike, the biggest stain as I see it, in the history of the Israeli Air Force something deep broke inside me. I don't sleep well at night. How many more have to be killed until we realise that we are committing crimes?"

Since a suicide bomb on August 19, Israeli aircraft have killed 12 **Hamas** members and four bystanders in the Gaza Strip and injured scores more.

Graphic

ILLUS: Palestinian **women** look at a wrecked car after an air strike in Gaza City this month. Photo: AP

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Sharon Says Israel May Extend Barrier Deeper in West Bank

The New York Times

October 25, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1095 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 24

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday that Israel's military was working on a proposal to extend a contentious West Bank barrier with a section that could go into the Jordan Valley near the border with Jordan.

Mr. Sharon's comments came as the Israeli Defense Ministry published its first detailed map of where the barrier is expected to run. Israel says the barrier, made up of sections of electronic fence, concrete walls and trenches and razor wire, is essential to keep out Palestinian suicide bombers.

But as the barrier zigs and zags through the West Bank, it will put tens of thousands of Palestinians on the Israeli side, isolating them from other Palestinian communities in the West Bank. Palestinians have been fiercely critical of the plan, saying Israel is unilaterally creating a de facto border and confiscating Palestinian land.

The map released Friday is largely in line with plans already announced by Mr. Sharon's government. However, the map does not include an additional segment in the Jordan Valley, a proposal that has been under discussion for months.

"The route is being planned now. The moment it will be completed, it will be presented to the government," Mr. Sharon said of the Jordan Valley proposal in a television interview. The cabinet has approved other sections of the barrier by large majorities.

Mr. Sharon insists the barrier is solely for security and could be moved or taken down if the two sides reach a future agreement on borders. However, any additions to the barrier in the West Bank are sure to further anger Palestinians.

The international community has been strongly critical of the barrier, and even the United States, Israel's strongest ally, has objected to the proposed route because it cuts so far into the West Bank.

Israel says the barrier needs to go into the West Bank to protect Jewish settlements, though not all of them will be on the Israeli side. Extending the barrier into the Jordan Valley would offer additional protection to about 20 small, isolated settlements.

Meanwhile, violence continued on Friday.

Sharon Says Israel May Extend Barrier Deeper in West Bank

Striking at night in a thick fog, a Palestinian gunman cut through a wire fence and shot five Israeli soldiers in a barracks, killing three and wounding two in the most serious of several attacks in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops and Palestinian militants have been trading blows 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 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 they had not been able to get inside the seaside enclave, where Israeli soldiers guard about 300 settlers.

Heavy fog rolls in from the Mediterranean this time of year, and it apparently helped the Palestinian gunman traverse 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 gunman struck at 4:30 a.m., and most or all were believed to be sleeping, a military official said.

After the shooting. Mr. Fouda was fatally shot by soldiers. An assailant from the Islamic Jihad faction who had accompanied him did not get past the fence and fled.

In the Jabaliya refugee camp on Friday, not far from the Jewish settlement, thousands of Palestinians cheered a Hamas leader, Nizar Rian, who called the shooting a retaliation for Israeli military action.

"Our blood is not cheap and our operations will go on until we return all of Palestine," Mr. Rian said. Mr. Rian is a prominent Hamas leader who still appears in public despite recent Israeli strikes aimed at senior figures in the Islamic faction.

Nearby, at Mr. Fouda's home, his sister Amal Fouda praised the shooting. "There is sadness," she said at the loss of her brother. "But at the same time I am very proud of this operation. I wish he killed more than three."

In a videotape released to news organizations, Mr. 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.

The other Palestinian attacker with Mr. Fouda also appeared in the video. But because he survived, his face 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 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 Israeli military has hit hard at Palestinians in Gaza recently. After Palestinian rocket attacks Sunday, Israeli warplanes and helicopters carried out five airstrikes 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 Mr. Sharon.

Meanwhile, Einat Osman, a sister of one of the slain soldiers, Adi Osman, was critical of the way the Israeli troops were being used in the Gaza Strip. A large number of soldiers guard about 7,000 Jewish settlers, who are vastly outnumbered by the 1.2 million Palestinians in the territory.

Ms. Osman said her sister wanted to be a combat soldier, but was given little responsibility and had little to do.

Sharon Says Israel May Extend Barrier Deeper in West Bank

"Most of the time she sat in the room and watched television," Ms. Osman told Israel radio. "She had very little motivation and didn't know what she was doing there."

Asked if the family was upset that Adi Osman had been posted to Gaza, Ms. Osman said: "Of course we had a problem with this. What are they there for? But Adi wanted to be a fighter. She wanted to be useful."

Gaza was the scene of several other violent incidents on 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 on Friday at a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza, causing minor damage but no injuries.

On Thursday night, Israeli troops shot and killed 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.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Chart/Map: "Barrier Update" Israel has published its first detailed map of the security barrier. Map of Israel highlighting: Completed barrier Planned barrier Segments planned and approved by the Israeli government Areas of formal Palestinian authority Israeli settlement areas (Sources by Israel Ministry of Defense, B'tselem) Map of Israel.

Load-Date: October 25, 2003

Middle East Crisis: Syria calls on UN to condemn attack: Raids: Air strikes were aimed at specific camps used to train terrorists, including one which was financed by Iran, says adviser to Sharon

The Guardian - Final Edition

October 6, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 15

Length: 818 words

Byline: Jonathan Steele

Body

At an emergency session of the UN security council last night Syria called for a resolution to condemn the early-morning Israeli attack on its territory which its foreign minister, Farouq al-Shara, called a "grave escalation" of tensions in the Middle East.

Syria was capable of deterring Israel but would exercise restraint over the raid, he wrote in a letter to the council.

The air strikes, the first direct Israeli military action on Syrian territory since the October war of 1973, were not unexpected. Israel hinted several days before the Haifa bombing for which Islamic Jihad took responsibility, that it might bomb the leaders of Palestinian groups in Syria and Lebanon.

In response to that threat Syria's President Bashar al-Assad said that Damascus was taking precautions "against every negative matter that Israel could think of".

The Israeli action also appeared to be aimed at Iran as part of the prime minister, Ariel Sharon's efforts to get President George Bush to view Iran and Syria more harshly in the wake of the war in Iraq.

With US forces now implanted directly between the two countries which are Israel's biggest critics in the region, neoconservatives have been pressing for a tougher US line against Damascus and Tehran, which are described by the state department as sponsors of terrorism.

"We're here in Iraq now . . . we expect cooperation from Syria," Mr Bush said soon after US troops occupied Baghdad.

Raanan Gissin, a senior adviser to Mr Sharon, yesterday said the Ein Saheb camp hit in the raid was financed by Iran. The Israeli army released undated footage of the camp, which it said had been taken from Iranian television. It showed a military officer conducting a tour of the camp. In one room were displayed hundreds of weapons, including grenades, with Hebrew markings and other weapons apparently captured from Israel. Another scene showed underground tunnels packed with arms and ammunition.

"We will not tolerate the continuation of this axis of terror between Tehran, Damascus and Gaza to continue to operate and kill innocent men, women and children," Mr Gissin said. "We did not attack Syrian targets, but very specific camps used to train the terrorists," he said.

Middle East Crisis: Syria calls on UN to condemn attack: Raids: Air strikes were aimed at specific camps used to train terrorists, including one which was finan....

Speaking on the al-Jazeera television network, Abu Emad el-Refaei, an Islamic Jihad spokesman in Beirut, denied that there were any Islamic Jihad bases in Syria. "All our bases are inside the Palestinian-occupied territories," he said. He did not deny that militants received training in Syria.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have long had offices in Damascus from which they issue statements. After the US invasion of Iraq, Syria closed the offices as a gesture to Washington but refused to expel **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad leaders as the US demanded.

Without the expulsions, Israel says the office closures are meaningless. The Israeli government claims **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad leaders in Syria give directions to the groups' members in the West Bank and Gaza. "Syria has been warned more than once by the US that it should close all the facilities of the Islamic Jihad," Avi Pazner, the Israeli government spokesman, said.

Israeli military intelligence released documents last year which it claimed to have captured during its occupation of Jenin and other West Bank cities. Palestinian officials call them forgeries. They allegedly reveal that Ramadan Abdallah Shalah, Islamic Jihad's leader, sent funds from his headquarters in Damascus to Palestinian militants in Jenin.

Mr Shalah, who was born in Gaza, has supported suicide bombing. He is quoted as saying in September 2000: "Our enemy possesses the most sophisticated weapons in the world and its army is trained to a high standard . . . We have nothing with which to repel killing and thuggery against us except the weapon of martyrdom. It is easy and costs us only our lives . . . human bombs cannot be defeated, not even by nuclear bombs."

Mr Shalah's predecessor as head of Islamic Jihad, Fathi Shiqaqi, was assassinated in Malta in October 1995, apparently by an Israeli agent.

Some analysts said the attack in Syria might be a warning that Israel may revive its policy of murdering militant Palestinian leaders even out side the West Bank and Gaza. "Israel seems to be sending a signal in two or three directions without wanting to escalate too far," said Rosemary Hollis, head of the Middle East programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"It is satisfying the domestic requirement for a retaliatory move, without doing the thing which the US does not want them to, which is to go after Yasser Arafat. It is calling attention to the regional dimension - though it's loaded with irony since until now they've held the Palestinian leadership responsible.

"It adds to earlier warnings to Islamic militants that 'we can get you wherever you are'. It plays into some of the noises coming from Washington against the backdrop of Iraq."

Load-Date: October 6, 2003

News in Brief

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 27, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A17; Brief

Length: 550 words

Body

Hamas tries but fails to avenge Israeli attack

JERUSALEM **Hamas** yesterday delivered new threats of revenge for the assassination of its founder, but had trouble carrying them out: Israel foiled a seaborne attack on a settlement, killing two attackers in wet suits, and a militant died in the West Bank when his explosives blew up prematurely.

Also yesterday, Palestinian leaders criticized the U.S. for vetoing a UN Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel for killing Sheik Ahmed Yassin, leader of the Islamic militant group, in a Monday air strike.

20-minute AIDS test gets U.S. approval

WASHINGTON The first oral test for the AIDS virus that gives results in 20 minutes won approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on yesterday, a new option for people leery of blood testing.

The Spectator wire services

It's the second rapid HIV test on the market -- the other requires pricking a person's finger to test a spot of blood.

With the new alternative, health workers simply wipe a treated cotton swab along the gums and stick the swab into a special testing device for on-the-spot results.

Hooters Girl applicants videotaped undressing

WEST COVINA, CALIF. Police say nearly 200 **women** who applied for jobs as Hooters Girls were secretly videotaped while undressing to put on a uniform.

Authorities in West Covina raided a trailer last month, seizing a computer with 180 digital videos of the **women**.

Police say the victims, aged 17 to 25, are "shocked," and "feel betrayed."

No charges have been filed.

Olympic boxing captain charged with assault

WINDSOR Andrew Singh Kooner, captain of Canada's Olympic boxing team, faces charges including assaulting a police officer after several individuals were rounded up for acting unruly in a downtown parking lot.

News in Brief

Kooner, 24, was also charged yesterday with causing a disturbance and resisting arrest just days after qualifying for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and being named captain of the Canadian team.

Staff Sergeant Ed McNorton said Kooner was charged with assault after an officer was spit on while the boxer was being put into a police wagon.

Radio DJs suspended for on-air pranks

TORONTO Gross-out TV personality Steve-O made a mess yesterday with his brutish antics on a Toronto morning radio show.

After a series of sexually suggestive and graphic on-air pranks, he was pulled off the show on The Edge, 102.1 FM, and the popular radio hosts running it were suspended.

Steve-O, Chris Pontius and Weeman of MTV's Jackass were in the city promoting the Don't Try This At Home tour, which is making its rounds -- complete with bloody stunts from self-inflicted torture.

Boy, 4, brings cocaine for show-and-tell

INDIANAPOLIS The mother of a four-year-old boy who took crack cocaine to his preschool class for show-and-tell has surrendered.

Andrea Jackson, 23, turned herself in to authorities.

She's charged with trafficking and possession of cocaine, neglect of a dependent and possession of marijuana. A warrant has been issued for the boy's 24-year-old father, who is facing the same charges.

When police searched the couple's home, they found a handgun and rifle rounds, shotgun shells and a bulletproof vest, scales and some suspected marijuana.

The children -- an infant and siblings ages four, six and seven -- are in protective custody.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004

News briefs

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

April 20, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 558 words

Body

Jordan's king puts

hold on Bush talks

AMMAN, Jordan - The king of Jordan, one of America's closest allies in the Middle East, postponed a White House meeting with President Bush this week, questioning the U.S. commitment to ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The snub from King Abdullah II comes amid Arab anger at Bush for endorsing an Israeli proposal to withdraw unilaterally from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank but keep Jewish settlements on other West Bank land claimed by the Palestinians.

Abdullah is under pressure at home to demonstrate his U.S. ties can further Arab positions on the Israeli-Palestinian question as well as on the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

The White House played down any hint of friction with Jordan, saying the Wednesday meeting with King Abdullah was rescheduled to the first week of May "because of developments in the region."

Abdullah returned to Jordan today. He had been in the United States since last week.

U.N. police officers

to face questioning

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro - Four U.N. police officers from Jordan were stripped of their diplomatic immunity Monday to be questioned in a fellow Jordanian's killing of two American guards in Kosovo.

It wasn't clear why Sgt. Maj. Ahmed Mustafa Ibrahim Ali opened fire on a convoy of corrections officers on Saturday. He and the two female American guards were killed in the shootout that followed, and 11 people were wounded.

Ali was a member of a highly trained unit in Jordan and had been decorated for warding off an attack on the Israeli Embassy in Amman, a Jordanian official said.

The four other Jordanian police officers at the prison in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica were detained. Authorities lifted their diplomatic immunity, opening the way for them to be interrogated, officials said.

News briefs

A delegation of Jordanian police officials arrived Monday in Kosovo to assist with the investigation, which is led by an international prosecutor, officials said.

Eight of the 10 Americans were moved to a U.S. military base in Kosovo for treatment, a U.S. military spokesman said Monday. The other two were treated and released, and an Austrian also wounded was flown home Sunday for treatment.

One American officer remained in critical condition following brain surgery in neighboring Macedonia, U.S. peacekeeping spokesman Staff Sgt. Michael Houk said.

Palestinians fire

rockets into Gaza

JERUSALEM - Palestinians fired a barrage of homemade rockets and mortar shells at Gaza Strip settlements and towns inside Israel in retaliation for the killing of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, Israel said today.

Israeli soldiers raided the Gaza neighborhood where some of the rockets originated, killing three Palestinians and wounding 21 others, witnesses said.

Over two days, 15 Qassam rockets hit Israeli targets, wounding one Israeli and damaging at least five structures, the army said. It was one of the most intense rocket barrages in more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The rocket attacks began soon after Israel killed Rantisi and two of his bodyguards in a missile strike on his car Saturday night, three weeks after it killed the militant groups' spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Israel said the killings were part of its campaign to weaken **Hamas** in advance of a proposed pullout from the Gaza Strip and some West Bank settlements in 2005.

Load-Date: April 21, 2004

14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 8, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

Length: 528 words

Byline: Robert Tait in Jerusalem

Body

The biggest Israeli raid into Gaza for months left 14 Palestinians dead yesterday, including three children, amid fears of a sharp upsurge in violence before Israel's planned withdrawal from the Palestinian territory.

Dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles backed by Apache helicopters entered the crowded Bureij and Nusseirat refugee camps before dawn, provoking fierce resistance from Palestinians armed with rifles, rocket launchers and anti-tank weapons.

The previous day six Palestinians - four assailants and two policemen - died in an abortive assault on Israeli troops at the Erez border checkpoint.

The Israeli forces cut telephone and electricity lines between the refugee camps and central Gaza when the raid got under way, Palestinian sources said, and put snipers on rooftops.

In Nusseirat, Mahmoud Abu Hujair, a father of three, said: "Soldiers blasted their way into our housing block at 4 am. They turned our roof into a base to battle gunmen.

"**Women** and children were screaming. The building was heavily damaged."

The Israelis withdrew by mid-morning.

Palestinian doctors said three of the dead were boys aged eight, 12 and 14.

Israel said 10 of those killed were known militants, nine belonging to **Hamas** and the other to the Popular Resistance Movement, an umbrella group committed to defending Gaza's refugee camps.

At least 72 Palestinians were wounded.

It was the biggest death toll in Gaza since an Israeli raid on the Khan Younis refugee camp in October 2002 killed 19.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians joined yesterday's funeral processions. A **Hamas** gunman told mourners that the militants were "ready for confrontation" with Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister.

The Palestinian government accused Israel of committing "state terror against our people" and said it was deliberately intensifying its military action as a precursor to its planned evacuation of Jewish settlements in Gaza.

14 Palestinians killed during Israeli raids on refugee camps

"At a time when they're speaking about withdrawing from Gaza, they're destroying Gaza," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian cabinet minister.

Mr Sharon has promised to "unilaterally disengage" from Gaza and parts of the West Bank and impose his own arrangements in the absence of a resumption of peace talks in the coming months.

Analysts predict that Israel will step up its assaults on militants in Gaza, who in turn are believed to be keen to inflict as much damage as possible in Israel in order to portray the withdrawal as a Palestinian victory.

But Israel described yesterday's action as a "pinpoint strike" against the "terrorist infrastructure", unrelated to the forthcoming withdrawal.

"We are now fighting terrorism. This has nothing to do with any future plan about Gaza," said a government spokesman, Avi Pazner.

"Terrorism is pouring out of (Bureij) refugee camp, and we have to stop it. We believe that by doing so we have prevented acts of terror in Israel and saved many human lives."

Israel says Palestinian militants have fired mortar shells and Qassam rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza, as well as firing on Israeli army convoys.

About 7,500 Jewish settlers live in the territory, and 1.4 million Palestinians.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

End of Document

**Israel Hit by 2 Suicide Attacks;
Bus stop, cafe bombed
at least 13 die**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 10, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 827 words

Byline: Michael Matza and Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two Palestinian suicide bombings less than six hours apart killed the bombers and at least 13 other people and injured dozens more last night in Israel.

The attacks - the first outside the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion and the second at a Jerusalem cafe - made good on threats from the Islamic group **Hamas** and other Palestinian extremist groups to avenge an Israeli military strike Saturday against the organization's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. That attack did not kill Yassin or other senior leaders of the group who were meeting in Gaza City.

Israel vowed to eradicate the group after its last suicide bombing, in Jerusalem on Aug. 19, killed 22 people. The escalating violence has virtually eliminated prospects for U.S.-supported peace efforts and underscored the improbability that the newly named Palestinian prime minister can persuade Israelis to return to the negotiating table.

There were no claims of responsibility for the bombings, although **Hamas**' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam, said in a statement to the Qatari television station Al-Jazeera 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 than what is happening right now."

The dual bombings, about 30 miles apart, seemed designed to highlight Israel's vulnerability.

The first came at the height of the evening rush hour outside Tzifrin Army Base in central Israel, where soldiers packed a bus stop waiting for rides home. Seven soldiers were killed, at least three of them **women**, and at least 15 were wounded, police said.

Israel Hit by 2 Suicide Attacks; Bus stop, cafe bombed at least 13 die

Warnings from Israeli security services about terrorists slipping into Jerusalem quickly followed the attack, and police fanned out across the city. But the second bomber managed to infiltrate the trendy German Colony section of Jerusalem. At 11:20 p.m., a security guard at Cafe Hillel tried to stop the bomber, who rushed in and blew himself up about six feet inside the popular coffee shop.

Six people were killed and 31 injured in that blast, police said.

The blast shattered the floor-to-ceiling windows and left a 10-foot-wide puddle of blood on the tile floor in front of the cash register. It blew out windows in many other shops along the street and set off the alarms of dozens of cars. For an hour afterward, demolition experts broke into cars and searched trash bins along the street for other bombs.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short a visit to India and planned to return to Israel today.

President Bush, at a campaign fund-raiser in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said the attacks showed "the need to dismantle terrorist organizations, groups like Hamas," and the need for a Palestinian prime minister "who is committed to fighting terrorism and empowered to dismantle terrorist organizations."

Tova Ross, who survived the blast at the Jerusalem coffee shop, said she had been aware of terrorism alerts and had decided to sit with two friends toward the rear of the restaurant, away from the windows. "That and with God's help is why I'm alive," she said.

Ross, who comforted her injured friends at a hospital, said that when the bomb exploded, the restaurant "went dark, and there was a flame. I went out the window and went to somebody's house."

The 6 p.m. blast near Rishon Letzion scattered human remains, green army gear, and paper coffee cups outside the gates of Israel's main military installation, where soldiers work during the day and go home at night.

"I was supposed to take a bus from here but was called back by my commander. Then I heard the explosion," said Nurit Betzer, 20, a corporal from the town of Beit Shean. She ran to help the wounded and only later realized it was the fifth time in three years that she was in the vicinity of such an attack, including one outside the Dolphinarium discotheque in Tel Aviv in 2001, which killed 22, including the bomber.

"It's always the same. The smell of blood. The smell of burning. . . . Things you are stepping on and you don't know what they are," she said, her eyes stained with tears.

Anticipating reprisals for Saturday's assassination attempt on Yassin, Israel has been in a heightened state of security.

Palestinian Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qureia denounced the attack in an interview with the Jerusalem Post.

"This is very bad. . . . Very bad. We condemn this strongly," he said. "It is possible to establish security on the ground . . . we can control the situation . . . but we need cooperation" from the international community and Israel, he said, adding that Israel's policy of targeted killings of Palestinian attackers was triggering more attacks.

Israeli government spokesman David Baker said: "The attack today is further indication that the Palestinian Authority is doing absolutely nothing whatsoever to rein in terrorists or to dismantle the terror infrastructure in their areas."

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign@phillynews.com.

Graphic

PHOTO;

Israel Hit by 2 Suicide Attacks; Bus stop, cafe bombed at least 13 die

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS, Associated Press

Bystanders leave the scene of a suicide attack at a Jerusalem cafe where six people were killed and 31 injured. The bombing there followed one six hours earlier near Tel Aviv.

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End of Document

Raid kills six refugees; Palestinian UN envoy warns of perpetual conflict ahead of vote

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

October 12, 2003 Sunday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 53

Length: 488 words

Byline: DAVID BLAIR, JERUSALEM

Body

THEIR faces etched with grief, four little girls mourn the loss of their brother just hours after Israeli forces struck deep inside the Gaza Strip.

Troops supported by helicopter gunships launched an attack in a crowded refugee camp, killing six Palestinians and destroying at least 12 homes.

Among them was 15-year-old Palestinian boy Sami Salah. Mourners carried his body out of the family house for burial in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah yesterday.

Sami was killed during an Israeli army operation in which Israeli forces trying to demolish Palestinian weapons smuggling tunnels fought gunmen in the largest army raid in six months in this refugee camp, a frequent battlefield.

Fifty more Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were wounded.

Others among the dead were two boys, aged eight and 12.

An Israeli army statement said the raid's objective was to uncover tunnels used to smuggle weapons for **Hamas** and other extremist groups. Rafah is near the border with Egypt in southern Gaza and arms are brought across the frontier in a network of tunnels.

But Palestinians accused Israeli forces of launching a devastating attack with no regard for civilian lives. Iyad Barhoum, 24, narrowly escaped when an Israeli bulldozer partially demolished his house in Rafah in the early hours of the morning.

"Suddenly a bulldozer was hitting the back of my house," he said. "We were 10 people in the house. We ran away. I saw barefooted **women** carrying children and having little clothes on them."

His uncle Mousa was severely wounded in the face and legs when an attack helicopter fired a missile directly into his home, he said. Israeli soldiers shot Mr Barhoum's 11-year-old cousin, Louai, and the boy's right arm had to be amputated.

Raid kills six refugees Palestinian UN envoy warns of perpetual conflict ahead of vote

Israeli forces have found 30 tunnels inside Rafah this year. Another was located during yesterday's raid. Most start inside houses and then run beneath the frontier to the Egyptian side.

Israeli officials say that choking off the supply of arms running through the tunnels is a vital military objective. They believe that Palestinian extremists could use this route to enlarge their armoury by obtaining shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. Two of the dead yesterday were believed to be **Hamas** members.

Meanwhile, Palestinians warned Washington yesterday that the Middle East peace process would be doomed if a US veto at the United Nations allowed Israel to extend its security fence deep into West Bank territory.

If Israel is allowed to continue construction, "this will mean the end of the two-state solution, and that will take us to either a more drastic and radical solution or perpetual conflict. It should be looked at that seriously," Palestinian UN envoy Nasser al-Kidwa said.

Al-Kidwa called for a UN Security Council vote on Tuesday on a draft resolution seeking to bar Israel from building the fence on Palestinian land and denouncing plans for more than 600 new homes in Israeli settlements.

Graphic

ILLUS: CHILDREN THE VICTIMS: The sisters of 15-year-old Palestinian Sami Salah, killed in an Israeli raid on Rafah in the Gaza Strip, cry as mourners take away his body for burial. Two other children were killed in the raid. Picture: AP

Load-Date: June 20, 2007

Frozen accounts jeopardize learning, healing in Gaza

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

September 15, 2003 Monday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2003 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 1404 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Dateline: DEIR EL BALAH, Gaza Strip

Body

For 11-year-old Ahmad Elewadi, it is a refuge from the squalor and violence of Palestinian life.

The Al-Salah Benevolent School sits on an attractive campus with palms, hibiscus and - a rare sight in this hot, sandy land - lush green grass. There are soccer fields, computers, a library and science labs. In what may be the most modern and best-equipped school in Gaza, Ahmad and other children from poor Palestinian families read about the Great Wall of China, study anatomy, learn to speak English.

"Good morning, teacher," they shout in unison. "We are fine. How are you?"

And then to two American visitors, "Welcome, welcome, welcome!"

The school is run by the Al-Salah Islamic Society, which also operates four medical clinics in Gaza. But come Oct. 1, the clinics may cut services and 720 students may be out on the streets.

The reason? The Palestinian Authority has frozen the bank accounts of Al-Salah and eight other Islamic charities while it investigates whether they help support **Hamas**, the militant group that has killed scores of Israelis.

"There have been charities that Israel has long suspected of being front organizations for **Hamas** - anything that serves this need of stopping the flow of money is a positive development," Dore Gold, an Israeli government spokesman, said in praising the Aug. 24 freeze on the accounts.

But critics say the move was illegal because the Palestinian Authority acted without a court order or showing any evidence that money was used improperly.

Al-Salah, among the largest of the nine charities, "provides vital and needed services," says Raji Sourani, director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. "This is totally counterproductive."

The charities learned of the action only from news accounts and after hundreds of Palestinians went to the bank to collect their monthly stipends, only to be told the accounts were frozen. Al-Salah has appealed for help from the human rights center, a non-profit organization funded in part by European governments and the Ford Foundation.

"Salah came to us because they have so many people heavily dependent on them and it's devastating for them," said Vicki Metcalfe, a British lawyer at the center. "We have sent two letters to the Palestinian general prosecutor requesting an explanation, but we have yet to be given a copy of the order."

Frozen accounts jeopardize learning, healing in Gaza

Hamas and Al-Salah both deny any links between the two. Al-Salah's director, Ahmed Al-Kurd, says the Palestinian Authority acted only because of heavy pressure from Israel and the United States.

He notes that the charity was founded 25 years ago while Israel controlled the Gaza Strip, and says it never had any problems with Israeli authorities. Now, he insists, Al-Salah is an innocent victim of America's war on terror and Israel's campaign against the Palestinians.

"You see where the money goes - a school, medical centers," he says, gesturing excitedly. "These buildings, what do they do for **Hamas** - there is no relation to **Hamas**."

In the absence of bank statements or other hard evidence, it is impossible to know whether Al-Salah has funnelled money to terrorist groups. But clearly the organization has spent considerable sums helping Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, where unemployment is 60 percent and many of the 1.2-million people live in poverty.

Al-Salah estimates that 15,000 Gazans a month visit its clinics, including the new Yaffa Medical Center here in the date-growing town of Deir el Balah. Amid trash-strewn streets and squat concrete buildings, the six-story center stands out with its immaculate grounds and striking architecture.

Nor is it all for show. There is an emergency room, dental clinic, eye clinic and ob/gyn facility, all with state-of-the-art-equipment. Patients can pick up medications from an in-house pharmacy.

In the physical therapy room, Enzehar Albaz watches her 18-month-old son, Ahmed, dangle from a contraption that forces him to stand upright. He was born with a condition that severely weakened the muscles in his right arm and leg, but after three months of exercise, he can now move both.

"He is doing good," his mother says, "and, God willing, he will get better."

The center's top three floors are still unfinished, but Al-Salah hopes to convert Yaffa into a full-fledged hospital. Another of the charity's clinics, in a Gaza refugee camp, is also being enlarged - with the help, ironically, of a \$55,000 grant from the same U.S. government that was instrumental in freezing the charity's bank accounts.

"We found it to be a very necessary project, and we stand behind it," said Tom Neu of American Near East Refugee Aid, a Washington-based organization that proposed funding for the clinic expansion.

"Our cooperation with Al-Salah has been very good - they provide good medical services."

Israel often accuses Islamic charities of aiding the families of terrorists. But Al-Kurd, Al-Salah's director, points out that most suicide bombers are single men with no wives or children. Moreover, there have been no bombers from Gaza in at least three years.

"They say we help terrorists - how many of the 4,000 people we help are terrorists - maybe one or two?" asks Al-Kurd. "The rest are **women**, the old people, orphans - are they terrorists?"

At the Al-Salah school, the vast majority of the 720 students are "orphans," as Palestinians often refer to children without fathers.

Many, like 12-year-old Alaa Zarnouk, lost their parents in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her father, she says, was an innocent bystander shot in a crossfire as he stood in their doorway when she was only 3.

Other fathers died of natural causes, leaving behind widows too poor to afford schooling for their kids.

Six days a week, buses pick up pupils from Rafah, 18 miles to the south, and Gaza City, 12 miles to the north, and ferry them to Deir el Balah. The school provides free uniforms - crisp white shirts and dark green vests for the boys and younger girls; long gray cloaks and white headscarves for the older girls.

The school also gives them backpacks, supplies and textbooks. The latter, the same as those used in all Palestinian schools, are illustrated with color photographs and whimsical drawings.

Frozen accounts jeopardize learning, healing in Gaza

In addition to math, science and other subjects, students study the Koran, the Muslim holy book, in the same way as those in a Catholic school in America might study the Bible. The primers for learning English, however, have the word "church" as well as "mosque."

What the textbooks don't show, or mention, is the nation of Israel. The land between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea is labeled "Palestine" - Palestinians maintain it would be wrong to show Israel because the boundaries of the Jewish state have yet to be determined in "final status" talks between the two sides.

Also jarring - at least to non-Palestinians - is a large color painting of a boy aiming a slingshot at what appears to be an Israeli tank. But the school denies it is an example of inciting children to violence against Israel, as Israelis often accuse Palestinians of doing.

"It is not the picture that will encourage them - it is when they come from Rafah and spent a whole day on the bus because the Israelis will not let them through," Fayza Abu Shawareb, a director of the school, says angrily. "This is what will encourage them."

Indeed, road closures in Gaza have been frequent enough in the past few years that the school has bedding and space for dozens of students to spend the night.

Al-Kurd, head of Al-Salah, says operations at both the school and medical center will soon come to a halt unless the bank accounts are unfrozen. A greater, long-term danger, he says, is that organizations throughout the world that regularly contribute to Al-Salah will be scared off because of American and Israeli pressure.

"If these stop helping us, how will the families get help?" he asks. "How will the schools work? How will the clinics work?"

There have been suggestions that all donations to Al-Salah and the eight other charities be funnelled through Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which governs Gaza and the West Bank. But critics say that could be tantamount to throwing the money away, given the authority's reputation for waste, corruption and inefficiency.

"It's an absurd idea," says Sourani of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. "I'm telling you honestly - the P.A. is paralyzed, the P.A. is on the verge of collapse."

- Susan Martin can be contacted at susan@sptimes.com.

Graphic

PHOTO, JAMIE FRANCIS, (4); MAP; Girls at Al-Salah Benevolent School do homework as they await buses to take them home.; Girls at the Mrs. Khadejah Benevolent School, the girls' part of Al-Salah Benevolent School in Gaza's Deir el Balah, cheer for classmates during a foot race; in exercise class. ; A woman and two children walk by a horse drawn cart and past portraits to honor those killed in "operations" or clashes with Israel.; Girls stretch during exercises on the attractive campus at Al-Salah Benevolent School,; which may be the best-equipped school in Gaza. ; Locates Deir el Balah in the Gaza Strip. Inset locates area of Israel.

Load-Date: September 15, 2003

BLOODY WEEKEND;
THE U.S. MUST INTERVENE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 7, 2003 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 544 words

Body

Last weekend's exchange of bloody tit-for-tats between the Palestinians and Israelis, now expanded to include Syria on the receiving end, leaves the rest of the world gasping for breath. More U.S. and international involvement is called for than just the ritual dance that occurred in the U.N. Security Council Sunday.

A young Palestinian **female** suicide bomber carried out an attack Saturday in a Haifa restaurant on the eve of the Jewish holy day Yom Kippur, killing 19, including three children. One of the Palestinian militant groups, Islamic Jihad, claimed credit for the brutal assault.

In return, Israel carried out an aerial bombing Sunday on a camp 12 miles northwest of the Syrian capital, Damascus; a civilian guard may have been injured. Israel says the post was a training camp for Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**, but the Syrians say it was a refugee camp. The Israeli air assault inside Syria was the first in 30 years.

Some Middle Eastern observers are speculating that the camp might also have hosted some of the Islamic fighters who are attacking Americans and Iraqis cooperating with the Americans in Iraq, an interpretation that would make the Israeli attack more palatable to the United States.

The U.N. Security Council met in emergency session Sunday, with Syria presenting a resolution condemning Israel for its attack. The United States said it would veto the resolution unless Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** were condemned as well. The meeting adjourned without action, with no date set for a vote. Check and mate there, in all likelihood.

So what now? In spite of President Bush's commitment to the two-state plan of the "road map" and the efforts of the quartet that devised it - the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States - the process is currently off the rails. The Palestinians' negotiating team is in disarray from wrangling between Yasser Arafat, who is trying to hang onto authority, and newer Palestinian leaders, who may be more acceptable to Israel and the United States.

In the meantime, Israel is proceeding with construction of its 400-mile wall and fence across the West Bank and has announced that it will construct 600 new houses in its settlements, rather than dismantle them under terms of the "road map." The United States continues to weasel on whether it will cut off any of Israel's requested \$9 billion in loan guarantees or \$3 billion in annual aid if Israel proceeds with construction of the barrier.

BLOODY WEEKEND; THE U.S. MUST INTERVENE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

People who have watched the Middle East for many years always hope that the scope of the horror that the two sides wreak upon each other will drive them into serious, constructive negotiations. It doesn't seem to be occurring now.

That says that, unless the United States is prepared to sit on its hands and let the slaughter continue - and possibly expand into a regional war that includes Syria - it needs to move, and move quickly.

Could President Bush invite Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Syrian President Bashar Assad, a selection of Palestinian leaders and the Egyptian president and Jordanian king, for example, to an urgent Washington or Camp David summit to try to end the bloodshed and restart talks?

Even with the situation in Iraq, "no action" is simply not an acceptable U.S. position.

Load-Date: October 11, 2003

End of Document

NATION;
WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News

AUGUST 28, 2003 Thursday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 51

Length: 558 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

Oklahoma prosecutors

charge WorldCom execs

Oklahoma prosecutors filed the first criminal charges yesterday against WorldCom and former CEO Bernard Ebbers in the \$11 billion accounting scandal that plunged the long-distance giant into bankruptcy.

The company, Ebbers and five other former executives were accused of falsifying the books in violation of Oklahoma securities law.

The former executives have one week to appear in court in Oklahoma City. WorldCom, which now calls itself MCI, could face millions in fines and restitution.

Ten Commandments moved

from view in Alabama

A 2 1/2-ton granite monument of the Ten Commandments that became a lightning rod in a legal storm over church and state was wheeled from the rotunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building in Montgomery yesterday as protesters knelt, prayed and chanted, "Put it back!"

Suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who installed the engraved set of tablets two years ago and risked his career to keep it there after a federal judge ordered it removed, said he would take his fight to the U.S. Supreme Court.

NEA: Teaching profession needs more men, minorities

NATION; WORLD

Only two out of 10 teachers in America's classrooms are men, the lowest figure in 40 years, according to a National Education Association survey. Just one in 10 teachers is a minority, another sign that teachers have far less diversity than the people they educate.

NEA President Reg Weaver said the disparity denies students a range of role models.

About half of students are male and almost 40 percent are minorities, according to government figures.

39 killed, 125 injured

in holy river stampede

Crowds of Hindu pilgrims waiting to bathe away their sins in a holy river in western India surged over a flimsy bamboo fence, triggering a stampede that killed at least 39 people and injured 125.

Worshippers spilled to the ground as the fence collapsed and were trampled by the thousands of others pushing toward the muddy Godavari River outside the town of Nasik, about 110 miles northeast of Bombay. Twenty-six of the dead were women, said Nasik Mayor Dashrath Patil.

Arafat ignored as he urges

an end to Hamas attacks

Yasser Arafat asked militant groups yesterday to halt attacks on Israelis, the Palestinian leader's first public attempt to restore calm following the collapse of the armed groups' unilateral truce.

But a Hamas leader rejected the call, while Israel, which has tried to sideline Arafat from the peace process, dismissed it as empty rhetoric and said its army would keep hunting down terrorists.

Bride's mom didn't think male stripper was up for the job

A 52-year-old Wheeling, Ill., woman has pleaded guilty to assaulting a male stripper in a melee that erupted after she refused to pay him for what she says was a paltry performance at her daughter's bachelorette party.

Jacqueline A. McMahon was sentenced to 30 days of court supervision and ordered to pay \$2,500 to the stripper in a plea deal. Prosecutors also dropped battery charges against McMahon's daughter, Carrie L. McMahon, 22, and a bridesmaid.

The 28-year-old man suffered head injuries, bruises and scratches when he was punched, kicked and hit over the head with a bottle after his performance July 13, 2002.

Police say the stripper was a stand-in for the dancer requested by the hosts and allegedly cut his show short without doting enough on the bride.

Graphic

PHOTO;

Associated Press

Rusty Thomas preaches during Ten Commandments vigil.

Load-Date: August 15, 2005

NATION; WORLD

End of Document

Blair's myopic vision on terror;

Morning Star

April 03, 2004

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Section: Pg. 8

Length: 210 words

Body

TARGETED killings do not just eliminate or take out the target. An analysis of Israel's targeted killings between September 29 2000 and March 3 2004 records that, of the 337 killed, at least 134 - 40 per cent - were civilian bystanders, including women and children.

Following the savage slaying of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a 13-year-old boy protester, Musaab al Khalban, was shot through the head by a strategically placed Israeli sniper in a murder that mirrored that of British peace activist Tom Hurndall.

These are not sporadic incidents, but a systematic attempt to break the indomitable spirit of all resistance fighters.

This persecution and territorial acquisitiveness is not exclusively confined to Palestinians. Bedouins, semi-nomadic people, are being leant on as well to quit their tribal homeland in the Negev desert.

Tony Blair, in his meeting with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, spoke of their nascent shared ideals regarding the war on terror.

But there was no condemnatory remark from him about Sheikh Yassin's unlawful execution or the innocents that have been slain and mutilated as the Likud government has implemented its programme of state-sponsored terrorism so brazenly and uncompromisingly.

MARTIN PHILLIPS Mynydd Isa

Load-Date: April 6, 2004

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive;

Opinion

Sunday Tribune

March 28, 2004

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Section: Pg. 17

Length: 941 words

Byline: Johann Hari

Body

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin was a farright theocrat. If the Hamas programme 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 Sharia 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. I would be stoned to death there for being gay.

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 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 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. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this thinking bears no relation to reality.

The wave of 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 programme of peaceful resistance to occupation.

Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones".

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion

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.

If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis. Israel's first Likud prime minister, and Zionist freedom fighter in the 1940s, Menachem 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.

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 that most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples.

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 small 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 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.

No; 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 Palestinian goals 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 moderates and extremists - is pushing Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.

He has just united Palestine behind a **Hamas** fanatic.

Yassin will become a ghost urging Palestinian martyrdom. He is far more dangerous dead than alive; Opinion

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

End of Document

**MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR;
AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN
MEETS**

Liverpool Daily Echo

March 24, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: First Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 6,7; Newspaper

Length: 810 words

Byline: PADDY SHENNAN

Body

AMERSEYSIDE language student who was hailed a hero after being caught up in a bomb blast at an Israeli university fears terrorists could be about to launch a further wave of atrocities.

Alastair Goldrein, 21, from Blundellsands, helped pull dead and badly injured students from the cafeteria at Jerusalem's Hebrew University - an attack which claimed the life of his American friend, 20-year-old Ben Blutstein, and nine others.

The attack was launched in July 2002 - Alastair, now studying for a degree in Latin and Ancient Greek Classics at London's University College, had only recently enrolled at the university's Frank Sinatra International Student Centre for a three-month course in Hebrew, having previously studied Jewish law there.

Now he fears a devastating series of revenge attacks against the Israeli people are set to be launched, following the assassination of **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Alastair, whose 19-year-old sister, Alexandra, is coming towards the end of the gap year she is spending in Jerusalem, where she is studying Hebrew, says: "There is a daily ritual of fear there and what has happened will increase that fear.

"It's so difficult for people who are simply trying to go about their daily lives. Some are too scared to go to work, or go shopping - to even go outdoors at all.

"Things are so bad on a day to day basis that mothers send their children to school and wonder if they'll ever see them again."

Alastair comes from a distinguished Merseyside family: his mother and father - Margaret and Iain - are both prominent Liverpool QCs, while his grandfather, Neville Goldrein, was a former leader of Merseyside county council.

Alastair, who returned to Jerusalem last summer to complete his studies, adds: "The bomb blast did change the way I felt. I might have been on a bus looking at an individual and thinking he looked a little heavy around his waist - and wondering whether he had a bomb strapped to him. It can drive you crazy.

MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS

"All parents in Israel will be worried about their children and my own sister, who is a tough cookie, has been banned from going on buses."

Alastair says he will never forget the scene of carnage which greeted him, as he struggled to help the injured people lying among the dead.

"There was silence -and then wailing. All I could see were women and children lying there, with limbs missing. It was just a terrible scene of human devastation.

"These were completely innocent people and this was completely indiscriminate. And I felt completely helpless.

"Ten people died and about 70 were wounded. And there are so many people you see in wheelchairs in Israel now who you know have been maimed. You don't ask, you just know. It's an increasing phenomenon."

Despite giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a badly-injured bomb blast victim -and pulling others from the wreckage of the cafeteria -he did not consider what he did to be anything out of the ordinary, saying other students in the same position would have done the same. Alastair was reunited with his family within days of the bomb attack,explaining: "The day after the blast I walked past what was left of the building and things came flooding back. It was all too much and that was when I knew I had to come home. I could not cope." He adds: "I do know I was an extremely lucky guy. I try and put what happened and what I saw to the back of my mind,but it always comes back the moment you hear news like the news we've been hearing in the last few days.

And when I hear a loud bang in the street,from a building site or whatever, I do,for a moment, think God, no!" "I returned to the cafeteria when I went back last summer and it was eerie to see people eating in an area where I had seen such such horror and devastation."

He had been just 50 yards from the building where the bomb exploded -and would have been inside had he not stopped for a chat with a friend. The pal he was on the way to meet for lunch had already arrived -and was killed when the explosion hit.

"Ben was a great,lovely guy and his death is still something I can't comprehend."

Meanwhile, in defiance of the world condemnation of the assassination of the Hamas founder, Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon has vowed: "The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day,everywhere."

Alastair says the majority of Israelis support this stance,adding: "I think taking out terrorist leaders is always justified -but was it wise?

"My gut feeling is that the response it provokes will be disproportionate to the killing of one individual.

"You can definitely say it was justified, but it might well have been unwise".

Alastair, who is hoping to follow his parents into a career in law, plans to return to Israel this summer to attend a friend's wedding -and he can only pray that the situation is less volatile and potentially dangerous than it is today.

Graphic

HEROIC: Alistair Goldrein, who pulled victims from the wreckage of a bomb in Jerusalem,and below a Hamas supporter at the funeral of assassinated leader Ahmed Yassin

MY FEARS FOR NATION LIVING WITH TERROR; AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL
INTENSIFIES,PADDY SHENNAN MEETS

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

End of Document

Israel To Release Some Prisoners

New York Sun (Archive)

July 7, 2003 Monday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 585 words

Byline: By LOUIS MEIXLER- Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian Arab demand by agreeing yesterday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds, but Prime Minister Sharon said the limited move will be conditioned on the dismantling of terrorist groups.

The release aims to strengthen the rule of the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who has vowed to carry out the American-backed "road map" peace plan.

A top Palestinian Arab official expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, immediately condemned it.

America and Israel are strongly backing Mr. Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasser Arafat and as a Palestinian Arab leader they believe can crack down on radical groups and help bring peace.

"All professional assessments which were submitted to Prime Minister Sharon indicated that releasing prisoners is likely to significantly contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, with whom we are negotiating," Israel's Cabinet said in a statement agreeing to the release.

"A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest."

Yesterday's Cabinet decision excludes members of militant groups like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, which oppose peace with Israel, and excludes Palestinian Arabs who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement are observing a cease-fire of at least three months.

It was unclear how many prisoners would be released, but Mr. Sharon met yesterday with Avi Dichter, head of the Shin Bet security service, who presented him with a list of several hundred prisoners slated for release.

In Israel, the arrests of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the Cabinet vote was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10-10 and only confirmed the measure 13-9 after the Cabinet agreed to set up a committee to monitor Palestinian Arab compliance with the peace plan, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said.

Israel To Release Some Prisoners

"The release would be carried out in tightly supervised, small and measured doses in relation to proven Palestinian actions in the security sphere; in other words, if terror continues and there is no genuine Palestinian effort to fight and eliminate it, the releases will stop," Mr. Sharon said after the Cabinet meeting.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the releases would not begin immediately.

"I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," Mr. Mofaz said.

Palestinian Arab security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed the releases would be so limited. "We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Mr. Dahlan said after meeting with Mr. Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released have been detained without trial, have only a few months to serve, are either under 18 or over 60, or are women, an Israeli official said.

Palestinian Arab Information Minister Nabil Amr said the Palestinian Authority will "continue working for the release of all prisoners regardless of their political affiliations."

In Gaza City, some 1,200 people marched, carrying pictures of family members in Israeli jails and chanting, "No peace without the release of all detainees!"

Nafez Azzam, a spokesman for Islamic Jihad, warned that all prisoners must be freed in order for the week-old cease-fire to hold.

Load-Date: May 11, 2004

NEWSDESK

The Forward

January 16, 2004

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Section: News; Pg. 3

Length: 977 words

Body

Arabs Debate Reform

Islamists and nationalist opposition leaders in Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are trying to block government educational reforms directed mainly at revamping textbooks. Challenges to educational reform are particularly overt in Jordan, where the political system and media are more open and government critics more outspoken than in the Gulf.

"Nationalists and Islamists are criticizing the Jordanian government, saying that this is an attempt to impose Western values in Jordan and that it's an American-driven plot," said Amy Hawthorne, editor of the Arab Reform Bulletin at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank.

Critics are accusing Jordan's government of sneaking the reform through, behind the back of parliament, to avoid public scrutiny and out of shame at bowing to American pressure. One of the main concerns of opposition leaders in Jordan is the government's intention to make a distinction in its curricula between terrorism and legitimate "resistance."

Jordanian officials are vowing to push forward with the reforms. Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council, a six-member coordinating body of Arab Gulf states, last month approved a resolution to combat terrorism, which calls for the deletion of anti-Christian and antisemitic references from school textbooks. The group, which includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, decided to remove from school textbooks material describing followers of other religions as "infidels" and "enemies of Islam."

Bush Proposes School Fund

President Bush has announced his intention to ask Congress to establish a "national choice incentive fund" to encourage school-choice programs. Supporters of the \$50 million fund say that a major objective of the fund would be to help school districts address their capacity problems by providing low-income parents with expanded opportunities for transferring children to high-performing public, private or charter schools.

The Orthodox Union applauded the president's announcement, commending Bush for his "commitment to improving America's educational system for all children." Rob Boston, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, criticized Bush's proposal, saying, "We believe that religious education should be paid for by the members of the sponsoring denomination, not by the American taxpayer."

Liberty Attack Debated

NEWSDESK

A historian affiliated with the National Security Agency said Monday that recently declassified documents "strongly suggest" that an NSA intelligence-gathering ship, the USS Liberty, was not intentionally attacked by Israel in 1967.

The NSA's official historian, David Hatch, told participants at a conference in Washington that the documents "to me, suggest strongly that the Israeli attackers did not know that they were aiming deadly fire at a vessel belonging to the United States."

Hatch pointed to recently released intercepts of radio transmissions between Israeli helicopters and their home base in Hatzor. These intercepts, acquired by an American spy plane shortly after the attack, show a "progressive reversal of perception" on the part of the pilots, Hatch said. "At first, the pilots were to inspect an Egyptian ship, then signs that the ship might not be Egyptian after all, and finally growing evidence that it could belong to a friendly nation."

A State Department study, issued Monday, reached a similar conclusion, according to the report's author, Harriett Schwar, who works in the department's Office of the Historian.

The conference was organized by the State Department to mark the release of Schwar's report, the third in a trilogy on America's approach to the Israeli-Arab conflict during the Johnson administration. The first panel of the two-day conference was devoted to the Liberty tragedy. It drew extraordinary media interest and sparked emotional charges of cover-up and deceit from survivors of the Liberty attack in attendance.

The USS Liberty, an American intelligence ship, was attacked June 8, 1967, the third day of the Six-Day War, by Israeli rockets, cannon fire and torpedoes while in international waters near the town of El Arish in the Sinai Desert. Thirty-four American servicemen were killed and 171 injured. Israel said the attack was a tragic result of mistaken identity - Israeli pilots and seamen thought the ship was an Egyptian vessel, Israel's government said.

Rabbis Protest Housing Demolitions

Rabbis for Human Rights-North America delivered a letter signed by 300 rabbis to the Israel's embassy in Washington and consulate in New York blasting the upcoming trial of Rabbi Arik Ascherman, executive director of the group's Israeli chapter, for trying to block demolitions of Palestinian homes in the West Bank last spring. The rabbis, who span the denominational spectrum, want the changes dropped because they say the demolition policy violates Jewish ethics and Zionist ideals.

Hamas Enlists Woman Bomber

A **female** suicide bomber blew herself up early Wednesday at one of the entrances to the Gaza Strip's main crossing point to Israel, killing three Israeli soldiers and an Israeli civilian.

Hamas and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant group affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, jointly claimed responsibility for the blast at the Erez crossing, which also wounded 12 people.

Vowing to escalate attacks, **Hamas** said it used a woman suicide bomber for the first time, in order to counter Israeli security precautions.

Saudi Kills Jewish Friend

A Saudi Arabian national in Houston pleaded guilty to slashing a Jewish friend's throat after undergoing a religious awakening. Mohammed Ali Alayed, 23, faces up to 60 years in jail after the August 6 attack on Ariel Sellouk, 23, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday. Houston police did not find a religious motive for the slaying.

Graphic

NEWSDESK

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

March 22, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1420 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-15

Israel Kills Hamas Founder; Group Vows Revenge

The spiritual leader and founder of the militant group Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was killed by Israeli helicopter gunships as he left a mosque in Gaza City, according to his family and Hamas officials. Sheik Yassin was by far the most significant Palestinian militant killed by Israel. Hamas vowed to exact revenge. A1

Equipment Delays Slow Training

Senior American commanders in Iraq are complaining that delays in delivering equipment have hobbled their ability to build an effective Iraqi security force that could eventually replace United States troops. The lag, because of a contract dispute, may even have contributed to a loss of lives among recruits, commanders say. A1

Rockets slammed into an upscale Baghdad neighborhood, killing 4 people and wounding 10. Iraqi police speculated that the rockets were launched by insurgents aiming at a nearby fairground, where an international trade exposition is scheduled to be held next month. A10

Afghan Minister Dies in Raid

Afghanistan's minister for civil aviation, who is the son of one of the country's most powerful warlords, was killed while leading an advance on the headquarters of the commander whom he blamed for an assault on his father, Ismail Khan. A15

Negotiations in Pakistan

The Pakistani military turned to tribal elders to try to persuade hundreds of surrounded Qaeda members to surrender. The military called a temporary cease-fire, and it was agreed that the elders would try to negotiate a surrender and the release of some soldiers and government officials being held hostage. A14

Spain's Approach to U.S.

Spain's newly elected Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has embarked on a two-track approach toward the United States, portraying himself as a reliable ally even while railing against the Bush administration for waging war and occupying Iraq. A3

NEWS SUMMARY

French Voters Back Opposition

French voters expressed dissatisfaction with President Jacques Chirac's center-right government by showing strong support for the opposition Socialist Party and endorsing the far rightist National Front as a vocal minority party. A3

Taiwan Party Demands Inquiry

Leaders of Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party demanded a recount and an investigation into the presidential election they lost on Saturday and threatened to keep supporters in the streets until their demands were met. The government of President Chen Shui-bian rebuffed them. A9

Malaysian Islamic Party Erodes

The major Islamic party in Malaysia lost significant ground in parliamentary and state elections as the governing coalition of Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi coasted to victory. A6

NATIONAL A16-21

Welfare Rolls Decline Despite Sluggish Economy

Federal welfare rolls have declined over the last three years, even as unemployment, poverty and the number of food stamp recipients have surged in a weak economy. Officials say the rolls did not grow during the recession of 2001 or the sluggish economy since. Experts disagree on the reasons. A1

Methodists Divided by Verdict

The acquittal of a lesbian minister on a charge of violating Methodist law by engaging in a homosexual relationship has outraged traditionalists, elated those seeking change and energized both groups. The resulting tension threatens to divide next month's quadrennial conference of the United Methodist Church. A16

Kerry's Tax Record Attacked

President Bush's re-election campaign released an analysis that they it says shows a \$1 trillion gap over the next decade between spending increases Senator John Kerry has called for and the tax increases he has already supported. A20

Fundraising Success

Campaign financial reports for February show that Senator John Kerry raised almost \$8 million as he headed to victory in last month's primaries, while Senator John Edwards received less than half that amount, and his campaign went into debt. The reports show how victories translate into campaign cash as donors increasingly give to the winning candidate. A20

Book Alleges Bush Failure

In a new book, Richard A. Clarke, left, the former counterterrorism coordinator for President Bill Clinton and for President Bush, asserts that the Bush administration has undermined American national security by ignoring the threat of Al Qaeda to invade Iraq and using the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks for political advantage. A18

States Race to Legalize Bets

Legislators in Maryland and Pennsylvania are racing to legalize gambling, convinced that thousands of their residents are crossing borders every day to gamble away millions in neighboring states. Such proposals have gained momentum lately because both states face an array of fiscal problems. A16

OBITUARIES B9

Claude Nougaro

A popular French singer and songwriter, who once described himself as a "Baroque troubadour," and whose fondness for American jazz led him to add swing to the traditional French chanson, he was 74. B9

NEWS SUMMARY

Anna Carter Gordon Davis

A gospel music pioneer as a member of the Chuck Wagon Gang and the widow of former Gov. Jimmie Davis of Louisiana, she was 87. B9

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

Police Corruption Inquiry: A Look Behind the Scenes

With the New York City Police Department undergoing a corruption inquiry involving officers who worked on drug cases, the accidental taping of an apartment raid and the investigation that followed offer a glimpse at the intersection of police, drug dealers and cash. A1

Birth Weights Rebound

Pregnant women in Upper Manhattan who were heavily exposed to two common insecticides had smaller babies than their neighbors, but recent restrictions on the two substances quickly lowered exposure and increased babies' size, according to a study. B3

Amber Waves of Fish

A professor at Brooklyn College has been growing tilapia for years in the lab he runs at the school. And now that tilapia have become popular in restaurants and seafood stores, his vision of widespread tilapia-farming in New York City may finally have a chance of becoming a reality. B1

4 Killed in Crash

In what may be the deadliest crash on Long Island in two years, four young adults were killed after their car veered off a highway and tumbled into dense woods, where it struck a tree and was sheared in two, the police said. B1

SPORTSMONDAY D1-11

NCAA Tournament Upsets

Top seed Kentucky wilted down the stretch in the face of No. 9 seed Alabama-Birmingham's relentless pressure, falling 76-75 in the St. Louis Region. D1

Lionel Chalmers scored a career-high 31 points and rallied the No. 7 seed Xavier Musketeers from a 10-point first-half deficit to a 89-74 victory over No. 2 seed Mississippi State in the Atlanta Region. D1

ARTS E1-8

Iraqi Architect Honored

The Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid has been selected to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2004, considered the profession's highest honor. She is the first woman to receive it. E1

BUSINESS DAY C1-20

As Fraud Trial Continues, Tyco Employees Look to Future

Current executives at Tyco's Princeton, N.J., headquarters and lower-level members of Tyco's work force seem more concerned with the financial turnaround at their company than the fates of two former top Tyco officials, on trial for looting the company of more than \$600 million. C1

Fox Relies on 'Idol' Ratings

NEWS SUMMARY

While the Fox Broadcasting Company has a network schedule full of holes, with many nights in decline, the network is heading into the last two months of the television season closer than it has ever been to supremacy in the competition for viewers 18 to 49. The reason: Fox has "American Idol," which has had strong ratings. C1

Nortel Faces Audit Questions

Nortel Networks announced that an investigation by its audit committee would probably revise its profit results, delaying filing its final financial reports for 2003, and that its chief financial officer and comptroller would be placed on an indefinite paid leave of absence. C1

Editors Tighten Safeguards

At least 10 newspapers have confirmed instances of plagiarism or fabrication since The New York Times reported last May that Jayson Blair had made up or copied portions of at least three-dozen articles, prompting many newspapers to institute safeguards against journalistic fraud. C1

Business Digest C1

EDITORIAL A22-23

Editorials: Pinch at the pump; cancer scare tactics; delisting Love Canal; the ghost of Emmett Till.

Columns: William Safire and Bob Herbert.

Autos D12

Metro Diary B2

Bridge E8

TV Listings E7

Crossword E6

Weather B10

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: March 22, 2004

6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border

The International Herald Tribune

September 30, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 599 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

A Palestinian rocket killed two Israeli children and Israeli forces killed four Palestinians during a day of bloodshed Wednesday along the northern edges of the Gaza Strip.

Dozens of Israeli armored vehicles charged into northern Gaza late Tuesday in response to Palestinian rocket fire. On Wednesday, Israeli soldiers in tanks clashed with Palestinian gunmen and stone-throwing youths on the outskirts of the Jabaliya refugee camp, which has been a source of the rocket fire, according to the military. The New York Times

The Palestinian dead included three boys, ages 13, 16 and 17, who were among the stonethrowers, according to Palestinian witnesses. Two were killed in Jabaliya, and the third in a separate incident outside the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, farther to the south, according to Palestinian hospital officials.

A Palestinian gunman was also shot and killed and 15 Palestinians were wounded, several of them teenagers, according to Dr. Mahmoud al-Asali, head of Kamal Adwan Hospital.

Despite the large Israeli military presence, Palestinians fired a rocket on Wednesday evening that struck a pathway between residential buildings in Sederot, an Israeli town just beyond Gaza's perimeter fence, killing the two children.

One media report gave the ages as 3 and 10, but there was no official announcement.

Israeli television footage showed a shredded pair of children's sandals in a puddle of blood along the pathway. Several women collapsed to the ground in grief and shock.

The crude, homemade Qassam rockets are highly inaccurate, but are a constant threat to the people of Sederot. The incident on Wednesday was the second in which the rockets have killed Israelis. A man and a boy were killed in Sederot in June. In addition, a mortar round killed an American-Israeli woman at a Jewish settlement in Gaza earlier this month.

Israel has repeatedly invaded northern Gaza, and the troops have sometimes remained for weeks at a stretch, in an attempt to halt, or at least limit, the Palestinian rocket fire.

6 die as foes exchange attacks on Gaza border

The operations have inflicted widespread damage on the area. Many hectares of citrus and olive groves have been flattened to remove cover used by the militants.

However, the Israeli raids have never brought about a sustained break in the rocket attacks. "We have to act, even though it is difficult to prevent the rocket fire," said Captain Jacob Dallal, a military spokesman. "Our presence does curtail their ability to act."

Meanwhile, Nazar Rian, a senior **Hamas** figure and a university professor, appeared in Jabaliya in an olive military uniform and carrying two rifles and urged Palestinians to fight.

"We won't surrender. We will always remain holy warriors," Rian said. "At the moment the tanks came, all the warriors came out with their weapons, taking their proper places to resist."

As with past Israeli incursions in the area, large numbers of teenage boys took to the streets and threw stones at the tanks. The gunmen and the stonethrowers mingle freely, and both groups usually suffer casualties.

The Israeli military said it had fired and hit Palestinian gunmen in several instances, though it did not have information on Palestinian casualties.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon plans to withdraw Israeli soldiers and settlers from Gaza next year, yet the violence has intensified in recent months.

Palestinian factions such as **Hamas** say that they are driving the Israelis out and that they will continue to carry out attacks.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government and security officials say they will hit hard at the Palestinian groups to show that Israel is leaving on its own terms.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards

The Toronto Star

September 23, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 585 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

As soft targets go, the bus stop servicing the bland and boxy apartment blocks of French Hill is the down pillow of Israeli vulnerabilities.

Here on the doorstep of the Palestinian West Bank, on a contested enclave both sides claim as their own, the bombs and bullets of the past four years had become so predictable that a permanent guard post was established to forestall further Palestinian attacks on suburban Jerusalem commuters.

Two of those guards died yesterday - sacrificed as "human flak jackets" in the words of one Israeli official - as they reached toward the handbag of a young Palestinian woman making a beeline for an afternoon crowd awaiting their bus.

Inside the bag, an estimated five kilos of metal fragments exploded, shredding the bomber and her two Israeli Border Police victims.

Another 17 Israelis were wounded. But Israeli officials were quick to credit their survival to the selflessness of the two border policemen, Menache Komeni, 19, and Mamoya Tahio, 20.

"These two young men acted as human flak jackets," said Israeli Police spokesman Gil Kleiman. "If they hadn't acted as they did, we would have had 10 or more killed. They paid the ultimate price."

Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed the attack as revenge for Israel's ongoing campaign against militants in the West Bank.

The bomber was named as Zeinab Ali Issa Abu Salem, 18, from Askar Refugee Camp. Her home is on the eastern outskirts of the West Bank city of Nablus, where Israeli troops killed five men from an Al Aqsa cell and an 11-year-old girl in an overnight operation last week. Abu Salem, a recent high school graduate, is the eighth **female** bomber to ignite since the renewal of violent conflict in September, 2000.

Within hours of the blast, Israeli and Palestinian leaders issued the requisite boilerplate statements now so familiar to both sides.

"We intend to continue our struggle against terror with all force," said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Female bomber kills 2 Israeli border guards

"We condemn the killings of civilians and reiterate that such attacks harm our cause," said his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia, adding a call for mutual ceasefire.

But earlier, Sharon hinted Israel might kill 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," Sharon told Israel Radio.

Late last night, Israeli troops entered a southern Gaza town in what the army called a search for firing posts used by Palestinian militants. Witnesses told Reuters about 20 tanks lined up on the outskirts of the southern town of Khan Younis. An Israeli helicopter later fired a missile that wounded 12 people.

Yesterday's attack - the first of its kind in Jerusalem since Feb. 22, when a bomber killed eight people on a bus - triggered calls to accelerate construction of the separation barrier now winding around Jerusalem from the north.

A little more than half, or 47 kilometres, of the 83-kilometre Jerusalem leg of the Israeli barrier is now in place or under construction, rising as patchwork ribbons of concrete wall slicing through the rolling hills of Arab East Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Sharon set next summer as the target date for his controversial plan to dismantle all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and four small enclaves in the West Bank, saying the process would likely take 12 weeks.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004

End of Document

PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; People Column; Pg. A2

Length: 570 words

Byline: From News Services

Body

MATERIAL GIRL MAKES A DETOUR: Madonna says she has canceled three Israeli stops on her "Re-Invention" tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group Hamas. Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour in Los Angeles on Monday, told "Access Hollywood" that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of Hamas."

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian terrorist group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3. Asked by "Access Hollywood" if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me."

Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as cabala, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a female dancer.

AND MISSY WON'T GO, EITHER: Hip-hop star Missy Elliott canceled a planned concert in Jakarta after the U.S. Embassy warned Americans about potential terrorist attacks in Indonesia. Elliott had been scheduled to perform today as part of an international tour.

SINGING COP IS GOING PRO: Officer Daniel Rodriguez, the "singing cop" who gained prominence when he performed at the Yankee Stadium memorial service shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, turned in his retirement papers Tuesday and will devote himself to music.

"I'd like to dedicate myself to learning how much I can actually accomplish as a singer," said Rodriguez, 40. "I'm sad to leave because I really love the job, but I'm also happy to be moving forward."

KEEPING IT FRIENDLY: Former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres says that she and singer Marc Anthony plan to remain amicable during their divorce and custody negotiations. "Sometimes it's out of your control," she said in an interview on "Access Hollywood." "But, we are both very responsible, that's all we want for our kids, and there's no need to do it any other way."

"We're friends," she said. "He's a great father and that's the way it should be."

The couple were married in May 2000 in Las Vegas. They briefly separated, then renewed their vows in Puerto Rico in December 2002. They have two young children, Cristian and Ryan. Some press accounts have speculated that Jennifer Lopez is Anthony's new love interest.

PEOPLE/ NEWS/GOSSIP/SCOOPS

"WEST WING" STAR FINDS LOVE OUT WEST: Allison Janney of "The West Wing" found her heart in San Francisco, where she and actor Richard Jenik became engaged to marry. The couple, who live in Los Angeles and have dated for two years, were vacationing in the city May 17 when he popped the question. Janney is a three-time Emmy winner for her role as communications director C.J. Cregg on the NBC White House drama. Her workaholic character finds little time for love. A wedding date was not announced. Jenik has appeared in TV series including "Home Improvement" and "The District" and in the 2002 film "Hidden Agenda."

NEW TWIST IN MINNELLI SAGA: Famed celebrity lawyer Raoul Felder has resigned as attorney for music producer David Gest in his bitter divorce battle with Liza Minnelli, saying he often had trouble getting his client on the telephone. "There was no bad feelings. He wants to go in a different direction," Felder told Reuters. He said he withdrew from the case two weeks ago in a letter he sent Gest in Hawaii.

Notes

PAGE 2

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Daniel Rodriguez, New York's "singing cop," kicked off an ad campaign for Hilton hotels Tuesday in Times Square with renditions of the national anthem and "God Bless America."

Load-Date: May 27, 2004

End of Document

Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza

The Times (London)

March 8, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 11

Length: 653 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Jerusalem

Body

Thousands of Palestinians vowed revenge yesterday for the deaths of 14 people, including three boys, after an Israeli attack on two refugee camps in Gaza.

A crowd of more than 10,000 gathered for the funerals of 13 of the victims killed in early morning raids at the Bureij and Nusseirat camps.

The bloodiest day of fighting in Gaza for 17 months began with Israeli snipers and attack helicopters, hovering above narrow alleyways, engaged in fighting with Palestinian militants unleashing rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles.

After the incursion, tens of thousands joined the funeral march through the streets. Women threw sweets on to the crowd as gunmen fired in the air and shouted for revenge "until we uproot the last Zionist invaders from our sacred soil".

The latest in a series of Israeli raids into Gaza in recent months came against the backdrop of proposals by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, to withdraw settlers, and maybe even all troops, from the Gaza Strip. The plan has provoked anger among Mr Sharon's right-wing coalition partners and suspicion among Palestinians, who have long seen the Israeli former general as a champion of the 7,000 Jewish settlers living among 1.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and 240,000 in the West Bank.

The prospect of a withdrawal appears, if anything, to have hardened the resolve of both sides, with some Palestinian groups declaring it a victory and Mr Sharon apparently determined to dispel any notion that he is acting out of weakness.

The Israeli Right holds it as an article of faith that the country's overnight departure from Lebanon under Ehud Barak, Mr Sharon's predecessor as Prime Minister, in 2000 sent out the wrong signals to its Arab neighbours.

Of the casualties yesterday, hospital officials said that the dead included ten gunmen and three boys under 15. More than 80 people were wounded.

Palestinian children were seen running after Israeli vehicles, hurling stones as armed militants fired at the troops, which departed at around 10am.

Arabs vow revenge after raids on Gaza

Israel said that the raid -which officials described as a "pinpoint operation" - had come after militants had attacked Israeli convoys and fired rockets into Jewish settlements near by. It had been intended to seize weapons, although none were recovered.

The Palestinian death toll was the highest in Gaza since October 2002, when 19 were killed in fighting in the Khan Younis refugee camp.

Officials argued that the Israeli military had to act because the Palestinian Authority had failed to curb violent groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

"Terrorism is pouring out of this refugee camp, and we have to stop it," Avi Pazner, an Israeli government spokesman, said. "We believe that by doing so we have prevented acts of terror in Israel and saved many human lives."

He denied any link with the proposed withdrawal. "We are now fighting terrorism.

This has nothing to do with any future plan about Gaza," he said.

Palestinians have accused Mr Sharon of undermining any chance of peace. "At a time when they're speaking about withdrawing from Gaza, they're destroying Gaza," Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Cabinet minister, said.

The Israeli raids came after a carefully planned weekend suicide bomb attack by Palestinian factions on the main Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, in which militants in vehicles disguised as Israeli army Jeeps tried to penetrate the heavily guarded junction.

The attack was thwarted. Four Palestinian attackers and two Palestinian policemen were killed. **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed joint responsibility.

The mooted Gaza withdrawal is part of Mr Sharon's proposal for a "unilateral disengagement". Coupled with the erection of the 450-mile separation barrier sealing off the West Bank, this would see Israel dismantling some isolated settlements there, while seeking to annex the larger, more easily defended settlement blocs.

Load-Date: March 8, 2004

Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles

University Wire

January 21, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Crimson White via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 558 words

Byline: By Marlin Caddell, The Crimson White

Dateline: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Body

As the designated Watchman, I feel it is only proper to spend this space categorizing blatant stupidities of the United States and the world.

Facetiousness exists rampantly throughout this column, and it is the responsibility of the reader to separate humor from seriousness.

Hamas only wants 'bad girls' to be homicide bombers

Well, here goes the only freedom Muslim women have in the Palestinian settlements. **Hamas**, a terrorist organization that only recently "allowed" Muslim women to blow themselves to smithereens, has apparently reneged this precious privilege. Blowing yourself up is men's work, so only really bad girls should be made to kill themselves.

U. Alabama

By blowing themselves up, these bad girls can make up for what they did wrong. However, exceptions can be made for good little girls if women happen to be near a school bus, elementary school or other places where "legitimate" military targets of women and children exist.

I suppose female homicide bombers also present a problem theologically to Muslims. Gosh, if women are going to go to the effort of blowing themselves up, they are not going to be satisfied with the whole 72-virgins thing.

PETA to give fliers telling children their mommies are murderers

Beware fur-wearers. PETA has launched a 20-city flier campaign at local Nutcracker ballets to tell children their mommies are murderers for wearing furs. Pictures portraying a rabbit being stabbed in the stomach are followed by warnings about how the children should keep house pets away from Mom. "The sooner she stops wearing fur, the sooner the animals will be safe," the flier says. "Until then, keep your doggie or kitty friends away from mommy -- she's an animal killer."

This may just be me, but I have never seen a woman wearing a dog fur in my whole life, and I am fairly sure I will not see any mothers in the future hacking up old Fido to keep warm. Also, the entire PETA philosophy is idiotic, because the first time these people ever actually went hungry, they would be the first ones with a knife to hack some animal to eat. In response, I think I'll go eat some KFC.

Bad girls, PETA and rover troubles

Rover lands on Mars, world yawns

It's tough luck for those hoping for water on Mars. The rover, Spirit, which recently landed on the red planet, has yet to find water in the area where scientists believed water to be. The rover will attempt to travel to another area to continue the search, but scientists are unsure if the machine can make it through the rough terrain.

I continue to be entirely disgusted with this insanely idiotic idea that water plus time equals life. Though NASA scientists drool at the concept of finding water, when they actually find some of the liquid gold after spending billions of our dollars that could have been used to save human life, it will be a sad day for the destitute of this planet to know all their money was flushed down the toilet.

NASA is the gasping, dying entity of the evolutionist movement, whose only purpose is to gather one shred of evidence to prove its faulty theory that human beings are not special in the universe and that life can spontaneously generate from lifeless rock.

Give me a break, and please, spend my tax dollars on something a little more profitable, like feeding people so they will not die from starvation.

(C) 2003 The Crimson White via U-WIRE

Load-Date: January 21, 2004

End of Document

Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 605 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told legislators Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and he ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hardliner. 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 founder of **Hamas** 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 fulfil 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. The government also is 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.

Israel has tough decision: PM: Peace with Syria means no more Golan Heights

"From the beginning and until this moment, the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process," Assad said. "As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform."

The Syrian president has said talks must resume at the point at which 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.

Israeli officials believe Assad is trying to deflect U.S. pressure, especially in light of the American presence in neighbouring Iraq. Syria is on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, and Washington has threatened to impose sanctions for harbouring anti-Israel militants. But some cabinet ministers say Israel should take Syria up on its offer.

Sharon was asked by a legislator at Monday's committee meeting if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

"No one should have any illusions: the price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz party, said Sharon suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

"His main declaration was that he is not ready to withdraw from the Golan, even for peace with Syria," Cohen said. "He didn't agree to pay the price that President Assad asks to complete a peace treaty with Syria."

At Monday's meeting, Sharon also said he has asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government has asked committees to study possible changes in the route, as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

**Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal;
A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to
do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 20, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A08

Length: 519 words

Byline: Josef Federman ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers yesterday that peace with Syria would require a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and he also ordered that governmental committees review the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's Golan comments, made to parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission for him. Right-wing Israeli governments have long 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 was not ready to return the Golan.

Also yesterday, the founder of **Hamas** said the Islamic 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.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said in Gaza that there had not before been a need for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up to fulfill their obligations. He suggested that male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

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Sharon: Golan exit is key to any Syria deal; A lawmaker said the Israeli leader was not ready to do that. Also, a security-barrier study was ordered.

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"No one should have any illusions," Gissin quoted Sharon. "The price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights."

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At yesterday's meeting, Sharon also said he had asked governmental committees to review the separation barrier, a senior official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government had asked committees to study possible route changes and technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

Israel says the 440-mile barrier, which is one-quarter built, protects against suicide bombers and other attackers. It has severely disrupted the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinians, separating them from their farmland, jobs, hospitals and schools.

Graphic

PHOTO;

ODED BALILTY, Associated Press

A Palestinian boy walks near the separation barrier Israel is building between Jerusalem and the West Bank in the village of Abu Dis. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered a review of the barrier, seeking ways to ease movement for Palestinians.

BASSEM TELLAWI, Associated Press, File

Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is key to peace with Syria, Sharon said yesterday. This photo of the Golan Heights was taken from the Syrian side. United Nations headquarters are at left.

Load-Date: August 21, 2005

**LEADER COLUMN; TIME FOR VIGILANCE BY ALL IN WAR AGAINST
TERRORISTS**

The Express
September 2, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: LEADER; Pg. 12

Length: 211 words

Body

OUR HEARTS go out to the terrified children held hostage in a Russian school and to their distraught mothers and fathers. Chillingly, we cannot pretend that this, every parent's nightmare, could not happen here.

Chechnya is far away but terrorism is spreading fast. Those who would murder the innocents could one day reach our own doorstep and schools are soft targets.

No barbed wire and guards surround them. Our children are vulnerable.

Analyse the news; see how how much of the evil in the world is now perpetrated by extremists. In Iraq two French journalists are held by terrorists, who have claimed responsibility for the death of an Italian journalist, while 12 Nepalese workers have been slain by militants.

In Russia, 89 people died in suspected bombings of two airliners. A **female** suicide bomber killed 10 people and injured 51 at an underground station in central Moscow.

In Israel, 16 were killed and nearly 100 injured in a double suicide bomb attack by Palestinian group **Hamas**.

The most pressing humanitarian crisis in the world, the famine in Darfur in the Sudan, has been caused by Arab militia committing mass genocide.

All of us in Britain must now imagine that the Chechen school is in our own town and harden our resolve to defy extremism everywhere.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

Sharon's Risks - and Why He Took Them

New York Sun (Archive)

June 2, 2003 Monday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 1239 words

Byline: By FIAMMA NIRENSTEIN

Body

Whenever someone anxiously asks, "How will the road map work? Is there a chance of peace?" the response is often, "Why don't you ask about the daily lives of the people who live in Israel?" Other people ask, with just as much concern, "How are things going? With all that terrorism, do people feel safe taking the bus in Jerusalem? "

These worried questions capture the contours of Israeli reality better than formal diplomatic language does. Even if there already were a Palestinian state, even if a thousand treaties had been signed, if tomorrow we still had three terrorist attacks over the course of 12 hours, as happened the other day, could we really call that peace?

I find this formality, this faith in diplomacy, a little optimistic. Actions speak louder than words. The final test of all peace processes comes in the guise of that person with a slightly bulky jacket who wants to get on the bus or stroll into the supermarket and blow himself - or herself - up. This figure is historic, constant, and omnipresent.

Since the U.N. vote in November 1947, the women and children of Israel have been killed in their homes or on the street or in the fields, and yet Israel has been treated by its neighbors as a pariah, a criminal, an assassin. Terror has been the chosen means by which to deny Israel its right to exist.

Yasser Arafat's men have used the borders as launch pads for terrorist attacks, and the global indifference to such acts has been horrifying. Even today it's outrageous for any upright person to imagine that Mr. Arafat was greeted with a red carpet at the United Nations in 1974, not long after the massacre of the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972, and that so many terrorist attacks were justified and even celebrated by the politicians of the world until September 11.

It is just as hard to believe that even now, when the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade has caught up with Hamas in the amount of Israeli blood it has shed, some still draw distinctions between "extremists" who want to block the peace process, and the "moderate Palestinian leadership."

So it is difficult to believe that the end of terrorism could ever come to pass. It was difficult to believe even after the Palestinians officially recognized Israel in 1988, and difficult to believe even during the peace process, when the end of terrorism was proclaimed with great rhetorical gusto. And yet peace will only be achieved with the end of terrorism.

The new Palestinian prime minister, Abu Mazen, hasn't exactly inspired confidence in a new era, since he doesn't seem to be taking any concrete steps. So far, he has only made the same empty promises that we've heard so

Sharon's Risks - and Why He Took Them

many times before. He's not putting the terrorists in jail. We haven't heard a word from him about the textbooks that teach children to revere shahids, martyrs, as role models.

Nor has he addressed the fact that the Palestinians have plastered their houses, streets and stores with photographs of suicide bombers, that they sing songs about them and exalt them in the newspapers and on television. As long as this continues, there will never be a political forum as powerful as a popular culture that celebrates genocidal martyrdom, the murder of the Jews. It is also shocking that the leaders of Hamas, even in these heady times of the road map, are still able to grant interviews where they say the only road map for a Jew is the one that leads to the cemetery.

And yet we still have to make an effort. September 11 and the ensuing war against terrorism make this peace process different from all the ones written before, including Oslo. In geopolitical terms, this one is a whole other story: It is the apex of President Bush's discourse of June 24, 2002, in which he outlined his strategic plan: that democratization equals an end to terrorism. It is not just a price Israel must pay. Indeed, we have to make sure Israel doesn't pay a price, while still respecting Mr. Bush's strategic goal.

Mr. Bush and Abu Mazen have an enormous responsibility on their hands, and it is not to pursue the same ambition of President Clinton, who wanted to cure the most cancerous conflict in the world. This is different. This is about proving in the field the belief that the democratization of the Arab world is the central means of fighting extremism and terror, and thereby achieving peace - or almost peace - with the West.

Prime Minister Sharon didn't say yes to Mr. Bush because he's a coward, or because he's afraid of losing the economic support of America. On the contrary, it suits his adventurous nature to be at the epicenter of a global situation. And as a military man he well understands that because he represents the West, it's up to him to set the terms. Mr. Bush has won two consecutive wars, in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Here, on the ground, Israel is facing an exhausted enemy. The conditions are in Israel's favor.

If Abu Mazen makes peace with Israel, he'll find himself - willingly or unwillingly - breaking ranks with those who preach hatred of Jews and Americans, shattering the Islamic front that Mr. Arafat always flirted with, and contending with the defeat of the historic "No" bloc, Arabs who refused to recognize the state of Israel. The entire Middle East will change.

Natan Sharansky, who knows a few things about dictatorships, says their most precious weapon is hatred and incitement. On this front, the Bush plan is still a great experiment. If Mr. Arafat's dictatorship really does fall, we could see a rapid decline in hatred, incitement, and terror. Indeed, the signs coming from Syria, Iran, and the leader of Hamas, Sheik Yassin, indicate that none wants to be left out of the game.

Still, if the Syrians want to be part of the road map, someone should remind them that to do so, they'd have to recognize Israel. Iran, too, needs to renounce terrorism, and someone should tell the ayatollahs that they should stop financing and training Hezbollah, the A-Team of terror, right about now. And someone should whisper to Abu Mazen that even he, sooner or later, will have to realize that the right of return is exactly what he'll have to renounce in order to convince the world of his good faith and the fact that his old Arafat-crony heart now beats for the existence of the state of Israel.

Can we really trust this lot? No. But we have to try, and so we have to muster our forces against our enemies as well as our interlocutors. We can't turn our backs and let things happen without harnessing the power of skeptical yet active public opinion. Mr. Bush has to know that he has his work cut out for him in Akaba and Sharm al Sheik. He has to have the cult of terrorist worship removed from the schools and the television and the city walls. He has to make sure significant arrests are made. He has to convince Abu Mazen to abandon the right of return. He has to open an era of verbal decency in which anti-Semitic obscenities and murderers vanish. He has to make it clear to Abu Mazen that he can talk for 100 hours with Hamas, but until he stops arming them, he won't be trusted.

And what should Mr. Bush tell Mr. Sharon? Not much. Mr. Sharon is carrying out the June 24 plan as if he had written it himself. He may be the general who occupied the territories and founded dozens of settlements, but he'll dismantle Yamit without a fuss when he thinks it will no longer put Israel's security at risk.

Sharon's Risks - and Why He Took Them

Translated from the Italian by Rachel Donadio.

Load-Date: May 11, 2004

End of Document

TEL AVIV SUICIDE BOMB KILLS THREE AFTER HELICOPTER STRIKE ON GAZA

The Independent (London)

December 26, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 18

Length: 548 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM Emergency vehicles at the scene of yesterday's suicide attack at a bus station Yoav Lemmer/AFP/Getty

Body

THERE WAS no Christmas truce in the Holy Land yesterday. A Palestinian suicide bomber killed at least three Israelis and wounded 15 at a crowded Tel-Aviv bus stop yesterday afternoon, just hours after an Israeli helicopter strike in Gaza City killed a local Islamic Jihad commander and four others. At least 12 other Gaza Palestinians were wounded, some seriously.

Four of the Tel-Aviv wounded were reported to be in serious condition. According to early reports, two of the dead were women. All of the casualties were believed to be in their 20s. The army immediately clamped a total closure on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was the first such bombing inside Israel for almost three months, though the security services reported receiving many warnings and blocked dozens in that period. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was reported to have claimed responsibility. Police said that the bomber arrived on foot at a major junction near a hospital on a by-pass road.

Miqled Hamid, 40, had escaped an assassination attempt six months ago. But in Gaza yesterday, the commander of Islamic Jihad's armed wing and three others travelling in his car were killed, as was a passer-by in the Sheikh Radwan district, by the Israeli army. All the wounded were believed to be civilians. The assassination was the first of its kind since October, when 14 Palestinians were killed in a series of attacks in the Nusseirat refugee camp in Gaza. Israel halted them after Hamas was reported to have taken a strategic decision to stop suicide bombings inside Israel.

Khaled Albatsh, an Islamic Jihad spokesman, said yesterday's air strike was a "dirty message" to Egyptian and other Arab mediators trying to broker a ceasefire. "It is a crime which is added to the crimes Israel has committed against our people elsewhere," he added.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli sentries shot dead a Palestinian they spotted crawling towards the fence of the Ganei Tal Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. He was found to be wearing an explosives belt. Palestinian sources said that he was an Islamic Jihad activist. In Nablus, in the West Bank, a Hamas fighter died when the car bomb he was driving blew up prematurely.

TEL AVIV SUICIDE BOMB KILLS THREE AFTER HELICOPTER STRIKE ON GAZA

On Tuesday, Israeli troops killed nine Palestinians in gun battles in the Rafah refugee camp on the border between Gaza and Egypt. The army later blew up a deep 800-metre tunnel it said was used to smuggle weapons and wanted men across the border.

The bloodshed continued even as the Latin Patriarch, Michel Sabbah, called for an end to evil in the Holy Land.

"The occupation is an evil that should be ended. Carnage against innocents too is an evil that should be stopped," he said at the Roman Catholic midnight mass in Bethlehem where, despite an easing of Israeli travel restrictions, only 4,000 pilgrims were at Manger Square and St Catherine's Church, next to Jesus' birthplace. Only a few dozen came from abroad, the rest were local Christians. Before the intifada broke out in September 2000, there would have been at least 15,000.

At midnight mass, a chair was left empty in the front row for Yasser Arafat, barred by Israel from travelling to Bethlehem. It was draped with the Palestinian leader's signature black and white keffiyeh, and an invitation to the service.

Load-Date: December 26, 2003

End of Document

Disputes over prisoner releases threatens to derail peace plan

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

July 7, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 212 words

Byline: THE 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 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 prisoners. 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 support for the cease-fire.

Load-Date: July 9, 2003

In This Week's Yiddish Forward

The Forward
June 20, 2003

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Section: Calendar; Pg. 18

Length: 211 words

Body

* Special color supplement - A photo montage of women in the Israeli army; from our archives, photos from a 1936 exhibit in honor of Yiddish writer Mendeley Mocher Sforim.

* Rukhl Schaechter interviews Crain's NY Business's Jacqueline Gold, a Jewish reporter who recently returned from Iraq.

* World of Yiddish - A Yiddish festival in Kazan, Russia; a tribute to singer Emil Gorovets, and an interview with Sholem Asch's great-grandson, David Mazover.

* Zackary Sholem Berger reports on the outbreak of small pox in America.

In This Week's Russian Forward

* Edward Amchislavsky interview WORJ radio editor in chief Avigail Lazarovich.

* A translation of a Ma'ariv reporter's interview with Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

* Victoria Martinova interviews Abdula Chadi Palachi, secretary general of the Muslim Association of Italy.

* Elena Bonner, widow of human rights activist Andrey Sakharov, writes on "intellectual looting."

This Saturday on 'The Forverts Hour' June 21 at 9:00 p.m. on WMCA New York, AM 570

* The Songs of Emil Gorevitz - Itzik Gottesman

* The Town of Odessa - Chaim Beider

* I.B. Singer: Warsaw - Dovid Rogow

* The Road Map - Kobi Weitzner

Edited by Boris Sandler

Hosted by Adrienne Cooper

You can also hear our radio magazine on the internet at <http://www.wevd.com>

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

End of Document

Israel OKs prisoner releases with conditions

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

July 7, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: Front Page; Pg. a1

Length: 576 words

Byline: LOUIS MEIXLER, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israel took a step toward meeting a key Palestinian demand by agreeing Sunday to release some of the 5,000 prisoners it holds, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the limited move will be conditioned on the Palestinians dismantling militant groups.

The release aims to strengthen the rule of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who has vowed to carry out the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

A top Palestinian official, however, expressed disappointment at the limited release. Radical groups, whose members are not slated for release, immediately condemned it.

The United States and Israel are strongly backing Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, as an alternative to Yasser Arafat and as a Palestinian leader they believe can crack down on radical groups and help bring peace.

"All professional assessments which were submitted to Prime Minister Sharon indicated that releasing prisoners is likely to significantly contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, with whom we are negotiating," Israel's Cabinet said in a statement agreeing to the release.

"A strong Palestinian administration will be able to act more effectively against terror, and therefore, Israel has a strong interest," the statement said.

Sunday's Cabinet decision excludes members of militant groups such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel and excludes Palestinians who carried out or planned violent attacks against Israelis.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Arafat's Fatah movement are observing a cease-fire of at least three months.

Early today, Palestinian security officials said police arrested a woman who was planning a suicide attack against Israelis. They said she was in her 20s and was arrested after her parents reported to police that she had left behind a note about her plans. They said she was questioned and released into her parents' custody while the investigation continued.

It was unclear how many prisoners Israel would release, but Sharon met earlier Sunday with Avi Dichter, head of the Shin Bet security service, who presented him with a list of several hundred prisoners slated for release.

Israel's Channel 2 TV said 400 would be released.

Israel OKs prisoner releases with conditions

In Israel, the arrest of militants has been credited with helping to reduce terror attacks, and the Cabinet vote was controversial. The ministers first deadlocked 10-10 and only confirmed the measure 13-9 after the Cabinet agreed to set up a committee to monitor Palestinian compliance with the peace plan, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said.

"The release would be carried out in tightly supervised, small and measured doses in relation to proven Palestinian actions in the security sphere; in other words, if terror continues and there is no genuine Palestinian effort to fight and eliminate it, the releases will stop," Sharon said after the Cabinet meeting.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the releases will not begin immediately.

"I think that it will take some time before the committee convenes and makes decisions," Mofaz said.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said he was disappointed that the releases will be so limited.

"We have discussed with the Israelis our disappointment after Israel's selective policy of releasing prisoners," Dahlan said after meeting with Mofaz.

Most of the prisoners who will be released have been detained without trial, have only a few months to serve, are either under 18 or over 60, or are women, an Israeli official said.

Graphic

Palestinians chant anti- Israel slogans during a march in Gaza city Sunday. About 1,200 people, mainly relatives of detainees in Israeli jails, took to the streets.

Load-Date: July 7, 2003

Palestinians freed amid joy and scepticism PEACE PROCESS:

Financial Times (London, England)

August 7, 2003 Thursday

London Edition 1

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Section: MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 8

Length: 610 words

Byline: By HARVEY MORRIS

Dateline: TARQUMIA

Body

Nafouz Natsheh could not suppress tears of joy as her son stepped from the bus that brought him from an Israeli jail yesterday, despite a collective Palestinian effort to maintain a sour face over the inadequacy of Israel's prisoner release.

Of 6,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails, 336 were freed yesterday in Tarqumia and at three other checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank.

Mrs Natsheh's 26-year-old son was released after seven months of administrative detention for membership of Islamic Jihad. Like 156 others of those freed yesterday, he had not been charged with any crime. "You can't imagine my happiness," she said. "But I want all the other mothers to be happy too."

But while the move was greeted with joy by family members of those released, Palestinian Authority officials were determined to keep the handover low key to underline its view of the release as insufficient after Israel insisted it would free only 443 of the 6,500 prisoners held.

Several hundred relatives and local residents turned out to welcome the 109 men driven here from jail in Israel's Negev desert. There were shouts of "Allahu Akbar!" (God is great) as the first men stepped from a bus hired from Northern Negev Tours and painted with a suitably festive sunburst.

Some of the men carried brightly painted cardboard models of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock that they had built in their cells.

PA officials intervened only when one official borrowed an Israeli soldier's loudhailer to congratulate the crowd "on the liberation of your loved ones from the occupier's jails".

While the Palestinian officials declined to comment, some of the prisoners and their supporters were less restrained. "This is cheap Israeli theatre, put on for the benefit of the media," said Jamal Tumaisi, mayor of the nearby town of Idna, whose son is still serving a 5 1/2-year sentence. "We want to see all the prisoners released, whether or not Israel regards them as having blood on their hands."

Abdel Majid Atta, a ***Hamas*** spokesman from Bethlehem, complained that his six months of administrative detention had been extended two months ago. "They renewed my detention just so they could release me today," he said.

Palestinians freed amid joy and scepticism PEACE PROCESS:

This raised a chuckle from an Israeli army information officer standing nearby, part of a team that the Palestinians claimed had been drafted in to help gain maximum positive publicity.

The family of Murjid Tumaisi complained the Hamas activist was due to be released anyway, having yesterday completed a 3 1/2-year sentence for weapons possession.

He was among about 180 prisoners freed yesterday who had been found guilty by Israeli military courts of crimes committed before and during the three-year-old Palestinian intifada.

Palestinians have complained that Israel used previous prisoner releases, carried out as part of the now defunct Oslo peace process, to put common criminals back on Palestinian streets. Yesterday's complaint was that none of those freed were long-term prisoners, the sick or women.

All those freed appeared fit, including the oldest, Adnan Jaber, a 61-year-old Bethlehem sweet shop owner and member of the leftwing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Mr Jaber, who was completing his sixth spell in an Israeli jail since 1967, said: "The people who should truly be released were not."

Israeli security forces maintained a restrained presence at the handover, helping to usher prisoners through the press throng to waiting relatives. They ignored the presence of Islamic Jihad and Palestinian flags and chants of "We are millions of martyrs marching on Jerusalem" that, in other circumstances, might have earned a spell in administrative detention.

Load-Date: August 6, 2003

End of Document

World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

September 18, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 644 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

Body

Afghanistan

KANDAHAR -- More than 100 Afghan soldiers raided a rebel hideout in a remote mountainous region in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, sparking a shootout that left three suspected Taliban dead, an Afghan commander said.

Colombia

BOGOTA -- A massive U.S.-financed fumigation campaign of cocaine-producing crops has hit Colombia's illicit drug industry hard, cutting coca cultivation by one-third in seven months, a U.N. report said Wednesday.

Denmark

COPENHAGEN -- A car exploded outside a suburban Copenhagen hospital on Wednesday, killing at least one person, police said.

France

PARIS -- Employees at the French news agency Agence France-Presse began a 24-hour strike Wednesday to protest a management plan to sell and lease back their headquarters in central Paris.

Germany

BERLIN -- Authorities have arrested another youth in the foiled plot to bomb the opening ceremony of a new synagogue in Munich, federal prosecutors said Wednesday. Eleven people, including a well-known neo-Nazi, Martin Wiese, have been arrested in the past week for the alleged plot to bomb the Nov. 9 ceremony.

Iran

QOM -- In his first public speech in six years, Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, Iran's leading dissident cleric, criticized the country's hard-line Islamic leaders Wednesday, saying they should submit to elections and allow the country's young people to choose their future.

Iraq

World datelines

NAJAF -- The training of a U.S.-backed, 400-strong police force set up to protect an important Shiite Muslim shrine in this holy city will be completed next week when the final batch of cadets finish their basic training course, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials. The force, officially called the "Shrine Police Force," was conceived after a failed attempt on the life of a senior Shiite cleric in Najaf.

Ireland

DUBLIN -- Ireland should not follow New York's lead and ban smoking in all workplaces, Rudolph Giuliani said Wednesday. The former New York mayor said the recent decision of his successor, Michael Bloomberg, to prohibit smoking in restaurants and bars wasn't fair to smokers.

Israel

RAMALLAH, West Bank -- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat offered a new truce to Israel on Wednesday, after Palestinian officials said the militant group Hamas has signaled it might agree to stop attacking Israelis. There was no immediate comment from Israeli leaders, but the government said Tuesday it wanted to see the Palestinian Authority begin disarming Hamas and other militant groups before it would consider a new truce.

Japan

TOKYO -- North Korea accused Japan on Wednesday of plotting "aggression" and blamed it for souring relations a year after a historic summit that some saw as a step toward ending a decades-old Cold War rivalry.

Northern Ireland

BELFAST -- Irish Republican Army dissidents on Wednesday threatened to kill the senior Catholic on a civilian board overseeing the reform of the predominantly Protestant police force in Northern Ireland.

Russia

ST. PETERSBURG -- The newest arrival at a Russian prison for men was a female -- a baby girl born to the wife of an inmate during a visit to the lockup. Anna Vladimirova, 29, called for help after speaking to her common-law husband Georgy Kochetov through a glass window and gave birth about 30 minutes later, said Alexander Zhitinyov, the head of the overcrowded Kresty pre-trial detention center in downtown St. Petersburg.

Sweden

STOCKHOLM -- Swedish police used DNA testing in hopes of linking a 35-year-old drifter now in custody to the slaying of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. But they said Wednesday he wasn't the only suspect and they were seeking at least five more people.

Zimbabwe

HARARE -- Police rounded up about 100 people in Zimbabwe on Wednesday for demonstrating against a government crackdown on dissent that has closed the nation's only independent daily newspaper. Three of those arrested were photojournalists.

Load-Date: September 18, 2003

ISRAEL FREES 334 PRISONERS BUT FAILS TO SATISFY PALESTINIANS

The Independent (London)

August 7, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 641 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM

Body

ISRAEL RELEASED 334 Palestinian prisoners yesterday as a goodwill gesture to Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Prime Minister. But as a confidence building measure, it built precious little confidence.

In a 74th birthday interview with the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Yasser Arafat dismissed the release as "an act of fraud and deceit". The President of the Palestinian Authority accused the Israelis of arresting more people than they had freed since the Palestinians declared a unilateral ceasefire a month ago.

Khaleda Jarar, head of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club on the West Bank, protested that almost half the prisoners freed yesterday were administrative detainees held without charge. Of the rest, 80 per cent were in the final year of their sentence.

Addameer, a prisoners' support and human rights organisation, said that their offences tended to be relatively minor - stone throwing, possessing weapons and using weapons in situations where no one was injured. Palestinian officials demanded the release of the more than 6,000 prisoners still behind bars.

Israel did include 71 members of **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and other dissident groups, but it stuck to its refusal to free anyone with blood on his hands.

The Palestinians had hoped for a larger release, including long-term prisoners, **women** and children. Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian minister for security affairs and a key negotiator, said: "What the Israelis are doing will complicate the peace process and frustrate supporters of peace among the Palestinians."

Israeli ministers had hinted at releasing about 1,000 prisoners, but Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister, was reluctant to press his right-wing cabinet too hard. He also faced growing opposition from the families of intifada victims.

None the less, if the truce holds, ministers say other prisoners will follow. Gideon Ezra, a former senior security official who is now a minister without portfolio, predicted that they would eventually include killers.

As a condition for release the prisoners had to sign a declaration saying they opposed all terror and violent actions, and that they would "desist from returning and carrying out the type of crimes for which I was convicted".

Ami Ayalon, a former head of the Shin Bet security service, said yesterday that if the international "road-map" succeeded in bringing peace, the prisoner release would be seen as a milestone. If it failed, most of them would soon return to their bad old ways.

ISRAEL FREES 334 PRISONERS BUT FAILS TO SATISFY PALESTINIANS

As of now, the road-map process is at a standstill. Mr Mazen cancelled a meeting, scheduled for yesterday, with Mr Sharon. As well as their disappointment of the scale of the prisoner release, the Palestinians complain that Israel is stalling over the evacuation of its troops from West Bank towns; is continuing to expand Jewish settlements; and is seizing Palestinian land for its controversial security wall.

The Israelis, for their part, say they could be more forthcoming if the Palestinians fulfilled their commitment to dismantle the terrorist organisations. Shaul Mofaz, the Defence Minister, acknowledged this week that the level of violence had diminished radically over the past month, but Israel is concerned that Hamas is exploiting the lull to regroup.

The Israeli Supreme Court yesterday barred right-wing activists from entering the Temple Mount today, the ninth of the Hebrew month of Av, when Jews traditionally mourn the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

Two Likud MPs vowed that they would invoke parliamentary immunity and defy the order. But police said they would stop them.

The Jewish Temple Mount is also the Muslim Al-Aqsa mosque. A high-profile visit three years ago by Mr Sharon, then leader of the opposition, sparked the first riots of what grew into the intifada. Neither the police nor his government relishes a repeat performance.

Leading article, page 16

Load-Date: August 7, 2003

End of Document

Freeing terrorists is not the way to achieve peace

Chicago Daily Herald

July 11, 2003, Friday Cook,Lake,D1,D2,D4,F1,F2,F3,M1

Copyright 2003 Paddock Publications, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; An Israeli perspective;

Length: 601 words

Byline: Chaya Gil

Body

The ride for Israel and the Palestinians along the U.S.-brokered road map is growing bumpier by the day.

One doesn't hear much about it, but every day since the latest handshake that was supposed to symbolize the end to violence, there have been attacks against Israeli patrols, hidden bombs discovered and diffused, mortar and rocket attacks against Israeli towns, and suicide bombers apprehended before completing their gruesome missions.

Recent events, however, have seen the strongest challenges to stability to date. An Israeli phone company employee was shot dead sitting in his van; the assailant was a 15-year-old Palestinian boy. A drive-by shooting killed a laborer. And this week a suicide bombing murdered a 65-year-old Israeli woman in her home and wounded three of her grandchildren.

Now, in a maneuver that turns the principles of the road map on its head, Palestinian leaders are demanding the release of thousands of Palestinian terrorists from prison. Or else.

It must be noted that nowhere in the road map is there any mention of the release of prisoners. The very opposite is stipulated: Palestinians are required to disarm terror groups and arrest those who refuse to disband. Terror gangs must be completely destroyed, not coddled.

It is preposterous that as a condition to continue peace talks, the Palestinians are asking for the opposite of what is expected of them. The international community is united in calling for the dismantling of the terrorist elements operating within Palestinian territory. The Palestinian response is to demand that jailed terrorists first be freed, threatening to abandon the temporary cease-fire if their conditions are not met.

As a **Hamas** spokesman said, "I don't think the truce will last for long because (Ariel) Sharon has not abided by its provisions. If Israel fails to release all the 8,000 Palestinian prisoners, **Hamas** will not abide by the truce."

For Israelis, granting terrorists who have the blood of innocent men, **women** and children on their hands, a get-out-of-jail-free card is difficult to fathom. To maintain a temporary truce - not a formal peace treaty - Israel must release for good the perpetrators of horrific terrorist acts? How does a government explain that to its citizenry, let alone to the victims' families? What prevents released prisoners from carrying out more terror attacks? Would the U.S. government act in such a way? Remember, these are not soldiers in a time of war but terrorist criminals who intentionally attacked civilian targets for a political cause.

Freeing terrorists is not the way to achieve peace

The dispute is particularly troubling because it demonstrates continued Palestinian unwillingness to stand up to terrorists and change the culture of hate and bloodshed to one of law and order. Killers of innocent civilians are the "heroes" they demand be set free.

These are dangerous times indeed. Terrorist groups involved in talks with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas are yet to be dismantled, and it is becoming increasingly clear that it is unlikely to happen. Without Abbas holding their feet to the fire, the terror gangs are surely using this grace period to regroup and rearm.

Abbas is trying to walk a fine line between cooperating with the Americans and Israelis, and being labeled a sellout by his people. The prisoner-release issue is a way for Abbas to show toughness and ability to deliver to his constituency. Yet for Israel, putting its constituency at risk to help Abbas save face doesn't seem to make sense from a moral or legal perspective. It certainly doesn't meet requirements of the road map, nor will it lead to peace.

Load-Date: July 14, 2003

End of Document

Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;

Morning Star
January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 221 words

Body

ISRAEL closed border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs, in response to Wednesday's suicide bombing that killed four Israelis.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz imposed a one-day closure on Gaza, and also shut down the Erez industrial park where 6,000 Palestinians work.

People in the impoverished Gaza Strip depend on those jobs for much of their income.

The army said that only humanitarian cases would be qualify for crossing the border.

Israeli military commander in Gaza Brigadier General Gadi Shamni indicated that Israel would retaliate for the attack.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing, " he told Israel television.

Thousands marched through the streets of Gaza for the funeral of the suicide bomber.

Masked gunmen from both **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried the coffin of Reem Raiyshi, who was the mother of two children.

It was the first time that the rival groups have marched together.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

About 15,000 Palestinian workers and another 4,000 merchants from Gaza have permits to cross the Erez checkpoint to reach jobs inside Israel. The number varies with the security situation.

Graphic

Gaza border closure makes thousands pay for attack;

GRIM CELEBRATION: Palestinian mourners carrying the coffin of **female** suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi in Gaza City yesterday.

Load-Date: March 1, 2004

End of Document

**Out of Egypt... and Into Gaza; Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice;
THE STRATEGIC INTEREST**

The Forward

June 18, 2004

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Section: Forward Forum; Pg. 7

Length: 1064 words

Byline: Yossi Alpher

Body

In army staff colleges all over the world, the Egyptian-Israeli military agreement in the Sinai Peninsula is taught as the way two veteran belligerents that are tired of war but still don't trust each other can best manage their cold peace. The solution is simple, if not ideal: They demilitarize the large, empty desert that separates their population centers.

When you travel the long, narrow road along the Negev-Sinai boundary that links Kerem Shalom on the Israel-Egypt-Gaza border confluence in the north with Eilat in the south, you see a border fence 3 feet high. Beyond it, for approximately 130 miles west toward the Suez Canal, there are almost no Egyptian soldiers. Military incidents are rare here. Almost the only unauthorized people crossing the border are hash smugglers and young Moldavian women transported from Egypt into Israel by Russian and Bedouin gangs that exploit them as prostitutes in the fleshpots of Tel Aviv.

The Sinai demilitarization arrangements represent Israel's best answer to its oldest military nightmare. Ever since the Egyptian army tried in 1948 to fight its way through the southern coastal area north to Tel Aviv, Israel's main focus in every postwar negotiation - after 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 - and ultimately in the 1977-79 peace talks was to institutionalize ways to keep the Egyptian army as far away as possible.

Egypt, too, likes to maintain a healthy distance between its army and the Israeli army. In 25 years of peace, the Egyptians have never cast doubt on the wisdom of force separation through demilitarization.

Nor has Egypt ever offered its services - or been solicited by Israel, the Palestinians or the United States - as a potential caretaker for Gaza, which it occupied between 1948 and 1967. In the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks of the late 1970s, Menachem Begin refused to return Gaza to Egypt because he considered it part of Greater Israel; for his part, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat would never have taken it anyway, because he considered it part of Palestine and was only interested in "sacred Egyptian territory."

This historical background explains why the news of a growing Egyptian military role in the projected disengagement from Gaza is so extraordinary. True, the Egyptians are only sending a small number of military trainers and senior advisers. But they are sending them to both Gaza and the West Bank. True, they will only send a modest contingent of high-quality troops to their side of the Gaza border, where Palestinians smuggle arms through tunnels. But those troops will, if necessary, clash with Palestinian militants, and Egyptian sources promise they will bulldoze homes on their side of the border to reveal the tunnels - without any of the human-rights squeamishness that characterizes Israel's efforts.

Out of Egypt ... and Into Gaza Observe a Single Standard of Shoah Justice THE STRATEGIC INTEREST

If indeed the Egyptians follow through on their new commitments, the potential for military friction of some sort between Egypt and Israel - such as Egyptians being caught in Israeli-Palestinian crossfire - will increase for the first time in more than two decades. So, too, will Egyptian diplomatic involvement in the Palestinian issue.

To be sure, the Egyptians hope to use the influence projected by their enhanced presence to moderate the behavior of Palestinian militants. But they also presumably will be better positioned to project pressure on Israel, both directly and via Washington, regarding peace process issues.

Israel's readiness to countenance such an active Egyptian role, with all the risks and hopes it entails, constitutes an admission of its own inability to restore order in the territories. The Palestinian Authority's willingness to work with the Egyptians reflects its own abject failure.

Noticeably, no one bothered to ask King Abdullah of Jordan, who has an existential interest in what happens in the West Bank and who recently extracted a letter from President Bush that restores the appearance of an even-handed American approach. Jordan's role is happily belittled by the Egyptians, who are reminding the Hashemites of the real pecking order in the Arab world by virtue of the power they are projecting deep into Palestine.

Despite doubts among some Israeli intelligence analysts regarding Egypt's ultimate military intentions toward Israel, the Sharon government has encouraged the Egyptians to enter the fray. Perhaps the best indication that the traditional Israeli military approach toward Egypt is anachronistic is Prime Minister Sharon's very decision to remove the Katif bloc of settlements in Gaza - which were put in place originally to hinder another Egyptian military thrust toward Tel Aviv.

Why is Egypt, normally a calculating and cautious actor, getting involved in this new Palestinian adventure? The explanation appears to lie in the bigger picture of the post-September 11 Middle East. On the one hand, the potential for anarchy in Gaza projected by an Israeli pullout poses the prospect of a Hamas-ruled Gaza. Hamas is an offshoot of the Egyptian fundamentalist group Muslim Brotherhood, and radical Islam is the biggest threat to President Hosni Mubarak's rule. Egypt does not want a Hamas mini-republic on its border.

On the other, Mubarak is hard pressed to deal with American pressures for reform in the areas of democracy and human rights. It was no coincidence that he skipped last week's G8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia. He hopes, with some foundation, that a contribution to regional stability in Palestine will earn him alternative credits with Washington.

Besides, the Egyptians are making every effort to ensure this does not become an adventure. Their preconditions include demands that both Israelis and Palestinians declare and observe a ceasefire; that Yasser Arafat finally agree to cede authority over Palestinian security forces, whereby Egypt will radically reorganize their command structure and turn them over to more responsible and less corrupt Palestinians; and that Israel allow Arafat freedom of movement and eventually withdraw from the narrow strip between Egypt and Gaza known as the Philadelphi Road.

The cynics on both sides argue that Arafat and Sharon each hope the other will torpedo the Egyptian project. Both know how.

Yossi Alpher, a former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and former senior adviser to Prime Minister Ehud Barak, is co-editor of bitterlemons.org and bitterlemons-international.org.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

Messier/ in Israel/ and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis
Misguided policies make all nations less safe

The Toronto Star
May 23, 2004 Sunday

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Section: BUSINESS; Pg. F01

Length: 1000 words

Body

Events in Iraq and the Israeli-occupied territories show how George W. Bush and Ariel Sharon continue to create one nightmare after another. Whereas recent headlines have been about two events - an Israeli tank firing on a Palestinian protest march, and American jets bombing what was said to be an Iraqi wedding - there's been no shortage of horrors.

Israel has rightly apologized for Wednesday's attack that brought worldwide condemnation. But its military onslaught on Gaza in the days preceding or following the tragedy has been no less ferocious.

Besides 13 Israeli soldiers, about 70 Palestinians have been killed in the last two weeks and dozens injured.

Sharon's rationale, as always, is that he is targeting terrorists. But, as always, women and children are dead or maimed. Hundreds of civilians are homeless. Yet, as usual, there's no end in sight to the supply of militants.

Sharon's offensive is part of his plan to pull out of Gaza so as to keep most of the West Bank.

In bulldozing homes, ripping up roads and other infrastructure, and forcing people out, he is clearly trying to carve out an Israeli-controlled buffer between Gaza and Egypt - a smaller version of the one created in south Lebanon two decades ago.

This is no more likely to work than that one did. The ultimate restorer of peace to the Israel-Lebanon border was a political, not a military, solution.

Tear up the Palestinian underground arms-smuggling tunnels, and they'll likely find other ways to fight back. That's always the way of entrenched resistance to unwanted occupation.

Since September, 2000, Israel has demolished 1,200 homes and displaced 17,000 Gazans, with little success. If anything, it has made Hamas more powerful.

Sharon also has a penchant for appearing "tough" when doing something "soft."

Preparing the political ground for his pullout plan, he had Hamas leaders Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and then Abdel Aziz Rantisi assassinated. His current offensive, which is not limited to the area along the Egyptian border, was unleashed after he lost the May 2 Likud referendum on his withdrawal plan.

Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe

While America abstained from the Security Council vote condemning Israel for violating international law, Bush continues to back Sharon.

For so doing, he was lustily cheered by a pro-Israeli group in Washington at about the same time as missiles and shells were tearing into Palestinians.

Speaking to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Bush reiterated his support for Israel. But he was mostly mum on what the Arab League called Sharon's "war crimes aimed at ethnic cleansing" and what others characterized as egregious violations of human rights.

In this election year, Bush is trying to win as many Jewish votes and donations away from Democrats as he can.

Palestinians be damned.

As part of this wooing exercise, he earlier endorsed the Sharon plan to grab much of the West Bank, and also reject the right of return for the Palestinians displaced in 1948.

The president put that in writing to help Sharon convince the Likud rank and file. They rejected the plan anyway. But the U.S. commitment remains, with nothing in return to advance the American road map for peace.

This infuriated the other three backers of the map: the European Union, Russia and the U.N.

And it prompted King Abdullah of Jordan to ask for a written American guarantee that the Palestinians would at least be compensated, and that Israel would cede some territory in return for a lot in the West Bank.

Bush balked.

Jordan and Egypt, on whom Israel and the U.S. were counting on to ensure that Hamas does not fill the vacuum in Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal, are hesitating to help out.

But nothing seems to budge Bush and Sharon from their misguided policies.

In Iraq, America continues to make monumental mistakes.

Following the bombing death of about 45 people in a desert, James Mattis of the U.S. Marines said he had nothing to apologize for. "How many people go into the middle of the desert ... to hold a wedding?"

Many. Arabs routinely head to the sands for night picnics or celebrations. No matter. "There were more than two dozen military-age males" there, said the general. "Let's not be naive."

Iraqi women and children be damned.

American credibility is in tatters on several other fronts.

With less than 40 days to hand over power to the Iraqis, security remains elusive, as the murder of the head of the Iraqi Governing Council showed. If the Americans can't guard their own handpicked leaders, even in Baghdad, whom can they?

The U.N., which offers the best hope for putting Iraq on the road to real self-rule, may hesitate before committing itself.

On the prison-abuse scandal, Bush's argument that it was the work of a few guards at the Abu Ghraib prison has fallen apart.

Stories abound of similar tactics used across Iraq and Afghanistan. Popping up are post-9/11 Pentagon and Justice Department directives suspending civil liberties.

Messier/ in Israel / and Iraq Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis Misguided policies make all nations less safe

Prison guards are not the only ones being scapegoated.

Ahmed Chalabi, the Pentagon's president-presumptive of post-war Iraq, has been dumped after being showered with \$39 million over the last few years.

He has been given the shove not because he was a fraud artist who supplied false intelligence, or because he had little or no popular support (as long argued in this space). He made the mistake of attacking Bush (as a way to build his local credibility).

In the battles in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, America has got itself into a no-win situation. Landing bombs near shrines is no way to win friends among the majority Shiites.

If nabbing rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was important, why was he not tackled all these months in Baghdad?

In Falluja, where the Marines went on an undisciplined rampage to avenge the death of four mercenaries, peace has been bought at the price of turning the city over to an ex-Baathist.

As Sharon and Bush lurch from crisis to crisis, they have alienated just about every ally and made the world less safe - even for Israel and America.

hsiddiq @ thestar.ca

Load-Date: May 23, 2004

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The dark heart of terrorism

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

November 29, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 35

Length: 1363 words

Byline: Marian Wilkinson

Body

Knowing your enemy is a basic rule of war. Now one woman has looked into the minds of terrorists to understand what drives them.

Marian Wilkinson reports.

UNLIKE many academic experts on terrorism and its causes, Jessica Stern decided she needed to talk to some terrorists face to face. Four years later, after sitting down with religious militants from Pakistan to Texas, she believes that at some level, terrorists find holy war addictive, psychologically, politically and financially.

War in the name of religion, she argues, puts a boundary between the terrorist and his enemy, giving him a clear identity and a purpose to life, "a seductive state of bliss". The weak become strong, the selfish become altruists. A holy war allows militants to kill while believing in their own purity.

But, just as importantly for the terrorist leader, a religious war pulls in big money, political support and willing martyrs.

Since the September 11 attacks, the West and its allies have been prosecuting the war on terrorism. But civilians from Bali to Istanbul keep dying at the hands of suicide bombers. Terrorist groups from Pakistan to Paris, it seems, have an endless supply of young men, and sometimes women, willing to blow themselves up, killing as many of their enemies as possible. Western governments everywhere are looking for answers.

Stern wanted to examine not only the political motivation for terrorism but also how fear, humiliation and even financial motives encouraged terrorists. She explored how terrorist leaders, by intensifying these feelings of fear and humiliation among their followers, help to ignite holy wars.

A young militant, Firdous Syed, who retired from the holy war in Kashmir, told Stern that when he first turned to jihad as a teenager he felt inspired by the Islamic victory over the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and the revolution in Iran. And he was driven by a desire to fight the abuses suffered by Muslims in Palestine and Kashmir.

"This was the first generation of militancy. We were euphoric," he told her. But as the struggle dragged on and more young men died, Syed became frustrated as he watched Pakistani intelligence officers and religious leaders grow rich and powerful. What was for him "a spiritual project" for them became "a conflict enterprise", he said.

The dark heart of terrorism

Now, he told Stern, "when I see young Kashmiris donating their lives to what they think of as a jihad, I feel a deep sense of regret. I feel that we initiated this violence. We initiated this destruction. With each generation, Islamic fundamentalism becomes uglier and uglier."

A HARVARD academic does not usually receive a lot of hate mail, but Stern is seeing her fair share since the release of her book, *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*. The book is based largely on interviews with religious militants and attempts to look beyond the simplistic military solution in the war on terrorism.

But her decision to investigate Christian and Jewish militants along with Islamic jihadists has infuriated some American critics and readers. The anger, she told the Herald, "is related to the notion that I could put Jews and Christians in the same book as Muslim terrorists. They say I want to psychoanalyse terrorists rather than kill them."

One outraged reader accused Stern of bringing "a shameless message of moral equivalency" to the debate on terrorism. Another claimed she was justifying terror "at the expense of Christianity and Judaism".

Before joining Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Stern was a member of former president Bill Clinton's National Security Council and the "superterrorism fellow" at the US Council on Foreign Relations. But her attempts to examine the motivations of terrorists up close are being savagely dismissed by some critics as lightweight and even naively feminine.

"It's war, my dear," wrote one. "And it won't be won by flying in Doctors Without Borders to treat the 43rd son of Sheik Bandar."

But Stern says her research has convinced her that "a military response is utterly insufficient" to deal with terrorism and so, too, is looking for one answer.

"It's absurd to have an argument, is poverty the root cause of terrorism?" she says. "There are so many causes. You can't pretend poverty doesn't play a role yet poverty doesn't explain the whole thing. People join these groups and stay in these groups for many different reasons, and we have to understand what makes them join and what makes them stay, and we can't have a comic book approach."

Nowhere do all the causes come together so bleakly as in the Gaza Strip in the Middle East. There Stern listened to the simple humiliations of Palestinians who lined up in their hundreds for hours at a border crossing where the few toilets were overflowing with excrement and where Israeli soldiers conducted arbitrary strip searches and interrogations. She heard angry Palestinian officials describe how the Jewish settlers were sucking the bulk of the strip's precious water into their greenhouses and how the Palestinians lived amid rampant violence and poverty under Israeli occupation.

Then she sat down with Ismail Abu Shanab, a **Hamas** leader, who explained frankly that suicide bombers were **Hamas**'s most cost-effective weapon, requiring just a detonator and a moment of "courage", as he put it. "People acquire the courage to carry out attacks from having seen something terrible some kind of atrocity," he told Stern. "Islam says an eye for an eye. When someone is killed in jihad, it is a joyful day."

[Abu Shanab was killed in an Israeli air strike in August.]

A general from the Palestinian Authority's security wing explained how **Hamas**'s extremely efficient social welfare organisation will look after the family of a "shaheed" or martyr with money, food and clothing, pay their debts and treat them like heroes. Money came in the past from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. Celebrations are held for the shaheed to celebrate his marriage in paradise to "the black-eyed virgins".

Many Muslims and Islamic scholars are deeply affronted by suicide bombers being treated as religious martyrs. In Islam, as in Christianity, murder and suicide are considered offences against religious laws. But the religious warriors justify both as part of their armed resistance. The death of non-combatant Jewish **women** and children, said one **Hamas** leader, was "collateral damage".

The dark heart of terrorism

STERN also heard justifications for terrorism in America, at a Texas trailer park. Kerry Noble , a Christian extremist whose group firebombed a synagogue and a church that accepted homosexuals, told her that his members wanted to rid the world of Jews, blacks and sinners. "We wanted peace, but if the purging had to precede peace, then let the purge begin."

Like many Americans, Stern is deeply worried by the growing anti-Americanism in the Muslim world. America's support for Israel, she acknowledges, is part of the reason. But she agrees with George Bush that the failure of many Muslim states also creates despair among their citizens.

But where Stern fundamentally differs from Bush is how to respond to the wave of terrorism from al-Qaeda and its affiliates. Al-Qaeda, says Stern, "know how to watch us closely for our vulnerabilities; they engage in psychological warfare against us, trying to maximise our fear". Overt military operations, she warns, galvanise its supporters, boosting recruitment and funds.

She wants to see more covert operations and a better human intelligence focus on al-Qaeda and its affiliates. Just as they penetrate Western cities with sleepers, "we need to penetrate them". She points to the case of John Walker Lindh , the American Taliban fighter, who was probably better informed about militant Islam than most CIA or FBI specialists. But Lindh, after his interrogations and trial, was sent to jail rather than co-opted into the fight against terrorism.

There are no easy answers, Stern admits, but the fight against terrorism must be political, economic and spiritual rather than just military. The US should not be afraid to change policies that are inconsistent with its purported values. What counts in the end, she argues, "is what we fight for, not what we oppose".

Graphic

TWO ILLUS: Human cost . . . left, a boy weeps at the funeral of his mother, who died in the Istanbul suicide bombing; right, two Palestinian boys wearing camouflage uniforms visit the grave of their brother, an Islamic Jihad militant killed by the Israeli army. Photos: Yves Logghe/AP; Kevin Frayer/AP

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

**Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp;
Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt. Palestinians
fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at least seven.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 18, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 657 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing amid fears of a major military operation. Helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing at least seven people and wounding two dozen, residents said.

Early today, Palestinian security officials said armored bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began leveling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It was not clear whether that was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armored vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

The gunships attacked twice after midnight. Palestinians said that around dawn, two missiles killed at least four people as they left a mosque after morning prayers. They said 17 others were wounded.

The military said it was targeting armed Palestinians. **Hamas** said that three of the dead were its members.

A few hours earlier, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces.

When the tanks moved in yesterday, frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and at a tent camp.

Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets, and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking-gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled firewood onto a horse cart.

Israeli tanks block off Gaza refugee camp; Forces want to widen a buffer zone near Egypt . Palestinians fled via one last exit. Later, missiles hit, killing at

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah, out of a population of 90,000, have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

Israeli security officials said they planned to expand the patrol road to a width of 250 yards, almost double its current size in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said that Israel must leave Gaza now and that the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said yesterday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations such as the move into the Rafah camp. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israeli intelligence showed that the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and **Hamas** abroad, were trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships were unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers were involved in arms smuggling.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

Load-Date: August 25, 2005

Israel releases prison-swap list

The Australian

January 28, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 244 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Israeli officials yesterday released the names of prisoners to be freed in a swap with Lebanese Hezbollah guerillas, after soldiers started exhuming the bodies of Lebanese fighters to be returned as part of the deal.

The list includes 371 Palestinian prisoners, 60 Palestinians being held without trial and 31 Lebanese. APThe Lebanese include the two most prominent inmates to be freed -- guerilla leaders Mustafa Dirani and Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, abducted from south Lebanon in 1994 and 1989 respectively.

In tomorrow's exchange, Israel will turn over the bodies and release the 462 prisoners in return for a captive Israeli businessman and three soldiers, snatched on the Lebanese border in 2000. The Israeli public remained split over the lopsided exchange, with many feeling it would boost Hezbollah's status and reward its tactic of kidnapping Israelis to secure release for its fighters.

After the exchange, the sides are to open talks to obtain information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon in 1986 and captured alive.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** yesterday released pictures of its first **female** suicide bomber, Reem Salah al-Rayashi, with her children four days before she blew herself up at a Gaza border crossing on January 14. Rayashi, who had said she had wanted to carry out an attack "where parts of my body can fly all over", had also said: "Only God knows how much I love (my children)".

Load-Date: January 27, 2004

The DIY terror threat

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 23, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 28

Length: 1437 words

Byline: Marian Wilkinson

Body

The United States confronts a threat of its own making in Iraq and the only way out appears to be via the United Nations, writes Marian Wilkinson.

GENERAL John Abizaid arrived at the Pentagon two days after the horrific bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the United States Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, Abizaid pronounced that Iraq was now "at the centre of the global war of terrorism".

The senior commander for all US forces in the region, Abizaid warned that terrorism was the "No. 1 security threat" in Iraq and his forces were scrambling to come to grips with it. Terrorist cells were becoming firmly established in Baghdad, he said, having successfully moved from isolated strongholds in the north and west of the country.

Asked if these cells were Saddam Hussein loyalists, foreign jihadists from Syria and Saudi Arabia or the al-Qaeda-affiliated Ansar al-Islam, Abizaid agreed all were active. "It's not good for us when they get established in an urban area, as you can well appreciate," he said.

Jessica Stern, a Harvard University terrorist expert, put it more bluntly: "[The] bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad was the latest evidence that America has taken a country that was not a terrorist threat and turned it into one."

Less than three months ago, President George Bush, in a Top Gun performance, landed in a US Navy fighter jet on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln returning from the Iraq war, thanked the crew for their successful mission and declared major combat operations in Iraq over.

The same day, his vice-president, Dick Cheney, told a cheering audience in Washington: "A Iraqi government that is of the people, by the people and for the people will serve as a dramatic and an inspiring example to other nations in the Middle East."

A short time later, Bush released his much-heralded road map for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Today Iraq is rapidly becoming an inspiring example for terrorists throughout the Arab world who want to kill Americans and challenge the US occupation of an Arab Muslim country. A previously unknown group calling itself the "Armed Vanguard of a Second Muhammad Army" this week issued a statement to Al Arabiya satellite television claiming responsibility for the deadly attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed at

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least 23 people, including the respected head of mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Within hours of the Baghdad blast, Bush's Middle East road map was also under threat when a suicide bomber blew up a Jerusalem bus packed with men, women and children, killing 20. The attack, claimed by Hamas, marked the end of the fragile ceasefire, beginning another cycle of violence as the Israeli army retaliated by assassinating one of the founders of Hamas.

FOR nearly two years since the September 11, 2001 attacks, Bush has won the overwhelming support from the majority of Americans for his handling of national security. Backed by this support, he launched the pre-emptive war in Iraq in the face of opposition from the UN Security Council and the Arab world.

Now, both at home and abroad, the Bush Doctrine is under fire, fuelled by the growing security crisis in postwar Iraq. Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress are calling for hearings on the security crisis in Iraq and the failure of the White House to build more international support to help steer Iraq towards self-government.

Two leading members of the US Senate Foreign Relations committee wrote to Bush this week urging him to broaden the role of the UN in an attempt to get a "genuine international effort" in postwar Iraq, including more troops and police from other countries.

"We're in a catch-22 moment," said Rick Barton, from the US Centre for Strategic and International Studies, who recently helped write an independent report for the Pentagon on postwar Iraq. "We're really at that very delicate point where the more security presence we have, the less secure things are."

His report warned the Pentagon it had until September to turn around the security crisis in Iraq. "We've really got to engage the Iraqis and hope they will expand their ownership. And it's not really just the Iraqi police or reconstituted Iraqi military; it's got to be the Iraqi body politic," he told the Herald.

Barton eerily echoes de Mello's last report to UN Security Council. "[Iraqis] want to see themselves back at the helm of their country," de Mello warned four weeks before his brutal death, "They also want to see the arrival of security and of the rule and law."

After the bitter divisions in the Security Council over the war in Iraq, the White House insisted that the UN role should be severely limited, giving it no power in the political transition. This made de Mello's job "a difficult balancing act", as he put it.

Postwar Iraq is effectively run by the small US-led Coalition Provisional Authority headed Paul Bremer and dominated by Americans, Britons and a few Australians. The military occupation force also remains dominated by US and British troops with limited support from a host of small US allies.

Both de Mello and the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, made strenuous efforts to work with the coalition and supported the hand-picked Iraqi Governing Council appointed by Bremer, even though it is dominated by US-backed exiles. The targeting of the UN and the killing of de Mello are reopening the question of how much the UN can support the US strategy in Iraq.

THE back-to-back bombings in Baghdad and Jerusalem have shaken the aura of confident certainty that surrounded Bush. The cracks in Washington are having a ripple effect.

In New York, simmering tensions at the UN over Iraq and the Middle East erupted. In an extraordinary outburst, the Israeli ambassador to the UN attacked Syria, which is this month's acting president of the UN Security Council. He accused Syria of sponsoring terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and possibly complicity in the Baghdad bombing.

"Syria [is] the country from which most probably the truck that blew up the UN compound in Baghdad came," the clearly furious ambassador, Dan Gillerman, told UN reporters in New York. "Syria the perpetrator, the harbourer and the headquarters of Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and countless other terror organisations is with one hand drafting a presidential statement condemning the bombing in Iraq and with the other hand drafting instructions to

The DIY terror threat

terrorist organisations to carry out horrible bombings and suicide mission such as the one that was carried in Jerusalem."

At UN headquarters in New York, the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, tried to assure both the UN and the US public that Bush would not shift policy either on Iraq or the Middle East road map.

"The end of the road map is a cliff that both sides will fall off," he said, "so we have to understand the consequences of the end of the road map."

But at the same time, the Israelis were launching a retaliatory attack on Hamas. "Unfortunately at the moment the only road we see is a road in Jerusalem with the bodies of little babies and children," said Gillerman.

Inside the Security Council, the US strategy in Iraq was also under fire from Russia, Germany and France. Bush had sent Powell to New York looking for a new UN resolution that would encourage its allies to send more troops to Iraq. But the French ambassador, Michel Duclos, said bluntly it was time for the US to rethink its occupation and hand over to the UN. The US would not get more international troops in Iraq without giving up some political power.

"Iraq, unfortunately, has become a theatre of operations for terrorists," said Duclos. "To emerge from this trap laid for us by the terrorists, we must give back to the Iraqis their responsibility and their sovereignty." Only the UN, he said pointedly, had the legitimacy, the impartiality and the expertise to do this.

Until now, Bush has stood firmly against the Security Council and his congressional opponents on Iraq. Immediately after the Baghdad bombing he insisted that "Iraq is on an irreversible course towards self-government and peace and America and our friends in the United Nations will stand with the Iraqi people as they reclaim their nation and their future".

For Bush, handing over power in Iraq to the UN would be a stunning backdown. It would also give control over his most important foreign-policy crisis to a body he does not trust.

But as next year's presidential election gets closer, Bush is acutely aware that if Iraq remains a terrorist battleground, not only will its future be at stake, so will his own.

Graphic

ILLUS: Donald Rumsfeld, left, and John Abizaid at a Pentagon briefing. Photo: Reuters/Kevin Lamarque

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Israel, Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 20, 2004 Saturday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 12A; DIGEST

Length: 697 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM; HAVANA; GONAIVES, Haiti

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordan's King Abdullah II held secret talks at the Israeli leader's desert ranch to discuss a proposed Israeli pullback from parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli and Jordanian officials confirmed Friday.

The three-hour lunch meeting on Thursday was part of a quiet Israeli lobbying campaign to get backing for the plan, which Palestinians fear is part of an attempt to unilaterally draw a border in lands they want for an independent state.

Israeli officials, including Sharon, have met recently to discuss the plan with Egyptian, Jordanian and U.S. officials - but none of those countries has indicated that it supports the plan.

Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, troops in armored vehicles raided a Palestinian village in search of Hamas militants, part of a new offensive in the strip. Twelve Palestinians were wounded in gunbattles, including two boys, ages 12 and 15, who were in critical condition.

Compiled from Times Wires

Four Israeli soldiers were wounded when Hamas detonated more than 220 pounds of explosives near a tank during the incursion.

Wives of jailed dissidents march through Havana

HAVANA - The wives of 15 Cuban political prisoners jailed in last year's crackdown on dissent held a rare public march in Havana's streets Friday demanding amnesty for their husbands.

The women - dressed all in white, with many pinning their husbands' photographs to their chests - started their march early Friday at the well-known Coppelia ice cream restaurant in the city center.

"Freedom for the 75 political prisoners!" the women shouted as they marched up to Department of Prisons headquarters seven blocks away.

There, they submitted a letter to the department's director, Gen. Rafael Calderin Tamayo, demanding freedom for their husbands and improved prison conditions.

Authorities did not interfere with the march, which lasted about 2 1/2 hours.

Israel , Jordan talk secretly about pullback proposal

Havana has justified the crackdown, saying it has the right to defend the nation from foreign attempts to change its socialist system.

Seventy-four men and one woman were arrested March 18, 2003, and accused of being mercenaries working with American officials to undermine Fidel Castro's government. The prisoners - including independent reporters, democracy activists and opposition party members - and the U.S. government deny the charges.

After one-day closed trials, they were sentenced to from six to 28 years in prison.

French troops reach northern Haiti

GONAIVES, Haiti - French troops fanned out from Haiti's capital Friday to establish control in rebel-held northern Haiti and allow relief organizations to deliver food and medicines disrupted during the rebellion against Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

A convoy of 150 French Legionnaires reached Gonaives, the city north of Port-au-Prince where a street gang began the armed rebellion that helped oust Aristide. Another 200 French troops arrived in Cap-Haitien, the northern port of 500,000 that is Haiti's second largest city. There was no reported resistance.

Rebels in both cities had said they would disarm only if their enemies in the Aristide camp lay down their weapons, and it was not immediately clear how troops proposed to deal with that. But on Friday, rebels in Gonaives - who apparently had hidden their weapons - said they were ready to cooperate.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue planned to visit Gonaives, his hometown, today - his first official trip outside the capital since he was named prime minister after Aristide fled Feb. 29.

Also Friday, Aristide's top security chief, Oriel Jean, 39, was extradited from Canada to the United States to face a drug trafficking charge, said Patrick Charette, a spokesman for Canada's Justice Department.

Elsewhere ...

BUSH GOING TO FRANCE FOR D-DAY: President Bush will join scores of leaders in France for ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the allies' D-Day invasion that proved to be a turning point of World War II.

Bush accepted the invitation for the June 6 ceremony in Normandy in a telephone call with French President Jacques Chirac, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Relations between Bush and Chirac have been strained by France's opposition to the Iraq war.

Load-Date: March 20, 2004

Time to denounce failed leaders

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

September 27, 2004 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: Q: QUERIES - QUIBBLES - QUIRKS; Pg. A11; You Said It Best

Length: 242 words

Byline: Herb Cohen and Carolyn Hedmann, Calgary Herald

Body

Leadership * Re: "Unity of beliefs key to restoring image of Islam," Sept. 18.

Joe Woodard's article reveals clearly that PR is the least of the Muslim world's problems.

The central problem is failed leadership, whether in the Middle East, Africa or the western world.

Hatim Zaghloul is "disgusted and horrified" by events in Beslan, but forgets Darfur, and while bringing up that "big sore spot" Israel, is silent about atrocities perpetrated against Israeli Jews and Arabs. "Even in war we have rules of engagement . . . like not targeting women and children." He could have added, "Jews excluded."

He says Muslims are more often the oppressed than the oppressors, but fails to admit that most often, Muslims are oppressed by their own. One can understand how someone who asserts that Muslims "treat our beliefs as if they're self-evident truths" might gloss over such minor details.

Zaghloul is hurt that "the West is desensitized to the killing of Palestinians." Yet, when Arafat, Hamas and Islamic Jihad send others' children, youths and pregnant daughters to blow themselves and innocent civilians up, and then glorify them, why does the sensitive Zaghloul turn a blind eye?

Such leaders do not teach "a culture of love and justice." They teach envy, destruction and death. Isn't it time for Muslims to denounce outdated leaders who enable, rationalize, glorify or keep silent about failed ideologies and practices?

Herb Cohen and Carolyn Hedmann, Calgary

Load-Date: September 27, 2004

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
September 6, 2003 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

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

Length: 1052 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A2-6

Palestinian Prime Minister Appears Ready to Resign

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, plans to announce his resignation. Associates of Mr. Abbas say he has concluded that the move may force Yasir Arafat, under international pressure, to bring back Mr. Abbas, or another prime minister, with guaranteed authority. A1

Weapon Sites Unguarded in Iraq

American officials said about 50 munitions sites in Iraq containing explosives similar to those used in recent bombings remained largely unguarded. One official acknowledged that the military does not have enough troops to watch every site. A1

Hamas Leader Shot and Killed

A leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas was shot dead in the West Bank after he fired on Israeli troops, killing a naval commando and wounding four others. Three other Hamas members were arrested. A3

Ex-Leader Fled With Millions

Charles G. Taylor, who stepped down as president of Liberia and flew to exile in Nigeria, left with \$3 million donated for disarming and demobilizing armed combatants, according to a United Nations official. The sum is roughly equal to six months of current government revenues. A3

Carter Speaks Out on Korea

Former President Jimmy Carter, credited with defusing the 1994 North Korean nuclear crisis, warned that the current standoff there is the "greatest threat" to the world. The Bush administration had no immediate comment. A4

A Sharp Reversal in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, said he was withdrawing internal-security legislation that had provoked huge protests. The retreat is a startling setback for Beijing, which rarely yields to popular demand. A1

Crime Rattles Japanese Calm

NEWS SUMMARY

Crime has risen sharply in Japan in the last few years, altering everyday lives, especially of city dwellers, and for the first time becoming a hot political issue. A1

NATIONAL A7-9, 12

Polls Show Defeat For Alabama Tax Plan

Gov. Bob Riley, whose ambitious vision for a new Alabama is built on \$1.2 billion in new taxes, is probably headed for defeat when the state votes on his plan in a referendum next week. A1

Man Killed at Disneyland

A man riding a Disneyland roller coaster was killed and 10 people injured when passengers were spilled from the train. A7

Call for Defense Resignations

A senior House Democrat called for the resignations of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the deputy secretary, Paul D. Wolfowitz, saying that their miscalculations had cost American lives in Iraq and damaged the nation's fiscal health. A6

DNA Evidence in Old Case

Prosecutors said they have found the real killer of a 9-year-old girl whom Kirk Bloodsworth, left, was convicted of slaying nearly two decades ago. Ten years ago, he became the first death row inmate in the country to be exonerated based on DNA testing. A7

Congress Tackles Energy Bill

Congressional negotiations on a broad new energy policy began with Republican leaders serving notice that they intended to write much of the proposal. A9

EDUCATION

House Approves Voucher Plan

The House narrowly approved a \$10 million private-school voucher plan for poor Washington students. A12

Tough-Love Schools Under Fire

A review of seven "tough love" programs or "specialty boarding schools" found accusations of misconduct at four of them. A8

Co-opting the University

Scholars and educators are warning that the traditional mission and standards of the university are at risk of being compromised by increasing commercialization. B9

NEW YORK/REGION B1-7

Rapper for Infamous Label Is Killed on Queens Street

A rap performer who used the name D.O. Cannon was shot dead on a corner in Queens, the authorities said. He was affiliated with a music label that is the subject of a long-running federal investigation. B1

Pataki Cut Payroll Strategically

A close analysis shows that while Governor Pataki appears to have shrunk the payroll of the Executive Chamber, he did it in ways that managed to protect his personal appointees and to reward campaign workers or political allies. B1

Cheney to Speak at W.T.C. Site

NEWS SUMMARY

Mayor Bloomberg welcomed Vice President Dick Cheney's attendance at the city's Sept. 11 memorial service at Ground Zero. B2

Religion Journal B7

SPORTS D1-7

Belgian **Women** Win at Open

Justine Henin-Hardenne beat Jennifer Capriati 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4), in a semifinal match. Kim Clijsters beat Lindsay Davenport, 6-2, 6-3, in the other. D1

Andre Agassi and Juan Carlos Ferrero will play each other in the semifinals, as will Andy Roddick and David Nalbandian. D1

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Ecstasy Findings Retracted

A scientific journal retracted a paper it published saying that a typical dose of the drug Ecstasy might cause permanent brain damage. A8

OBITUARIES B16

ARTS & IDEAS B9-15

Moliere Authorship Questioned

A specialist in what is known as lexical statistics claims to have determined that Moliere's masterpieces were in fact the work of Pierre Corneille, the author of "Le Cid." B9

BUSINESS DAY C1-16

Jobless Recovery Continues

The Labor Department announced that 93,000 jobs were lost in August, extending an economic recovery into its 22nd month. Job creation has emerged as an issue in the presidential campaign. A1

Mr. Bush remained upbeat and said Congress should make recent tax cuts permanent. C1

Tenet Inquiry Opened by Senate

The Senate Finance Committee opened an investigation into Tenet Healthcare and requested that the company produce documents. C3

Advances in Tax Evasion Case

Brett Tollman, the son of Stanley S. Tollman, the fugitive New York hotel and travel executive, pleaded guilty to federal tax evasion charges. C3

Indexes Take a Step Back

The Dow fell 84.56 points to 9,503.34, following a five-day advance of 254 points to its highest level since June 2002. The Nasdaq dropped 10.73 points to 1,858.24 after a seven-day gain of 104 points to its highest closing level since March 2002. C4

Challenges Ahead for Verizon

NEWS SUMMARY

Some analysts said the settlement Verizon reached with its unions could make it harder for the nation's large telephone service providers to face the threats to their business from the cable industry and upstarts. C1

Business Digest C1

EDITORIAL A10-11

Editorials: Democrats spare the friendly fire; a constitutional anachronism; for civil court.

Bridge B12

TV Listings B15

Crossword B12

Weather D8

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: September 6, 2003

End of Document

27 Israelis won't fly air strikes;
The elite pilots have stirred debate by refusing to raid Palestinians.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 1014 words

Byline: Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Air Force pilots are held in highest esteem, often described as "the elite of the elite," or the *crme de la crme*, in the most selective of military specialties.

The highly competitive fraternity, whose cunning destroyed the Egyptian Air Force before it even left the ground in the 1967 Six-Day War, and whose sonic booms comfort Israelis while sending shivers down enemy spines, are the *ne plus ultra* of soldiers here.

So when 27 pilots issued a statement recently refusing to fly targeted killing missions against Palestinian militants because doing so could harm Palestinian civilians in collateral damage, their protest struck a nerve deep inside Israeli society.

The chief of the Air Force immediately suspended and threatened to jail them. Opposing pilots published a statement denouncing them. Local media brimmed with commentaries calling them "politically motivated," "naive traitors," or occasionally, "true patriots."

"If people of that caliber are prepared to take that sort of action, we have to sit up and take notice - not necessarily to support them, maybe to oppose them, but we can't pooh-pooh them, as we might with 27 cooks," says Bar Ilan University politics professor Stuart Cohen, a specialist in the nexus between Israel's army and its civil society.

In sheer numbers, the Air Force refuseniks are a blip on the radar screen. A similar protest launched last year by combat soldiers refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip so far has garnered 550 signers on its Web site.

But in a country with universal military service, and a draining, low-intensity war that has killed 3,000 Israelis and Palestinians in the last three years, the protesters have triggered a serious debate about the difference between duty to country and to a higher moral authority.

27 Israelis won't fly air strikes; The elite pilots have stirred debate by refusing to raid Palestinians.

The dissenters say they want to stir an internal dialogue, not to embarrass Israel in the world's eyes. In the few local interviews they have given, they are identified by first names only. They present themselves as faced with an untenable choice forcing them to speak out.

"Our pilots are professional and do their jobs the best they can," Capt. Alon told the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronoth. "But they are sent to do surgical operations with an ax, and even the most skilled surgeon cannot do this."

Of 2,201 Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces since September 2000, 207 were victims of targeted assassinations, including 84 bystanders, according to figures released this week by the Israeli human-rights group B'Tselem. According to the report, 794 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians, among them 246 soldiers.

The group of 27 includes just nine pilots on active duty. The others are reservists. It is led informally by Brig. Gen. Yiftah Spector, a highly decorated retired pilot who, according to Israeli news media, participated in the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1982.

Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz, commander of the Israeli Air Force, said dissension cannot be tolerated because the threat of "mega-attacks" by Palestinian militants is ever-present, and Israel has no choice but to "hunt down the murderers" and liquidate them.

The dissenters say the campaign of air strikes in Palestinian areas undermines Israel's democracy. Their petition calls the strikes "illegal and immoral," and condemns Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since this latest intifadah began three years ago, Israeli pilots in F-16 jets and helicopter gunships have carried out hundreds of air strikes against Palestinian police installations and bomb factories.

An attack last year using a one-ton bomb dropped from a plane on a building in Gaza City killed the leader of the **Hamas** military wing, Saleh Shehadeh, his assistant and 14 civilians, nine of them children.

"We attack places where there are civilians, **women** and children, with the prior knowledge that . . . there is a great chance they will be killed," Zeev Rotem, a retired combat navigator speaking on behalf of the 27 dissenters, told Israel Radio. He said the protest was an attempt "to make the army, the government and the citizens . . . stop this crazy cycle that has hijacked this country."

A contrary view was expressed with equal passion by veteran Israeli journalist Dan Margalit, who wrote in a front-page Maariv commentary that "if [the pilots]' idea is accepted, [**Hamas** founder] Ahmed Yassin and his compatriots . . . will be able to plan the next murder of Jewish children on a Jerusalem bus without interference," a reference to a mid-August suicide bombing in which 23 passengers, including six children, were killed. Israel stepped up its air strikes after that attack, killing 13 **Hamas** members and six bystanders, mostly in Gaza.

Experts agree that the refusenik movement is small, with no guarantee it will grow into something on the order of the protests in the United States against the Vietnam War. "It's not a mass movement," says Cohen, the Bar Ilan professor. Nor is it unusual, he says, for Israeli soldiers to speak out, even if last week's published statement is an apparent first for an organized group of pilots.

Underlying the moral issues raised by the pilots' protest is a practical question concerning "force structure" in a country whose military is based on universal conscription, long terms in the reserves, and the constant ebb and flow of soldiers back and forth between military and civilian life.

"Professional armies don't have this sort of problem," says Cohen, "One of the problems in a militia-type army is that dissent in the civilian population is very easily transferred into the military ranks for the simple reason [that] you are constantly calling up civilians. People are coming in and going out all the time."

Shai Feldman, director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, agrees.

27 Israelis won't fly air strikes; The elite pilots have stirred debate by refusing to raid Palestinians.

"There's no real difference between civilian protest in the United States and reservists in Israel signing a petition," he says. "This is precisely our form of civil-society protest."

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign@phillynews.com.

Graphic

PHOTO;

ALON RON, Associated Press

Israeli Air Force pilots walk to a helicopter on an Israeli military base. A protest by 27 of their counterparts has scandalized the country.

Load-Date: August 16, 2005

End of Document

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; DIGEST

Length: 659 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: JERUSALEM; GENEVA; BEIJING

Body

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, the Associated Press, quoting an unnamed committee member, reported that it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Compiled from Times Wires

On the security barrier, the AP, quoting a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported that the government has asked committees to study changes in the route as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

MORE **FEMALE** BOMBERS: The founder of **Hamas** 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.

WTO upholds some U.S.

duties on Canadian lumber

GENEVA - A World Trade Organization appeals panel gave a boost to the United States on Monday, reversing most of an earlier ruling that said U.S. special duties on Canadian lumber were illegal.

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

The panel agreed with U.S. claims that lumber from state-owned lands in Canada can be unfairly subsidized if provincial governments sell the wood at below-market price. Therefore the United States has the right to impose extra duties to prevent cheap Canadian wood harming U.S. manufacturers, the panel said.

It stressed, however, that Washington would still have to carry out more extensive investigations before it could justify imposing duties on some imports of logs.

Dutch officials tell of

nuclear knowhow transfer

Two government ministers in the Netherlands acknowledged Monday that highly sensitive nuclear technology developed by a Dutch company may have been transferred to Libya and North Korea along with Iran and Pakistan.

The disclosure in Parliament in Amsterdam marked the first public confirmation of assertions that centrifuge technology for enriching uranium apparently found its way to Libya and North Korea. It was already known that Pakistan and Iran had the technology.

The Dutch officials, Foreign Minister Bernard Bot and Economic Affairs Minister Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst, said it was not clear how the technology had been transferred.

China warns Taiwan about

new wording on ballot

BEIJING - A senior Chinese official rejected the new wording of a referendum that Taiwan is planning to hold in March and warned Monday that it would push cross-strait tensions "to the brink of danger." But he did not say how China would respond if the island goes ahead with the vote.

The statement was the first by a Chinese leader on the subject since Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, under U.S. pressure, announced Friday that he was changing the questions.

A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa. One soldier was killed and two were wounded when Hezbollah attacked an Israeli bulldozer that was clearing land at the Lebanese border on Monday. Hezbollah said the bulldozer strayed into Lebanon; Israel said it didn't.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

Israeli army blows up Gaza apartment towers

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 27, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 254 words

Body

GAZA: The Israeli army dynamited three empty apartment towers in the Gaza Strip yesterday in what it said was retaliation for a deadly Palestinian attack on a nearby Jewish settlement on Saturday.

Troops evacuated more than 2000 Palestinians from nearby homes before triggering the explosions, which sent clouds of black smoke billowing up and rocked the area for kilometres around, damaging many other structures.

Reuters

In a separate incident, Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian gunman who military sources said approached an army base in the Gush Katif bloc of Jewish settlements in Gaza.

The demolition of the 13-storey buildings, unfinished apartment towers owned by Palestinian security services, ratcheted up tensions even further amid tit-for-tat violence that has stalled the US-backed "road map" to peace. The buildings south of Gaza City overlooked the settlement of Netzarim, where two gunmen mounted an attack on Friday that killed three soldiers, two of them women.

Troops shot dead one of the militants, but the other escaped to a nearby police station, which was demolished after evacuation.

Israeli military officials said they blew up the apartment buildings because they were used as observation posts for planning last week's raid and other attacks by militants.

"I hope it will be a good message to the Palestinian Authority not to let their infrastructure be used for terror," Israeli Brigadier-General Gadi Shamni, said.

The attack on Netzarim was carried out by militant groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Load-Date: October 26, 2003

LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE ACTIVIST

The Independent (London)

January 15, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 18

Length: 654 words

Body

THE DEATH of the British peace activist Tom Hurndall will not, we may be reasonably sure, have much immediate impact on the policies of the Israeli government. It is, however, an event that will further damage Israel's image in the world.

For Mr Hurndall was no suicide bomber or al-Qa'ida agent. He was a member of the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led group that campaigns against Israeli occupation using non-violent methods. He was an unarmed civilian who was shot by an Israeli soldier during a disturbance at a Palestinian refugee camp.

The soldier has been arrested and ought now to be charged with murder. The way in which his case is conducted by the Israeli authorities will be an important matter. Mr Hurndall's family deserves justice. The Israeli government has said that it "views this tragic event with the utmost severity, and is acting to ensure that justice is served". They must be held to that.

The death of Tom Hurndall comes at a moment when, once again, Israel is re-examining its security. The latest suicide bombing, this time carried out by a female member of Hamas, killed four Israelis on the border with Gaza. It marks a new departure for Hamas: previously only secular Palestinian groups have used women in suicide attacks. The terrorists are clearly placing pragmatic considerations ahead of dogmatic ones. Israel has warned that it might tighten restrictions against Palestinians, already often oppressive: reprisal raids on Palestinian settlements by helicopter gunships may well follow, as they have so often in the past.

Yet the lesson of this suicide attack is that Israeli security cannot be guaranteed by border controls, harassment, revenge attacks or, indeed, the vast wall now being erected by Ariel Sharon's government across Palestinian territory. True, the incidence of terrorist attacks in Israel proper may well be reduced by such measures, although the probability is that the bombers will merely be diverted to less well-defended centres. However, the humiliation and disruption visited upon innocent Palestinians by an angry and hurt Israel have previously only served to increase the well of grievance and resentment that breeds terrorism.

The truth, as many Israelis acknowledge, is that Israeli security can only be attained by a lasting political settlement.

That, it is fair to add, is to say everything and nothing about the prospects for the region, as such a settlement requires painful compromises on both sides, and there is little sign of these being offered.

Every suicide bombing mission makes the possibility of Israeli co-operation that much less likely.

LEADING ARTICLE: ISRAEL 'S REPUTATION, SUICIDE BOMBERS AND THE DEATH OF A PEACE
ACTIVIST

But it is also true that every metre added to Mr Sharon's so called security fence puts back the chances of peace. It is a more or less blatant attempt to change the facts of political life on the ground in the occupied territories and effectively to impose a settlement, in the form of a physical border, regardless of what the Palestinians want or, indeed, the rest of the world may think.

Even President Bush has had to remind the Israeli government that their wall is a rather unhelpful contribution. And it is an international matter, given that it amounts to the unilateral creation of an international border. Legally and physically, the wall cannot be allowed to stand. Israel must come to terms with the Palestinians.

All of which is anathema to large sections of Israeli opinion, evidenced by the huge demonstration, involving 100,000 people, in Tel Aviv on Sunday night.

They were clear that Mr Sharon has given too much to the Palestinians already. Settlers have pledged to gather thousands of supporters to prevent the dismantling of even the small number of "unauthorised" settlements on the West Bank. Mr Sharon, strange to say, is regarded as "soft" by some Israelis. They do not fret about Israel's international reputation. The prospects for peace seem as remote as ever.

Load-Date: January 15, 2004

End of Document

World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

December 31, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 685 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

Body

Brazil

SAO PAULO -- Despite Brazil's assurances that its nuclear facilities are open to spot inspections, the International Atomic Energy Agency on Tuesday said South America's largest country has still not signed a key agreement that would formally allow such inspections to take place. The remarks by IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming in Vienna came a day after Brazil's Science and Technology Ministry released a statement reaffirming the "peaceful objectives" of the country's nuclear program.

China

BEIJING -- The death toll in an explosion at a fireworks factory in China's northeast has risen by seven to 36 and a businessman who set up the factory was ordered arrested, according to official media reports on Wednesday. The factory in the city of Tieling had been operating for just three days when the explosion Tuesday tore apart its two workshops, the Xinhua News Agency said. The cause was under investigation.

HONG KONG-- Canto-pop diva and actress Anita Mui, whose melancholic voice captivated the Chinese-speaking world, died early Tuesday after a battle with cervical cancer. She was 40.

Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE -- Police hurled tear gas and fired warning shots in Haiti's capital Tuesday to break up a protest by thousands of government opponents, wounding at least two people. Protesters called the march to press for the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the Caribbean country prepares to mark independence day on Thursday.

Iraq

BAGHDAD -- A roadside bomb that was apparently intended for a passing U.S. military convoy missed its target Tuesday, exploding in a densely populated Baghdad neighborhood and killing an Iraqi civilian. The attack in the Karrada neighborhood shattered windows on the busy street and destroyed a concrete road median, but did not wound any U.S. troops.

Israel

World datelines

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at a car carrying militants from the **Hamas** group late Tuesday, wounding at least 11 people and raising fears of an intensification of Middle East violence. Israel's military issued a statement saying the targets were "senior **Hamas** terrorists actively engaged in planning terror attacks."

Liberia

MONROVIA -- Liberia's interim leader, Gyude Bryanton, Tuesday accepted the United Nations' renewal of sanctions on his West African nation, saying his U.N.-backed government had yet to bring the country fully under control following 14 years of conflict.

New Zealand

WELLINGTON -- An avalanche swept across one of New Zealand's tallest mountains Wednesday, killing four climbers and injuring two others, rescuers said. The victims were located as rescuers, some aboard helicopters and others using sniffer dogs, searched areas of Mt. Tasman following the 9 a.m. avalanche. Identities of the climbers were not immediately available.

Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN -- Miriam Naveira was sworn in Tuesday as the new chief justice of Puerto Rico's Supreme Court, making her the first woman to hold the post. Gov. Sila Calderon, the island's first **female** governor, nominated Naveira earlier this month. She had been an associate justice for more than 18 years.

Russia

MOSCOW -- One of the most prominent figures of Russia's battered liberal wing announced Tuesday she would run for president, ending speculation that Western-leaning politicians would boycott the vote to protest alleged fraud in this month's parliamentary elections. Irina Khakamada, co-leader of the Union of Right Forces, said she would run as an independent, making the announcement just a day before the deadline for independents to register their candidacies.

Saudi Arabia

RIYADH -- A terror suspect surrendered to Saudi police Tuesday, and a Western diplomat said Islamic militants who have attacked foreigners in the kingdom appear to have homed in on a new target -- senior members of the Saudi security services.

Ukraine

KIEV -- Ukraine's Constitutional Court gave President Leonid Kuchma the go-ahead Tuesday to compete for a third term, infuriating his opponents and setting the stage for a new round of protests aimed at toppling a leader the opposition accuses of corruption and abuse of power.

Load-Date: December 31, 2003

Does Outrage! have genuine concerns?;

Morning Star

June 12, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 272 words

Body

I DID notice Outrage! at the Palestine Solidarity Campaign rally, Tatchell and his glum chums with a placard saying: "Israel, stop oppressing the Palestinians; Palestine, stop oppressing queers."

It didn't amount to a counter-demonstration.

Nor did I either notice Muslims intimidating them or lesbians and gay men expressing opposition. So, what is behind these bickering letters (M Star May 29 & June 5)?

Israel's interrogators and torturers sometimes claim to have information of sexual impropriety on the part of their Palestinian captives. Usually women face this but sometimes men - allegations usually concern adultery, sometimes homosexuality. Occasionally, they get into the Israeli press and, from there, they may reach human rights circles in the West.

A few years ago, Gay Times got up a brouhaha alleging that the Palestine National Authority connived at the murder of gay men. In March, the Freethinker reported that Hamas tells women "disgraced" by sexual activity outside marriage to "purify" themselves by blowing themselves up along with a few Jews. Its source was Yediot Aharanot, roughly the Israeli equivalent of the Daily Mail.

On June 2 1997, the secretary-general of the PNA Cabinet issued a statement that "neither the PLO nor the PNA discriminate . . . against gays and lesbians, " a statement made, no doubt, more in hope than in truth, but giving nonetheless the opportunity to raise genuine human rights concerns with PNA representatives.

Does Outrage! have genuine concerns or did they turn up on May 15 only to publicise themselves and help out the Israeli propaganda machine?

BOB DEACON Wolverhampton

Load-Date: June 16, 2004

[No Published Headline]

The Timaru Herald (New Zealand)

June 30, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: NEWS; NATIONAL;; LETTERS TO EDITOR

Length: 1077 words

Body

The Sensible Sentencing Trust congratulates Chief District Court Judge David Carruthers for his courageous speech at the opening of the recent JPs' conference in Nelson.

Judge Carruthers told the conference he wanted to cover an aspect of the law that had been, "pressing on my consciousness more and more, and that is the question of preventing crime".

The trust has been lobbying judges and defence lawyers for some time to take ownership of the violent crime epidemic that is spiralling out of control in New Zealand. It is incredibly heartening for us to see Judge Carruthers responding to the call and encouraging others to do likewise.

The judge said it is not enough to simply respond to the worsening crime and deteriorating social environments and encouraged those attending to have a responsibility to ask what is happening and how could they prevent this.

Encouraging the conference to consider the research done by Professor Larry Sherman in the United States on crime prevention practices, Judge Carruthers said "None of it is brain surgery, all of it is within our grasp and all pretty basic common sense".

Action is needed and New Zealand did not have to reinvent the wheel. Other countries had experimented and we should learn from those experiments.

Speaking on the escalating drug and alcohol abuse Judge Carruthers said New Zealand could not afford inaction in the face of what is a national disaster.

Judge Carruthers is showing amazing leadership, hopefully others will follow. Maybe even a defence lawyer or two might encourage their clients to accept responsibility and accountability for crimes committed.

Garth McVicar

National spokesman

Sensible Sentencing Trust

Donation

The South Canterbury Asthma Society must have admired Nellie Childs immensely for donating her Mrs Philippine crown prize of \$ 600. As the song says, she has diamonds on the inside, and she raised the most money for Canterbury Philippino Ten-pin Bowling.

[No Published Headline]

Now the Asthma Society can put the donation as a down payment towards a new nebuliser so badly needed.

I know Nellie through the compassionate, kind and gentle care she recently gave me.

Hiria Moffat

Timaru

Health board

It was reported that the Ministry of Health has rated the South Canterbury District Health Board the top performing board of the 21 in New Zealand. The same day we are told that more than 500 South Canterbury patients have been waiting longer than six months for surgery and/or treatment.

We have also had a protracted strike by senior medical staff over working conditions, a strike that was absolutely unprecedented. Despite the strife, tension, chaos and dysfunction emanating from this, the ministry gives the board top marks.

One wonders what system the ministry used to rate the DHBs and what information the ministry receives in order to make such a statement. If this rating is a true reflection of the health boards in this country, then the system cannot be said to be working. How on earth can this rating be taken seriously? Who is kidding who?

Les Howard

Grey Power

Timaru

Prostitution

Aoraki MP Jim Sutton declares he was impressed with the number and quality of letters he received on the Prostitution Reform Bill. He states that in the end his electorate did not present him with a clear-cut view on the matter.

I believe his constituents would like to know how many submissions he received that were in support of the bill, and how many were opposed to it.

P Schaab

Timaru

Footnote: A spokesman for Mr Sutton replied: Mr Sutton received 76 letters opposing the bill, 11 for it, and 21 which were ambivalent. It must be noted, however, that some letters were on behalf of organisation with many members. Some correspondents also wrote more than once.

Your criticism of Dr Choudhary over the prostitution vote in Parliament (June 27) is not altogether justified. You cannot say, in isolation, that his abstaining resulted in the outcome. What about the MPs who changed their vote on the final night? Were they swayed by reason, logic and common sense or by dramatic oratory?

Perhaps the real question is should an issue such as this be decided by one vote? Perhaps the decision should be made on the basis of at least 65 per cent (say) majority vote.

This issue was clearly not black and white, rather it was more grey. Some might say muddy.

Ross Carrick

Timaru

[No Published Headline]

The Canterbury Muslim Association has expressed apprehension over Ashraf Choudhary not voting against the Prostitution Reform Bill. I view the association's comments with a measure of cynicism.

Apparently Islam "categorically forbids the evil of prostitution", an act between consenting adults, yet Palestine Islamic terrorists routinely carry out the murder of innocent civilians.

Hamas lives by the Charter of Allah which decrees that "death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of **Hamas** wishes".

The charter further claims "the enemies (the West) have been scheming for a long time, accumulating wealth to establish clandestine organisations around the world to carry out Zionist interests. Such organisations include the Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, and B'nai B'rith."

The association clearly has selective morality. I await its public condemnation of **Hamas**' regular suicide bombings with the same vigour, and an assurance that such ghastly events will not be targeted against New Zealand citizens.

Barry Paul

Christchurch

For those readers who may be statistically inclined regarding the vote on the Prostitution Law Reform Bill, the following makes for enlightening reading:

57 per cent of all male parliamentarians voted against the bill;

70 per cent of all **female** parliamentarians voted for the bill;

All Labour Party list MPs (except "Absent Ashraf") voted for the bill;

All 10 of the Labour MPs who voted against the bill are electorate MPs.

So much for Labour's "pro-feminist" mantra and the "empowerment of the sisterhood", eh girls? So much for Labour list MP voter accountability, eh New Zealand? Remember these figures at the next election, which is just 104 short weeks away. In fact, cut this letter out, and stick it on to your fridge -- just to be sure. As we sow, so shall we reap.

Steve Taylor

Auckland

Disclaimer

The item under "Your thoughts" (June 26) attributed to me about the All Black jersey is not correct.

No one in their right mind should dare comment on a national religion and the article is far too facetious for my style.

I suggest that you allow the author's anonymity and avoid retribution.

Michael J Setterfield

Timaru

Load-Date: July 16, 2003

Us Snipers Kill Two

THE BRISTOL POST

August 8, 2003

default

Copyright 2003 Bristol United Press

Section: Sport; Angling; Coarse; Pg. 4 0808BRISEP140ussni

Length: 237 words

Body

Iraq: American snipers killed two men and wounded two others today in a raid on a weapons market in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. The US military had posted marksmen around the marketplace after learning that weapons and ammunitions were being sold there every Friday.

Women ran screaming as shots rang out, and a man unloading an AK-47 assault rifle from of a car collapsed.

US Lt Col Steve Russell said: "I think we sent out a strong message today that you cannot walk around the streets with weapons." Commanders fear markets are helping supply insurgents who have waged a guerilla war against the occupation forces.

That insurgency took on a new and frightening aspect yesterday when a huge car bomb rocked the Jordanian embassy in the capital, killing 17 people.

Palestinian shot dead WEST BANK: One Palestinian was killed today as Israeli soldiers fought gunmen in a fierce battle in a West Bank refugee camp.

The troops were hunting for a top fugitive from the militant Islamic group **Hamas** in the Askar camp near Nablus. An Israeli spokesman said they came under fire from a three-storey block of flats and shot back.

They fired an anti-tank missile at the building, setting off several explosions. The military said the source was either an explosives lab or weapons cache.

Today's battle came after a month of relative calm that followed a ceasefire declared by the main Palestinian militant groups on June 29.

Load-Date: August 9, 2003

It was a massacre - not a killing

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 8, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A28; Letter

Length: 248 words

Body

The second paragraph of your front-page article "Party rejects Sharon's plan" (Gazette, May 3) read "Palestinian attack kills a Gaza settler and her four children." If this is a killing, when does The Gazette use the term "massacre," or is this a term reserved only for Israeli reprisals? The Gazette

A few months ago, a Gazette editorial criticized the CBC for not calling terrorists what they really are. Isn't murdering a 34-year pregnant mother, her 2-year-old baby and her three young daughters ages 7, 9 and 11 an act of terror?

Calling these butchers "Palestinian gunmen" speaks volumes regarding the quality of The Gazette's reporting. It's not as if The Gazette does not know better, as it identified the murderers as members of the terrorist groups Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Finally, you keep referring to Sheikh Yassin as the founder and spiritual leader of **Hamas**. He was the founding member of the terrorist group, but shouldn't the term "spiritual leader" be reserved for people like the Dalai Lama, Gandhi or the pope?

What spiritual leader sends young men to kill pregnant **women**, babies and children? What kind of spiritual leader encourages the children of his own people to become suicide bombers and to kill other innocent children - acts forbidden by all religions, including Islam?

Good journalism begins with the precise use of correct language.

Amos Sochaczewski

Chair, B'nai Brith Institute for International Affairs

Load-Date: May 8, 2004