

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:18:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223359117

Documents (100)

1. Pupils of death; The children schooled to turn into suicide bombers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

2. West Bank sustains more heavy fighting Israel offensive appears likely to be cut short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

3. 2 die in Jerusalem street blast; Woman apparently was suicide bomber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

4. Dissecting the Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

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May 31, 2003

5. Gunman wounds 14 on Jerusalem street

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

6. Israel sets up Iran as next target for the US

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

7. CHERIE BLAIR CLAIMS YOUNG PALESTINIANS BECOME SUICIDE BOMBERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE 'NO HOPE'. BUT ARE THEY JUST SEEKING A HEAVENLY REWARD?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

8._Words Aimed At Ideology

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

9. Thomas Oliver's @ WITS' END

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

10. The Middle East: Past & Present; Readers' guide to the conflicts of 2002, plus the events that led to this

<u>crisis</u>

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

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May 31, 2003

11. ISRAELIS BLOW UP SLAIN GAZA MILITANT'S FAMILY HOME

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

12. A VOTE FOR ARAFAT IS A VOTE FOR TERROR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

13. Suicide bomber strikes crowded Tel Aviv cafe: At least 29 hurt; report blames group linked to Arafat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

14. Television

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

15. Suicide bomber kills 19 at Passover meal

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

16. BRITONS READY TO BE SUICIDE BOMBERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

17. ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

18._37 hurt as Israel launches air strikes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

19. Briefly... NATION/WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

20. Inside a Taliban terrorism class

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

21. Terror's deadly calling cards

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

22. An operation that raises troubling questions

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

23. <u>Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka</u>; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

24. West Bank under siege: Stories of heartbreak and despair emerge in the wake of the Israeli incursion. Marie Colvin reports.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

25. <u>Hate sees only one side: Palestinians and Israelis want world to believe they, and they alone, are the true victims</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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26. Israel retaliates as bombings continue

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

27. GIRL OF 18 KILLS TWO IN SECOND FEMALE SUICIDE ATTACK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

28. Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

29. BOMBER STRIKES AT THE HEART OF ISRAEL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

30. Who's behind those masks?: Suicide attackers no longer fit stereotype of lone, religious youth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

31. Faced with relentless attacks, Israel has a right to defend itself

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

32. Israelis renew attacks; 14 Palestinians killed: Powell plans peacekeeping mission

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

33. Chronology of suicide bombings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

34. PLO URGED TO STAND BY CEASEFIRE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

35. WE'RE COMING TO GET YOU; THE US SAYS HIZBOLLAH IS A BUNCH OF EVIL TERRORISTS WHO SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE LEBANESE SET-UP INSISTS IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN A GROUP OF DO-GOODERS. AND ANDREW MULLER DISCOVERS THAT, WELL, PERHAPS THEY'RE BOTH RIGHT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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May 31, 2003



36. Pakistan detains three suspects for church attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

37. Sharon hit by votes-for-cash scandal in Likud: PM forced on defensive after police launch inquiry

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

38. UN REJECTS ISRAELI ACCOUNT OF BRITISH OFFICIAL'S KILLING

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

39. Carnage returns to the streets

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

40. <u>Israelis arrest suspected militants</u>; <u>Links to Arafat?</u>: <u>Troops sweep Jenin looking for members of group</u> claiming responsibility for recent suicide bombings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

41. Top of the News



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

42. Horrific Passover massacre leaves 19 dead, 120 wounded

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

43. KILLING CHILDREN IS THE REAL EVIL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

44. BLOOD FLOWS IN HOLY CITY Jerusalem gunman shot dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

45. Muslims protest raids on groups, homes in Va.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

46. 2 SLAIN IN JERUSALEM Gunman also leaves 14 injured

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

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

47. STUDENT FIRST PALESTINIAN WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

48. Sharon tells cabinet to stop criticising Israeli army

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

49. Rockets hit nerve in Israel; Mideast danger rises as attack defies warnings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

50. ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

51. <u>GUNMAN WREAKS HAVOC ON ISRAELIS; WEST BANK TRAGEDY: PALESTINIAN IN TWO -HOUR</u> ASSAULT ON SETTLEMENT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

52. DESPAIR: THE TERRORIST'S BEST RECRUITING OFFICER; THE ROAD MAP' FOR PEACE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT RESPECT FOR Palestinian children look back at an Israeli tank in the West Bank URIEL SINAI/ AP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

53. US pins weapons shipment on Arafat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

54. Attack is a dare to Israel; Palestinians fire rockets, risking fierce retaliation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

55. ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerrillas kill 2 female officrs eating lunch

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

56. THREE ISRAELIS KILLED BY BOMB AT SHOPPING CENTRE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

57. Five arrested in Britain over suicide bomber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

58. LETTERS TO THE EDITORS; Many problems with war on Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

59. The World Just Try to Imagine A Palestinian Democracy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

60. Israeli missile kills 2 militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

61. Suicide bombers hit Israeli bus, kill 14

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

62. Suicide attack claims many student victims

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

63. ISRAEL KILLS 6 IN GAZA VIOLENCE; SAYS TROOPS WERE SHOT AT; 2 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN DIE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

64. SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS ISRAELI WOMAN AT BUS STOP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

65. Massacre averted by bus driver's bravery: Bomber pinned down until passengers had fled

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

66. NEWS SUMMARY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

67. Mothers and children malnourished

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

68. THE WEEK ON A PAGE: VIOLENCE CAN'T BE PIGEONHOLED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

69. Light in the Middle East darkness as grannies from hell refuse to take war for an answer Entertainment

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

70. Briefly... NATION; WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

71. RABBI SHOT TO DEATH BY GUNMEN IN W. BANK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

72. Arafat in, or no deal

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

73. KILLER WITH A CASE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

74. <u>Standoff ends with exit from Church; The 13 Palestinian militants were the first to leave and will go to Cyprus</u>. Conditions inside had been desperate.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

75. Sharon cuts U.S. trip short as bomb kills 16

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

76. THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: KILLER OF 3 How 2 Took the Path of Suicide Bombers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

77. DEEPENING DESPAIR AMONG PALESTINIANS BRINGS OUT MARTYRS

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

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

78. A NATION CHALLENGED: THE MONEY TRAIL U.S. Raids Continue, Prompting Protests

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

79. Suicide bombing turns war back on Arafat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

80. Israeli retaliation leaves 17 dead; Cycle of violence continues as gunman kills 3, wounds 25 in Tel Aviv

bloodbath

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

81. Error appeared on front page, but correction ran inside

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

82. Secret of Palestine 's first female bomber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

83. Newspaper careful in use of label 'terrorist'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

84. DISQUIET IN ISRAEL FOLLOWS WRECKING OF GAZA HOMES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

85. Tourist caught in street war crossfire

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

86. BUSH INSISTS ROAD-MAP' TALKS WILL GO ON DESPITE FRESH ATTACK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

87. Bombings' appeal driven by despair, political rage

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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May 31, 2003

88. Suicide bombing leaves 3 Israelis dead

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

89._World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

90. 13 Palestinians killed in day-long gun battle

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

91. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

92. Briefly... NATION/WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

93. How to make human bombs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

94. Briefly

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

95. ISRAELI OPERATION ENGULFS RAMALLAH WITHOUT A BATTLE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

96. Palestinian group seeks peace; Reformers promise to reach out to Israeli peace groups and try to bring

prosperity

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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May 31, 2003

97. HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA 'S FIRST LADY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

98. HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA 'S FIRST LADY



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

99. Vengeance calls the shots as Israel 's bloodletting goes on

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003

100. OBITUARY: MUSTAFA MASHHOUR; LEADER OF EGYPT 'S OUTLAWED ISLAMIC OPPOSITION

<u>PARTY</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to

May 31, 2003



Pupils of death; The children schooled to turn into suicide bombers

Western Daily Press March 11, 2002 WP LATE CITY

Copyright 2002 Bristol United Press

Section: News, Pg.12

Length: 409 words

Byline: EXCLUSIVE Gordon Thomas

Body

JERUSALEM: Teenager Fuad Horani walked into a cafe on Saturday and blew himself up along with 11 Jewish youths.

The bombing came at the end of a bloody week of violence, the worst in 17 months of fighting.

And it has been revealed Islamic terror groups are now schooling children as young as eight in the proper way to become suicide bombers.

They have also drawn up plans for young <u>women</u>, many in their teens, to use pushchairs packed with high explosives.

Pictures of Horani show a freshfaced youth no different to the millions of youngsters across the globe.

But his horrific death and the murder of 11 Israeli teenagers in a packed cafe is yet more evidence of the murderous cycle of violence enveloping Israel.

Horani is believed to have come from a refugee camp on the West Bank and he showed no mercy as he went about his hate-filled mission.

The attack in the cafe left scores injured and the explosion was just yards away from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's own home.

Palestinian terror groups have held a secret conference to discuss how to further escalate the deadly war of attrition, which has already turned Israel into an out-of-control arena of hatred.

The conference was held in Lebanon's Beeka Valley. It was attended by the leaders of *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

It followed the worst night of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during which another 30 people died in exchanges of gunfire.

The prospect of using children and <u>women</u> posing as mothers walking their babies is seen as a desperate attempt to shock both sides into a ceasefire, a senior PLO source has claimed.

Pupils of death; The children schooled to turn into suicide bombers

The source claimed that "some 20 children, some aged as young as eight years have already volunteered for suicide missions".

Israeli intelligence sources, already stretched by the recent wave of suicidal bombers, say the use of child bombers is a logical extension to the arrival of *women* suicide bombers.

Two young **women** have already blown themselves up in a quest for vengeance.

It is not known if Yasser Arafat has approved the use of children and young <u>women</u> posing as mothers. But he has already endorsed the two single **women** who blew themselves up.

Both came from Ramallah, where Arafat has his headquarters and the town is known to be at the core of Islamic extremism.

The would-be child suicide bombers have already been inducted by their immans (priests) to escalate the cycle of bombings.

The word "suicide" is never used, the act is forbidden in Islam.

Load-Date: March 11, 2002

End of Document



West Bank sustains more heavy fighting Israel offensive appears likely to be cut short

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 08, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A

Length: 1072 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh The Associated Press

Body

NABLUS, West Bank - Israeli troops fought fierce battles with Palestinians in the West Bank on Sunday, encountering stiff resistance in the crowded Jenin refugee camp and in the winding alleyways of Nablus' Old City.

At least 14 Palestinians were killed in Nablus, where dead bodies were sprawled along narrow, rubble-filled streets on the 10th day of Israel's offensive to weed out militants staging deadly terror attacks on its civilians.

Early today, helicopter gunships fired 18 or 19 missiles into a West Bank refugee camp on the western edge of the city of Jenin, witnesses said. The attack came after troops used loudspeakers to warn militants about the attack and urge them to surrender, witnesses said.

On another front, there were exchanges of fire between Lebanese guerrillas and the Israeli military Sunday. Six Israeli soldiers were wounded, the military said.

In a phone conversation late Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to intervene with Lebanon and Syria to calm the border. They also discussed possibilities for a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, according to a statement from Peres' office.

At the beginning of the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon defended the offensive, calling it "a war for our homes."

"We have no interest in dragging it out, but we have to do the job," Sharon told Israel TV.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council on Sunday insisted on "immediate implementation" of resolutions demanding an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities without delay. Israel's U.N. Ambassador Yehuda Lancry said a withdrawal must be "strictly related and connected to certain Palestinian steps - the cessation of terrorist acts, the meaningful cease-fire."

With international pressure mounting, there were hints of friction between the Israeli government and its military command. Officers sought more time for the West Bank military operation, but Cabinet ministers talked of bringing it to an end.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the military should operate as long as possible to "clean out terrorism" in the West Bank, but acknowledged that in light of Bush's demand, "our hourglass is running out."

West Bank sustains more heavy fighting Israel offensive appears likely to be cut short

However, army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz told the Cabinet he needed eight weeks to complete the job, according to Israel Radio.

"The critical element is time," he said later in a briefing to reporters. "We need time to get to all the centers of terrorism in the West Bank and Gaza."

Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, chief of military planning, warned that if the army pulls out too soon, "then another series of devastating terror attacks will hit Israel's cities and streets. And then we'll go [back] in."

Israeli troops have taken over most Palestinian population centers in the West Bank in their 10-day-old offensive, Israel's biggest in two decades. But the fighters in Jenin and Nablus have prevented the Israelis from taking full control of the cities and conducting house-to-house searches for militants, as has been the case elsewhere in the West Bank.

Israeli tanks and troops maintained their positions just outside Arafat's office in the town of Ramallah, but for the fourth straight day the fighting was focused on Nablus and Jenin in the northern part of the West Bank.

Palestinians said gunmen held Israeli troops at bay on the edge of the Old City in Nablus, with its winding, dusty alleys and close-packed buildings, ideal locations for snipers. Israel called in attack helicopters to fight the entrenched gunmen.

Israeli tanks were shelling targets in Nablus on Sunday afternoon, witnesses said. At least 14 Palestinians were killed during the day's fighting, Palestinians said.

Nablus Gov. Mahmoud Aloul said there were dead bodies in an old mosque and 65 of the wounded were receiving treatment there because ambulances could not get in.

Among those killed Sunday was Ahmed Tabouk, 38, a militia leader linked to Arafat's Fatah movement. His body was in a field as gunbattles kept Palestinians from retrieving it.

It was a similar scene in the Nablus streets, where Palestinians could not remove the dead bodies of fallen fighters because of the intense shooting. The streets are carpeted with fragments of stone and cement that have been blasted from buildings, and the Palestinians have set up burning tire barricades to obscure the vision of Israeli troops.

There was also fierce fighting in the Jenin refugee camp, 25 miles north of Nablus, where the militant <u>Hamas</u> group said one of its local leaders, Ashraf Abu Al Haijga, was killed in a gunfight with the Israelis.

Israeli soldiers fought their way to the center of the Jenin camp Sunday morning, Israel Radio reported.

Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Ron Kitrey told The Associated Press that "we are on the verge of ending the fighting in the refugee camp." But he added that soldiers would seek to round up militants and would not immediately leave the area. "The resistance was very tough, perhaps tougher than expected," he said.

In Gaza, meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians who were planting a large bomb near a Jewish settlement, the military said.

Also, guerrillas in Lebanon opened fire on Israeli border posts, wounding six soldiers, including four **women**, the military said. The Israelis responded with artillery and tank fire.

Sharon charged that Iran and Syria were trying to widen the Palestinian-Israeli fighting to another front.

, and Mofaz said Israel would hit back at Lebanese power centers if "red lines are crossed."

In the camp, a leader of the militant <u>Hamas</u>, Abdel Salaam, said people are confined to their homes. "We are talking to each other through windows only when the shelling stops," he said in a call on his mobile phone.

West Bank sustains more heavy fighting Israel offensive appears likely to be cut short

Since the Israeli incursion began March 29, more than 95 Palestinians have been killed in West Bank fighting, along with more than 10 Israeli soldiers. Also, 1,413 Palestinians have been detained, including 361 who were on Israel's wanted lists, and more than 1,400 rifles have been confiscated, the military said in a statement.

In Bethlehem, a standoff between Israeli forces and gunmen and clerics holed up in the Church of the Nativity continued for a sixth day. Through the night, Israeli soldiers using loudspeakers demanded that the gunmen surrender, but they remained inside the church marking the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

End of Document



2 die in Jerusalem street blast; Woman apparently was suicide bomber

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

January 28, 2002 Monday,

Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 452 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Jerusalem --- A bomb apparently carried by a Palestinian woman exploded on a busy Jerusalem street Sunday, killing the woman and an Israeli man and injuring more than a hundred others, including four seriously. Police were not sure whether the woman had intentionally blown herself up, but if so she would be the first *female* suicide bomber among the more than 100 bombings in Israel since the mid-1990s.

The midday blast ripped through downtown storefronts and came amid increasing international isolation of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Cox Washington Bureau

No group had claimed responsibility for the explosion by late Sunday.

The Israeli killed was Pinchas Toktaly, 81, a father of three and grandfather of 13. He was walking home from an art class when the explosion occurred.

The bombing occurred on crowded Jaffa Street, the main shopping corridor in Jewish western Jerusalem. Just 80 yards from the site of the bombing, a gunman killed two Israelis in a flurry of bullets on Tuesday. On Friday, another bomber attacked Tel Aviv's downtown on Friday, killing himself and injuring at least 25 Israelis.

Sunday's bombing came amid tight security and warnings that such attacks were possible, highlighting the militants' ability to strike Israeli streets almost at will. Body parts and glass from dozens of gutted stores littered the street. Jerusalem police Chief Mickey Levy had a heart attack touring the site.

Israeli officials vowed to retaliate for the attack. In recent days and weeks, the army has killed suspected militants and launched airstrikes on Palestinian government buildings.

Amid the violence, Arafat has come under intense international pressure. The Bush administration has considered cutting diplomatic ties to the Palestinian leader.

2 die in Jerusalem street blast; Woman apparently was suicide bomber

Arafat must "do everything he could, make a 100 percent good-faith effort to put an end to terrorism," Vice President Dick Cheney told Fox News on Sunday. "So far he hasn't done that."

The Israelis blame Arafat for allowing militant groups like <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad and a group within Arafat's own party to launch attacks.

Cheney said Anthony Zinni, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, would not return to the region until Arafat does more to halt the mounting violence there.

Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) said "Arafat is not living up to his agreements" to promote peace. Lott said on the CBS program "Face the Nation" that the White House may soon sever all ties with Arafat. "He has become irrelevant, not to mention irresponsible, in his conduct," Lott said.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) appeared to agree. "I don't think that anybody has any patience left for the way the [Palestinian Authority] has conducted itself," he said.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document



Dissecting the Middle East

University Wire May 2, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Middlebury Campus via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 1097 words

Byline: By Jon Shapira, The Middlebury Campus

Dateline: Middlebury, Vt.

Body

For the last two years I have watched events unfold in the Middle East and witnessed radical, ignorant forces gain control over everything from national political agendas to opinion pages in college newspapers. There have been many times when I wanted to speak out, but, when I sat down to write, I always found myself frustrated and overwhelmed by the disputed history of the region and the complexities of Israeli-Arab relations, settlements, occupation and terrorism.

At Middlebury College there has recently been a surge of counterproductive debate on this issue, however, and I feel compelled to attempt a more rational analysis of one of the more irrational, senseless and tragic situations in the world today.

There are, in fact, at least four different wars being waged by Israelis and Palestinians. Some Palestinians are engaged in a war of resistance and national liberation against Israeli occupation. While I would argue that non-violent resistance and diplomatic negotiation would have secured a Palestinian state much sooner, it is not so easy to condemn attacks on soldiers and settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, land which the Palestinians can reasonably argue is rightfully theirs.

Middlebury College

Palestinians, their military ally Iran and their financial allies Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Muslim-American charities such as The Holy Land Foundation, however, are also waging a genocidal war to destroy the State of Israel and ethnically cleanse Jews from the Middle East. This is a war that we, as members of the liberal, modern world must condemn as unjust and unethical. Young Palestinian men, and more recently young Palestinian women, have unleashed waves of terror and violence by targeting Jewish civilians in suicide bombings. The families of these alleged "martyrs" receive \$ 25,000 each from Saddam Hussein, and still more from others that support this cause.

Several hundred people, including, ironically, numerous Israeli Arabs, have been maimed or killed in this terrorist war. The list of victims includes children out for a slice of pizza, teen-agers who only wanted to enjoy themselves at a nightclub, almost 30 people our grandparents' age who were peacefully celebrating a holiday meal and countless others who did nothing more than get on the bus or go to the mall. Despite attempts to blur the difference, this is terrorism, not freedom fighting and resistance. The goal of suicide bombing is not a free Palestine alongside a free Israel, but the death of as many Jews as possible. And these bombings are no longer just the work of extremists from <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, beyond the reach of Yasser Arafat, for now it is Arafat's own Fatah faction that is responsible for sending teen-agers to kill other teen-agers.

Dissecting the Middle East

Beyond the terrible cost of the hundreds dead and thousands wounded, Israeli society has been traumatized by the experience of Palestinian terrorism. As Americans we have some idea of what it feels like to be the victims of terrorists, but for most of us life has basically returned to normal following the events of Sept. 11. Israelis are not so lucky. Simple acts like walking out the door, using public transportation or eating in a restaurant now take more courage than we, living in Vermont, can possibly understand.

A people desperate for security and normalcy will take desperate measures, and it is difficult to find another explanation for the election of Ariel Sharon. After the war in Lebanon in the 1980s, Sharon was so discredited in Israel that a good analogy to his political resurrection might be if Richard Nixon had been re-elected President of the United States 20 years after Watergate. Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians have now accomplished something that the most radical Israeli settlers and right wing politicians only dreamed of: the collapse of the Israeli Left and the peace movement.

This brings us to the two wars that Israel is waging. One of these wars is being waged to destroy the Palestinian dream of one day having a nation state of their own. A minority of Israelis have never accepted the formula of land for peace, and these people and their political leaders hope to take advantage of the current situation to reoccupy all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to consolidate Israeli control over settlements in these territories. Legal or not, these settlements are an obstacle to peace and must be abandoned as part of a negotiated agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is against the spirit of international law, violates the human rights of Palestinians, poisons Israeli society and endangers Israel's future as the only liberal, democratic country in the region.

While occupation is unacceptable, Israel's war against terrorism is understandable and justified. Just as successive Israeli governments implemented the Oslo Accords in bad faith by continuing to build Jewish settlements, Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians never abandoned the strategy of violence to achieve their national goals. During the past decade, the Palestinian territories, administered by Arafat and his 40,000 strong "police force" (really more of an army), were transformed into terrorist bases from which to attack Israelis. While Palestinian society remained underdeveloped and impoverished, Arafat squirreled away international aid money in Swiss bank accounts and purchased illegal armaments from Iran. When Arafat proved unable or unwilling to control <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, and then when his forces joined them in violently attacking Israeli civilians, Israel had every justification to attack the terrorists, seize their weapons and destroy their bomb factories. Just like any other sovereign state, Israel has the right to defend itself from armed attack.

Those who genuinely desire peace, and not merely advancing the interests of one side at the expense of the other, must accept the complexities of the current conflict. The truth is that both societies have their share of victims and victimizers, and there are more than just two sides to this war. The struggle for an independent Palestine and a secure Israel are both just causes. The Israeli occupation and Palestinian terrorism are both unacceptable. We are Jews, Muslims and Christians, Israelis, Arabs and Americans -- but most of all we are humans. Rather than choosing between Israelis and Palestinians, let us together support the forces of moderation and marginalize those who reject compromise and coexistence.

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Load-Date: May 2, 2002



Gunman wounds 14 on Jerusalem street

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 23, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 19

Length: 435 words

Body

JERUSALEM: A gunman opened fire on a busy downtown street yesterday afternoon, wounding at least 14 people before he was shot dead by police, officials said.

A Palestinian was suspected of the attack, police said, but no details were immediately available.

The shooting came hours after Israeli commandos killed four members of the militant Islamic group *Hamas* in a raid on their hideout and explosives lab in Nablus in the West Bank.

The Islamic militant group said it would respond with an "all-out war" against Israeli soldiers and settlers.

In Jerusalem, the gunman began firing at passersby, sending pedestrians fleeing for cover. People ran in all directions, seeking cover. Some Israeli civilians carrying guns drew their weapons, but did not fire.

Witness Akiva Harari, 21, said the attacker, wearing a heavy coat and carrying an assault rifle, emerged from a parking lot on to Jaffa Street, downtown Jerusalem's main artery.

"I saw him shoot two women and they fell," he said. Police then chased the gunman back into the parking lot.

Sporadic gunfire went on for about 10 minutes, according to an Associated Press reporter who was in the area. Large numbers of police and ambulances quickly arrived at the scene.

Police shot and killed the gunman, said police spokesman Kobi Zariyahu. At least 14 were wounded, at least one seriously, according to Alex Farkash, a spokesman at Bikur Holim Hospital.

Earlier yesterday, a defiant Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat vowed to seek a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital even if it cost him his life.

He spoke as a ring of Israeli tanks kept him trapped in his Ramallah headquarters and after Israeli forces took over Tulkarem in the West Bank in what Palestinian officials said was the first reoccupation of an entire city during their 16-month uprising.

"They have crossed all red lines and our people cannot stand with their eyes closed to these Israeli attempts, and the proof of this is the strong and firm steadfastness of our people in Tulkarem," Mr Arafat said.

Amid charges that it was escalating tensions, the Israeli army pulled out of Tulkarem yesterday but then stormed straight into nearby Nablus, killing the four Islamic militants in a gun battle.

Gunman wounds 14 on Jerusalem street

Israeli radio, quoting military sources, said two of them were top bombmakers featuring high on Israel's most wanted list.

The Haaretz newspaper said on its website that two of the men, Nasim Abu Arus and Jasser Samaru, had helped make the bombs which killed dozens of people in the two worst suicide attacks of the 16-month Palestinian uprising, in a Tel Aviv nightclub and a Jerusalem pizzeria.

Load-Date: January 22, 2002

End of Document



Israel sets up Iran as next target for the US

Guardian Weekly February 13, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Analysis; Pg. 4

Length: 1071 words **Byline:** David Hirst

Highlight: Washington convinced that nuclear monopoly of its Middle East ally must be preserved at all costs

Body

The United States campaign in Afghanistan is winding down, but who will be its next big target in the "war on terror" remains in the realm of conjecture. Of the three chief members of the "axis of evil" that George Bush identified last week in his state of the union address -- Iraq, Iran and North Korea -- he dedicated most of his wrath and spoke most threateningly of that hardiest of Washington's villains, Saddam Hussein.

Yet, if Israel gets its way, the next target could be Iran. President Bush was forthright in his address: he told Tehran to stop harbouring al-Qaida terrorists and added the threat that, if it did not, he would deal with Iran "in diplomatic ways, initially".

Israel has long cast the Islamic republic as its gravest long-term threat, the "rogue state" at its most menacing, combining sponsorship of international terror, nuclear ambitions, ideological objection to a Jewish state and unflagging determination to sabotage the Middle East peace process.

Israel classifies Iran as one of those "far" threats -- Iraq being another -- that distinguish it from the "near" ones: the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab states. As the peace process progressed, the near threats were steadily being eroded. A benefit of the 1993 Oslo accord was said to be that it would fortify Israel for its eventual showdown with its far enemies. The closer their weapons of mass destruction programmes come to completion, the more compelling the need for Israel -- determined to preserve its regional nuclear monopoly -- to eliminate them.

For a long time the strategy of enlisting the growing Arab peace camp against Iran and Islamic extremism from afar seemed to be working. Committed, under Oslo, to fight all forms of Palestinian violence against Israel, the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, came to blows with <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, and the anathemas he hurled at Iran, their ideological mentor, were all but indistinguishable from Israel's.

But now both threats have converged, malignantly, as never before. This, for Israel, was the deeper meaning of the Karine-A affair, the 50-tonne shipment of Iranian-supplied arms destined for Gaza that it seized last month. It was a "most dangerous axis", said the Israeli chief of staff, which threatened to "change the face" of the Israeli-Palestinian struggle.

As well as supplying arms and finance, Iran, the Israelis say, is developing a supervisory role over the Palestinian "terror" by the exploitation of its existing assets in the arena, mainly the Lebanese Hizbullah, and its new ones, a direct link with Mr Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, and a recently created Palestinian Hizbullah of its own.

Had the Karine-A cargo made it to Gaza, and thence to the West Bank, it could have made at least a dent in Israel's enormous military superiority. The Palestinians would no longer have been entirely helpless in the face of Israeli armoured incursions into their self-rule areas. The weapons would also have brought whole population centres within range.

Though Mr Arafat and Iran denied any part in the arms shipment, there were compelling reasons why these friends-turned-enemies should have resumed their collaboration of old. Mr Arafat's desperate need is obvious. The growing violence of the conflict and the complete failure of any country to come to the Palestinians' aid present a golden opportunity for the Islamic republic, at least for the conservative, clerical wing of its leadership. This wing has exclusive, unaccountable control over underground aspects of foreign policy, such as support for Islamist "revolutionaries" such as Hizbullah and *Hamas*.

Iran's president, Mohammad Khatami, and most of the reformist camp may seek to dilute the extreme anti-Israeli orthodoxy, but Tehran's foreign policy is very much an area of competition between the country's rival political wings.

The simplest way to thwart the growth of such a Palestinian-Iranian alliance would be to deny it its essential raison d'etre by restoring a peace process that has some prospect of success. But it has become clear that peace is just what the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, does not want: Palestinian violence serves him much better.

For him, the Karine-A incident provided further, dramatic justification for the undeclared but ill-disguised agenda he is pursuing in the name of retaliation and self-defence -- to destroy the notion of self-determination on any portion of Palestinian territory.

But the Israelis took particular alarm at the words of the former Iranian president, Hashimi Rafsanjani, who said recently that, if Israel continues "its hellish policy of expanding its nuclear arsenal, it will eventually draw the Islamic world into the race. Then it will be Israel, a small and illegitimate country, which will lose out and be destroyed."

Impressing on the United States the gravity of the Iranian threat is a continuous Israeli preoccupation. It "must understand", said the Israeli defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, "that this is not only a threat to Israel, but to the whole world". Tehran would have a nuclear bomb within three years and was developing missiles which could target any point in Europe.

There is no issue on which the Israelis, through their extraordinary influence in Congress and elsewhere, have proved better able to shape US policies than this one.

Quite simply, said one analyst, James Bill, the US "views Iran through spectacles manufactured in Israel". For Mr Bush, the weapons of mass destruction-cum-missile peril is regaining ground on that of the post-September 11 terrorist one. And in that department Iran clearly outweighs President Saddam.

It has long been a built-in, unquestioned US assumption that Israel has a right to preserve its nuclear monopoly and to pre-empt any regional power's efforts to challenge it. This is a unique indulgence by a superpower of its favourite protege.

Yet Israel often hints that the US is not indulgent enough. And a touch of blackmail about what might happen if Israel does not get its way is apt to come with the hint. Thus a leading columnist, Nahum Barnea, wrote in Yediot Aharanot that on a visit to Washington this month Mr Ben-Elizier will try to persuade the administration that, Iran being "the real strategic threat", they must "deal with it diplomatically or militarily, or both. If they don't, Israel will have to do it alone."

Washington Post, page 32

Graphic

Photo, Iranian <u>women</u> pass under posters attacking the US and Israel in front of the former American embassy in Tehran, Hasan Sarbakhshian/AP

Load-Date: February 19, 2002

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CHERIE BLAIR CLAIMS YOUNG PALESTINIANS BECOME SUICIDE BOMBERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE 'NO HOPE'. BUT ARE THEY JUST SEEKING A HEAVENLY REWARD?

Scotland on Sunday

June 23, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 1623 words

Byline: Ross Dunn

Body

IN A prison interview room, Israel's defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, was trying to understand the mentality of young Palestinians who had volunteered to become suicide bombers.

He had decided he wanted to meet face-to-face with Palestinians who had vowed to lay down their own lives to kill Israelis.

"What do you want to happen?" he asked one of the prisoners. He was sitting opposite Rasan Stiti, a high school student from Jenin in the West Bank, who was recruited six months ago by the Islamic Jihad for a suicide mission but arrested before he could carry it out.

"For Jews to be killed and to die as a shahid martyr," Stiti shot back without hesitation.

And then Ben-Eliezer posed a question that has been puzzling many Israelis and people around the world. "Now explain to me why you decided to commit suicide," he asked.

Stiti explained that the term was not one that he and other such volunteers even recognised. "No, that's not it," he said. "That's not right. I didn't go to commit suicide. I went to die a martyr's death. I wanted to get the reward."

And the prize, he said, was "Paradise." He was underlining a belief among some fundamentalist Muslims that suicide bombers are given a place in heaven, where they will be attended to by beautiful virgins.

The minister met the would-be killer the week before Jerusalem was hit by two suicide bombings - one on a bus, and another at a bus-stop - that have left more than 20 Israelis dead.

To most Israelis, the attacks are mindless acts of terror, and they find it hard to make sense of them. But to Stiti this was martyrdom and there is no higher honour.

"It is the loftiest objective," he said. "It's very important for the Palestinian people, nationally and religiously. It's the biggest and most holy thing you can do. And then you receive all the rewards in Paradise."

CHERIE BLAIR CLAIMS YOUNG PALESTINIANS BECOME SUICIDE BOMBERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE 'NO HOPE'. BUT ARE THEY JUST SEEKING A HEAVENLY REWARD?

As part of the preparations for his mission, he spent a month in a mosque being given religious instruction. But other parts of the training programme were also blatantly political, and there is evidence that the Palestinian Authority, despite its condemnation of such acts, has also actively encouraged them.

Stiti was taken to Ramallah, also in the West Bank, where he was enlisted by the Palestinian head of intelligence, Tawfiq Tirawi, and placed under the supervision of Palestinian police captain Chris Awis, who later turned himself in to the Israeli authorities. After studying at the mosque, Stiti immediately set out to carry out a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, but turned back when he saw Israeli forces blocking his route.

Eventually, he was arrested during Israel's massive Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank earlier this year. The arrest probably saved lives.

Ben-Eliezer asked him how he could kill innocent people. "I don't see them at all," Stiti replied. "Everything is for the commandment. That's what I was told. What they told me at the mosque is very powerful. They told me to just think about the commandment and the reward, up above, in Paradise, with the virgins that would be waiting for me and all the honour I would receive." His determination to carry out a suicide bombing was against the wishes of his own family. "My parents begged me not to do it," he said. "My father told me that I'd be very sorry if I dared to go ahead, but it didn't convince me."

But not all families are so divided. This week the London-based Arabic -language newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published an interview with the mother of a Palestinian suicide bomber.

His decision to blow himself up inside a Jewish settlement had his mother's personal blessing. "Because I love my son, I encouraged him to die a martyr's death for the sake of Allah God," she said.

"Jihad Holy War is a religious obligation incumbent upon us and we must carry it out. The happiness in this world is an incomplete happiness. Eternal happiness is life in the world to come, through martyrdom. Allah be praised my son has attained this happiness."

Such talk, however, baffles Ben-Eliezer. At one point during his encounter with Stiti, he asked him whether he cared about dying.

"No," Stiti answered. "Because they explained to me that life here is just a pathway to life in the next world. The loss of life here is not such a big thing. Here it's just preparation. The next world is the true life, for the holy ones who are worthy of reaching there."

But, for Stiti, heaven will have to wait. There is little chance that he will be let out of prison soon, for fear that he will simply make another attempt to kill Israelis.

Such fears weigh on the mind of Ben-Eliezer, who has also come to the conclusion that Israel's military operations have become "an incubator for terror".

He issued the warning as Israel began intensifying its military offensive against Palestinian-ruled areas, following a series of attacks this week.

Ben-Eliezer said that while the Israeli army's operations were necessary to prevent suicide bombings, they also risked establishing the conditions that ruthless Palestinian militant leaders used to encourage young people to take part in terrorist acts.

"Unfortunately, while the IDF is carrying out these necessary actions, the operations themselves become a hothouse that produces more and more suicide bombers," he said. "The military actions kindle the frustration, hatred and despair and are the incubator for terror to come."

Ben-Eliezer said there is a network within Palestinian society with "satanic" aims. "It operates entirely to produce human bombs," he said.

CHERIE BLAIR CLAIMS YOUNG PALESTINIANS BECOME SUICIDE BOMBERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE 'NO HOPE'. BUT ARE THEY JUST SEEKING A HEAVENLY REWARD?

He identified the network as leaders of the two militant Palestinian Muslim groups, <u>Hamas</u> and the Islamic Jihad, along with an armed wing of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

"These suicide bombers are not born like that," he said. "The Islamic Jihad, and the Tanzim and the <u>Hamas</u>, find them." As soon as these organisations found people susceptible to pressure and persuasion, they trapped them like "fish in a net", he added.

"It's the most cynical and cruel exploitation of human lives, of young people's lives especially, the weak," he said.

His remarks came as Arafat distanced himself from the suicide bombings, claiming that "foreign" forces were exploiting young, hopeless Palestinians, encouraging them to commit attacks in exchange for money.

He said that he knew of at least two families in the West Bank town of Jenin who had received GBP 20,000 each from foreigners after their sons took part in suicide bombings. It was not clear if Arafat was referring to Iraq, which has been known to provide funds to Palestinian families in such circumstances.

Arafat issued a public statement this week calling for a halt to suicide bombings, as a group of Palestinian intellectuals also expressed their opposition to such violence. But both <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad vowed that they would not halt their attacks.

The experience of meeting volunteers for such missions has impacted heavily on Ben-Eliezer, who said he intended to keep on interviewing potential suicide bombers.

"This is an efficient, quick, cheap and highly lethal kind of weapon that is hard to overcome. I have never met a living, breathing death machine," he said afterwards.

The only other insights are the messages left behind by those who did carry out such attacks. Among them is Mohammed al-Ghoul, 22, who blew himself up in a Jerusalem bus this week, killing 19 others.

"How beautiful it is to make my bomb shrapnel kill the enemy," he wrote in a farewell note, found after his death.

"How beautiful it is to kill and to be killed - not to love death, but to struggle for life, to kill and be killed for the lives of the coming generation."

His attack was the 69th suicide bombing in 21 months of Israeli-Palestinian clashes. His profile is typical of a suicide bomber: in his early 20s and associated for some time with an extremist Islamic group.

But there is no longer a single stereotype. In recent months, there have been married men and also <u>women</u> who have become volunteers.

Arin Ahmed, 20, who was studying computer programming at Bethlehem University, is among the new breed. She had a change of heart, and refused at the last moment to take part in a suicide mission.

Earlier this year, her boyfriend, Jad Salem, was killed while preparing a car bomb. But perceptions are more powerful than facts in this conflict. The Palestinians claimed he died from gunfire from Israeli troops. Acting on the assumption that this was true, Ahmed decided to avenge her beloved's death. But when the moment came, she turned back and told her furious handlers that she could not go through with it. "I remembered an Israeli girl my age, whom I used to be in touch with," she said. "I suddenly realised what I was about to do, and I said to myself: How can I do such a thing?"

A short time later, acting on intelligence, Israeli forces raided her home and arrested Ahmed, fearing that her operatives might eventually persuade her to volunteer a second time. But she claims that she has repented. She made this point when she had her own interview with Ben-Eliezer, who asked what she would do if released.

"I'd leave this place immediately. I would go to live in Jordan with my mother. I would draw a line across the past and never come back here," she said.

CHERIE BLAIR CLAIMS YOUNG PALESTINIANS BECOME SUICIDE BOMBERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE 'NO HOPE'. BUT ARE THEY JUST SEEKING A HEAVENLY REWARD?

When Ben-Eliezer remained silent and stood up to walk out, she persisted: "What will become of me? I have no future. I don't want my whole life to be ruined because of this. I'm at the beginning of my life. I didn't do anything. Don't forget that. I didn't do it. I changed my mind. Please let me out."

But the defence minister, perhaps thinking of the Israeli victims of the recent suicide bombings, replied in Arabic: "To each his own fate." He then left the room.

Load-Date: June 25, 2002



Words Aimed At Ideology

The Sentinel (Stoke)
October 7, 2002
default

Copyright 2002 The Sentinel (Stoke)

Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 7

Length: 459 words

Body

Sir, - Jennie Powell (Sentinel Letters, September 26) expresses surprise that my views were published and that if addressed to other religious groups would be 'censured as racist'. Where in my letter was 'race' or 'community' mentioned? My letter was not aimed at Moslems 'per se' and stated that many are peace loving, some of whom like her, I am acquainted with. What I said was directed toward an extreme ideology, the intent behind that ideology, and the portents for this nation should it go unchallenged. Also I fail to see how the word invective could be used to describe my remarks since they reflect exactly what is believed and preached by those particular adherents of Islam - whose views have been well publicised in the media, including what they consider to be the 'legitimate assassination' of Mr Blair. Listen to what they say - read their literature. Regarding the acceptance of my criticism being directed at any other religious group - I can't think of any that over the years has been the subject of constant undermining, the butt of so many jokes, satire and outright critical attack, than Biblical Christianity. Witness TV programmes, media articles, books, etc, and letters written not least to this paper over time. However, in spite of all that, I have yet to hear cries of 'racist' being raised by Christians against their detractors. To digress somewhat but still pertinent - there is one group that throughout the centuries and still today has been made the 'scapegoat' for any nation's economic woes and failures of any sort, expelled by host countries, vilified, robbed, imprisoned and systematically murdered for no other reason that they are Jews.

She writes that 'Islam has been a source of great scientific, medical, and philosophical thinking.' That may or may not be true, but history shows that the greatest advancements in science and medicine have come through Western influences. Miss or Ms Powell says that <u>women</u> have 'always been respected within Islam'. I wonder to which Middle Eastern country she refers where <u>women</u> are so respected and by inference are treated as equals. This will be true of most Muslim families living in the West where there is democratic freedom, and even true of some families in Moslem countries, but this is not recognised in the daily life of <u>women</u> in countries where Shariah law applies. Under the Taliban, for instance, in Afghanistan, <u>women</u> were refused education and the opportunity to work and many were left begging on the streets. The question I would like to pose too is this: Where then do the Taliban, Bin Laden, Al Quaida, <u>Hamas</u> and those in the Finsbury Park mosque, etc, get the legitimacy for the ideology that motivates their actions? GERALD WALKER Wolstanton Caption:

Load-Date: October 8, 2002



Thomas Oliver's @ WITS' END

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

December 6, 2002 Friday

Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: Editorial;; Column

Length: 459 words

Byline: THOMAS OLIVER

Body

Look who's talking:

Drivers chatting on their cellphones contribute 2,600 deaths a year to highway carnage.

After running out of technological things to invent, Al Gore turns to inventing reality:

Gore: Media have conservative bias.

Saudis deny funding terrorists:

Of course they don't fund terrorists, al-Qaida, Palestinian suicide bombers, <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah or Islamic Jihad. And their clerics, mullahs and editors of state-owned media actually denounced the Sept. 11 attacks in what to everyone else seemed like applause.

AJC

@ Wits' End Memo

To: Kathleen Toomey, state public health director

Re: Your paranoia about smallpox vaccinations

If you are worried that one or two deaths will occur for every million vaccinations, you should pay real attention to the following accidental deaths that are even riskier:

- * Skiers die at the rate of 67 per million participant days;
- * Bicyclists, 7 per million;

Thomas Oliver's @ WITS' END

- * Anesthesia kills 5 per million who go under;
- * 7.5 males and 1.3 **females** die while participating in athletics each year.

In other words, more people die getting out of bed or opening childproof medicine bottles than might die from smallpox vaccination.

Question on Foreign Policy 101 final:

When a so-called nonpartisan organization releases a report that says the United States is seen as a bully by foreign countries, especially Muslim nations, which of the following should be the U.S. response?

- 1) So?
- 2) They ain't seen nothing yet.
- 3) Make motion with index finger and thumb, and explain about the world's tiniest violin.

If it didn't work the first time, what makes anyone think more of the same is better?

New teachers come with two-year warranty from University System's 15 teacher education programs. Schools can return faulty product for free repair.

@ Wits' End Riddle, solved:

Why we're so far apart:

Conservatives define intolerance as being unwilling to grasp another's point of view. Liberals define intolerance as being against whatever they are for.

Raise time: If the boss doesn't get you, your Uncle Sam will:

The average American family's 44 percent tax rate means they'll keep just 56 cents of whatever raise they get next year.

Question on Journalism 101 headline writing final:

When Saddam admits to biological, chemical, missile and nuclear technologies, but denies they are intended for military use, which headline would be better?

- 1) Oceanfront property for sale in Baghdad;
- 2) Yes, we have no bananas.
- @ Wits' End Maxims:
- * Holidays always come at the busiest times.
- * Gifts are nice. Gift certificates are better.
- * Weather forecasters are fortune tellers without a crystal ball.

Quote:

"The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard."

Thomas Oliver's @ WITS' END

--- Steven Wright

Thomas Oliver's column appears on Fridays. Except when it doesn't.

toliver@ajc.com

Load-Date: December 6, 2002



The Middle East: Past & Present; Readers' guide to the conflicts of 2002, plus the events that led to this crisis

Windsor Star (Ontario)

April 6, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12; News

Length: 1562 words **Byline:** Lee Palser

Body

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2002

January

Jan. 5: Israel is outraged after it discovers a Palestinian ship loaded with 50 tonnes of arms -- including anti-tank missiles and Russian-made Katyusha rockets -- which Israel claimed had been sent by Iran. Yasser Arafat denies that the shipment was ordered by the Palestinian Authority.

Jan. 15: Israel kills Raed al-Karmi, 28, a Palestinian leader in the al-Aqsa Brigades, who it accuses of involvement in 10 murders. The al-Aqsa Brigades take immediate revenge, shooting dead one Israeli near Nablus.

Jan. 24: The Israeli army kills a senior <u>Hamas</u> commander, Bakr Hamdan and two of his associates in a helicopter missile strike on his car.

Time Magazine; The Windsor Star

Jan. 25 A Palestinian suicide bomber blows himself up in Tel Aviv, wounding at least 25 people. Hours later, Israeli warplanes attack targets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jan. 27 A 20-year-old woman becomes the first Palestinian <u>female</u> suicide bomber after she blows herself up in a busy Jerusalem shopping street, killing one woman and injuring 100 others.

February

Feb. 1 Ariel Sharon tells an Israeli newspaper he regrets not having "eliminated" Yasser Arafat 20 years ago when he had the chance during the invasion of Lebanon. But he denies he has any plans to harm Arafat now.

Feb. 11 Israel attacks Palestinian security headquarters in Gaza City in the second day of reprisals for an unprecedented Palestinian missile attack on southern Israel.

Feb. 19-20 Six Israeli soldiers are killed in a commando-style raid by Palestinian guerrillas on an Israeli army checkpoint at Ein Ariq, near Ramallah. Reprisal strikes leave 16 Palestinians dead.

Feb. 26 Israelis and Palestinians agree to resume peace talks as interest grows in a Saudi peace plan.

The Middle East: Past & Present; Readers' guide to the conflicts of 2002, plus the events that led to this crisis

Feb. 27 Europe's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, meets Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to explore the peace initiative.

Feb. 28 The Israeli army storms the Balata refugee camp, the biggest in the West Bank. A simultaneous invasion of the Jenin refugee camp marks the most concerted effort by Ariel Sharon to crush Palestinian militants on their home terrain since the uprising began.

March

Mar. 2 A suicide bomber blows himself up in a crowd of mothers and children in an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighbourhood. Nine people are killed, including six children.

Mar. 4 Seventeen Palestinians are killed in Ramallah as Israel steps up military pressure. Six Palestinians die when a car belonging to a *Hamas* leader is hit. Fighting in the Jenin and Rafah refugee camps that claims 11 lives.

Mar. 7 A Palestinian suicide bomber blows himself up in a supermarket at the entrance to the Jewish settlement of Ariel in the West Bank, killing himself and wounding four bystanders.

Mar. 8 Israeli troops kill 40 Palestinians in an assault on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Earlier, a Palestinian militant had opened fire on a military academy in the Jewish settlement of Atzmona in the Gaza Strip, killing five teenage officer cadets and wounding 24.

Mar. 10 A <u>Hamas</u> member detonates a suicide bomb full of nails and metal screws in a crowded cafe in Jerusalem, killing 11 people and wounding more than 50.

Mar. 11 Israeli troops storm a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip; 17 Palestinians are killed and more than 50 wounded.

Mar. 12 20,000 Israeli troops invade refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and reoccupy Ramallah.

The UN security council endorses for the first time an independent Palestinian state and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan accuses Israel of "illegal occupation" of Palestinian land.

Mar. 20 A member of Islamic Jihad blows himself up on a crowded bus near a Palestinian village in Galilee, killing seven Israelis.

Mar. 26 Yasser Arafat announces he will not attend the Arab summit.

Mar. 27 The Arab League summit opens amid wrangling and walkouts.

Later in the day a suicide bomber walks into a crowded hotel in an Israeli coastal resort and blows himself up as guests prepare for a meal ushering in Passover. Nineteen people are killed by the bomber

Mar. 28 The Arab League summit promises Israel peace, security and normal relations in return for a full withdrawal for Arab lands occupied since 1976, the establishment of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital and a "fair solution" for the 3.8 million Palestinian refugees.

Mar. 31 A suicide bomber kills 16 in Haifa, four more are injured by a suicide bomber in the Efrat settlement and Israeli tanks thunder into Qalqiliya, on West Bank.

April

April 1 Tanks are put outside Tulkarem and Bethlehem. Palestinian collaborators are lynched by militants.

April 2 Israeli warplanes, armour and infantry launch a huge attack on Bethlehem. Gunships fire missiles into a number of targets around Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity with witnesses describing desperate close quarter fighting in the old part of Bethlehem.

The Middle East: Past & Present; Readers' guide to the conflicts of 2002, plus the events that led to this crisis

April 3 The Vatican denounces the military operation on the West Bank and Egypt limits its ties with Israel.

Syria announces it is to deploy 20,000 troops in Lebanon.

KEY DATES

1946: Britain grants independence to Transjordan, which becomes the kingdom of Jordan. The British continue to administer the area west of the Jordan river, still known as Palestine. A militant Jewish campaign for independence grows, culminating in the bombing of a hotel in Jerusalem.

1947: In November 1947 the general assembly of the United Nations votes to partition Palestine, dividing it into Jewish and Arab controlled parts. The Jews accept the UN plan, but the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab nations indignantly reject it.

1948: With Arab armies closing on all sides, Israel declares independence.

1949: In spite of overwhelming numerical superiority, the Arab armies are soundly defeated by Israel's fledgling army. A series of armistice agreements are signed with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria . At least 700,000 Palestinians are now refugees.

1961: Adolf Eichmann, one of the main architects of Hitler's final solution, is captured in a daring Mossad operation in Argentina and smuggled back to Israel. He faces a dramatic trial -- the first ever to be televised -- and is sentenced to death for genocide.

1967: Egged on by Nasser, Arab armies mass on Israel's borders. In an audacious and brilliant pre-emptive strike, Israeli forces hurl themselves at Egypt, Jordan and Syria, capturing Sinai and the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The war lasts just six days and results in the abject defeat of the Arabs. The United Nations security council passes resolution 242, demanding Israeli withdraw from the conquered territories.

1968: The Palestine Liberation Organization adopts its national charter, insisting that Palestinians have a right to a homeland.

1969: Yasser Arafat is elected chairman of the PLO.

1971: Black September. Three passenger airliners are hijacked by PLO militants and flown to Jordan. Responding to western outrage, Jordan's King Hussein orders his army to destroy the PLO. After bloody fighting, the Palestinian leadership is driven out and re-bases in Lebanon.

1972: Eleven Israeli athletes are murdered at the Munich Olympics. Israel vows to track down and eliminate all those responsible. All but two of the 11 identified killers or planners of the operation have since been killed.

1973: Yom Kippur war. In October on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, Egyptian and Syrian forces launch surprise attacks across the Suez Canal and on the Golan Heights. After initial reverses, the Israelis strike back hard, regaining all and more of the ground initially lost. For the first time, Israel is shown to be vulnerable.

1976: Israel's military pride is restored with the remarkable raid on Entebbe, in Uganda, in which a plane load of hijacked hostages is rescued.

1977: To the astonishment of the world, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat flies to Israel and addresses the Knesset (parliament), as a prelude to an unexpected peace agreement.

1987: Outbreak of the first intifada, or Palestinian uprising, in the occupied territories.

1993: The world is yet again astonished by the revelation of secret peace talks, in Norway, between Israel and the PLO. The deal is sealed when Yasser Arafat and Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin shake hands.

The Middle East: Past & Present; Readers' guide to the conflicts of 2002, plus the events that led to this crisis

1995: Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli general turned peacemaker prime minister, is shot dead after a peace rally in Tel Aviv, by a young Jewish fanatic.

1996: A series of ghastly suicide bombings on crowded buses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, undermines the peace process and the government headed by Shimon Peres. In general elections he is comprehensively defeated by rightwing opponent Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu.

1999: The government of Benjamin Netanyahu is replaced in general elections by a Labour-led coalition headed by former army chief Ehud Barak, who promises a peace settlement.

2000: Peace negotiations come tantalizingly close to a final settlement at the so-called Camp David II talks, but break down over the future status of Jerusalem. In the wake of the failure, Palestinian anger erupts when rightwing leader Ariel Sharon visits the main Muslim holy site in Jerusalem. Within days, scores are dead.

2001: The death toll in the region mounts inexorably. By the end of the year more than 1,000 are dead.

Graphic

Map of the Middle East. Source: Time magazine - Research: Lee Palser - Star map: Susan Thomson-Stamcoff; Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, surrounded by bodyguards, waves as he arrives at the Israel Defence Forces' northern command headquarters Thursday. Sharon later met with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni and agreed to Zinni's request to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. AP photo; The Church of the Nativity, believed to be the birthplace of Jesus in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. A standoff between Israeli forces and 200 Palestinian gunmen holed up in the Church of the Nativity, entered a fourth day Friday. Associated Press photo: Lefteris Pitarakis; Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat talks to an unidentified representative of a group called Public International Protection at his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah this week. For a week, the Palestinian leader has been confined to a few rooms in his headquarters. Palestinian Authority photo: Hussein Hussein; At left, an Israeli soldier wounded during the army incursion into the West Bank town of Jenin is evacuated to a hospital in Haifa, northern Israel, this week. Associated Press photo: Herzl Shapira; A Palestinian women and child in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. About 35,000 refugees settled in the camp after the Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Sprawling over 1.4 square km and housing 101,039 refugees, the camp is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps. Associated Press photo: Marco Di Lauro

Load-Date: April 8, 2002



ISRAELIS BLOW UP SLAIN GAZA MILITANT'S FAMILY HOME

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 13, 2002 Friday

REGION EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD, Length: 475 words

Byline: COLIN NICKERSON, THE BOSTON GLOBE

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

In fast-moving raids on the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces yesterday clashed with Palestinian militants and blew up the family home of a radical killed during an attack on Jewish settlers last year. Palestinians said the blast also leveled two adjoining homes and left 42 people homeless.

At least one other Palestinian home was destroyed by armored bulldozers in the southern Gaza Strip during a search for weapons caches and tunnels allegedly used to smuggle arms from Egypt, the Israeli military said.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority accused Israel of violating interim peace agreements with its decision to include the holy site known as Rachel's Tomb in a vast new security zone of high wire fences, coiled barbed wire, cement walls and other barriers sealing off Israel from the West Bank. The site is 500 yards inside Palestinian territory, in a section of Bethlehem on the edge of Jerusalem. The tomb is surrounded by Palestinian neighborhoods and an old Muslim burial ground.

"There is no question about it, the tomb is a part of Israel," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the Israeli Cabinet yesterday. "It is precious to the Jewish people, and it is inconceivable that there will be a situation in which Israelis don't have free access to it."

The shrine is revered by Jews as the burial place of the Biblical matriarch Rachel and is a popular place for <u>women</u> to pray for fertility and healthy babies. It is also sacred to Christians, who share with Jews a common religious genealogy of Old Testament figures, and to Muslims, who say there was once an important mosque at the location.

The site has long been a flashpoint between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen. Israel maintained that the barricade is a simple security measure, not a land grab. But Palestinian officials said Israel's decision to limit access, so the site is reachable only from Jerusalem, is a deliberate annexation on the Palestinian side of the "Green Line" that separates Israel and the West Bank.

"This represents a new crime against the Palestinian people and their Christian and Muslim holy places," the Palestinian Authority said in a statement.

ISRAELIS BLOW UP SLAIN GAZA MILITANT'S FAMILY HOME

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters traded automatic weapons fire as armored bulldozers and tanks moved into the comunity of Shijaiya, on the outskirts of Gaza City. Army engineers rigged the home of a purported terrorist with explosives and leveled the compound.

The targeted home belonged to the family of Osama Hales, a fighter for the Islamic radical faction <u>Hamas</u>, who last November opened fire on a Jewish settlement, killing a woman and wounding three other civilians. Hales was shot dead during the assault.

Soldiers arrived just before dawn and gave inhabitants, including Hales' parents, a short time to assemble important papers and valuables before engineers blew up the home.

Load-Date: September 14, 2002



A VOTE FOR ARAFAT IS A VOTE FOR TERROR

Sunday Express June 30, 2002

Copyright 2002 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: COLUMNS; Pg. 29

Length: 430 words

Byline: ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Body

GEORGE BUSH is right and Tony Blair is wrong over Arafat.

If the Palestinian people vote in January for him to continue to be the president of the Palestinian Authority then we should have nothing to do with him and refuse to support the creation of a Palestinian state.

Tony Blair is right, the Palestinians have a right to choose their own leader. They can elect whoever they wish but we have the right to decide who we wish to deal with and who we intend to subsidise with our aid.

As Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told the Commons on Tuesday: "It is for the Palestinian people to decide who will lead them towards a final and peaceful settlement." We can have no quarrel with that but that is not what they would be choosing if they elected Arafat. They would be opting for the opposite. They would be rejecting a final, and certainly a peaceful settlement.

They would instead be endorsing the continuation of the murderous policy of suicide bombing.

They would be giving a mandate to the mass murder of Israeli <u>women</u> and children. They would be legitimising the killing of Jewish babies and children by *Hamas* gunmen.

That is what the Palestinian people would be sanctifying with their vote. Do we really want to deal with such people? Are we willing to pretend that they are part of the civilised community with which we can do business? I think not.

It would be like saying that if Hitler had been elected by the Germans with his policy of exterminating the Jews, Tony Blair would have had to do business with him. We wouldn't allow it.

Indeed, the EU threatened to make Austria an international pariah when it flirted with Rightwinger Jorg Haider.

European countries were thinking of shunning Holland if Pim Fortuyn was elected. Surely we would not have dealings with an entire nation that endorsed terrorism? Absolutely not. The Palestinian people would be putting themselves firmly on the side of terrorism in the international war against terrorism.

It would be very unfortunate were they to do this but it is just something that we would have to accept.

We would have to respond to them in the same way we have responded to Saddam Hussein, the Ayatollahs and Al Qaeda.

A VOTE FOR ARAFAT IS A VOTE FOR TERROR

Doesn't Blair see this? Does he not realise that we do not have to respect people, or even a nation, just because they freely choose terrorism?

I know Blair has a desperate need to be loved by everyone - he cuddles up to Gerry Adams, Arafat, African dictators and Arab tyrants - but why would he want to fall out with the US in order to defend a corrupt, duplicitous terrorist leader and his supporters?

Load-Date: July 2, 2002



<u>Suicide bomber strikes crowded Tel Aviv cafe: At least 29 hurt;</u> report blames group linked to Arafat

Ottawa Citizen

March 31, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A3; News

Length: 405 words

Byline: Jason Keyser and Jack Katzenell

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

TEL AVIV -- A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded cafe in Tel Aviv's bustling entertainment district last night, wounding at least 29 guests in the third such attack in four days.

The assailant walked into My Coffee Shop, a cafe on Allenby Street, a major thoroughfare, at about 9:30 p.m. and detonated explosives strapped to his body.

The explosion blew out the roof and windows and overturned chairs and tables. Dance music was still playing inside the cafe after the attack.

The Associated Press

Isif Avner, 43, said he and his wife were having coffee in the cafe. Mr. Avner said he had stepped outside for a moment when the bomb went off.

"I called out to my wife and a friend and they did not answer, but after a minute they came from inside," Mr. Avner said, adding that they were unhurt.

Mr. Avner, a resident of Jerusalem, said he had left that often-targeted city for Tel Aviv to try to enjoy an evening out.

One media report said the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility.

The attacker was a man from the West Bank city of Nablus. A spokesman for the militia said he was trying to confirm the identity of the assailant.

Police commissioner Shlomo Aharonishki said he did not expect a letup in Palestinian attacks. "We are expecting many more bomb attacks and we are spreading our forces as widely as possible," he said.

The bombing was the third Palestinian suicide attack this week.

On Wednesday evening, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a hotel in the coastal city of Netanya, killing 22 diners attending a Passover seder, the meal ushering in the Jewish holiday.

Page 2 of 2

Suicide bomber strikes crowded Tel Aviv cafe: At least 29 hurt; report blames group linked to Arafat

On Friday, a <u>female</u> bomber blew herself up at the entrance of a Jerusalem supermarket, killing a guard and a shopper.

The Netanya attack was carried out by the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u>, and the Jerusalem bombing was claimed by the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade.

Earlier, Israeli police thwarted another suicide attack in Baka al-Gharbiya, an Arab town along the "green line" that separates Israel and the West Bank.

The men were in a car heading toward Israel. When police ordered them to stop, the gunmen opened fire, starting a gun battle that left one police officer dead and one of the gunmen wounded, police said.

One of the wounded gunmen was shot dead after he tossed a grenade, which exploded, but did not cause any injuries.

Graphic

Photo: Nir Kafri, Reuters; A huge explosion caused by a suicide bomber ripped through a busy restaurant in downtown Tel Aviv last night, wounding at least 29 people.

Load-Date: March 31, 2002



Television

The Times (London)
April 3, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features
Length: 448 words
Byline: David Chater

Body

THE GREAT ART SWINDLE BBC Two, times vary It promises to be the juiciest programme of the week. This is the story of what happened after Dede Brooks of Sotheby's and Christopher Davidge of Christie's, operating at the behest of their respective bosses, got together in the back of a Lexus in the car park at JFK airport in 1995 and set up an illegal commission-fixing cartel. (Afterwards, Davidge flew back to London on Concorde, saying that he had been to the dentist.) It is a jaw-dropping tale of billionaires behaving badly. There was no sniff of a preview tape available -the lawyers were still pouring with sweat.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ITV1, 7.30pm Liverpool take on Bayer Leverkeusen -Gerard Houllier may well have been on the phone to his old friend Arsene Wenger to find out how the Arsenal manager plotted a 4-1 annihilation of the German side in the second phase.

SUICIDE KILLERS: EVERYMAN BBC Two, 9pm In the wake of the September 11 attacks, Everyman examines what turns a person into a suicide bomber. Many, most notably members of <u>Hamas</u>, are driven by a passionate religious certainty that enjoys wide support in their community. Parents speak proudly of losing a son and gaining a hero. And since we know no other weapons, they say, what else can we use? The film also features harrowing contributions from victims of suicide attacks.

UP IN TOWN BBC Two, 9.50pm The latest in these ten-minute gems has Joanna Lumley looking back on her affair with the deplorable Jarvis. When she met him, he was designing the packaging for a piggy bank, but she recognised straight away that here was someone in the Da Vinci league. She was right, of course. He went on to make television commercials, and she likes to think that she was, in some small way, responsible. The point is, the two of them clicked immediately. When they agreed to elope, she remembers that "for the first time ever, I didn't want to be somebody else. I just wanted to be me." Wretched, wretched Jarvis.

WHEN MUSCLES RULED THE WORLD BBC One, times vary A look back at the days when cinema was dominated by huge people who flexed pecs rather than acted. It focuses on the rivalry between Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, although there are also contributions from Charles Atlas and Jimmy Savile, who was president of the National Amateur Bodybuilding Association. <u>Women</u> are represented by Sigourney Weaver and Brigitte Nielsen. The latter, built like an Amazonian warrior, describes how she and Arnie got "very close", which is an unsettling thought. It is left to Jeremy Clarkson to sum up the true Schwarzenegger appeal. "It was such a clever idea," he says, "to make this Austrian robot a robot."

Load-Date: April 3, 2002



Suicide bomber kills 19 at Passover meal

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

March 28, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A16; NEWS

Length: 472 words

Dateline: NETANYA, ISRAEL

Body

A suicide bomber burst into a hotel dining room and blew himself up yesterday just as Israelis dressed in their holiday best were sitting down to a seder meal celebrating the Jewish Passover. At least 19 Israelis were killed and more than 120 wounded.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the Park Hotel in the northern coastal resort of Netanya, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. Bits of rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth and with the elaborate seder place settings still in place.

Associated Press

"Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52. "There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

The Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called a "Passover massacre." The bomber, a 25year-old Palestinian, had worked in Netanya hotels in the past.

The bombing threatened to derail the latest U.S. truce mission, just hours after U.S. President George W. Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress. In later comments, Bush said, "This callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop."

Israel, which had reluctantly accepted the latest U.S. ceasefire proposals, said it would have to reassess its policy and held Arafat responsible for the bombing. Police Minister Uzi Landau called for retaliation, saying the Palestinian Authority must be destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing, and that it would take tough measures against those involved. Palestinian security sources said Arafat ordered the arrests of four key militants in the West Bank.

The explosion occurred at 7:20 p.m. yesterday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel along Netanya's boardwalk settled down for the Passover seder in the dining hall. The <u>women</u> were dressed in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark pants.

The bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said. From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

Suicide bomber kills 19 at Passover meal

Donenhirsch, the guest, said as she and her family fled, they saw a little girl, about 10 years old, lying dead, her eyes wide open as if in surprise.

"They attacked innocent Israelis on one of the most sacred nights to Jewish people, Passover," said Meir.

Israeli police had been on high alert for possible attacks during the week-long Passover holiday, with more than 10,000 officers deployed in potential trouble spots.

The country's police commissioner, Shlomo Aharonishki, said it was impossible to prevent all attacks. "Even with more policemen and a broader deployment, we cannot block the centres of the cities," Aharonishki said.

Load-Date: March 28, 2002



BRITONS READY TO BE SUICIDE BOMBERS

Birmingham Post May 5, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 484 words

Byline: LAURA ELSTON

Body

Twenty more Britons are waiting to be suicide bombers in Israel, according to one of the region's main recruiters.

There have been warnings that there could be up to 50 would-be bombers in Britain waiting for an opportunity to act, but Hassan Butt, described as a self-styled recruiter of British volunteers for the Islamic holy war, said he knew of at least 20 who were 'absolutely serious'.

He said: 'They are waiting for the right time.

'You don't just do it as individuals, you do it as an organisation.

'It's about screening them, testing them, making sure they are sincere.

'Then, when it's right, believe me, they'll all be used.'

Six people remained in custody last night in connection with the suicide bomb attack on a bar in Israel.

Anti-terrorist police are questioning three men and three <u>women</u> - believed to be family members or friends of one of the British Muslims accused of masterminding the fatal blast.

Asif Mohammed Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif are said to have carried out the attack on beachfront pub Mike's Place in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, killing three bystanders.

The six people, understood to be Sharif's wife Tahira, his two sisters, one of his brothers, a friend of the family and his wife's brother, are being held at a central London police station.

The arrests followed a joint British and Israeli security services operation.

Anti-terrorist officers and localpolice detained two men and two <u>women</u> in Derbyshire and one woman in Nottinghamshire on Friday evening in a series of raids.

A third man was arrested in London early on Saturday morning.

All six are understood to have connections with Derby, and police are believed to have conducted searches at three addresses in the city.

BRITONS READY TO BE SUICIDE BOMBERS

They are being held under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which relates to those suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Scotland Yard said they could be held for up to seven days. It is also thought that officers are investigating an extremist Islamic group operating in Normanton, Derby. Israeli police say Hanif, 21, of Hounslow, west London, detonated the device killing himself and three others, while Sharif, from Derby, fled after his bomb failed to explode.

Security forces are still hunting the 27-year-old.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told a cabinet meeting yesterday that the explosives used in the blast were hidden inside a copy of the Koran as the men made their way to the Gaza Strip.

Security sources said it still was not clear why the sophisticated device was not spotted when the pair arrived from Britain with it in their possession.

The attack was claimed as a joint operation by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, an armed offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and the armed wing of *Hamas*, the hard-line Islamic group.

Hanif is thought to be the first Briton to have carried out a suicide bomb attack.

Load-Date: May 5, 2003



ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

Daily News (New York)
February 11, 2002, Monday
FOUR STAR EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 433 words

Byline: By CORKY SIEMASZKO With News Wire Services

Body

Two <u>female</u> Israeli soldiers were killed and six people were wounded yesterday when Palestinian gunmen jumped from a car and opened fire on a cafe near a military base.

Lt. Keren Rotstein, 20, and Cpl. Ayah Malachi, 18, were gunned down as they ate lunch in the remote Israeli desert town of Beersheba.

Furious Israeli soldiers quickly killed the gunmen, who were identified as *Hamas* guerrillas.

The Israeli government also retaliated quickly.

At dusk, Israeli F-16s circled over Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters - giving those inside time to escape - and then attacked.

Despite the advance warning, dozens of people were wounded and the blast blew out the windows at the nearby United Nations office. Rocket factory hit The Israelis also struck what they called a rocket factory in the nearby Jebalya refugee camp.

UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen condemned the revenge attacks and said "Israel's security needs will not be met by hitting civilian targets or by destroying the Palestinians' ability to police and maintain order."

The deadly shooting in Beersheba came just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned home from a U.S. visit.

Bush administration officials turned down his request to cut contacts with Arafat, who remains trapped by Israeli tanks at his offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

It was lunchtime in Beersheba, and the cafe near the gates of the Israeli army's southern command headquarters in the city center was filling up with soldiers when the gunman sprang out of a car and started shooting machine guns.

"I was on the street and suddenly the two got out of a car and started firing in all directions," Israeli Army Capt. Guy Shaham told Israeli radio.

"They were spraying from the hip in all directions. I whipped out my gun and started firing back at them." Guerrillas shot dead Shaham said he felled one of the attackers. The other, who had explosives strapped around his waist, was shot dead as he tried to set off his bombs, witnesses and police said.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

When it was over, wounded soldiers and civilians lay bleeding and moaning on the streets.

Until yesterday, Beersheba had escaped much of the violence from the Palestinian uprising, which has left more than 1,000 people dead.

But it is relatively close to both the West Bank and Gaza. Unlike the main Palestinian cities, which are blockaded by the Israeli Army, there is little policing along the Israel-West Bank border, which winds through hundreds of miles of desert, hills and woods.

"We do not know how to hermetically seal the borders of Israel," Israeli Police Chief Shlomo Aharonishki said.

Graphic

AP DEAD GUNMAN Israeli police fingerprint one of two Palestinian guerrillas shot to death after they opened fire on a street in Beersheba.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



37 hurt as Israel launches air strikes

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)
February 12, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 457 words

Byline: SAKHAR ABU EL OUN

Body

THE Israeli air force pounded central Gaza City yesterday, injuring 37 people in strikes on a security compound, as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced growing calls from hardliners to get rid of Yasser Arafat.

The strikes were in retaliation for a Palestinian shooting attack in Beersheba in southern Israel late Sunday which killed two <u>women</u> soldiers, and for the first use by Palestinian militants of home-made rockets against Israeli territory.

Most of the injured in Gaza were security force members, although many civilians also were wounded by shrapnel, including one 67-year-old man, doctors said.

MATP

US-made Apache combat helicopters attacked a building used by Mr Arafat's elite Force 17 guards and an office of the military intelligence.

F-16 fighter-bombers then dropped three heavy bombs on the Palestinians' general intelligence offices, officials said. All the buildings are inside the Sariyeh prison and security compound in the centre of the city.

The compound is close to one of the main market areas in the sprawling Mediterranean city and many of those hurt were civilians walking along the main street, Omar al-Mukhtar.

Thick smoke billowed across the city from the strike zone and buildings could be seen in flames.

People ran in panic through streets littered with debris from blown out shop windows and masonry.

The air raids came after F-16s and Apaches hit targets in Gaza and the northern Strip late Sunday in swift retaliation for the attack in Beersheba, which also left the two assailants dead.

Also on Sunday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip for the first time fired Katyusha-style rockets against Israeli territory, hitting a farming community in southern Israel.

The Qassem 2 rockets developed by the radical <u>Hamas</u> movement landed in fields and caused no injuries, but an Israeli army officer called the attack a "conventional act of war".

Israel followed up the strikes with a brief incursion into the city of Nablus in the West Bank, which triggered firefights with Palestinian gunmen.

37 hurt as Israel launches air strikes

The strikes also damaged the UN offices in Gaza City and injured two UN workers, drawing a strong rebuke to Israel from the United Nations.

UN special envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said bombing would not solve Israel's security problem and urged both sides to renew dialogue, something Mr Sharon refuses to do until there is a complete halt in the more than 16 months of violence which have left almost 1200 people dead.

"Bombs do not produce security. After the attacks yesterday and today there will be a new retaliation and the dance of death ... will continue," Mr Roed-Larsen said yesterday.

He said the core of a political solution was tackling the issue of Israel's 35-year occupation of Palestinian territory.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



Briefly... NATION/WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News

February 19, 2003 Wednesday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 53

Length: 521 words

Body

NASA: Amateur photos confirm shuttle shedding

Space shuttle Columbia began losing pieces over the California coast well before it disintegrated over Texas, the accident investigation board reported yesterday, finally confirming what astronomers and amateur skywatchers have been saying from Day One.

But board member James Hallock, a physicist and chief of the Transportation Department's aviation safety division, said the fragments were probably so small they burned up before reaching the ground.

He said the conclusion that the space shuttle was shedding pieces a full six minutes before it came apart over Texas was based on images of the doomed flight. Astronomers and amateurs on the West Coast photographed and videotaped the shuttle's final minutes.

Israeli troops and tanks backed by attack helicopters launched lightning raids on militant strongholds in and around Gaza City overnight, killing at least seven Palestinians.

Another three Palestinians were crushed to death as Israeli engineers blew up two metal workshops in Gaza's northern Tufah neighbourhood, according to witnesses and hospital officials.

The raids were apparent retaliation for a *Hamas* landmine which killed four Israeli soldiers.

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the 1998 Omagh bombing, the bloodiest single atrocity in the 30 years of the Northern Irish "troubles," Irish police said.

The 32-year-old man, whose name was not released pending formal charges, was arrested in Monaghan, near the republic's border with the British-ruled north, and was due to appear today at Special Criminal Court in Dublin. Only one person has so far been convicted, and only in a minor capacity, in connection with the Omagh blast, which killed 29 men, **women** and children.

Three dissident soldiers and a <u>female</u> protester opposed to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez have been killed execution-style after being kidnapped, bound and gagged, police said yesterday.

Briefly... NATION/WORLD

A 14-year-old girl who apparently witnessed at least one of the killings was hospitalized after being shot, but is talking, police said.

Raul Yepez, deputy director of the Caracas police homicide division, said the four victims had been fired upon with shotguns. It appeared that all of them have been missing since last week.

Vladimiro Montesinos, the shadowy spymaster who was once Peru's most feared man, refused to testify yesterday at his first public trial for corruption, but his former mistress had plenty to say.

Jacqueline Beltran angrily denied she had ever asked Montesinos to intervene to help her brother get out of prison.

As Montesinos sat stone-faced, the 34-year-old Beltran, in the dock beside him, challenged him to deny her words.

The charge Montesinos, 57, was facing yesterday was for influence peddling, a minor offense among the dozens of charges before him that range from corruption to drug trafficking, arms dealing and directing a death squad.

Montesinos is accused of using his reputed control of the judiciary during the past decade to get Beltran's brother out of prison. He could get five years if convicted. Beltran faces a four-year sentence.

Daily News wire services

Load-Date: February 19, 2003



Inside a Taliban terrorism class

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

May 6, 2003, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 06

Length: 1117 words

Byline: By Scott Baldauf Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: KHOST, AFGHANISTAN

Highlight: Stepped up attacks in Afghanistan may be a sign of well-trained graduates searching for soft targets.

Body

By his own reckoning, Ahmed Gul was a pretty good student of terrorism. During Taliban times, he learned to lay mines, plant bombs, kidnap enemies, fire Chinese rockets - and to blend into the general population as, say, a simple Afghan farmer.

Mr. Gul is one of 425 members of the class of 1998 at the Mechanical High School here who took what the Taliban called the "Khas Turesti Course," or Special Course in Terrorism. Students who finished the class were usually deployed immediately to combat their chief foe at the time, Ahmad Shah Masood's Northern Alliance.

"The main purpose of the course was to make a strong group of terrorists within the framework of Islam," says Gul, who asked that his name be changed. "The people who had been working with the Taliban from the beginning, they chose the students for the Special Course in Terrorism. We students had to be more religious than others."

Kept secret by Afghan officials until recently, the terrorism course in Khost is a sign of how far the former regime was willing to go in fighting what it considered to be enemies of Islam. The Taliban delved deeply and enthusiastically into terrorism - offering training in everything from <u>Hamas</u>-style marketplace bombings to kidnapping and assassination. Now, perhaps hundreds of terrorist alumni may be practicing their skills against US and allied forces - even against foreign aid workers - across vast, unstable portions of southern Afghanistan.

"We don't know completely where [Islamic militants] are getting their weapons, but they are very well trained," says Gen. Khial Baz Sherzai, military chief of Khost and commander of the 25th Land Force.

"The question is why they don't put mines in crowded cities to kill many people," says General Sherzai. "Here in Khost, we have increased our soldiers in the cities, so all they can do is put their bombs away from the city." But in other cities like Kabul, he says, the potential for terrorist attacks may be greater.

Military officials and intelligence agents for the Afghan government say that the terrorism course appears to have begun only about a year and a half after the Taliban took power. A similar course was offered in Kabul, but the Khost class drew students from all over Afghanistan as well as instructors from Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, and Palestine. Prominent graduates include Hazratuddin Habibi, the former Taliban intelligence chief in Khost who was given the same job by the current Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai. Mr. Habibi was removed from his post last month on suspicion that he was supplying information to Al Qaeda.

Inside a Taliban terrorism class

A string of attacks in the past month shows that terrorists are remaining quite active. In Khost, there were three land-mine attacks on local residents, including the deputy chief of intelligence, who was unharmed. In other parts of the country, attacks against foreigners are on the rise: a Red Cross worker from Ecuador was pulled from his car and shot; an Italian tourist on a motorcycle tour was shot on the road from Kandahar to Kabul; and two foreign aid workers for the demining group ATC were shot at and injured along the Kabul-Jalalabad road near the town of Sarobi.

For US and Afghan military officials, these are indications that opponents of the current government of President Hamid Karzai are stepping up their efforts to find soft targets, and to increase the feelings of insecurity among the Afghan people.

But officials say it's hard to know whether the current terrorist activities are linked to the Mechanical High School, or whether they go back to training of Islamic guerrillas by CIA and Pakistani advisers during the war against the Soviets in the 1980s. Afghan officials say no official record has been found to determine which residents of this provincial capital were former students of the terrorist class.

Still, officials say they have a pretty clear picture of how much terrorist training the Taliban did of their own in their five brief years in power.

According to former students at the school and Afghan intelligence officials, the school trained several hundred students starting in January 1998, some 17 months after the Taliban took control of Kabul.

There were six teachers at the school, including one Libyan, two Egyptians, one Afghan, one Pakistani, and a Palestinian headmaster named Abu Maz. This may be the same Abu Maz who led the terrorist bombing campaign of the radical Palestinian terrorist group *Hamas*.

Classes met daily for three hours of classroom instruction, complete with hands-on practical training in wiring and arming explosive devices, kidnapping hostages, setting up ambushes, planting car bombs, using remote control devices and timers, and how to be friend people to extract information. Training in setting off explosives and target practice with Kalashnikovs required a field trip to the Jawora district of Khost.

"They were not only teaching in classrooms," says the deputy chief of intelligence of Khost, who recently survived a land-mine attack. He spoke on condition of not being named. "In any work, you have to have practical training, so they used to bring the actual mine to class and the remote controls and let the students practice using them."

Gul says he misses his days at the Mechanical High School. Sitting under a mulberry tree, this 40-something farmer and former terrorist recalls his favorite teacher, whom he won't name, his fellow students from other provinces of Afghanistan, and a mysterious first mission as a terrorist.

Immediately after graduation, he was sent to Badakhshan province, the base of the Northern Alliance. Gul refuses to discuss exactly what he did there, but he does indicate that several of his classmates on this mission were killed, or as he prefers to say, martyred for the cause of Islam.

"Most of my class fellows were arrested and they became hostages in Badakhshan, Konar, and Oruzgan provinces," he says wistfully. "Some of them were later killed in the last days of the Taliban. And I don't know how many are alive and where they are.

"But the people who were against Islam, we put the landmines and killed them where we could," he says.

Today's regime is just as bad as the Northern Alliance was, he adds. "The current democracy is against Islam, because <u>women</u> can go to work in offices with their faces uncovered, and they can even drink wine and go to parties. This is all forbidden in Islam."

He pulls a piece of grass and uses it to pick his teeth. "But right now, I don't have the power to do anything," he sighs. "That's why I'm at home and taking care of my family. I am just a simple farmer now."

Inside a Taliban terrorism class

- * Javed Hamdard contributed to this report.
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Load-Date: May 5, 2003



Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 2, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B04; News

Length: 1787 words **Byline:** Benedict Carey

Body

The list includes architects and drifters, engineers and poets, teenagers and middle-aged men, a 30-year-old woman, an 18-year-old girl, and, every week it seems, someone else, someone different.

"You hear people say that these are all desperate people, or poor people whose families need the money," said Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism specialist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "This is nonsense."

Long before the recent rash of suicide bombings in Israel, psychiatrists, terrorism specialists and others were searching for clues to what prompts people to strap on explosives and annihilate themselves in a crowded street or cafe.

Experts examined psychological profiles. They interviewed Sri Lankan separatists and imprisoned Palestinian militants. They studied the mass suicide at Jonestown, Guyana, in 1978 and the Japanese kamikaze missions of World War II.

Los Angeles Times

Their emerging understanding contradicts the notion that suicide bombers are deranged fanatics. The evidence is just the opposite: They tend to be free of obvious mental illness. Many are competent, successful, even loving and loved.

What, then, triggers their awful acts?

Most have fallen under the influence of an extreme group, whether it be al-Qaeda, <u>Hamas</u> or the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, experts say. Like a cult, the group demands absolute obedience and promises immortality to the most devoted.

Conditions of chronic conflict and bloodshed endow suicide with a sinister logic. When death seems pervasive and unavoidable, whether in Sri Lanka or a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, members of the group come to value its survival above their own. They become willing, even eager, to sacrifice their lives for a greater cause -- a psychological response found not just in terrorist cells, experts note, but among soldiers in wartime.

In the end, the suicide terrorist sees his mission as acceptable, logical, even noble.

"It can be perceived as a very idealistic act," said psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton, a visiting professor at Harvard Medical School and an author who has studied cults and suicide. "They believe there's a higher purpose, that in some way they are bringing about a purification, a perfection.

"They are destroying the world to save it."

A common trait of nonpolitical suicides -- people who take their own lives without harming others -- is a feeling of isolation or disconnectedness from the world.

Suicide terrorists, though, are anything but isolated. Often, they have connected with others deeply, and it is this affiliation that helps prepare them to take their own lives, said Clark McCauley, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania who studies terrorism.

"It's the group that's abnormal and extreme," McCauley said. "The bombers themselves are psychologically as normal as you and I."

Americans confronted the horror of suicide attacks on April 18, 1983, when a Shiite Muslim truck bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people. Six months later, another truck bomber killed 241 marines on a peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.

Since then, more than 300 men, <u>women</u> and children have blown themselves to pieces in suicide attacks around the world. Those carried out by Palestinians in Israel have received the most publicity, but two-thirds of the attacks occurred in Sri Lanka, where Hindu separatists have been waging a guerrilla war for 20 years.

The best evidence that these terrorists are mentally competent is the planning and patience required for many of their missions. The Sri Lankan woman known as Dhanu who killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 prepared for months, performing several practice runs, according to Gunaratna, the terrorism expert.

Dhanu, a member of the Tamil Tigers separatist group, got so close to Gandhi that she was able to reach out and touch him before pulling a cord beneath her dress and ending both their lives, witnesses said.

Another Tamil bomber, Babu, worked for many months to infiltrate the household of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa before killing him in a 1993 suicide attack.

Wafa Idris, a Palestinian woman who blew herself up in Jerusalem in January, killing an 81-year-old man, was a volunteer paramedic who had founded a <u>women</u>'s relief group to assist victims of the conflict with Israel. She was not known as an Islamic extremist.

The 19 hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States stayed in touch and under cover for many months before executing their well-co-ordinated plan. Some attended flight schools and spent hours practicing on flight simulators.

Their leader, Mohammed Atta, grew up in a middle-class Egyptian family and appeared to have a promising career ahead of him as an architect and urban planner. Ziad Jarrah, another of the suicide pilots, was educated, well-off and said by his Lebanese family to be planning to get married.

These did not appear to be mentally unbalanced people, researchers say. Indeed, crazed loners are not likely to be selected for suicide missions.

"The crucial quality that recruiters look for is mental stability," said Jerrold Post, a psychiatrist at George Washington University who recently completed a study of 35 Palestinian militants in Israeli jails, several of whom had recruited suicide attackers.

In addition to levelheadedness, terrorist organizations look for a willingness to conform and obey. Those qualities are not hard to find, research shows.

Regardless of education or background, most people have a tendency to follow instructions, especially when given by an authority figure who promotes a larger cause.

This is the principle on which many terrorist groups operate. They begin by asking members to take small risks and gradually up the ante, said McCauley.

The Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany, the Marxist Red Brigades in Italy and the Symbionese Liberation Army of California included middle-class, well-educated people who graduated from protest to murder under the sway of impassioned leaders.

Such groups demand total commitment and fealty.

Commanders in <u>Hamas</u> -- the Islamic resistance movement in Gaza and the West Bank -- "are commanders in every way," an imprisoned terrorist told researchers working with Post, the George Washington University psychiatrist.

"A commander's orders are absolutely binding and must not be questioned in substance."

In the case of the Tamil Tigers, Post said, "there's almost a chemical connection that seems to develop between the personality of the leader" -- the reclusive Velupillai Prabhakaran -- "and those of the followers. It's as if the followers merge with each other and with what the leader says."

Prabhakaran's acolytes are said to wear cyanide containers around their necks in case of capture.

Groups that sponsor suicide attacks invoke both the future world and the ancient one to recruit and inspire. After Sept. 11, investigators found letters in Arabic believed to have been written by Atta, the presumed ringleader. The letters emphasize the importance of "obeying 100 per cent"; instruct the attackers to be courageous, "as our predecessors (were) when they came to the battle"; and promise that "paradise has been decorated for you with the best of its decorations and ornaments."

"It's hard to accept for outsiders, but from the bombers' point of view, they don't actually die in a suicide attack -- they become immortal," said Gunaratna, whose recent book, Inside Al Qaeda, details the ideological indoctrination that occurred at Osama bin Laden's training camps.

"It's not the end, but the beginning. You are surviving in a way; you are being granted an eternal life."

In their willingness to sacrifice all for their group, suicide bombers have something in common with traditional soldiers, say researchers who have studied heroism in combat.

Perhaps the most vivid example of suicide attacks committed for comrades and country was those by Japan's kamikaze squads in World War II. In their oral history, Japan at War, Haruko Taya Cook and her husband, Theodore Cook, interviewed several former members of Japan's "special attack corps," who survived because their missions were cancelled or foiled.

One of them, Yokota Yutaka, recalled the words his Naval Academy commander used to recruit suicide attackers: "If there be any among you who burn with a passion to die gloriously for the sake of their country, let them step forward."

Yutaka said that all but 120 of the 2,000 young men in his academy volunteered.

On April 20, 1945, Yutaka climbed aboard a motorized suicide torpedo, said goodbye to his comrades in arms and awaited the order to launch. It never came.

"I was ordered to come back in," he said. "That was the moment I really wanted to die."

Post, the George Washington University researcher, found a yearning to die for one's cause among the Palestinian militants he studied. One of them is serving 26 life terms for his role in several suicide bombings.

In a prison interview, the man recalled learning from a confederate that another suicide attack was in the works:

"I asked him what it was all about, and he told me that he had been on the wanted list for a long time and did not want to get caught without realizing his dream of being a suicide bomber. I remember that besides the tremendous respect I had for him and the fact that I was jealous of him, I also felt slighted that he had not asked me (to join him)."

In Sri Lanka's contested territory, the 19-year civil war has left very few people untouched by violence. The tragedy and nearness of death are such that even children become fatalistic, according to Margaret Trawick, an anthropologist at Massey University in New Zealand who lived in Sri Lanka during the late 1990s.

Based on conversations with a dozen girls and young <u>women</u> who belonged to the Tamil Tigers, Trawick concluded that joining the group is itself a kind of suicide gesture.

"They have no ideology but for the words 'I want to fight.' Most expect to die in battle, and many will die in just that way. They think their lives are unimportant, and they think the same of their deaths.

"They seek no fame, they ask no voice. They do wish to be remembered."

If there's a common thread connecting all suicides, perhaps it is the desire to have done something memorable, whether for an audience of one or two or for the entire world.

Once a member of <u>Hamas</u> or the Tamil Tigers has begun to consider a suicide attack, the same kind of hermetic logic applies, experts say.

Only by destruction can the world be renewed; only by killing can the group live; only by leaving the world can you leave a mark on it.

"I think in this sense," said Lifton, the Harvard psychiatrist, "all suicide has to do with making a lasting statement one could not make in life."

Graphic

Photo: Torstar File Photo; In their willingness to sacrifice their lives for a larger cause, suicide bombers have something in common with traditional soldiers, say researchers. Some, as in this poster, are hailed as heroes for their courageous sacrifice.

Load-Date: August 2, 2002



An operation that raises troubling questions

Ottawa Citizen

July 25, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A13; Opinion; Excerpt

Length: 500 words

Body

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from an editorial in yesterday's edition of the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday termed the previous night's air force operation that killed Salah Shehadeh, head of the military wing of the <u>Hamas</u> "one of our greatest successes." That cold-hearted announcement overshadowed the air force's public expressions of regret for the deaths of 14 civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, resulting from the F-16 bombing of the residential neighbourhood where Shehadeh lived with his wife and children. The two announcements do not dispel serious, weighty questions that arose in the hearts of every person after the assassination.

The Israeli Newspaper Ha'aretz

Many in the public have given support, sometimes after troubled soul-searching, to the policy of "pinpointed prevention" that the government has used as part of its struggle against the waves of terror attacks. The policy's backers rejected criticism, both international and domestic, that the assassinations were executions with neither judges nor trials. The element of prevention, it was argued, meaning the chance to prevent or deter a future terror operation, justified the Israeli Defence Force's extreme actions in the current conflict. By that measure, Shehadeh, who dealt in terror to his last day, was a legitimate target.

There has never been any dispute over the element of "pinpointed" in these operations. It was clear and certain that the army would take care not to harm innocents, to the extent that it would cancel operations at the last minute if there was danger of civilians being hurt. That certainty, which is a vital, moral foundation for Israeli society in its war against terror, has apparently been undermined in the wake of Monday's operation in Gaza. How could it have been expected -- or even hoped -- that the bomb would focus only on Shehadeh and his aide, considering the physical surroundings where the mission took place?

The timing of the operation also raises questions. There were indications in recent days that for the first time in many months, there was a chance for progress toward a cease-fire. According to some reports, there was reason to hope that Fatah was planning to issue a unilateral declaration of an end to the terror attacks. Israel was supposed to begin a series of steps to relieve conditions for the Palestinians, and to begin withdrawing forces from the occupied Palestinian cities.

In that light, there is no choice but to question the wisdom of the approval given by the prime minister and the defence minister to an assassination, when the circumstances of the mission itself and the wider political circumstances would inevitably dash those efforts toward peace and the hopes accompanying them.

Ministers in the security cabinet have complained they were not let in on the secret. That, perhaps, is a formalistic flaw. But it would appear the process that led to the decision to bomb Shehadeh was much more seriously flawed.

Load-Date: July 25, 2002



Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

Sunday Tribune (Ireland)
August 11, 2002

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 1155 words

Byline: TOM FARRELL KILINOCHCHI

Body

THE <u>female</u> guerillas are easy to spot on the main street of Kilinochchi, the Tamil Tiger 'capital' in Sri Lanka's northern province. Most <u>women</u> here wear the traditional shalwar kameez or a patterned sari, their flowing black hair tied back. The **female** guerillas have their hair cropped boyishly short or tightly braided.

They wear shirts belted at the waist and black pants. A few are kitted out in the combat uniform, tight green fatigues banded to blend with the tropical undergrowth.

The <u>women</u>'s wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has existed since 1984, and in the last decade which has seen a heavy death toll on the male fighters - they have come ever more to prominence and are now recognised as the best-trained and most disciplined *female* guerillas in the world.

Thamilini (30) is head of the **women**'s political wing in Kilinochchi and her own sister was killed when the town was captured by the Tigers in 1998.

This was during a massive Sri Lankan army (SLA) offensive codenamed 'Jaya Sikuru' ('Certain Victory') to open the Tigerheld A-9 highway.

She sees her sisters both as fearless patriots and gun-toting feminists, with a mission to liberate Tamil <u>women</u> in a very patriarchal, Hinduist culture. A burly woman of unusual height, Thamilini's delicate sing-song voice carries an underlying menace when she speaks of the "morality codes" the Tigers impose in their areas.

"The main reason for this male oppression is pornography and illegal alcohol and so we try to take strict measures against their usage in our territories. That's why we are able to control this situation " These "strict measures" are reason for men to watch their step in Kilinochchi. There are stories of habitual sexual harassers being lured by pretty girls to secluded locations, only to be beaten senseless by gangs of <u>women</u> cadres known as Sutantira-Paravaikal (Freedom Birds).

"We were taught that we have to not only be involved in the military operations, we have to start on our society, we have liberation in education and employment opportunities, " says Thamilini. "We have to get social status in the society, so that's why we have to fight in this way." The <u>women</u>'s wing first came to prominence during 1987-90, when Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi sent 60,000 troops to the island as 'peace keepers'.

Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

When the LTTE pulled out of peace talks, the 'Indian Vietnam' that commenced left 1,200 of its troops dead and 3,000 maimed.

'<u>Women</u>'s Day' in rebel-held areas is observed on 2 October, honouring the martyrdom of Second Lieutenant Malathy in 1987. Malathy was part of a crack all-<u>female</u> unit that had attacked Indian troops entering Jaffna city in Soviet T-72 tanks. Mortally wounded by the Indians, Malathy swallowed cyanide.

Like all cadres, male or <u>female</u>, Thamilini also carries a vial of cyanide on a black string around her neck, to be taken if captured by enemy forces. "In our movement, we abide by certain concepts. That is, we won't be an obstacle to the continuation of our struggle. When we are captured by the enemy, we don't want our struggle interrupted by our arrest, and by killing ourselves, we won't be an obstacle."

<u>Women</u> have formed the backbone of the 'Black Tiger' suicidebomber unit which, before 11 September, was the world's most effective and ruthless. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Tigers executed twice as many suicide bombing missions as <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah combined. It is believed the 'suicide jacket' used by <u>Hamas</u> bombers was sold to them by the Tigers.

It was a 31-year-old woman named 'Dhanu' who killed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, herself and 15 others at an election rally near Madras in May 1991. While garlanding Gandhi, Dhanu pulled the detonator cord on a string of shrapnel grenades concealed under her dress. Her head, remarkably unscathed, was afterwards recovered 60 metres from the point of the explosion.

The worldwide impact of 11 September probably weighs heavily on the mind of the LTTE's 48-year-old leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran. The movement was already reeling from the ban imposed by British Home Secretary Jack Straw the previous March, leading to the closure of its London office. The SLA's Deep Penetration Unit had also made several excursions into LTTE territory, assassinating a number of senior cadres.

After the Tigers came close to capturing Jaffna in May 2000, the SLA purchased new and more effective weaponry and was believed to have acquired Ukranian 'fuel air' bombs last summer.

But after 11 September, millions of dollars worth of Tiger assets were frozen in various bank accounts. Although hardly bankrupt, with millions of dollars still being raised through legal business activities, the movement's income has been reduced considerably.

It is probably small consolation that the Sri Lankan economy is also in a dire condition.

The 5 December elections resulted in a narrow victory for the United National Party (UNP) led by Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The UNP ruled from 1977 to 1994 and pursued a particularly hardline stance against Tamil nationalists, allowing the security forces to commit horrendous civilian massacres throughout the 1980s and early 1990s.

A consortium of legal Tamil parties banded together as the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), endorsing the LTTE as the "sole representatives of the Tamil community" during the campaign.

Wickremesinge's critics charge that - knowing he needed TNA support to win - he capitulated to the LTTE's demands, calling a ceasefire and signing a Moratorium of Understanding (MOU) that is biased towards the Tigers.

Ahead of peace talks scheduled for Thailand this month, there is a huge need for reconstruction in the north and east of the country. The lands on either side of the A-9 highway are heavily mined. The UNP's Minister for Refugee Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Dr Jayalath Jayawardena says: "There are supposed to be about one million landmines in the north and east so we have to de-mine the entire areas, and most of the cities and houses have been destroyed. We have to start from zero, with no basic infrastructure facilities, the roads, the drinking water, houses, electricity and nothing is there. So it is a huge process and I don't think that by utilising our own resources, we will be able to rehabilitate the entire area. We will be depending on the international donors as well as our ex-

Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

patriots to help us." Kilinochchi itself is not much more than a huge shanty town, its stone buildings shattered by mortar fire and most walls peppered with bullet holes. The <u>women</u> cadres are convinced victory will be theirs someday. Not that a victorious Tigress will be idle. "Soon after we achieve our Tamil Eelam, we have a lot of work to build up our society and our country, " predicts Thamilini.

Few of the 'Freedom Birds' see themselves as future wives or mothers. Says Thamilini: "We don't take that idea seriously because it would disturb our life in the movement."

Graphic

Above left, battle-hardened members of the Tamil Tigers <u>women</u>'s wing. Above, the remains of a government base in northern Sri Lanka, overrun by the Tigers two years ago. Below, a boy poses with a live rocket retrieved close to the A-9 highway, scene of heavy fighting between the rebels and government forces

Load-Date: October 22, 2002



Ottawa Citizen

April 7, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A4; News

Length: 1761 words **Byline:** Marie Colvin

Body

Soraida Abu Gharbieh probably died because she believed Israeli soldiers wouldn't shoot civilians. She was born in the United States and had idealistic views. But as her husband drove her around the corner to her father's house, she was shot in the head and killed. When he pried their 10-month-old son from her arms, the baby was chuckling. He thought it was a game.

Last week, Soraida was buried in a mass grave in the parking lot of Ramallah hospital. The city was under curfew, her family could not retrieve her body and the mortuary was overflowing with the dead. Soraida's husband remembers the last word she spoke -- his name, Murad, as she keeled forward, her body around the chubby boy in her lap.

The family's crime was to be frightened. When Israeli tanks began shelling buildings on the first night of the incursion nine days ago, Soraida thought the family should go to her father's house because it was larger and lower down the hill.

The Sunday Times

"We were sleeping when we heard the explosions," Murad said. "The drive to my father-in-law's is only 200 metres. The soldiers began shooting at the car, and I stopped. They were five metres away. Then came a rain of bullets."

Murad was hit in the shoulder and neck; he remembers the soldiers walked up to the car, looked in and laughed. He struggled out, carrying tiny Muhsin, then fell and began screaming for help. Neighbours who tried to reach him were raked with gunfire. Farhan Saleh, his father-in-law, finally dragged him into the house. They found Soraida the next day, slumped in the front seat.

The silver Renault is still there, its windows shattered by bullets, dried blood staining the steering wheel and her seat.

"She was the smartest of my children," said Mr. Saleh, who brought his family back to Ramallah after 24 years in the U.S. because he was afraid of the crime and drugs in Washington, D.C. "And she thought her baby was the smartest, best baby in the whole world."

The Abu Gharbieh family was not alone in mourning last week. By Friday night, 27 people had been killed in the city. Buried in the parking lot next to Soraida was Wadeed Safran, a grandmother in her fifties.

She was shot dead by an Israeli sniper as she walked from Ramallah hospital on her cane. She had broken the curfew because the cast on her leg became too painful to bear. "She was nothing, nothing, no danger to the Israelis," said Dr. Ahmed Haleem.

Across the West Bank, there were similar stories of heartbreak and despair as Israeli forces rolled into all the cities they had withdrawn from in the mid-1990s -- Ramallah, Qalkilya, Jenin, Bethlehem, Nablus and finally Hebron.

In city after city, the casualties mounted. In Jenin, tanks and armoured personnel carriers tried to enter the narrow alleys of the refugee camp on Friday night, protected by Apache helicopters. A Jenin journalist filming the incursion was shot dead; residents said ambulances were prevented from entering the area so nobody knew how many were killed or wounded.

In the words of one resident: "I am 32, but I'm more radical than Arafat. My nephew is 15, and more radical than me. We are all with the resistance now. What choice do we have?"

Another Palestinian fighter said that many had been inspired by Mr. Arafat's telephone interviews from his besieged compound in Ramallah. "We have seen that Abu Amar (the familiar name Palestinians use for Arafat) is standing steadfast. We are standing steadfast for this reason. We don't need orders."

He added that the divided militia factions had now combined -- gunmen from Fatah, <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad were fighting side by side.

Whether he intended it or not, the military operation launched by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, has progressed from an incursion into all-out war.

But by Thursday, the Americans had begun to rethink their hands-off approach. A week after tanks rolled into Ramallah, Mr. Bush announced that he was sending Colin Powell, his secretary of state, to the Middle East.

Mr. Sharon publicly welcomed the American initiative, but on the ground the evidence was different. Israeli soldiers on Friday fired on journalists trying to report on the arrival of Anthony Zinni, the American envoy, in Ramallah. Mr. Sharon also refused to allow Mr. Zinni to meet with a delegation of senior Palestinians, appointed to follow up his meeting with Mr. Arafat. Palestinians feared Mr. Powell's predicted arrival toward the end of next week would be too late, with the Israelis stepping up their action before the diplomatic mission arrives. A repeated call by Mr. Powell yesterday that Israel should begin an immediate withdrawal appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.

"The partial pullback will not take place this week," said one Israeli military source. "We are not driving a speedboat that can be easily diverted."

Others suspect more sinister motives. Along with destroying the "infrastructure of terror," Mr. Sharon's army has been busy systematically destroying the Palestinian Authority civilian infrastructure built up since the mid-1990s, when Israeli troops began withdrawing from parts of the West Bank and Gaza after the 1993 Oslo agreement. Such a wholesale operation will take time. The Israeli chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, said last week that his army needed, "four full weeks to complete the operation, and four more weeks to establish security."

The Israeli model for this wider military operation appears to be an assault on Ramallah. Here, Israeli soldiers spent the first few days fighting resistance from Palestinian security forces, and what Palestinians call the mukawameh -- the unofficial resistance of loosely organized gunmen from differing factions.

Kalashnikov rifles proved no match for the lines of tanks on the ground and the Apaches in the air and once the resistance had been crushed, the darker side of the Israeli operation began, destroying the civilian infrastructure.

Late on Tuesday, tanks and helicopters began shelling the headquarters of the Preventive Security Force, the Palestinian CIA, on the edge of the industrial zone. If the aim of the Israelis was to catch terrorists, it was a bizarre choice of targets. The PSF, armed and trained by the American CIA, was the only force carrying out the Israeli demands, arresting known militants, often to the anger of the local population.

Other Israeli attacks in the city struck directly at government buildings. During a brief curfew on Friday, the Palestinian education minister, Nayeem Abu Humus, visited the shattered remains of his former headquarters.

Israeli soldiers had gone from room to room, destroying as they went. "At each room, they threw me in first," said the caretaker. "I was their human shield, even though I told them there is no one here." Smashed computers, ceiling tiles and electrical wires littered the floors alongside trampled pages of high school results. The ministry safe hung open; scorched by blast marks. The ministry accountant said \$13,200 was missing.

"I am sick," Abu Humus said. "Our education ministry is sacred to us. We run 60 education departments from here. We are taking care of one million students. If they want to search, I understand. But this is not the way to search. This is destruction. What can I tell our future generation about peace when they see this?"

Across a square, the building of the Palestinian legislative council was a similar scene of destruction. Both departments had been set up with millions of dollars from Europe, Japan and the World Bank. By the time the troops withdraw, there may well be no government left to run the West Bank.

Mr. Sharon's plan may be to weaken or remove Arafat and return to the situation a decade ago when Israeli military administration ran the occupied territories. No Palestinian, however critical of Arafat, thought this could succeed, but now many are wondering whether Mr. Sharon may have gone too far down the line to stop.

Even as the heavy fighting subsided, Palestinian families were struggling to come to terms with what had befallen them.

Near the Greek Orthodox church in central Ramallah, the Ziadi family was yesterday still holding a vigil for Majd, their 19-year-old son, taken by the Israeli soldiers on Tuesday night with his father and the other men of the building, rounded up as house-to-house searches continued.

"The soldiers came and started shouting, you are <u>Hamas</u>, you are <u>Hamas</u>," recalled a neighbour. "We told them no, we are Christian, but they would not listen."

Mohamed Ziadi, Majd's father, was also taken, but later released. Forty-eight years old and bespectacled, he was still in shock yesterday. The Israelis forced everyone from their building, then separated the men from the <u>women</u> and children. All the men were made to walk to the Israeli headquarters, their hands on their heads, in front of a tank that herded them through the streets.

When they were bused, blindfold, to a nearby settlement for questioning, the soldiers' behaviour turned sadistic. "One soldier called a friend in Tel Aviv on his mobile phone and said: 'Listen to this'.

"He held out the phone and began to beat one of us. The man screamed in pain. Then the soldier came back to his mobile phone and asked his friend: 'Did you hear that?' He was laughing."

Ziadi was kicked in the stomach and beaten. After questioning, he was released and walked 5km back to his house in the rain. Majd is still missing. The family insists he is no militant; his room, now littered with the clothes and debris of smashed wardrobes from the Israeli search, seems to bear this out. It is hung with soccer stickers and a sentimental poster of puppies; there are no pictures of the martyrs that normally adorn the walls of militants.

As Mr. Powell prepares for his tour of surrounding Arab countries, rallying support to drive a peace plan forward, and Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair struggle for a new solution to ancient hostilities, such tales of Israeli brutality will do little to aid their cause. Well-meaning missions and verbal posturing don't count for much in a region where the common language is now that of violence.

As one normally moderate Israeli put it last week: "We gave these guys all the chances in the world to live in peace with us. They rejected every possible proposal, one after another, and started a war against us. They asked for a war and they got a war, so they shouldn't complain now."

It is one of the many tragedies of the past two weeks that such views are no longer the exception.

Graphic

Photo: Magnus Johansson, Reuters; An elderly Palestinian woman walks in front an Israeli tank that was blocking the entrance of the Nativity square in the old part of Bethlehem this week. Some suspect the Israeli military incursion into the West Bank is meant not only to destroy militant Palestinian opposition, but to destroy the entire Palestinian civilian infrastructure.; Photo: Osama Silwadi, Reuters; Israeli soldiers patrol Ramallah yesterday, during a full curfew. Heavy fighting erupted in the northern West Bank yesterday as Israel pushed ahead with a military offensive.

Load-Date: April 7, 2002



The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 13, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: The Review; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 1637 words

Byline: EMANUEL PALTIEL LOWI

Body

I had just spent the day at an Islamic Jihad rally in Gaza City, photographing busloads of masked Palestinians as they marched with copies of the holy Koran thrust skyward amid the vast crowd's chants of "Death to the Jews."

A day earlier, I had crouched in an alleyway of Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp among a handful of <u>Hamas</u> gunmen while a patrol of Israeli soldiers rolled past, oblivious, in their Jeep.

Those were supposed to be the last moments of the Israeli military occupation in the mid-1990s, and the American photo agency Black Star had sent me to cover the events.

A day's work done, I was spending the night in Gaza at the home of a prominent Palestinian family so that I could be on the scene again come early morning.

One of the family's sons, about my age, spoke English well and we sat through the evening together talking about the situation around us.

Freelance

"Do you know what happened to the Jews in World War II?" he asked me at one point.

My thoughts flashed back to my elderly father still living out his years in the comfort of suburban Montreal.

My father had been a slave of the Nazis after much of his family was murdered and made to vanish in the Auschwitz chimneys.

My father spoke little about the war, yet he named me at birth after my own first cousin.

It was as if I was to preserve the boy's memory like a living replacement for the gravestone he - like of many Jewish boys - would never lie beneath.

"Yes, I know a little about the history," I told my Palestinian host, feeling instinctively this was not the ideal time to reveal what my religion was, not here, not in Gaza.

"We are like those Jews," my new friend insisted, clearly convinced and not a little convincing. "We are suffering just like they did."

- - -

These memories of years past came back to me again last week while I visited an old friend, an 81-year-old Jewish woman now living in Snowdon.

She had survived the Holocaust in Poland, fighting against the Nazis while hiding in the forests with the partisans.

Now, just a few days after Passover, we spoke in her kitchen of the miserable suicide bombing at the Netanya seder. This heroic woman sobbed to me with a grief I'd never seen in her before.

"They're killing us again," she cried. "For me, it's like the Holocaust has come back and started again."

I knew that a couple of weeks earlier two elderly Israelis were stabbed to death by a Palestinian assailant in the synagogue at Netzarim, a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Before he attacked, the killer drew a Nazi swastika on the synagogue's wall and beside it wrote "Allahu Akbar" - God is Great in Arabic.

Within days, Israeli troops began rounding up Palestinian men in the West Bank for interrogation.

Bound and blindfolded, the Arab prisoners' arms were also marked with identification numbers by the Israeli soldiers, a practice denounced almost immediately by Jews who still see the tattooed numbers etched into their skin by the Nazis.

The violence today between Israel and the Palestinians is raging beyond control. Attack follows attack; what some label resistance is countered by what others term pre-emptive operations, and suicidal massacres are matched by mechanized reprisals. A smashed Pandora's box has let slip enough evil to fuel generations of hatred to come.

Each tribe, the Israeli and the Palestinian, would have the world believe only their own particular dead are innocent. Equally abundant is the eagerness of both sides to assume the shabby mantle of victimhood.

According to many Israelis, even Palestinian <u>women</u> are responsible for terrorism, because they are the mothers who nurse their sacrificial sons with the milk of bloody martyrdom.

I recently worked in Israel for the daily newspaper Ha'aretz.

One day, while riding the bus to work in Tel Aviv, I joined the other passengers in listening to a noontime radio call-in show as we drove through traffic.

The host was discussing ways of deterring suicide bombers and one listener phoned in with her suggestion.

"Let's stop returning their bodies back to their villages for a proper burial," the caller said. "Let's sew their remains up inside the carcass of a dead pig, with the Arab inserted in the fetal position. That way, his mother will understand that she gave birth to a son of a pig. That will stop them."

The host listened without comment, without even remarking on the fact that contact with swine is forbidden to both Muslims and Jews.

The caller's suggestion has gained some currency since.

Many Palestinians believe there are no innocent Israelis, either. Elderly **women**, beardless boys - all Israelis once were or will soon be warriors in uniform. A stylish coffee shop or trendy disco, they say, is merely a waiting room for death-dealers who are just packing in some last-minute pleasure before turning to their true occupation.

- - -

I traveled not long ago to Ramallah - where Yasser Arafat has been encircled - to interview young Palestinians who were born in the United States.

They had enjoyed typical Midwestern boyhoods, complete with Little League games, fast pizza delivery, democracy and Disney World vacations.

When peace prospects looked bright a few years ago, their families returned to the West Bank to open competing Southern-fried-chicken restaurants.

But with hostilities flaring again late in 2001, the young men I met had switched from all-American to fundamentalist radical.

By the time I found them in a Ramallah, they were solid supporters of <u>Hamas</u>, deadliest of all the Palestinian factions.

This was the main attraction - they even had friends who'd become suicide bombers, they claimed proudly.

"In the streets the blood of the children flows out easily," poet Pablo Neruda wrote of the Spanish Civil War. "Like the blood of children."

The habits of a bad century still haunt us.

What chilled me most about the Ramallah youths was their ignorance of the fate of European Jewry between 1939 and 1945.

The man I'd spoken to in Gaza knew some history.

Now, with everything at stake, these enraged Intifada Palestinians were not even slightly interested in anyone else's past.

"Where should the Jews go?" one asked me rhetorically.

"That's America's problem, not mine. I want my land back, all of it, from the river to the sea. America is giving them the knife and telling the Jews to go kill us."

One of Judaism's greatest sages, Rabbi Hillel, who lived before the birth of Jesus, was once asked by a non-Jew to quickly explain the teachings of the Torah, Moses's five books.

"That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour," Hillel replied. "The rest is merely commentary."

Those dozen words captured the essence of the Jewish ethical code, gifted so long ago to all humanity.

I will not speak for the moral teachings of Islam, but neither do I have any doubt that the constant refrain of killings now is deepening two generations of hatred between Arabs and Israelis.

Worse, I fear it is withering - perhaps forever - the ethical traditions both peoples once claimed as theirs.

- - -

The Passover seder meal includes a curious and surely ancient ritual whereby Jews remind each other of the plagues visited upon the Egyptians.

The details are recited in a sombre tone that is explained by a midrash, a bit of Jewish legal lore.

As the Israelites watched Pharaoh's army drowning in the rejoined sea, the freed slaves were commanded by their divine liberator to never rejoice in the suffering of their enemies.

I heard from an Israeli friend this week there are people on the streets of Jerusalem who are more than merely satisfied by Sharon's army's actions in the West Bank.

"The level of racism against Palestinians is tremendous now - every one of them is regarded as a terrorist," she told me.

"There is a denial that we are doing anything wrong and there is the feeling that we are only victims."

She told me that a convoy of peace-minded Israelis and Arabs bringing food to an embattled and starving Palestinian village was harassed by Israeli troops who, it is reported, delighted in sadistically assaulting the demonstrators.

Just kilometres down the road, I know there were Israeli teenagers skateboarding across a shopping-mall plaza surrounded by lush rooftop gardens fit for a sultan.

We can only imagine what disgraces are unfolding where the battles still rage.

- - -

Wherever they are, Jews are always reconstructing their past for new purposes.

Somehow, though, even the establishment of Israel more than a half century ago has failed to heal the victims' wounds.

That is why what is going on now in Israel and the Palestinian territories is so dangerous.

Like many Jews, I was raised to believe that Israel's existence is a form of security for all Jews, and especially for those of us who live in other countries.

Yet this week, the chairman of the Jewish Agency - the organization that shepherds new immigrants into Israel - acknowledged publicly that the Israeli army's actions in the Palestinian territories could threaten Jews world-wide.

Recent attacks on Jewish institutions in Belgium, France and Canada - surely linked to events in the Middle East - seem to bear this out.

Perhaps the most poignant - and lasting - statement of Jewish ethics was once uttered by the late Israeli prime minister Golda Meir, when asked whether she had any regrets about the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We can forgive the Palestinians for killing our children," she said.

"But we cannot forgive them for making us kill their children."

- What do you think about this story and the situation in the Middle East in general? Log on to our Web site at canada.com/montreal and look for the Middle East story under Short Cuts.

Graphic

Photo: NASSER NASSER, AP; The wife of 26-year-old Kamal Badran (left) weeps with an unidentified mourner during his funeral at al Amari refugee camp in the besieged West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday. The family held the funeral after Israel lifted its curfew on Ramallah, allowing Palestinians to gather food.; Photo: PIER PAOLO CITO, AP; Relatives of Israeli army Staff Sgt. Lee Nahman Akunis grieve next to his coffin during his funeral service at a military cemetery, near Tel Aviv, on Feb. 17. Akunis was killed by gunmen at a roadblock he was patrolling with two other soldiers at Surda, north of Ramallah, in the West Bank.; Photo: EMANUEL PALTIEL LOWI, FREELANCE; U.S.-born Palestinians Suleiman al-Jamil, 20, (left) and his 19-year-old brother Tarek in Ramallah

last year. The two became solid supporters of *Hamas*, the deadliest of the Palestinian factions, and proudly claimed to have had friends who became suicide bombers.

Load-Date: April 13, 2002



Israel retaliates as bombings continue

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 2, 2002, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 520 words **Byline:** GREG MYRE

Body

TANKS rolled into Bethlehem yesterday, stopping just 500m from the Church of the Nativity which marks the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Earlier, tanks entered the West Bank town of Qalqiliya, marking a widening of the operation that began on Saturday when Israeli forces broke into the compound around Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office in Ramallah and took up positions just outside his office.

The latest move came in the wake of two suicide bombings yesterday. One in a Haifa restaurant left 15 Israelis dead.

MATP

Soldiers who trapped Mr Arafat in his office for a fourth day, battled armed Palestinians and searched a hospital signalling a widening of the offensive.

About 60 tanks, along with bulldozers, moved into Qalqiliya, said the Palestinian governor Mustafa Malki. The Israelis quickly took control of the town.

Several of the suicide bombers plaguing Israel have come from the northern West Bank, and a <u>female</u> bomber who hit Jerusalem on Friday came from the Bethlehem area.

In yesterday's Haifa blast, the bomber left a scene of flames and devastation.

"Even the moderately injured were on fire," said first-aid man Shimon Sabag. The <u>Hamas</u> group claimed responsibility.

Shortly afterwards, another bomber set off explosives at the Jewish settlement of Efrat near Jerusalem, killing himself and gravely wounding a paramedic who stopped him from entering the centre of the settlement.

The new Israeli military moves came hours after the two bombings and followed a short speech by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who said Mr Arafat was responsible for all the violence and pledged: "We will clean out the terrorist infrastructure from the foundations."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Sharon's speech was "void of substance, void of hope, void of realism." He said Sharon "slammed the door tonight in the face of all of those who are trying to de-escalate".

Israel retaliates as bombings continue

Meanwhile, a delegation of peace activists holding white flags marched past bewildered Israeli soldiers and into Mr Arafat's beseiged headquarters, leading Israel to declare Ramallah off limits to all foreigners, including reporters.

The Foreign Press Association protested the ban.

Earlier, Israeli forces stormed a building where Palestinian gunmen were thought to be hiding, killing five, according to a Palestinian inside.

In a statement, the Israeli military said "wanted men" were in the building and one of them, wearing an explosives belt, opened fire on the Israelis. The soldiers chased him and shot him dead.

The statement also said Israeli soldiers entered Ramallah Hospital looking for suspects, but "categorically denies claims of a mass murder and massacre at the hospital".

In a statement describing the military operation, called Protective Wall, the military chief of staff, Lt-General Shaul Mofaz, indicated it would be large-scale and lengthy.

Commander of the reserves, Brigadier General Ariel Hyman, said 20,000 soldiers would be called up.

In Ramallah, troops commandeered homes and buildings and then dug in. There were sporadic exchanges of fire.

Reporters saw two bodies of Palestinians lying in a street.

Load-Date: April 1, 2002



GIRL OF 18 KILLS TWO IN SECOND FEMALE SUICIDE ATTACK

The Express March 30, 2002

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 502 words

Body

A SCHOOLGIRL became the latest suicide bomber to die yesterday as Palestinians warned of "rivers of blood" if Yasser Arafat was harmed.

In a chilling threat, a key Arafat aide said "no Jew on earth" would be safe if Israel assassinated the Palestinian leader.

Eighteen-year-old Ayat Al Aqhras killed two Israelis when she detonated her explosives at the entrance to a supermarket in a working class district of Jerusalem yesterday afternoon.

One of those dead was believed to be a security guard who had pushed the bomber out of the shop, stopping even greater carnage. The supermarket was packed with Israelis stocking up before the Jewish sabbath.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade - a terrorist group directly commanded by Arafat.

Eyewitness Hanna Cohen was about to enter the shop when there was "a huge blast, and I saw people flying all around, arms and legs". At least 19 people were injured.

Witnesses said the bomber detonated an explosives belt she was wearing and that a mortar shell in her handbag failed to explode.

Outside the store yesterday afternoon a man sat on the steps, crying and hugging two small children. He was covered in white emulsion paint thrown out by the blast.

Al Aqhras is only the second <u>female</u> Palestinian suicide bomber out of 50 in the past 18 months. She lived in the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem.

As word of the bombing spread there some residents celebrated, handing out sweets and firing guns into the air. Aqhras left a recorded video message condemning Arab leaders for "watching while Palestinian <u>women</u>" fought to end Israeli occupation.

Palestinian leaders yesterday warned more bombs would follow.

"We will send dozens of suicide bombers inside Israel if President Arafat is harmed by the Zionists, " a member of Islamic terror group *Hamas* said through a loudspeaker during a large rally in Gaza City.

Ahmed Helles, secretary general of Arafat's national movement Fatah, said:

GIRL OF 18 KILLS TWO IN SECOND FEMALE SUICIDE ATTACK

"Blood will flow like a river and Israel will be drowned inside this river of blood. No Israeli and no Jew on earth will ever be secure."

Yesterday's blast was the second Palestinian suicide bombing since Wednesday's start of the Jewish Passover holiday.

A Palestinian bomber killed at least 22 Israelis celebrating the start of Passover in a hotel in the coastal city of Netanya on Wednesday, one of the most deadly attacks in 18 months of violence.

Elsewhere yesterday a Palestinian man stabbed two Israelis to death in a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip before being shot dead.

Both victims were in their seventies and were visiting relatives at the Netzarim settlement.

They were on their way to pray in the settlement's synagogue when they were attacked, one on the synagogue steps and the other nearby.

Meanwhile Israeli police stormed into the most sensitive religious site in the Holy Land.

They were responding to Moslems who had been throwing stones from the top of the Temple Mount on to Jews worshipping at the Western Wall below.

Load-Date: March 30, 2002



Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing

The Guardian (London)
May 7, 2003

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 7

Length: 521 words

Byline: Richard Norton-Taylor

Body

Israel has asked MI5 and the police to step up their operations against Islamist extremists after last week's suicide bombing by a British passport holder, but denied a report yesterday that it had sent Mossad agents to Britain.

Britain should adopt a "more cautious attitude" to those inciting people to commit attacks in Israel, an Israeli embassy spokeswoman said yesterday. She made it clear she meant that Israel wanted a less tolerant approach to individuals here and especially to certain Arabic websites.

One website, alsunnah.org, linked to the Centre of Islamic Studies in Birmingham, has been singled out. A spokesman for the centre said yesterday that accusations made against the centre were "baseless".

The Israeli embassy said yesterday's Daily Mail report that the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, had ordered Mossad to increase its operations in the UK was "not correct". Mossad agents had not visited Britain after the recent suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, it added.

A spokeswoman said the Israeli government had good relations with British agencies and would not presume to give recommendations to them.

British security sources are furious about suggestions that MI5 knew that the two men with British passports - Asif Mohammed Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif - were planning suicide bombings in Israel. Mr Sharif is still being hunted by the Israeli security services after his bomb failed to explode and he fled.

Even if, as alleged, individuals are known or suspected of having links with al-Muhajiroun, an extremist Islamist group that is high on rhetoric, it is difficult to discover their intentions, Whitehall sources say.

It is still not known when the two men decided to become suicide bombers, though it is believed that both crossed into Israel from a neighbouring country.

The security services are anxious to find out when the two men left Britain. It is known that Mr Sharif, and possibly Mr Hanif too, travelled to Syria, where they may have been persuaded and trained to carry out the attacks, possibly at camps run by Hizbullah or *Hamas*.

"Mossad is not allowed to do anything in Britain without the agreement of the government, and the security service in particular," a Whitehall source said yesterday.

Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing

A five-man cell and two Israeli diplomats were expelled in 1988 by Margaret Thatcher after the conviction of Ismael Sowan for storing a Palestine Liberation Organisation arms cache in a flat in Hull. Mr Sowan was a Mossad agent and Britain's security services had not been informed of the operation against a leader of an extreme PLO group, Abdul Rahim Mustafa, who was hiding in England.

After the expulsion, Mossad transferred its European liaison base to Belgium.

The government was already angry about the abduction in 1986 by a <u>female</u> Mossad agent of Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona, in the Negev desert.

He was drugged and taken back to Israel where he was sentenced to 18 years in jail for revealing that the country had secretly produced a cache of nuclear weapons. He has spent more than 11 years in solitary confinement.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: May 7, 2003



BOMBER STRIKES AT THE HEART OF ISRAEL

The Scotsman

May 8, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 1212 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield And Tim Cornwell

Body

A LULL in the war of attrition between Israel and the Palestinians ended yesterday when a suicide bomber struck at a snooker club in the central Israeli city of Rishon Letzion.

The city lies just south of Tel Aviv, the Mediterranean conurbation that is Israel's beating heart. Unlike Jerusalem, where the suicide bombs were heard almost weekly, Tel Aviv has maintained a semblance of normality - and a nightlife.

If Jerusalem is an ancient city of synagogues, churches, and mosques, Tel Aviv and its burgeoning, sunbaked suburbs would not be out of place in Los Angeles. It is far removed from the shell-scarred devastation of the West Bank. Until now, Rishon Letzion has been spared a suicide attack.

The bomber blew up a crowded snooker hall, killing at least 15 people and wounding more than 60.

"The bomber came suddenly into the club and blew himself up," said a police commander, Haim Cohen, who described the bomb as "very powerful." Israeli television stations said the explosive device was in a suitcase carried by the bomber.

<u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic Resistance Movement, showed its gift for timing, the instinct of the terrorist for derailing any semblance of peacemakinig. The last major suicide bomb hit an Israeli hotel as the Arab summit met in Lebanon to consider a Saudi Arabian peace plan.

This bombing came as Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, met President George Bush, with the US talking up plans for a Palestinian security force. It dashed fragile hopes for a cooling off of the Middle East confrontation and shattered a false sense of security that Israelis have been living with since the army launched an offensive in the West Bank five weeks ago.

The Army's boast for its operations were simple: while the troops were in Palestinian cities, the bombers did not cross the border.

The bomb ripped through the Shpiel Club snooker hall on Sakharov Street, at about 11pm. Rescue teams were on the scene within minutes, the ambulances screaming their way to three neighbouring hospitals.

There was no security guard at the entrance to the hall and it was operating without a licence, the Haaretz newspaper reported last night on its website.

BOMBER STRIKES AT THE HEART OF ISRAEL

Hanit Azoulay, who was driving past the building, said: "I was turning right and saw the building fly in front of my eyes. The entire floor simply flew."

One eyewitness said: "I just ran away from there. I don't know if it's a terror attack."

Another witness, who was filling up his car at an adjacent petrol station, added: "Glass blew up. People were screaming from the windows. It was a terrible scene. People covered with blood, screaming."

More than forty people were evacuated to hospital, police said. But rescue workers brought in heavy equipment to extract wounded from the rubble after the third floor of the building collapsed, Israel Television's Channel Two reported.

The death toll was widely expected to rise, with wounded trapped inside the building. A dozen of those evacuated to hospital were said to be seriously hurt.

Later in the night, at least one woman died of her injuries in hospital.

Yitzhak Duchovny, a commander with the Rishon Letzion police, told the Haaretz newspaper: "There are many wounded, and unfortunately some of them are killed."

It was the first suicide bombing since Israel launched its West Bank offensive on 29 March, with the stated objective of destroying "terrorist infrastructure" after a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings.

The offensive has wound down in recent days, with a pullout from Bethlehem awaiting a deal to end the siege of the Church of the Nativity.

Hopes for a resolution of that stand-off were set back earlier in the day when Italy refused to give refuge to Palestinian militia in accordance with an Israeli-Palestinian agreement brokered by the US and Britain.

It was not clear where the bomber had come from and there was no immediate claim of responsibility. But, before it became clear the blast came from a suicide assailant, Mahmoud Zahar, a leader of <u>Hamas</u> said that if it turned out to be a bombing, it was a response to what he termed Israeli "war crimes" carried out during the offensive.

Speaking from his home in Gaza City, he said: "We do not have any clear evidence or information except what we are seeing on TV, But if it is a martyrdom operation, it means that Israel has lost its war against the Palestinians and the Palestinian resistance has proved that it is capable of reaching the enemy everywhere."

A month ago, 14 people died in a suicide blast in a Tel Aviv shopping area. Even more horrific was the attack on a nightclub in June 2001, which killed 19 young Israelis.

In Washington, yesterday, Mr Sharon and Mr Bush were debating how to turn what appeared to be Israel's military victory into a peace process with reduced influence for the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. The bombing seemed likely to further reinforce US support for Mr Sharon's uncompromising approach towards the Palestinian issue. Last night, he broke off his US visit to head home immediately.

Attacks the killings that shocked the world

2001

- 1 December: Twelve people, including two suicide bombers, die in attack on a Jerusalem shopping centre.
- 2 December: Suicide bomber blows up bus in Haifa, killing 15 and wounding 100.

2002

27 January: Two people - one a *female* suicide bomber - die in attack in shopping area of central Jerusalem.

BOMBER STRIKES AT THE HEART OF ISRAEL

- 15 February: Three soldiers killed after roadside bomb destroys Israeli tank.
- 16 February: Two teenagers killed and 30 people injured in suicide bomb attack on a pizzeria in Karnei Shomron.
- 18 February: Car bomber detonates device at checkpoint, killing himself and policeman.
- 2 March: Nine killed, including two babies, and 57 injured in suicide bomb attack in ultra-Orthodox area of Jerusalem.
- 5 March: One person killed and several injured in suicide bomb attack on bus at Afula central bus station.
- 9 March: Eleven killed and 50 injured in suicide bomb attack on west Jerusalem cafe.
- 20 March: Seven people die in suicide bomb attack on bus carrying mainly Arab labourers.
- 21 March: Two people killed and 20 injured in suicide bomb attack in west Jerusalem.
- 22 March: Bomber kills himself and wounds Israeli soldier at checkpoint on Israel's border with West Bank.
- 26 March: Three injured in car-bomb blast near shopping centre in Jerusalem.
- 27 March: Bomber blows himself up in resort of Netanya, killing 28 Israelis celebrating Passover.
- 29 March: Woman bomber kills herself and two others at Jerusalem supermarket.
- 30 March: Suicide attack on Tel Aviv restaurant leaves bomber dead and 30 Israelis wounded.
- 31 March: Bomber attacks restaurant in Haifa, killing himself and 14 Israeli Jews and Arabs. Another bomber kills himself and wounds four in attack on Jewish settlement of Efrat, south of Bethlehem.
- 1 April: Car bomb explodes in west Jerusalem killing bomber and critically injuring policeman inspecting vehicle.
- 10 April: Suicide attack on bus near Haifa kills at least eight people, injures dozens more.
- 12 April: Suicide bomb at a bus stop in west Jerusalem kills at least six people and injures about 50 more.
- 7 May: A Palestinian suicide bomber kills 15 people and wounds at least 55 during a wedding party at a snooker club in central Israel; the blast ripped off the building's roof.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002



Who's behind those masks?: Suicide attackers no longer fit stereotype of lone, religious youth

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 24, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8

Length: 481 words

Byline: LAURA KING

Dateline: DEHEISHE REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank

Body

After the cafe explosion, the bus bombing or the carnage on a crowded Israeli street, the parents of the Palestinian suicide attacker can usually be counted on to express pride and declare their child a martyr headed directly to paradise.

But these days, some parents are more like Ahmed Draghemeh, a middle-class Palestinian electrician whose eyes showed only pain and bafflement. Until he heard his son's name on television, he said, he had no idea the teenager was planning to blow himself to pieces in order to kill Israelis.

AP

For years, Palestinian suicide attackers have tended to fit a standard profile: a lone, deeply religious youth, probably from a poor family, usually affiliated with a radical group like *Hamas* or Islamic Jihad.

As the Israeli-Palestinian conflict drags on, however - it will reach, later this month, the melancholy milestone of 11/2 years of unabated fighting - suicide bombers are beginning to depart from long-established norms.

In recent weeks, some attackers have been secular rather than religious, or <u>women</u> instead of men, or appeared politically indifferent, or grew up in an educated, middle-class family that would never have dreamed of such a bloody destiny for their child.

Such was the case with Ahmed Draghemeh's 17-year-old son, Mohammed, who carried out a March 2 attack in a religious neighbourhood of Jerusalem that killed 10 Israelis, including several infants and children, as people were emerging from their synagogues at the close of the Sabbath.

Mohammed had attended a Christian-run high school in Bethlehem. He was Muslim, but neither he nor his family were religiously observant. His father had never heard him talk about politics, or about Israeli soldiers' incursions in and around Bethlehem.

Before he carried out his attack, he - like many others - was photographed with an assault rifle and a backpack to be filled with explosives.

His father had nothing to say about shahids - martyrs- or paradise, or the Palestinian cause. He said he felt he didn't even know the boy in the picture - now made into a poster that dots the doors and walls of his refugee camp.

Who's behind those masks?: Suicide attackers no longer fit stereotype of lone, religious youth

"I cried when I saw it," Ahmed Draghemeh said, his hands trembling too badly to pour his coffee. "I couldn't believe this was my son, who grew up before my eyes. I never imagined he had in him this despair."

For Israelis, who have died by the scores in suicide attacks, this enlarging of the bomber pool is a nightmare - one for which Israeli officials blame Palestinian leaders from Yasser Arafat on down.

Most suicide attackers know their families will get financial support from the groups that recruited them. But many Palestinians, including those who oppose the use of violence, say it is the extremity of their daily plight - not money or leaders' rhetoric - that is driving a broader spectrum of Palestinians to suicide missions.

Load-Date: March 24, 2002



Faced with relentless attacks, Israel has a right to defend itself

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 4, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A15; OPINION

Length: 1190 words **Byline:** Rosie DiManno

Body

This is surely the most ignoble moment in the recent history of the Palestinian cause. And the most regrettable moment for Canada to weigh in with an intemperate attack on Israel for responding with force to the ceaseless murder, the shredding, of its innocent citizens.

There is nothing even vaguely honourable about teenage girls transforming themselves into suicidal assassins. There is nothing even remotely justifiable about six suicide bombers in the past week's Six Day War against Israel. Toronto Star

Yet the global outrage regarding at least 44 Israeli civilians killed in Palestinian attacks since last Wednesday -- Jews and Arabs, pregnant <u>women</u>, adolescents, families attending a Seder dinner, couples enjoying an increasingly rare social outing in a neighbourhood restaurant managed by Israeli Arabs -- has been eclipsed by a far louder chorus of condemnation for Israel's tactics in defending itself against an enemy that will not be placated, will not be shamed and will not be, it seems, held accountable for its crimes, not in the eyes of a world that has reminded Israel, yet again, that as a sovereign and persecuted nation, she is almost entirely on her own.

Only the United States, Israel's staunchest ally, has resisted the temptation to bash the victim. The White House, conflicted in its policy on the Middle East -- how to support Israel's right to combat terrorism, as America has been doing in Afghanistan, while at the same time continuing to cobble together a patchwork of even modest support among Arab nations for a looming attack on Iraq -- has flailed badly.

On the one hand, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's show of force against Yasser Arafat and the terrorist enclaves in the West Bank has been "not helpful," in the words of President George W. Bush.

On the other, as Bush told reporters from his Texas ranch during the weekend, in his strongest language yet, Israel has the indisputable right to defend itself against "a wave of suicide bombers coming to the heart of their cities and killing innocent people."

Clearly there is a clash of doctrine in this administration between the pro-Sharon Pentagon (Vice-President Dick Cheney is in this camp) and a State Department that leans towards political expedience, no matter how distasteful.

The White House can hardly be excoriated for being of two minds about the current horrors in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Only the most hardened adversaries in this crisis are without doubt about how this confrontation is being waged.

Faced with relentless attacks, Israel has a right to defend itself

But Bush and his advisers have been late to the scene, all but ignoring the escalating violence in recent months as Washington's attention was focused, if understandably, on that other war against terrorism, the one that targets Americans at home and abroad. This is all a bit much to handle, even for a superpower.

Yet even with the Arab world finally offering a first-draft solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict -- in the form of a hugely flawed Saudi Arabian peace proposal -- the feeling remains that the U.S. will have to intercede, aggressively, to compel the combatants to agree on a ceasefire that would at least permit discussions.

But that's all about a long-term solution. And battered, besieged Israel must contend for itself in forcing upon its enemies a short-term solution. Short-term means today, tomorrow, next week.

And since martyr-inflamed suicide bombers cannot be stopped, because some Palestinian fanatic -- incubated from childhood in the hate-mongering culture of a society that demonizes Jews, that desires above all to drive Israel into the sea -- will always be able to slip through even Israel's extensive security cowl, the only practical alternative is to scrape the neighbouring Palestinian enclaves clean of their terrorist refuges (including identified terrorists hiding in the rocketed remains of Arafat's compound), their stored munitions and their bomb-making labs.

Surely the first responsibility of a government is to defend its people. Israel is doing this, as best it can, without thus far resorting to use of its air force. Other than cries to call it off -- sheathe weapons, roll back tanks -- there has been not a single useful piece of advice for Israel from a fretful world.

Suck it up! the world shrieks, until the diplomats can negotiate a way out of this mess. Show restraint! As if restraint has ever done anything other than embolden <u>Hamas</u>, or Islamic Jihad, or other assorted purveyors of violence against Israel.

Canada, a country that invoked the War Measures Act against a handful of terrorizing separatists, has not a whit of moral imperative in, according to the National Post, condemning Israel's "disproportionate use" of military force against the Palestinians.

How would we respond to suicide attacks on a Yorkville bistro, a Montreal hotel, a Vancouver mall, especially if we knew the terrorist groups responsible?

Make truce, the Israelis are beseeched, even though the assailants are numerous, accountable to no central authority -- certainly not Arafat, who has tacitly promoted violence even within his own corrupt organization, while having no credibility among such terrorist groups as *Hamas* or Islamic Jihad.

Sharon has proved himself to be an incompetent and unwise prime minister -- his widely decried visit to the Temple Mount provoked this latest intefadeh -- but he is, in the very least, an accomplished military man.

He is undoubtedly obsessed with Arafat -- if he can't kill him (he has promised he won't), he will isolate and humiliate him -- but the Palestinian leader has been operating in Ramallah at the express sufferance of Israel, via a promise not to promote violence or give sanctuary to terrorists.

Yet Arafat, madly working his mobile phone, has not once in the past week condemned the murder of Israeli civilians, nor given any indication that negotiations for peace are on his immediate agenda.

In the process, as suicide bombers and those who send them on their evil deeds continue murdering innocents, so much public sympathy towards the Palestinian cause is being trashed.

The Palestinian terrorists seem hell-bent to slay as many Israelis as they can, whilst claiming that this is all they have left -- to use their own bodies as killing machines.

The Israelis, aggrieved and enraged, now seem just as hell-bent to punish, and kill, as many purported Palestinian terrorists as they can.

Faced with relentless attacks, Israel has a right to defend itself

But this is not tit-for-tat bloodshed. It's an aggressor, Palestinians, against a reviled occupier, Israel, a lonely democracy surrounded by hostile Arab nations.

To promote peace, Israel is expected to forfeit slim buffers of land seized 35 years ago, when it was attacked by these same neighbouring hostile nations.

There is no assurance that giving Palestinians what they seek, perhaps even what they're justified in demanding, will ensure regional security for Israel. Land-for-peace is not a formula endorsed by Israel's fiercest enemies.

I certainly have no wise counsel for Israel. But a flayed nation that has always fought its own battles certainly needs no clucking counsel from me, or my government.

Rosie DiManno is a columnist with The Toronto Star.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Officials inspect the scene where a suicide bomber detonated an explosive in a main shopping area in the centre of Jerusalem late last month, killing himself and two bystanders and wounding 60. There have been more than 60 suicide bombings in the last 18 months.

Load-Date: April 4, 2002



Israelis renew attacks; 14 Palestinians killed: Powell plans peacekeeping mission

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 8, 2002 Monday

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Section: Pg. a9

Length: 1188 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

Israeli troops fought fierce battles with Palestinians in the West Bank on Sunday, encountering stiff resistance in the crowded Jenin refugee camp and in the winding alleyways of Nablus' Old City.

At least 14 Palestinians were killed in Nablus, where dead bodies were sprawled along narrow, rubble-filled streets on the 10th day of Israel's offensive to weed out militants staging deadly terror attacks on its civilians.

The renewed fighting came as Secretary of State Colin Powell, due in the region this week to try to resolve the crisis, said that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has "taken very much to heart" President Bush's call Saturday for an immediate withdrawal from Palestinian areas.

But Powell noted that the Israeli leader has yet to set a timetable for a pullback and Bush has not demanded one. "The president doesn't give orders to a sovereign prime minister of another country," Powell said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

In a phone conversation late Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres asked Powell to intervene with Lebanon and Syria to calm the border. They also discussed possibilities for a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, according to a statement from Peres' office.

At the beginning of the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, Sharon defended the offensive, calling it "a war for our homes."

"We have no interest in dragging it out, but we have to do the job," Sharon told Israel TV.

With international pressure mounting and the U.N. Security Council scheduling consultations on the crisis later Sunday, there were hints of friction between the Israeli government and its military command. Officers sought more time for the West Bank military operation, but Cabinet ministers talked of bringing it to an end.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the military should operate as long as possible to "clean out terrorism" in the West Bank, but acknowledged that in light of Bush's demand, "our hourglass is running out."

However, the army's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz told the Cabinet he needed eight weeks to complete the job, according to Israel Radio.

"The critical element is time," he said later in a briefing to reporters. "We need time to get to all the centers of terrorism in the West Bank and Gaza."

Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, chief of military planning, warned that if the army pulls out too soon, "then another series of devastating terror attacks will hit Israel's cities and streets. And then we'll go (back) in."

Israeli troops have taken over most Palestinian population centers in the West Bank in their 10-day-old offensive, Israel's biggest in two decades. But the fighters in Jenin and Nablus have prevented the Israelis from taking full control of the cities and conducting house-to-house searches for militants, as has been the case elsewhere in the West Bank.

Powell said both sides would have to do more to end the fighting.

"Until the violence goes down at least to a level where you can see that both sides are acting in a responsible way and trying to cooperate in a cease-fire, you're not going to get to a peace agreement," Powell said.

He said he would meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "if circumstances permit" - depending on security, access and the meeting agenda.

Israeli tanks and troops maintained their positions just outside Arafat's office in the town of Ramallah, but for the fourth straight day the fighting was focused on Nablus and Jenin in the northern part of the West Bank.

Palestinians said gunmen held Israeli troops at bay on the edge of the Old City in Nablus, with its winding, dusty alleys and close-packed buildings, ideal locations for snipers. Israel called in attack helicopters to fight the entrenched gunmen.

Israeli tanks were shelling targets in Nablus on Sunday afternoon, witnesses said. At least 14 Palestinians were killed during the day's fighting, Palestinians said.

Nablus Governor Mahmoud Aloul said there were dead bodies in an old mosque and 65 of the wounded were receiving treatment there because ambulances could not get in.

Among those killed Sunday was Ahmed Tabouk, 38, a militia leader linked to Arafat's Fatah movement. His body was in a field as gunbattles kept Palestinians from retrieving it.

It was a similar scene in the Nablus streets, where Palestinians could not remove the dead bodies of fallen fighters because of the intense shooting. The streets are carpeted with fragments of stone and cement that have been blasted from buildings, and the Palestinians have set up burning tire barricades to obscure the vision of Israeli troops.

"We have found explosives laboratories, including one which was very advanced and well equipped, with a production line from the raw materials to the finished product," said Israeli Col. Aviv Kochavi, head of the paratroops brigade fighting in the Old City.

"We are moving forward slowly but surely, mostly on foot," he said. "Here and there we managed to get armored vehicles in, where the street was wide enough."

Israel has barred reporters from Nablus and other areas where the military is operating in the West Bank, though the measure has not been enforced consistently.

There was also fierce fighting in the Jenin refugee camp, 25 miles north of Nablus, where the militant <u>Hamas</u> group said one of its local leaders, Ashraf Abu Al Haijga, was killed in a gunfight with the Israelis.

Israeli soldiers fought their way to the center of the Jenin camp Sunday morning, Israel Radio reported.

Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Ron Kitrey told The Associated Press that "we are on the verge of ending the fighting in the refugee camp." But he added that soldiers would seek to round up militants and would not immediately leave the area. "The resistance was very tough, perhaps tougher than expected," he said.

In the camp, a leader of the militant <u>Hamas</u>, Abdel Salaam, said people are confined to their homes. "We are talking to each other through windows only when the shelling stops," he said in a call on his mobile phone.

Since the Israeli incursion began March 29, more than 95 Palestinians have been killed in West Bank fighting, along with more than 10 Israeli soldiers. Also, 1,413 Palestinians have been detained, including 361 who were on Israel's wanted lists, and more than 1,400 rifles have been confiscated, the military said in a statement.

In Bethlehem, a standoff between Israeli forces and gunmen and clerics holed up in the Church of the Nativity continued for a sixth day. Through the night, Israeli soldiers using loudspeakers demanded that the gunmen surrender, but they remained inside the church marking the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

In Gaza, meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians who were planting a large bomb near a Jewish settlement, the military said.

Also, guerrillas in Lebanon opened fire on Israeli border posts, wounding six soldiers, including four <u>women</u>, the military said. The Israelis responded with artillery and tank fire. Sharon charged that Iran and Syria were trying to widen the Palestinian-Israeli fighting to another front, and Mofaz said Israel would hit back at Lebanese power centers if "red lines are crossed."

Load-Date: April 14, 2002



Chronology of suicide bombings

Ottawa Citizen

January 6, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A6; Chronology

Length: 566 words

Body

2000:

Oct. 26 -- Soldier hurt near Israeli army post in Gaza Strip.

2001:

March 4 -- Three Israelis killed, 68 hurt in Netanya.

March 28 -- Two Israeli teenagers killed in Newe Yamin.

Reuters

April 22 -- Doctor killed, 41 hurt in Kfar Saba.

May 18 -- Five killed, about 60 hurt at Netanya shopping mall.

June 1 -- Twenty-two people die as teenagers wait to enter Tel Aviv nightclub.

July 16 -- Two soldiers killed at Binyamina bus stop.

Aug. 9 -- Fifteen killed in Jerusalem pizza restaurant.

Sept. 9 -- Israeli Arab kills three at Nahariya station.

Nov. 29 -- Palestinian kills three on bus in Hadera.

Dec. 1 -- Ten killed and 150 hurt in Palestinian suicide bombing and car bomb in Jerusalem.

Dec. 2 -- Suicide bomber kills 15 people and wounds 40 when he blows himself up on Haifa bus.

2002:

Jan. 27 -- Two killed and 111 hurt on the Jaffa Road in Jerusalem. First attack by a woman.

Feb. 16 -- Two dead, 20 hurt at Karnei Shomron Jewish settlement.

March 2 -- Five children, four others killed in Jerusalem.

March 5 -- One killed, five wounded on bus in Afula.

Chronology of suicide bombings

- March 9 -- Thirteen dead, more than 50 hurt in crowded cafe near Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Jerusalem residence.
- March 20 -- Six dead, 27 wounded on bus near Umm al-Fahm.
- March 21 -- Three killed in heart of West Jerusalem.
- March 27 -- Suicide bomber blows himself up in Park Hotel in resort town of Netanya, killing 29 and wounding more than 100.
- March 29 -- Woman blows herself up at supermarket in Kiryat Yovel suburb of Jerusalem, killing two and wounding at least 20.
- March 31 -- Fifteen killed, 44 hurt at restaurant run by Israeli Arabs in Haifa. A second suicide attack wounds six at the Jewish settlement of Efrat in West Bank.
- April 10 -- Eight dead, 12 hurt on bus near Haifa.
- April 12 -- *Female* suicide bomber blows herself up at Jerusalem's main outdoor market, killing six and wounding 90.
- May 8 -- Fifteen dead, 60 hurt at snooker club in Rishon Letzion south of Tel Aviv.
- May 19 -- Three killed, 35 hurt at Netanya market.
- May 22 -- Two dead, 27 hurt in Rishon Letzion.
- May 27 -- Two dead, 50 hurt outside shops in Petah Tikva.
- June 5 -- Seventeen killed, dozens wounded at the Megiddo junction by car bomb next to bus. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for attack.
- June 11 -- Teenage girl killed at sandwich shop in Herzliya.
- June 18 -- Nineteen dead, 50 hurt on bus packed with schoolchildren and commuters in Jerusalem.
- June 19 -- Seven killed, 35 wounded at Jerusalem bus stop.
- July 17 -- Two suicide bombers kill three and wound 40 in Tel Aviv's foreign worker neighbourhood.
- Aug. 4 -- Suicide bomber explodes device next to bus near Mount Meron. Nine killed, 25 wounded. <u>Hamas</u> claims responsibility.
- Sept. 18 -- Police officer killed, two wounded at bus stop near Umm al-Fahm. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.
- Sept. 19 -- Six people killed, 50 wounded when bomber detonates explosives in bus near Tel Aviv's main synagogue.
- Oct. 10 -- One dead, 12 hurt on bus near Tel Aviv.
- Oct. 21 -- Car bomb explodes next to bus between Hadera and Afula. Fourteen killed, 50 wounded.
- Oct. 27 -- Three dead, about 20 hurt outside Ariel settlement.
- Nov. 4 -- Two killed, 15 hurt at shopping mall in Kfar Saba.
- Nov. 21 -- Eleven killed on bus in Jerusalem suburb of Kiryat Menahem. At least 49 wounded.

2003:

Chronology of suicide bombings

Jan. 5 -- At least 23 dead, 126 hurt in two Tel Aviv blasts.

Load-Date: January 6, 2003



PLO URGED TO STAND BY CEASEFIRE

Scotland on Sunday

January 27, 2002, Sunday

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Section: Pg. 23

Length: 1133 words **Byline:** Ross Dunn

Body

THE Palestinian cabinet yesterday called on Palestinians to cease all attacks on Israel in a vain attempt to appease US and Israeli anger over continuing militant activity.

The statement was a repeat of Yasser Arafat's truce declaration before Christmas, but it is unlikely to persuade the Israeli tanks to lift their siege of Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. Israel has said that Arafat will not be allowed to leave until suspects in the killing of a cabinet minister are arrested.

Arafat is becoming diplomatically as well as physically isolated. Not only do <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad continue their attacks on Israel in defiance of his orders, but the US has threatened to cut off diplomatic relations. George W Bush said he was "very disappointed" with Arafat over an arms shipment that was intercepted earlier this year.

The Palestinian's power base has been restricted to a heavily guarded compound in Ramallah where youths sling stones at the besieging Israelis. The youths flee as tear gas is fired back at them from the Israeli soldiers, and huddle inside a bus shelter, where they have raised the Palestinian flag in defiance of the military siege that has been laid at the door of their leader.

A group of Palestinian artists from Jerusalem have set up a protest tent, among them Suleiman Mansour.

He said that there would only be peace not when Arafat departs but when Israel realises that it must end its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, the areas it seized during the 1967 Middle East war. "They (the Israelis) have been occupying us for the last 35 years and they just want an excuse to just keep occupying this land," he said.

Like the prominent Palestinian analyst Mahdi Abdul Hadi, he believes that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, is attempting to use force to implement his decades-old dream to force the Palestinians to live in a series of cantons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He is also adamant that Israel and the Palestinians are not at war. He asks how could they be, if only one side has weapons? But this is of course is to deny reality. Israel has the clear military superiority but the Palestinians, through suicide bombings and gun attacks, have waged a deadly guerrilla warfare that has thrown the Jewish state into panic.

On Friday, a Palestinian blew himself up in a mall in Tel Aviv, injuring 26 people and prompting Israeli air strikes against Palestinian security targets in the Gaza Strip.

A few days earlier, a Palestinian gunman sprayed bullets into the downtown area of Jerusalem killing two Israeli **women** before he was shot dead by police.

PLO URGED TO STAND BY CEASEFIRE

The recent seizure of an arms ship headed from Iran to the Gaza Strip and the firing of rockets by the militant *Hamas* group, also indicates that the Palestinians are determined to emerge as a serious strategic threat.

The United States government is finding it harder to accept Arafat's version of events, despite his appeal over the weekend to all Palestinian factions to uphold a "comprehensive cease-fire and stop (military) operations against Israel and Israelis".

Arafat said such operations do not serve the Palestinian "national cause at all".

His appeal followed intense pressure from President George W. Bush . A spokesman for Arafat called on the United States not to cut ties with the Palestinian Authority, saying this would in his words, "cause an earthquake" in the Middle East.

The spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeinah, issued the warning after the White House considered cutting ties with Arafat or at the very least demanding that he make arrests over the arms smuggling scandal.

President Bush said he was "very disappointed" with Arafat over the affair and accused those behind the operation of attempting to enhance "terror".

Israeli military planners are warning of future nightmare scenarios under which the country would be faced by deadly attacks from within the Palestinian areas, at the very same time it was faced with external threats along its borders.

"The transition from a peace process to an armed conflict with the Palestinians has had its impact on the way Israel sees the next war," wrote Aluf Benn, in the daily Hebrew newspaper Ha'aretz. " The threat of terror and attacks on the home front take up a central role... In that kind of war Israel would escalate its conflict with the Palestinians, with full-force Israeli Defence Force invasions of Palestinian cities."

At the same time, the Israeli strategists do not refer to any wish to permanently reoccupy Palestinian cities, but simply to raid them periodically in an effort to ensure they do not pose a major military threat.

This is also the current strategy as Arafat remains a prisoner in his West Bank headquarters, where the scene is one of a military and political stand -off between himself and Sharon.

No one believes that the Israeli soldiers will be given the order to fire at the compound and kill Arafat. This is still not seen as an option, nearly 20 years after Sharon and Arafat faced off during Israel's invasion of Lebanon, which drove out the guerrilla forces of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

One of the most dramatic moments of the Lebanon war came at the end of the summer of 1982, when Arafat stood on a pier in the port of Beirut, waiting for a ship to evacuate him and his men.

An Israeli sniper who had been tracking Arafat reported that he had the Palestinian leader in his sights and called for permission to open fire.

Sharon, who was defence minister at the time, called the then prime minister, Menachem Begin to ask for his approval. Begin refused, saying Israel had promised the US government that Arafat would not be harmed, as long as he left Lebanese soil. Now Sharon carries the ultimate responsibility of giving such an order but the dynamics have not changed.

Once again he has Arafat in his sights but in the face of international pressure, Sharon has yet to show the nerve to command his snipers to pull the trigger.

Sharon may continue to humiliate the Palestinian leader but he still does not believe he has the legitimacy to harm him physically, let alone take his life.

PLO URGED TO STAND BY CEASEFIRE

Such a drastic step would not only grant Arafat the honour of martyrdom, but risk drawing Israel into a conflict with all Palestinians, perhaps the entire Arab world and isolating the Jewish state internationally.

Arafat may not be the leader with whom Israel wants to negotiate and even Arab leaders appear to have deserted him in his hour of need, hardly raising a protest over his confinement in Ramallah. But he has spent decades implanting the idea that he is an icon of his people and the two are inseparable. As the artist, Mansour put it: "He is a symbol of the Palestinian people and Israel are attacking the Palestinian people when they attack Yasser Arafat."

Load-Date: January 28, 2002



WE'RE COMING TO GET YOU;

THE US SAYS HIZBOLLAH IS A BUNCH OF EVIL TERRORISTS WHO
SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE LEBANESE SET-UP INSISTS IT'S LITTLE
MORE THAN A GROUP OF DO-GOODERS. AND ANDREW MULLER
DISCOVERS THAT, WELL, PERHAPS THEY'RE BOTH RIGHT

Independent on Sunday (London)

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Length: 3845 words

Byline: Andrew Muller Men in Haret Hreik worship at a sermon preached by one of; Hizbollah's spiritual leaders From left: Hizbollah flags and pictures of members killed 'in action' hang in Beirut; a Hizbollah parade in south; Lebanon; a Hizbollah meeting; and the movement's leader, Hassan Nasrallah.; Below: the US Embassy in Beirut

following a car bomb in 1983; and the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847

Body

Say what you will about Hizbollah, it has brand recognition. In 20 years of existence, the Arabic name of the Lebanon-based, Iranian-backed Party of God has become as intractably associated with terrorism in the Western imagination as Coca-Cola has with cola. Hizbollah is a key that instantly unlocks a bank of news memories: pistols waved from the cockpit of a hijacked airliner; a colossal hole in the ground that was once a US Marines barracks; the wreckage of a US embassy blocking a Beirut street; weekly, then monthly, then yearly updates of the plight of kidnap victims - most famously, western journalists Terry Anderson and John McCarthy, Irish teacher Brian Keenan and the man who attempted to negotiate their release, Terry Waite.

Though Hizbollah denies involvement in any of the above, on 5 October last year the US State Department included Hizbollah on its list of 28 "Designated Foreign Terrorist Organisations", bracketing it with such un-savoury company as Osama bin Laden's al-Qa'ida, Tokyo subway poisoners Aum Shinrikyo, Omagh bombers the Real IRA, murderous Basque separatists ETA, and the unapologetically violent Palestinian group *Hamas*. Of the 22 men on the FBI's list of Most Wanted Terrorists, three - Ali Atwa, Hasan Izz-Al-Din and Imad Fayez Mugniyah - are described as members of Hizbollah. Each is accused of participating in the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847 (the airliner, commandeered while flying between Athens and Rome, was ordered to Beirut, then to Algiers, then back to Beirut, where one passenger, US Navy diver Robert Statham, was shot), and each has \$ 25m on his head.

All organisations accused of being terrorists object to being called terrorists, and all organisations accused of being terrorists accuse those who accused them of being terrorists themselves. In itself, the term has become all but meaningless. Since 11 September, however, to be called a terrorist by the US is to be put on notice. How do those on the receiving end of this attention explain themselves?

I wish I could report that getting in touch with Hizbollah so that they could answer this question necessitated weeks of negotiation in dusty bazaars, being hustled blindfold to meetings with glowering swashbucklers hunkered amid

piles of rifles in sandbagged basements. But, actually, I just e-mailed the group via <u>www.hizbollah.org</u> and said I'd like to come and visit.

Hizbollah's Central Information Office is in the south Beirut suburb of Haret Hreik. A maze of tumbledown highrises criss-crossed by cats'- cradles of jerry -rigged television cables, it is clearly marked turf. There are statues of Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini, posters of Hizbollah secretary-general Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and pictures of Hizbollah members killed during Israel's occupation of Lebanon. The Pizza Hut around the corner from Hizbollah's office must be the most incongruous outlet of the establishment on Earth.

I am greeted by Hizbollah's press officer, Hussein Naboulsi, a funny, sharp, smartly dressed 35-year-old who has been working for the movement since it began to coalesce following Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Hizbollah has put together a programme for me, Hussein says. They want me to see what they really do, or at least the part of what they really do that they're happy for journalists to see - my request to see a Hizbollah military base receives dismissive looks. My request to meet one of Hizbollah's \$ 25m men provokes incredulous laughter. The TWA hijacking is a subject Hizbollah does not care to discuss, and when I ask Hussein about this, or about the suicide bombings of US and French installations in Lebanon in the early 1980s, which killed hundreds, and the rash of kidnappings at around the same time - all of which the US blames on Hizbollah - he sounds almost hurt.

"We had no presence back then," says Hussein. "There was a civil war here. Everyone had a gun and anyone could have kidnapped a journalist."

By coincidence, I have arrived in Beirut on the 10th anniversary the release of former Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson. In an interview published in that morning's edition of Lebanon's English-language paper, The Daily Star, Anderson describes the people who held him for nearly seven years as Hizbollah members and you'd have to imagine that he got to know his captors fairly well, if only to pass the time.

"We have no connection with what happened in the past," reiterates Hussein, when I mention the article. I will eventually figure out that "the past", as far as Hizbollah is concerned, is any period of time in which something happened that they don't feel happy talking about. "We are," says Hussein, "the most civilised party in the world. If we were a party with no honour or dignity, nobody would give us their vote."

Hizbollah's campaign to convince me of its compassionate nature begins with the Al-Jarha Establishment in Haret Hreik. Al-Jarha is a haven for Hizbollah's wounded veterans, and civilians permanently injured by Lebanon's interminable internecine wars; men in wheelchairs, or on crutches, or missing limbs, make furniture and artworks which are sold to raise money for the hospice. Their biggest-selling items are woodcuts of Hizbollah's logo, which depicts a rifle clutched in a fist sprouting from one of the letters of Hizbollah's name.

Mohammad Younis, 32, tells me how since recovering from a leg wound he has applied his training as an architect to adapt the homes of disabled veterans. One of those who has benefited from his expertise, 35-year-old Ali Haydar, lost his right arm 10 years ago, but says this has not stopped him becoming the scourge of Al-Jarha's billiard table. "I fought Israel because they took our land," says Ali. "And now you see what is implied about us by America."

Hizbollah's rank-and-file seem genuinely perplexed by the characterisation of them as the enemies of civilisation. They insist that they are simply a people's militia raised in response to foreign occupation of their country. Now that their war with Israel is won - Israel ended its frequently brutal occupation of Lebanon in May 2000 - Hizbollah is at pains to present itself as a kind of a Salvation Army with rifles and rockets instead of trombones and tambourines.

Ingenuous though this notion is, there is more to Hizbollah than dimly remembered headlines might lead one to think. Eight elected Hizbollah deputies sit in Lebanon's parliament. Hizbollah owns or funds several Lebanese hospitals, schools, sports clubs, cultural societies, construction companies, agricultural co-ops and charities. It also runs a weekly newspaper (Al-Ahid), a television channel (Al-Manar) and a radio station (Al-Nour).

Al-Nour - the name translates as "The Light" - is housed in a labyrinthine basement in Haret Hreik. The underground location was a necessity of wartime and it plans to move to new offices soon. Al-Nour does not feel like a bastion of revolutionary desperadoes: the walls are freshly painted, the equipment is modern, the staff - many of them <u>women</u>, as is pointed out to me twice - are courteous, and a corner table in the office of the general manager, Youseff Al-Zein, is stacked with awards from Arab broadcasting associations.

"We're here to support the resistance," says Youseff, "but we have all kinds of programmes. And we have exclusive rights to the Lebanese football league."

Conversation with Youseff is difficult, and not just because it is conducted through a translator. As is the case with most Hizbollah members I meet, it is impossible to intercept him before he embarks on a prolonged monologue outlining Israel's serial wrongdoings and the US's complicity in them. For an organisation that won't talk about what happened in its own country as recently as the early 1980s, it has a remarkable enthusiasm for discussing what happened in the country next door in 1967 and 1948. When Youseff eventually draws breath, I deflect him with a question about AI -Nour's musical policy.

"We like some European classical composers," says Youseff. "We play Beethoven, and Mozart. But we mostly play revolutionary songs, recorded in the current period."

I ask to hear a few of these. To my surprise, the three "revolutionary songs" the engineers play me have no discernible Arabic musical influence. Instead, they borrow heavily from 1980s synthesiser pop. "Hizbollah's Song" resembles a Norwegian Eurovision Song Contest entry. "Hizbollah Are Victorious" sounds like a cross between a military march and, ironically, "The Lebanon" - the Human League's unforgettably asinine commentary on Hizbollah's homeland. "The Resistance Is The Honour Of Lebanon" suggests a disco version of the "Knights Of The Round Table" singalong from Monty Python & The Holy Grail.

They also play me a 20-minute musical dramatisation of a 1996 Hizbollah action in which an Israeli patrol near Marjayoun was struck by two roadside bombs, killing four soldiers. The accompaniment is samples of Van-gelis instrumentals. The narration is provided by the guerilla who ran the operation, his voice distorted to prevent it being recognised. A gruesome verite is added by what I am told are the screams and oaths of injured and terrified Israeli soldiers.

Hizbollah's television station, Al-Manar - Arabic for "The Beacon" - is housed in a new building in Haret Hreik. While my bag is searched in the marble lobby, a television monitor shows Al-Manar's current output: footage of recent fighting between Israelis and Palestinians set to techno music. When the pictures change to funerals and maimed Palestinian children, the music shifts to gentle Arabic pop. The screen then fades to a commercial break, the advertised products both local and foreign - including German chocolate Milka and American washing powder Ariel. I wonder, idly, if anyone has ever tried to sell Israelis a cleaning product called Yasser.

I ask the chairman of Al-Manar's board of directors, Nayef Krayem, 37, if Al -Manar puts any kind of spin on its news. "No," he says. "We broadcast what <u>Hamas</u> says, what Arafat says, what the Israelis say, what America says. Our reporting is objective."

The biggest Middle East news story before I arrived had been the <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers in Jerusalem and Haifa who killed 25 civilians. Nayef objects to the term "suicide bomber".

"Those were martyrs' operations," he says.

Do you present those martyrs as heroes?

"Of course."

But they killed shoppers, commuters... people every bit as innocent as those murdered by the 11 September hijackers. Did Al-Manar offer the attackers the same respect?

"That did not occur in occupied territories, so they are not considered martyrs. Hizbollah is against what happened in America."

This is probably true. The Hizbollah press statement issued on 16 September was hardly a condemnation of 11 September but it wasn't an endorsement. "We are sorry," the concluding paragraph read, "for any innocent people who are killed anywhere in the world. The Lebanese, who have suffered repeated Zionist massacres in Qana and elsewhere, massacres that the US administration refused to condemn at the UN Security Council, are familiar with the pain and suffering of those who lost their loved ones in bitter events."

I ask Nayef how safe he feels working here - Al-Manar is a large, obvious building, and the US has demonstrated that it regards hostile media organisations as legitimate targets, bombing Radio Television Serbia in Belgrade and, during the war in Afghanistan, the Kabul headquarters of Arab broadcaster Al-Jazeera.

"We have another base ready in case that happens," says Nayef, "but if I was killed here I would be a martyr."

As I leave Al-Manar's offices, they're showing a cookery programme.

'Look, we're not the Taliban,' says Abdullah Kassir. Kassir, 43, is a member of Hizbollah's central board and is now serving his second term as a deputy in Lebanon's parliament.

"We don't deny our Islamic way of thinking," he continues, "but we don't want to make it compulsory. We are happy for Lebanon to be a democracy."

Beirut is being rebuilt at an astonishing pace. In 10 years, its downtown and seafront will look more like Seattle or Boston than Damascus or Teheran. The streets already glow with all the familiar trademarks of international capitalism. I ask Abdullah what view Hizbollah takes of this. "Well, my children will never eat at McDonald's," he laughs. "In our society, unfortunately, there is a tendency to imitate America and the West in general. We won't fight that aggressively. We just don't think it's a solution." I ask if he is annoyed about being called a terrorist by the US.

"No. Even before 11 September, they've categorised countries and organisations, but never based on facts. They are terrorists themselves - they supported terrorism in El Salvador as they support Israeli terrorism now. Hizbollah has never acted as terrorists. We formed to resist terrorism - if it wasn't for Israeli terrorism, Hizbollah wouldn't exist."

Israel's ultimate responsibility for Hizbollah's creation - and Israel's ultimate responsibility for a lot more besides - is taken up a couple of days later by Hizbollah's deputy secretary-general, Sheikh Naim Qassem. My translator and I have travelled to my previous appointments in taxis, but for this meeting we are led to a hidden garage improvised from girders and blankets, and ushered into a black Mercedes with tinted windows.

Sheikh Qassem is the only Hizbollah member I meet who does not wear western clothes, though the shoes beneath his robes are smart leather loafers. He looks older than his 49 years but is an affable sort whose grey beard splits frequently to reveal a gleaming white smile. I ask him if anything has changed for Hizbollah since 11 September.

"No," he says. "Because conditions here didn't change. There are still Israelis in Shebaa Farms, there are still Lebanese detainees in their jails, we still have Palestinian refugees here in Lebanon, Israeli planes are still flying in Lebanese airspace and the Israeli navy is still sailing in Lebanese waters."

What did he think on 11 September? "I was surprised. It was clearly an act against Amer-ican interests, but because innocent civilians were killed, we issued a declaration expressing our point of view." I ask if he could explain the moral difference between flying civilian airliners into office blocks, which Hizbollah opposes, and <u>Hamas</u> bombing cafes in Jerusalem, which Hizbollah supports? "<u>Hamas</u>," he says, "is part of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinians are surrounded in a small area. The Israelis are attacking them. The whole Israeli society is armed."

This justification - that killing Israeli civilians is acceptable because nearly all Israelis serve in the Israeli military - is one I have heard from other Hizbollah members, often shortly after they've complained about the killing of Lebanese civilians by Israeli forces pursuing Hizbollah. "The Palestinians have to defend themselves. As they don't have capabilities equal to the Israeli military, they have no choice but sacrifice," says Sheikh Qassem.

I ask if Hizbollah co-operates with <u>Hamas</u>. Sheikh Qassem's response is candid. "We support their way of operating, we consider that they are right, but their geographic region is different to ours. There is limited co-operation, as conditions permit."

What kind of co-operation?

"Those are details we don't speak about."

Other details Sheikh Qassem doesn't speak about are the three alleged Hizbollah members on the FBI's list and the bombings and hijackings and kidnappings attributed to Hizbollah during Lebanon's civil war. I ask if he could at least tell me what he thought, himself, when he heard of these events. "I don't remember these details. These are part of happenings here that were very complicated."

On the subject of America's view of his party, he is more forthcoming. "For many years, the United States has been describing Hizbollah as terrorists. This is not the first time they have issued such a list."

Things are different now, I say. I don't think they're just calling people names anymore. When he sees what has happened to the Taliban, is he not worried?

"No. This is America's blackmail. Our destiny is to continue as a resistance. No one can stop us from taking back our land."

Do Hizbollah's ambitions go further than that? Al-Manar's station identification clip shows Hizbollah guerillas on one side of the screen, and Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque on the other.

"We don't agree with the idea of a Jewish state, because it is on the land of another people. The presence of the Israeli state is unjust. The world is imposing Israel by force."

Why would the world do that?

"America is trying to control this region through something which causes fear to everyone else."

I'm not keen to pursue this angle - the idea that history is a chaotic sequence of happenstance and improvisation is not popular in the Middle East, where belief in some grand, malign plot is universal, and I don't want another lecture. So I tell Sheikh Qassem that many in the West find much to admire about the Islamic world - its emphasis on family, its respect for its elders, its hospitality to visitors. Is there anything he finds commendable or enviable about the West?

"What is good in the world is welcome here. We use the Internet, we use new technology - we use anything we can against Israel. We don't agree with everything given to us, but we don't deny everything, either."

So, I say, briefly relieved, Americans shouldn't think the Arab world hates them.

"No, that's right," he says. "Arabs do hate America, and Hizbollah hates America. This is because of their policies in this region, because of their support for Israel. When confronted with these facts, we don't have time to look for positive things."

Hizbollah is keen that I see the south of Leban-on, the scene of its greatest victory: Hizbollah's mythic status throughout the Arab world derives from its uniqueness as the only Arab force to have defeated Israel on the battlefield.

In Nabiteyeh, Hizbollah's green and gold flag flies from a monument in the city square, and from dozens of windows and roofs. Like Haret Hreik, Nabiteyeh is also festooned with portraits of the young men who fell in Hizbollah's war with Israel. My guide, Hassan, takes me to meet the mother of two of them.

Hajjeh Im Hassan Sabbah lives with her husband and four daughters in a large modern house. She ushers us into her living-room. The walls are bare but for portraits of her dead sons, Hassan and Ali. They were killed exactly three years apart, on 5 February 1987 and 1990 respectively. Each was 21 years old.

"I used to ask Hassan," she says, smiling at the thought of her wayward son as mothers do, "why not get married? Why not lead a normal life? But he hoped that God would choose him for this since he was 13. He always wanted to become a martyr."

"I have another son," says Hajjeh Sabbah. "He's 33 now, but if they ask for him, they can take him. Me too, if they want."

Outside Nabiteyeh we are stopped at a Lebanese army checkpoint but are waved through when Hassan explains who he works for. We drive to two former Israeli hilltop positions, Al-Bourj and Dabsheh. Both are now abstract sculptures of shattered concrete and twisted metal: Hizbollah blew up Al-Bourj after the Israelis withdrew, but the larger Dabsheh base was deliberately destroyed by Israel's aircraft.

Al-Bourj and Dabsheh, like all former Israeli bases in the area, now have billboards on their approach roads, erected by Hizbollah. These provide a history of the encampments, along with details of their weaponry, troop strength, the number of Hizbollah operations waged against them (242 in 15 years, in Dab-sheh's case) and the Israeli casualties these caused. The billboards also note, in a gloating tone, the "Date of ignominous (sic) departure" in May 2000. The more of these we pass, the more the day starts to feel like a coach tour of the sort that haunt old battlefields in Europe.

Our next stop is the prison in the border town of Khiam. The yellow fort was built in the 1930s, when Lebanon was a French mandate, but became infamous during the 1980s and 1990s as a prison run by Israel's Lebanese collaborators, the South Lebanon Army. Some of those held in Khiam were Hizbollah guerillas. Others were relatives of Hizbollah guerillas, or otherwise uninvolved locals who just didn't want to co-operate with the SLA. Eighteen months since the last prisoners left, it is still a profoundly depressing place.

We are shepherded around by Ali Darwich, 26, a young man from whom a palpable sadness radiates. He was brought to Khiam as a 15-year-old in 1990, captured by the SLA after being wounded while taking part in a Hizbollah operation. He was held for three years, much of it spent in darkness in a cell so tiny there was barely room for him and his five cellmates to lie down at once. He was tortured frequently: the scars on his neck recall excavations from his flesh. Ali returned to Khiam on 23 May 2000, when the SLA guards, fearing reprisals, fled over the border with their Israeli paymasters. I ask him how it felt to come back.

"It was glorious," he says. "But it was better than it had been in my time - things changed after the Red Cross came here in 1995. I couldn't believe prisoners had mattresses."

In the yard, in which Ali had been permitted 10 minutes of exercise and sunlight be-neath a chicken-wire ceiling every 20 days, I ask him how he'd coped. "We are inspired by God to be patient."

There is a small souvenir shop at Khiam, selling Hizbollah videos, flags and keyrings, and stickers of Ayatollah Khomeini. Outside the shop is a poster of the three Israeli soldiers captured by Hizbollah in October 2000, and now officially regarded as dead by Israel, and Elhanan Tannenbaum, taken by Hizbollah at around the same time (Israel claims he was kidnapped while on private business in Switzer-land; Hizbollah say he was a Mossad agent who was travelling in Lebanon on a false Belgian passport). The Arabic text alongside their portraits says: "Wait for us - who knows when you can expect us?" Hizbollah's sense of humour is possibly an acquired taste. I ask Hassan if he knows where the prisoners are. "No," he shrugs, and then mutters that nobody ever asks about Lebanese detainees held by Israel.

Our excursion finishes at the fortified border that now separates Lebanon from Israel. We walk behind Hassan down the dirt track to the outermost wire fence in careful single file - much of southern Lebanon is still an Israeli minefield. The city limits of the Israeli town of Metulla are maybe 30m of fortifications from where we're standing. In the Israeli army observation post behind the wire, we see soldiers raising their binoculars and rifles, and I try to imagine a less comfortable place to be standing next to a member of Hizbollah.

On the Israeli side of the frontier, a white sedan pulls up. From the back seat someone waves. I wave back. Hassan keeps his hands in his pockets. n

Load-Date: April 7, 2002



Pakistan detains three suspects for church attack

The New Zealand Herald December 27, 2002 Friday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 565 words

Body

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani police said last night that they had detained three members of a banned Islamic militant group for an attack at a Christmas church service in central Pakistan which killed three girls.

The three suspects belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammad, an Islamic group fighting Indian rule in disputed Kashmir, Shahid Iqbal, a senior police officer in the region where the attack took place, said.

Three girls were killed and 14 people were wounded, three of them seriously, when two masked men, said by witnesses to have been covered in burqas, threw an explosive device at a church service yesterday NZ time in a remote village 20km from Daska, in central Pakistan.

In Chianwala, about 40 people, mostly <u>women</u> and children and all Pakistanis, were attending a Christmas Day service at the church when the attack occurred. The two attackers escaped after the attack.

Police earlier had said a hand grenade was used but Iqbal said no metal pieces or shrapnel were found at the church. "It was some kind of an explosive device," Iqbal said.

Police officials said that Jaish-e-Mohammad, or the Army of Mohammad, was active in the area and all three detained men were local residents of the same village.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf banned Jaish-e-Mohammad and several other Islamic groups earlier this year as part of a campaign to stem Islamic militancy in the country.

Suspected Islamic militants, angered by Musharraf's support for the US-led "war on terror", have been blamed for a spate of attacks on Christians and foreigners in Pakistan.

Security was increased in churches for Christmas celebrations in the mostly Islamic nation.

Police also yesterday found explosives and ammunition near a church in Islamabad. A shopping bag in bushes about 100m from St Thomas' Protestant Church contained two handmade grenades and 20 shell casings.

Since Pakistan lent its support to the United States-led military campaign to overthrow Afghanistan's hard-line Taleban, attacks on Christians by suspected Islamic militants have killed about 30 people and injured at least 100.

In Christmas violence elsewhere in the world, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian militant in the West bank, two men were killed in bombings in Macedonia and Kosovo, and the threat of fresh fighting between Government and rebel forces remained in war-racked Ivory Coast.

Pakistan detains three suspects for church attack

In Iraq, the country's Christian minority put on a brave face to celebrate Christmas but there was little joy.

The mood was sombre as President Saddam Hussein warned Iraqis in a Christmas message that the drums of war were beating louder.

Some Iraqis said they were celebrating Christmas as an act of defiance against the US.

In Bethlehem, Palestinians marked what some called the saddest Christmas, walking to Mass through cold rainy streets bereft of holiday cheer after weeks of Israeli military occupation.

Hundreds of Palestinians and a few tourists and pilgrims attended Christmas Day services in the ancient Church of the Nativity, reputed to be the site of Jesus' birth, after the Israeli Army pulled back for the occasion.

Most of Bethlehem's souvenir shops have gone out of business and hotels have closed for lack of guests. Uncollected rubbish littered the winding, narrow streets. Unkempt children begged foreign visitors for money around Manger Square.

Israeli soldiers killed a senior militant from the Islamic group *Hamas* in Nablus.

- AGENCIES

Load-Date: December 26, 2002



Sharon hit by votes-for-cash scandal in Likud: PM forced on defensive after police launch inquiry

The Guardian (London)

December 19, 2002

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 533 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

Body

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has been drawn into a scandal in the ruling Likud party - involving organised crime, vote buying and sex - amid questions about his son's selection as a candidate in next month's general election.

Two members of Likud's central committee are under arrest, after the attorney general ordered an investigation into allegations that places on the party's list of election candidates were up for sale for thousands of pounds.

The inquiry has prompted other Likud politicians, including several members of the knesset, to approach the police with further allegations.

They include claims of cheques left at bar mitzvahs in return for votes, free nights in hotels and an accusation by a *female* knesset assistant that she was cajoled to provide sexual favours in exchange for votes.

Among those tainted by the allegations is the prime minister's son, Omri Sharon.

The scandal broke after Inbal Gavrieli, a 27-year-old waitress, unexpectedly won a place on the Likud party list which almost assures her a seat in the knesset.

She is unknown, but her family is not. Her father, Shoni, runs a hotel and gambling business, and has been the subject of police investigations into organised crime, although he has never been charged.

Ms Gavrieli received more than 15% of the central committee's vote but the party's leadership is at a loss to explain how.

The subsequent appearance of a well-known organised crime figure, Mussa Alperon, at the victory party of a prominent Likud candidate prompted revelations of extensive vote buying and demands for bribes in the selection of the party's candidates by the central committee.

Among those connected to Mr Alperon, who was convicted of racketeering, is Omri Sharon. A Likud member who ran against the younger Sharon and lost, Nahman Shechter, has told police that the election was tainted by organised vote buying.

The prime minister leapt to the defence of his son in a television interview. "I say this with certainty and full confidence: Omri is not connected to this issue, no connection, he's not connected to this at all," he said.

Sharon hit by votes-for-cash scandal in Likud: PM forced on defensive after police launch inquiry

But the leader of the opposition Labour party, Amram Mitzna, said that Likud has fallen into the grip of a mafia.

"There isn't any doubt that organised crime is apparently infiltrating a party, a ruling party, and is trying in this way to win favours," he said.

Some Likud members accuse local political bosses of setting prices for blocks of votes. Among those to publicly raise accusations of vote buying, is Akiva Nof, a former Likud knesset member, who failed to win a place on the candidates' list.

A central committee member, Haim Cohen, has told detectives that a colleague demanded nearly pounds 50,000 for his support.

Israel's finance minister, Silvan Shalom, says the accusations are unfounded: "I didn't hear from any senior Likud member that he was offered bribes."

* Mousa Abu Marzook, a leader of <u>Hamas</u>, his wife and five other men at a Texas computer firm have been charged with breaking American laws that ban dealing in terrorist funds, officials announced yesterday. Mr Marzook and his wife are believed to be in the Middle East; the others are in custody in the US.

Load-Date: December 19, 2002



UN REJECTS ISRAELI ACCOUNT OF BRITISH OFFICIAL'S KILLING

The Independent (London)

November 25, 2002, Monday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 519 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem A technician working on communication equipment at the UN's Baghdad base

Jerome Delay/AP

Body

THE UNITED Nations dismissed as "not credible" yesterday an Israeli army claim that Palestinian gunmen fired from inside a UN compound in the West Bank city of Jenin on Friday before its soldiers shot dead Iain Hook, a 52-year-old British relief worker.

Paul McCann, a spokesman for the UN relief agency, said: "Our preliminary findings are completely contrary to what the Israeli army said. The compound is quite small. At no point did we lose control of the site. There were no militants on the site. I am very sad and angry that the man was shot dead while working in a clearly marked UN compound."

A security expert from UN headquarters in New York began immediately to investigate in greater depth how Mr Hook, who was heading a pounds 17m project to rebuild the Jenin refugee camp razed in an Israeli invasion in April, met his death. He was transferred last night to an Israeli forensic medicine laboratory near Tel Aviv, but UN officials were awaiting his family's decision on where to hold a post-mortem examination. Palestinians showed up in big numbers with flowers when the dead man was put into a UN ambulance for transfer to Jerusalem.

The Israelis said Mr Hook was shot by a soldier who mistook a mobile phone he was holding for a grenade. They maintained that militants were firing from inside the United Nations Relief and Works Agency compound and from neighbouring alleys, using civilians as defensive shields. In one case, the army said, a gunman shot from behind a woman carrying a blue flag of the agency.

The troops were on a search mission for a top Islamic Jihad operative, Abdullah Naji Wahash, when they came under fire. Israel blames Mr Wahash for plotting many bombings, including a suicide attack on a bus that killed 14 Israelis last month. He surrendered after the shooting abated.

Although Israel apologised for the "error", the shooting provoked a crisis in its relations with the UN and Britain. Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, demanded a full investigation. Mr Hook is the first foreign UN official to be killed since the Palestinian intifada broke out 26 months ago.

Elsewhere on the West Bank, Israeli troops yesterday barred worshippers from attending services in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. They reoccupied the city of Jesus Christ's birth on Thursday after a <u>Hamas</u> suicide bomber killed 11 Israelis on a Jerusalem bus.

UN REJECTS ISRAELI ACCOUNT OF BRITISH OFFICIAL'S KILLING

Thursday's bus bombing provoked a series of attacks by angry Jews against Arabs and their property in Jerusalem. Such reprisals have been surprisingly limited inside Israel after previous atrocities.

On Saturday night, dozens of Jewish youths stormed an Arab-owned bakery near the site of the bombing and caused heavy damage. Others had earlier tossed a firebomb into the building. The two owners, who were on the premises, escaped unhurt. Police arrested three Jewish suspects.

Other youths pelted an Arab car and attacked two <u>female</u> Arab students at the Hebrew University who were returning to their dormitory. Across Jerusalem, in the mixed Arab-Jewish neighbourhood of Abu Tor, vandals slashed the tyres of 14 cars owned by Palestinians.

Load-Date: November 25, 2002



Carnage returns to the streets

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
September 20, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B03; News

Length: 511 words

Byline: Justin Huggler

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

A volunteer was searching through the wreckage of shop fronts of Allenby Street yesterday, looking for survivors from bus No. 4.

Flowers lay amid broken glass all over the pavement. Workmen were removing the window of the Piano House music store, that had been punched through with large shrapnel holes. Outside the bookshop next door, one of the shop assistants sat on the steps and smoked, his hands shaky, with the camera crews looking on. The Independent, London

Every few minutes, another bus No. 4 came by. At the stop where, just hours before, a suicide bomber had got on the bus, detonated his hidden explosives and tore the bus apart, residents were queuing up and getting on the bus to go home.

Five people died in the bus bombing yesterday. More than 40 were injured.

Elad Zifrin was watching when the bomb went off. At his father's cafe, just a few metres up the road, the 21-year-old was standing outside, encouraging passers-by to come in. It was just before 1 p.m., the busiest time of the day on one of Tel Aviv's busiest shopping streets.

"Just at that moment, I glanced at the street, at the spot where the bus was pulling away from the stop. First, I heard an explosion. It took three seconds but it seemed like a lifetime. First I heard it, then I saw the bus filling with black, black smoke, then it was exploding out from the bus. I saw the bus still coming towards me but without the driver."

What happened to the driver, we asked?

"Oh, he was still sitting in his seat, but his body wasn't in one piece," the young man said. "I saw people knocking at windows, trying to get out."

Another witness told us she saw people desperately crawling through the broken windows of the bus.

"There were a lot of pieces of body near the restaurant," Zifrin continued.

"Some young <u>women</u> came into the restaurant. They had blood on their faces, they went and locked themselves in the toilet and wouldn't come out, they were really frightened. They were screaming."

Carnage returns to the streets

It is not the first bomb to go off here. Allenby Street has been the target of several. A year-and-a-half ago, Zifrin's restaurant was blown apart by a bomb left behind in a bag. He showed us a photograph of the wreckage then.

"It looked almost exactly the same today," he said.

His conversation veered from one bombing to the other. A-year-and-a-half ago, nobody was injured because his parents noticed a bag had been lying uncollected for hours so they evacuated the restaurant.

Before the police could arrive, the bomb went off. Now the Zifrins have jokingly renamed the restaurant The Bomb Place.

It is part of the same defiance that had commuters queuing up last night at the bus stop where the bombing took place.

"I came to work on bus No. 4 today," Zifrin said. "I got off at that same stop, where the bomber got on."

Would he be taking the bus home?

"No, not for a few days."

There were reports of claims of responsibility by <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, the two main Islamist Palestinian groups yesterday.

Last night, Israeli tanks were advancing on Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah, firing as they went.

Load-Date: September 20, 2002



Israelis arrest suspected militants; Links to Arafat?: Troops sweep Jenin looking for members of group claiming responsibility for recent suicide bombings

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
May 29, 2002 Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. c5

Length: 555 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JENIN, West Bank

Body

Israeli troops swept through Jenin and made more arrests in Bethlehem following almost daily suicide bomb attacks claimed by a militia linked to Yasser Arafat. A top Israeli official said Tuesday's moves in the West Bank do not portend another full-scale assault on Palestinian strongholds.

A Palestinian man was shot in the leg and bled to death in Jenin, witnesses said. Also, an Israeli motorist was killed and another wounded in a shooting attack, apparently by Palestinian militants, near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, rescue services spokesman Yeruham Mandola said.

The renewed bloodshed comes as the Bush administration is launching a new effort to start peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. President Bush was sending envoy William Burns to the Middle East on Tuesday night with CIA director George J. Tenet likely to follow this weekend.

Burns will survey the region, seeking the views of Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and Jordanian officials as well as those of Israel and the Palestinians, while Tenet intends to focus on revamping security arrangements on the West Bank and in Gaza.

In other diplomatic activity, Russian envoy Andrei Vdovin met with Arafat in Ramallah and called for an end to "these terrorist attacks." He also called for an international peace conference.

In an attempt to extend its ability to monitor military developments in the region, Israel launched a sophisticated spy satellite Tuesday - a clear demonstration of its advanced missile capabilities.

Defense Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay confirmed that the Ofek-5 satellite had been sent into space from Israel's launching facility at the Palmahim air force base on the coast, south of Tel Aviv, but refused to say if it had reached its planned orbit. Israel's last successful spy satellite, the Ofek-3, burned up in the atmosphere about a year ago.

Israel's latest sweep in the West Bank came after a Palestinian blew himself up outside an ice cream parlor and cafe crowded with <u>women</u> and children in a Tel Aviv suburb Monday, killing Ruth Peled, 56, and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Sinai Kenaan.

Israelis arrest suspected militants; Links to Arafat?: Troops sweep Jenin looking for members of group claiming responsibility for recent suicide bombings

The Al Aqsa Brigades, linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Jihad Titi, 18, a cousin of a leading Al Aqsa militant, Mahmoud Titi, who was killed in an Israeli attack last week.

Troops in armored personnel carriers and jeeps drove into Jenin and a nearby refugee camp at about 3 a.m. and left by midday. They arrested eight Palestinians, including Rami Awad, local leader of the Islamic militant group *Hamas*. Soldiers also searched an Islamic school, seizing computer disks, residents said.

There were heavy exchanges of fire with Palestinian gunmen.

Meanwhile, a fence going up around Jerusalem is meant to stop Palestinian bombers, an Israeli Cabinet Minister said Tuesday, but some Israelis are complaining it amounts to redividing the city.

The decision to build the fence around Jerusalem came after repeated Palestinian suicide bombing attacks in the Jewish section of the city.

Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza are banned from entering Jerusalem, but Palestinians, most looking for work, take roundabout routes to avoid roadblocks. Bombers and other attackers also find entrance easy.

So far, sections of five miles of the fence have been built, out of a planned 12 miles.

Load-Date: June 4, 2002



Top of the News

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

June 24, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A2

Length: 499 words

Body

Montreal

Canada's reputation as free nation shaky

Canada has long had a reputation as one of the greatest countries in the world, but word is quickly spreading to those envious of our freedom that our democracy is on shaky ground, writes columnist Sue Montgomery. Page A4

Menard's milestone: our jazz fest best

Andre Menard, 47, co-founder and artistic director of the Montreal International Jazz Festival, is named producer of the year's best North American jazz event. Page A5

Nation

Wood-chewing beetles threaten Canada's forests

Canada's most valuable trees are under siege from a variety of wood-munching beetles. International regulations are now in place to help control their entry into this country, but it might be too late. Page A8 The Gazette

Mothers of all kinds join G8 protest in Calgary

Raging Grannies, Mother Earth and Soccer Moms are all part of the first G8 summit protest in Calgary, a warmup to this week's Kananaskis mountaintop meet. Page A9

World

Israel again surrounds broken Arafat compound

Israel surrounds the compound of Yasser Arafat in Ramallah as Palestinian authorities place <u>Hamas</u>'s spiritual leader under house arrest. Page A12

Bin Laden to return to TV; attacks pledged

A Kuwaiti-born spokesman for Osama bin Laden says the Al-Qa'ida leader is alive and well and will soon make another televised address to Muslims worldwide. He also says Americans are quite correct in expecting new attacks in the coming days and months. Page B1

New little monkeys found in Brazil

Top of the News

A scientist working in a little-explored region of the Amazon River in Brazil discovers two new monkey species about the size of small cats. Page B12

Arts & Life

Hotels working to please women

<u>Women</u> are a burgeoning sector of the business-travel market and their demands - from parking-garage security to higher-quality shampoo - are now being heeded by hotels. Page C1

Cruise, Spielberg film wins at the box office

Minority Report, a new Tom Cruise/Steven Spielberg blockbuster, barely squeaks past a new animated comedy feature, Lilo and Stitch, to win top spot at the cinema box office this weekend. Page C6

Monday Business

The troubled teen and the career cop

Paul-Andre Savoie was a hyper, 15-year-old kid in trouble with a suspect future when he met Jacques Duchesneau, a cop who tried to set him straight. Today, Savoie runs his own high-tech company and Duchesneau is his vice-president. Page C9

Monday Sports

Expos winners at home but need road victories

The Expos prove they can win at home, beating the Cleveland Indians for their eighth win in their last nine games. But to be real contenders, they'll have to show they can win on the road, where their record is an anemic 13-22. Page D1

Baseball mourns young Cards pitcher

Baseball is mourning the death of St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Darryl Kile, who was found dead in his hotel room Saturday. He was 33. An autopsy yesterday showed a 90-per-cent blockage of one of Kile's coronary arteries. Page D5

Graphic

Photo: THIERRY ROGE, REUTERS; World: Castle in the sand Two sand sculptors carve yesterday at the Sand Castle Festival in Zeebrugge, Belgium. A team of 75 carvers are building a huge sand castle, and 9 million kilograms of sand are to be used for the sculpture, which will measure 80 metres long by 60 metres wide.

Load-Date: June 24, 2002



Horrific Passover massacre leaves 19 dead, 120 wounded

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

March 28, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 508 words

Dateline: NETANYA, Israel

Body

NETANYA, Israel (AP) -- A suicide bomber burst into an Israeli hotel dining room and blew himself up Wednesday just as Jews dressed in their holiday best were sitting down to a seder meal celebrating Passover.

At least 19 Jews were killed and more than 120 wounded.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the Park Hotel in a northern coastal resort, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. Rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth with place settings in place.

Associated Press

"Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52. "There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

The Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called a "Passover massacre." The bomber, a 25-year-old Palestinian, had worked in Netanya hotels in the past.

The bombing in Netanya threatened to derail the latest U.S. truce mission, just hours after President George W. Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress. In later comments, Bush said "this callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop."

Israel, which had reluctantly accepted the latest U.S. ceasefire proposals, said it would have to reassess its policy and held Palestinian President Yasser Arafat responsible for the bombing. Israeli Police Minister Uzi Landau called for retaliation, saying the Palestinian Authority must be destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing and it would take tough measures against those involved. Palestinian security sources said Arafat ordered the arrests of four key militants on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

The bombing came just hours after Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah presented a new peace initiative at the Arab summit in Lebanon, offering Israel normal relations with the Arab world in exchange for a complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war. Arafat, who remains confined to the West Bank by Israel, embraced the initiative in a televised speech, and said he hoped it would be adopted by the summit.

Israeli officials responded guardedly, saying the Saudi plan was too vague and somewhat weakened the idea of "normalization" initially floated by Abdullah. The explosion occurred about 7:20 p.m. local time Wednesday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel along Netanya's boardwalk settled down for the Passover seder in the dining

Horrific Passover massacre leaves 19 dead, 120 wounded

hall. Guests were dressed in their holiday best; the **women** in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark pants.

The bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said. From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

Donenhirsch, the guest, said as she and her family fled, they saw a little girl, about 10 to 12 years old, lying dead on the ground, her eyes wide open as if in surprise.

Graphic

Color Photo: Uriel Sinai, Associated Press; A victim is led from the scene after a bomb exploded in a hotel in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya Wednesday.

Load-Date: March 28, 2002



KILLING CHILDREN IS THE REAL EVIL

Sunday Express April 21, 2002

Copyright 2002 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: COLUMNS; Pg. 41

Length: 541 words

Byline: ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Body

ISRAEL HAS done some terrible things in the refugee camp in Jenin. That cannot be doubted. Whether or not a massacre took place, or war crimes were committed, is questionable, but the situation needs to be investigated.

However, there is no escaping the fact that the Israeli army destroyed dozens of homes, razed a large part of the town, and probably killed many civilians. The inhabitants of the town have paid a high price for harbouring suicide bombers.

Yet according to the Palestinians' own accounts, it was no walk-over. They put up a fierce resistance. They boasted about the way in w hich they fought house to house, of how they booby trapped the buildings, and gloated over the killing of 23 Israeli soldiers and wounding 65.

The result was predictable, especially once the Israeli army realised that it could not endanger the lives of its troops by conducting house-to - house searches because of the trip-wire bombs that had killed 13 of its troops and that it had therefore to bulldoze a way for its tanks.

The level of devastation that followed is exactly what you would expect if fighting is to take place in the middle of a town. You would be surprised if buildings were not destroyed and civilians not killed.

And all this happened because Jenin was the battlefield on which the Palestinian militants chose to confront Israel's Defence Force. The zealots in <u>Hamas</u> did not don their headbands and buckle on their pretentious gun belts and take their flags and the burning stars and stripes to take the fight to the Israelis.

Instead, they crept along alleyways, hid in houses, and took refuge in a church. They hid behind <u>women</u> and children.

A ND, AS an aside, it is interesting, isn't it, that while hyperactive Arab mobs demonstrate on the streets of Arab cities, firing their Kalashnikovs in the air and making blood-curdling threats against Israel, America and the West, not one Arab country, not one, has been prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinians in Jenin, in Nablus, in Ramallah or in Jerusalem?

They haven't exactly rushed to confront the Israeli tanks on the frontline in Jenin have they?

Indeed, not one soldier, not one tank has been dispatched by the screeching Arab states to help their "Palestinian brothers".

KILLING CHILDREN IS THE REAL EVIL

The Arab states cannot even agree to impose an oil embargo on Israel's supporters to make them put pressure on it to withdraw from the West Bank because it would hurt their own bank balances!

So much for Arab solidarity. The Palestinians are on their own and should realise it and make their accommodation with Israel. And like the Palestinians, Israel is also alone - but knows it.

Its government realises that it has to look after its own people because, when the chips are down, no one else will protect them, just as they did not during the European pogroms of the Thirties.

Yes, it is a mess. It is so intractable that you feel like saying: "A plague on both of your houses" but we cannot because there is a fundamental difference between the two sides.

The Israelis do not wish to harm civilians, they say they are sorry if they have, whereas the Palestinians deliberately seek out restaurants and wedding receptions in which to explode their bombs and kill <u>women</u> and children.

Load-Date: April 24, 2002



BLOOD FLOWS IN HOLY CITY Jerusalem gunman shot dead

Daily News (New York)

January 23, 2002, Wednesday

FOUR STAR EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 472 words

Byline: By DEBORAH BLACHOR in Jerusalem and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

A Palestinian gunman with "hate in his eyes" opened fire on a crowded Jerusalem street yesterday, pumping bullets into eight people before he was shot dead by a local cop.

After spraying Jaffa St. with bullets, Ibrahim Ramadan tried to escape down an alley. But he could not outrun - or outshoot - Officer Chanan Ben Naim.

"He was shooting at me and I was shooting at him," the 26-year-old officer said. "He didn't say anything. But I saw hate in his eyes - calm, but full of hate."

Six of the eight shot were in serious condition last night, and more than 30 other people - some hit by glass from broken shop windows, others in shock - were also hospitalized.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, said the rush-hour shooting spree was in revenge for an Israeli commando raid on an explosives lab that killed four *Hamas* terrorists in the West Bank.

Ramadan's uncle, Adnan Ramadan, mayor of the West Bank village of Tel, confirmed his nephew was the gunman and said he was a member of the Palestinian naval police.

The Israelis vowed to retaliate as shopkeepers began cleaning up and rain washed away the blood on the streets.

The shooting at Jerusalem's main shopping street was the worst attack in the city since a double suicide bombing killed 10 people on the nearby Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall on Dec. 1. It was also only a few yards from where a suicide bomber blew himself up at a pizzeria in August, killing 15 Jews.

It was about 4:15 p.m. when Ramadan, 24, from the village of Atil, emerged from a cab, pulled out an automatic weapon - and started shooting.

"He shouted 'Allah Akbar!' [God is great] and just shot like a maniac, never stopping for a second," said Liat Moshe, 24, who works nearby.

Michael Rosner, a Staten Island businessman who was shopping with his wife, Judy, said he saw two **women** at a bus stop crumple to the ground.

BLOOD FLOWS IN HOLY CITY Jerusalem gunman shot dead

"The shooting was so close," he said. "My God, he must have been 10 feet away from me. . . . I smelled the smoke of his gun."

Rosner said he and his wife ran into an electronics store and took cover behind the sales counter.

"We had a full view," said Rosner. "It was like sitting in a movie. It was terrible."

Several of the victims were riding on a passing bus driven by Haim Salah, who said that when the shooting started, "I bent over, stepped on the gas, and told everyone to duck."

In Washington, a State Department spokesman came down hard on Arafat and said the U.S. is demanding "effective action."

The official, Richard Boucher, also said Arafat had failed to provide an accounting of the attempted smuggling of weapons intercepted by Israelis on the Red Sea.

"We think that he bears responsibility for the situation," Boucher said. "There are people at senior levels in the Palestinian Authority who are involved in this."

Graphic

AP SHOCK A traumatized Israeli pedestrian is comforted after Palestinian sprayed Jerusalem street with bullets during rush hour yesterday. After wounding eight people, six seriously, and sending 30 more to the hospital, the gunman was shot dead by a cop.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002



Muslims protest raids on groups, homes in Va.

The Philadelphia Inquirer March 22, 2002 Friday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; news

Length: 568 words

Byline: Kevin Murphy Inquirer Washington Bureau

Body

WASHINGTON - Officials of Islamic groups voiced outrage yesterday at a series of raids, mainly in the capital's Virginia suburbs, by federal agents seeking evidence that the groups were contributing to terrorists.

About 150 officers from several agencies executed search warrants Wednesday at 15 offices and homes of groups and individuals active in Islamic causes, federal officials said yesterday. They seized computers, files and books but made no arrests.

A federal task force called Operation Green Quest carried out the raids. It was begun after Sept. 11 to choke off financial help to terrorists.

A senior law-enforcement official who requested anonymity said agents were looking primarily for evidence of the funneling of money to the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> and other Palestinian groups carrying out attacks against Israel. Israeli officials have repeatedly asked the United States to stop any American financial support for such groups.

The Treasury Department oversees the task force, which is led by the Customs Service. A magistrate approved the search warrants based on probable cause, department spokeswoman Tasia Scolinos said.

Representatives of at least seven Islamic institutions denounced the raids at a news conference yesterday.

"It seems like the government is declaring open season on Muslim American groups," said Abdulwahab Alkebsi, executive director of the Islamic Institute, based in Washington. The institute was not raided, but Alkebsi helped organize the protests by the groups that were.

Among those raided were the International Institute of Islamic Thought, the Muslim World League, and the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences. Homes of some employees of these groups were searched.

The International Institute, of Herndon, Va., is a private, nonprofit academic center established in 1981 to conduct and publish research on Islamic concerns. The Muslim World League, based in Saudi Arabia, promotes Islamic causes. The Graduate School, of Leesburg, Va., is an Islamic study center.

Muslims protest raids on groups, homes in Va.

Taha Jabir al Alwainy, the school's director, recently issued a fatwa, or religious decree, saying it was the obligation of American Muslim soldiers to defend their country against terrorists.

Alkebsi and officials from the raided institutions said they opposed terrorism. They denied giving financial support to terrorist groups and said the raids were made without due process or attention to civil liberties.

Two Muslim women said agents rifled through their belongings, such as wedding invitations, at their homes.

In tears, teacher Laura Jaghlit of Fairfax Station, Va., said agents seized her family's passports, computers and bank records, and tossed baby pictures and other items on the floor. She does volunteer work for Islamic groups.

"What happened yesterday was the most un-American thing I have ever seen in my life," Jaghlit said.

Aysha Unus of Herndon said agents broke through her door and handcuffed her daughter and her while searching the home. Unus said her husband worked at the International Institute.

Kevin Bell, a Customs spokesman, denied anyone was handcuffed in the raid. He said agents needed a locksmith's help to open the Unuses' door because no one answered when they knocked.

All the raids "were done without incident and in accordance with federal law and U.S. policy procedures," Bell said.

Contact Kevin Murphy

at 202-383-6009 or kmurphy@krwashington.com.

Load-Date: March 22, 2002



2 SLAIN IN JERUSALEM Gunman also leaves 14 injured

Daily News (New York)

January 23, 2002, Wednesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 479 words

Byline: By DEBORAH BLACHOR in Jerusalem and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

A Palestinian gunman with "hate in his eyes" opened fire on a crowded Jerusalem street yesterday, fatally wounding two <u>women</u> and hitting 14 other people before he was shot dead by a local cop.

After spraying Jaffa St. with bullets, Ibrahim Ramadan tried to escape down an alley. But he could not outrun - or outshoot - Officer Chanan Ben Naim.

"He was shooting at me and I was shooting at him," the 26-year-old officer said. "He didn't say anything. But I saw hate in his eyes - calm, but full of hate."

Sixteen people were shot. Two <u>women</u> later died of their wounds, while four others remained in serious condition. In addition, more than 20 people were treated for shock, police and rescue workers said.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, said the rush-hour shooting spree was in revenge for an Israeli commando raid on an explosives lab that killed four *Hamas* terrorists in the West Bank.

Ramadan's uncle, Adnan Ramadan, mayor of the West Bank village of Tel, confirmed his nephew was the gunman and said he was a member of the Palestinian naval police.

The Israelis vowed to retaliate as shopkeepers began cleaning up and rain washed away the blood on the streets.

The shooting on Jerusalem's main shopping street was the worst attack in the city since a double suicide bombing killed 10 people on the nearby Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall on Dec. 1. It was also only a few yards from where a suicide bomber blew himself up at a pizzeria in August, killing 15 Jews.

It was about 4:15 p.m. when Ramadan, 24, from the village of Atil, emerged from a cab, pulled out an automatic weapon and started shooting.

"He shouted 'Allah Akbar!' ["God is great"] and just shot like a maniac, never stopping for a second," said Liat Moshe, 24, who works nearby.

Michael Rosner, a Staten Island businessman who was shopping with his wife, Judy, said he saw two **women** at a bus stop crumple to the ground.

2 SLAIN IN JERUSALEM Gunman also leaves 14 injured

"The shooting was so close," he said. "My God, he must have been 10 feet away from me. . . . I smelled the smoke of his gun."

Rosner said he and his wife ran into an electronics store and took cover behind the sales counter.

"We had a full view," said Rosner. "It was like sitting in a movie. It was terrible."

Several of the victims were riding on a passing bus driven by Haim Salah, who said that when the shooting started, "I bent over, stepped on the gas and told everyone to duck."

In Washington, a State Department spokesman came down hard on Arafat and said the U.S. is demanding "effective action."

The official, Richard Boucher, also said Arafat had failed to provide an accounting of the attempted smuggling of weapons intercepted by Israelis on the Red Sea.

"We think that he bears responsibility for the situation," Boucher said. "There are people at senior levels in the Palestinian Authority who are involved in this."

Graphic

AP SHOCK A traumatized Israeli pedestrian is comforted after Palestinian sprayed Jerusalem street with bullets during rush hour yesterday. After wounding eight people, six seriously, and sending 30 more to the hospital, the gunman was shot dead by a cop.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002



STUDENT FIRST PALESTINIAN WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER

Birmingham Post

January 28, 2002, Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 552 words

Byline: Richard Williams

Body

A student yesterday became the first Palestinian woman to carry out a suicide bombing as she detonated explosives in downtown Jerusalem, killing herself and an elderly Israeli man and wounding at least a dozen people.

No Palestinian woman has carried out a suicide attack before, and Israeli police said last night they were still trying to determine whether she intended to kill herself, or if the bomb exploded prematurely as she walked along Jaffa Street, the main commercial strip in west Jerusalem.

In Lebanon, the Al-Manar television station, run by the militant Hezbollah movement, said the bomber was Shinaz Amuri, a *female* student at AlNajah University in the West Bank town of Nablus.

The powerful blast went off just after midday and in front of a shoe store, killing an 81-yearold Israeli man. Victims were sprawled in the street, shop windows were blown out and one store caught fire. Shards of glass, fruit, shoes and store front mannequins all littered the street, as rescue workers rushed to the scene.

Mark Sokolov, of Long Island, New York - a survivor of the World Trade Centre bombing - was slightly hurt in today's explosion along with his wife and two daughters.

Mr Sokolov, a US citizen visiting relatives in Jerusalem, was standing on the street when the blast occurred.

'I heard a loud whoosh, like a bang, and I kind of saw things flying around a little bit, and then I realised I was able to get up and walk around,' he said.

On September 11, he was working on the 38th floor of the World Trade Centre's south tower when the first hijacked airliner slammed into the north tower. His office was evacuated and he escaped unscathed before the south tower was hit and collapsed.

No group immediatelyclaimed responsibility for thes bombing. But Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Arafat is 'encouraging terrorism, he's sending (at-tackers) to Jerusalem. 'We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure,' Gissin said.

The Palestinian leadership, meanwhile, 'strongly condemned the suicide attack' and called on President Bush to send Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region. However, Bush has been sharply critical of Arafat, and Zinni's mediation efforts appear to be on hold.

STUDENT FIRST PALESTINIAN WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER

US Vice President Dick Cheney said Arafat had not done enough to halt violence. Arafat must 'make a 100 per cent good-faith effort to put an end to terrorism,' Cheney said.

Jaffa Street is a Jerusalem landmark lined with shops and the narrow sidewalks are clogged with pedestrians, particularly during the middle of the day. The streets were full yesterday, the first day of the work week in Israel.

Last Tuesday a Palestinian gunman opened fire with an automatic rifle on Jaffa Street - only a yards from the site of the latest attack. He killed two <u>women</u> and injured a dozen people before he was shot dead.

In another development, an angry Palestinian crowd stormed the prison in Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem, and freed seven prisoners belonging to <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, the two groups that have carried out past suicide bombings, Palestinian security officials said.

Palestinian security officers did not want to use force with the crowd, and did not try to stop them from springing the prisoners, a Palestinian security source said.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002



Sharon tells cabinet to stop criticising Israeli army

The New Zealand Herald January 14, 2002 Monday

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Section: NEWS; World; Latest

Length: 587 words

Body

JERUSALEM - Israel's prime minister Ariel Sharon yesterday blasted several members of his own cabinet for adding their voices to a growing chorus of internal criticism over the Israeli army's most destructive house-razing mission since the start of the intifada.

Mr Sharon began a cabinet meeting by accusing Labour ministers in his coalition government of fuelling anti-Israeli "propaganda" by questioning the operation, which came a day after the killing of four Israeli Bedouin soldiers by <u>Hamas</u> guerrillas.

Outrage over last week's demolition of around 60 homes in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza -- collective punishment against civilians which violates the Geneva Conventions -- has abruptly galvanised Israel's liberal minority, which has been subdued since the conflict with the Palestinians turned violent in September 2000.

The operation went ahead despite appeals from several of the relatives of the dead soldiers, as well as Bedouin community leaders, for the Israeli army to refrain from acts of vengeance.

Mr Sharon, who authorised the assault, yesterday awoke to newspaper headlines in the liberal domestic press which were among the most critical that he has faced since taking office last March.

Gideon Levy, a respected left-wing columnist, declared that the wrecking mission -- which collectively punished hundreds of impoverished Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children by rendering them homeless in the height of winter -- was a war crime.

In a stinging editorial on the subject, the newspaper described the operation as an act of "blind cruelty", a case of "destruction on a systematic collective and indiscriminate level against Palestinians, whoever they may be. As far as is known the only sin of most of them - perhaps even all of them - was the place where they lived."

Several Labour ministers, including Shimon Peres, yesterday raised questions about the demolitions. It was followed by the sinking of two Palestinian naval boats in a Gaza City port by Israeli navy commandos, and the blowing up of another part the already damaged runway at the closed Palestinian airport in the south of the strip.

"Destruction of homes causes us very bad media damage. In the matter of destroying homes we have to be very, very careful," said Mr Peres.

The row has exposed the tensions between Labour ministers and the predominant right wing within Mr Sharon's government. These are complicated by the fact that Labour's leader, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, is Defence Minister - and authorised the Gaza demolitions.

Sharon tells cabinet to stop criticising Israeli army

The furore has also been confused by conflicting claims over the scale of the damage. Mr Sharon last night told a gathering of foreign journalists that it was part of an attempt to crack down on a "major effort by the Palestinian Authority" to smuggle weapons to Rafah in Gaza from Egypt.

Most of the destroyed buildings were empty, he said, and were used by the Palestinians as cover for large tunnels through which the arms were transferred. "My role and the role of the government I lead is to provide security," he said. The army said its forces only destroyed 21 abandoned homes.

But evidence gathered at the scene by correspondents, international human rights workers, and the testimony of the stricken Palestinians themselves wholly contradicted this, showing that the number of homes flattened was around 60. The International Committee of the Red Cross said 93 families, or about 600 people, were left homeless. They are now living in tents supplied by the UN.

- http://www.independent.co.uk INDEPENDENT

Load-Date: December 17, 2002



Rockets hit nerve in Israel; Mideast danger rises as attack defies warnings

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
February 11, 2002 Monday,
Metro Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 546 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Jerusalem --- In an ominous escalation of violence in the Mideast, Palestinians fired rockets into Israel on Sunday for the first time in more than 16 months of fighting.

The three rockets landed in a farm field, injuring no one.

But the Israeli army said the missiles, fired from the Gaza Strip, were Kassam II rockets built by <u>Hamas</u>, the fundamentalist group that has sent dozens of suicide bombers to attack civilian targets.

Cox Washington Bureau

Israeli officials had warned of a ferocious Israeli military response --- "like something you've never seen before," a senior army officer said --- if the rockets were fired into an Israeli city.

Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon convened an urgent meeting of his senior Cabinet officials Sunday night to discuss probable retaliation.

The crude missiles, about 5 inches in diameter, carry a warhead with slightly less explosives than the amount carried by many suicide bombers. But they are more deadly than mortars, they can be fired by remote control, and their range of a few miles opens up many Israeli cities to air attack from Palestinian territories.

Earlier Sunday, Israeli warplanes and helicopters bombed a Palestinian security headquarters. Israeli F-16 jets also dropped three bombs on security buildings in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound.

The bombs blew out the windows of the United Nations' special coordinator in the Middle East and slightly injured 18 people, including two U.N. employees, Palestinian officials said.

Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. official, said in a statement that "Israel's security needs will not be met by hitting civilian targets or by destroying the Palestinians' ability to police and maintain order."

Rockets hit nerve in Israel; Mideast danger rises as attack defies warnings

The Israeli bombings came hours after Palestinian gunmen killed two <u>female</u> Israeli soldiers in a cafe shooting spree in the usually quiet southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

Two Palestinians drove to a cafe near an army base, jumped from their car and sprayed rifle fire at lunch customers, most of whom were soldiers.

The gunmen were killed in less than a minute by return fire from soldiers and police. Police said one of the gunmen was wearing explosives that he did not detonate.

The Palestinians killed two <u>female</u> soldiers, 1st Lt. Keren Rotstein, 20, and Cpl. Aya Malachi, 18. Five others, including civilians, were seriously wounded.

Beersheba, a city deep within Israel at the edge of the Negev Desert, had seen little violence during the current fighting. Other cities, especially Jerusalem, have been on high alert with hundreds of extra police on patrol.

The fighting continued several days of intense strikes and counter-strikes.

Sharon returned from his four-day trip to the United States and blamed the attacks on Arafat, who Israeli and American officials say has not done enough to rein in militants.

Arafat remained pinned down in his West Bank headquarters by Israeli tanks. He called Saturday for "a million martyrs" to carry on resistance to Israel.

Early Saturday, Israeli tanks and troops swept into the large Palestinian city of Nablus, where shootouts injured seven Palestinians, including two seriously. The army said it was searching houses and making arrests, something it had done in another West Bank town Friday.

This article was supplemented by news services.

Graphic

Photo:

An Israeli surgeon coming out of an operating room briefs the family of a wounded soldier on his condition Sunday. / RINA CASTELNUOVO / New York Times

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

Daily News (New York)
February 11, 2002, Monday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 478 words

Byline: By CORKY SIEMASZKO DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER With News Wire Services

Body

Two <u>female</u> Israeli soldiers were killed and six people were wounded yesterday when Palestinian gunmen jumped from a car and opened fire on a cafe near a military base.

Lt. Keren Rotstein, 20, and Cpl. Ayah Malachi, 18, were gunned down as they ate lunch in the Israeli desert town of Beersheba.

Furious soldiers quickly killed the gunmen, who were identified as members of the <u>Hamas</u> terror organization. The Israeli government also retaliated quickly.

At dusk, Israeli F-16s circled over Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters - giving those inside time to escape - and then attacked. Despite the warning, dozens of people were wounded. The blast also blew out windows at a nearby UN office. Rocket factory hit Israel also struck what it called a rocket factory in the nearby Jebalya refugee camp.

UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen condemned the revenge attacks and said "Israel's security needs will not be met by hitting civilian targets or by destroying the Palestinians' ability to police and maintain order."

The deadly shooting in Beersheba came just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned home from a U.S. visit.

Bush administration officials turned down his request to cut contacts with Arafat, who remains trapped by Israeli tanks at his offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

It was lunchtime in Beersheba, and the cafe near the gates of the Israeli Army's southern command headquarters in the city center was filling up with soldiers when the gunman sprang out of a car and started shooting machine guns.

"I was on the street and suddenly the two got out of a car and started firing in all directions," Israeli Army Capt. Guy Shaham told Israeli radio. "They were spraying from the hip in all directions. I whipped out my gun and started firing back at them."

When it was over, wounded soldiers and civilians lay bleeding and moaning on the streets.

Until yesterday, Beersheba had escaped much of the violence from the Palestinian uprising, which has left more than 1,000 people dead.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerillas kill 2 female officers eating lunch

This morning, Israeli tanks entered the West Bank city of Nablus for the second time in two days. The armed vehicles surrounded a Jewish shrine, Joseph's Tomb, abandoned one month into the violent Palestinian revolt but then inexplicably withdrew.

Some Israelis have been clamoring for their government to retake Joseph's Tomb ever since it was evacuated in October 2000 following a two-day battle in which six Palestinians and an Israeli border policeman were killed.

The site, believed by many Jews to be the burial place of the biblical Joseph but claimed by Palestinians as the tomb of an Arab sheik, can be reached only by passing through a crowded Arab neighborhood. Until Israel pulled out, armed Israeli convoys brought rabbinical students to the site to study in a makeshift college every day and took them out to a nearby Jewish settlement at night.

Graphic

Lt. Keren Rotstein Cpl. Ayah Malachi AP DEAD GUNMAN Israeli police fingerprint one of two Palestinian guerrillas shot to death after they opened fire on a street in Beersheba.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



<u>GUNMAN WREAKS HAVOC ON ISRAELIS;</u> WEST BANK TRAGEDY: PALESTINIAN IN TWO -HOUR ASSAULT ON SETTLEMENT

Birmingham Post February 8, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 510 words

Byline: Robert Porter The great divide: Israeli residents of Hamra, a West Bank settlement comfort each other after

the raid. Below: A Palestinian boy looks out from his West Bank home which is protected by barbed wire

Body

Α

11-year-old girl and her mother were killed yesterday when a Palestinian gunman disguised as an Israeli soldier raided a tiny Jewish settlement. A soldier was also killed in the two-hour assault on Hamra, a West Bank settlement of about 40 families in the Jordan River Valley.

Terrified residents barricaded themselves in their homes, turning off lights to avoid drawing the gunman's attention.

Kevin Smith, an immigrant from Blackburn, who lives near the home taken over by the gunman, said his three small children crouched under beds, crying.

The gunman was unhurried and fired methodically, witnesses said. He was armed with an M-16 assault rifle, a grenade and eight ammunition clips, said Major General Yitzhak Eitan, the army commander in the West Bank.

'He was walking while shooting, not rushing, going slowly,' said Yigal Daniel, aged 62, a Hamra resident. The gunman entered the house where Miri Ohana, aged 50, and her 11year-old daughter Yael were hiding. 'During a battle that erupted the terrorist was killed, as were two civilians who were in the house,' said Eitan. It was not clear whether the two civilians were killed by the gunman or by the soldiers' fire, but he said an investigation had been launched.

Four others were wounded before the attacker was shot dead. The assault marked the first time in 16 months of fighting that Israelis were killed in their home in a Palestinian attack.

In retaliation, Israeli F-16 warplanes struck a prison and Palestinian government complex in the West Bank town of Nablus, wounding 11 people.

A leader from the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, said the group was escalating its attacks.

'We started with shooting attacks, then roadside bombs, and now we are sending attackers into Israel and the settlements,' he said. Both the Al Aqsa Brigades and the Islamic militant group *Hamas* claimed responsibility for the

GUNMAN WREAKS HAVOC ON ISRAELIS; WEST BANK TRAGEDY: PALESTINIAN IN TWO -HOUR ASSAULT ON SETTLEMENT

Hamra attack, which came hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was to meet US President Bush in Washington.

Sharon will ask Bush to sever all ties with President Arafat, whom Israel holds responsible for Palestinian attacks. Arafat said yesterday that he rejected Israel's accusation that he is failing to do enough to prevent terrorist attacks launched from his territory.

He was doing all he could to prevent attacks, but the Israelis were tying his hands by laying siege to his administration.

'I can make 100 per cent effort, but no-one can give 100 per cent results. We are doing all in our capabilities,' he said. 'But not to forget we are in a complete siege, we can't send our forces to stop it, I can't move my forces from one place to another, and they are asking me to stop all these activities. I am doing my best.'

Speaking from his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, Arafat complained about Israeli actions, which he described as 'this very heavy military escalation against our people, against our children, against our <u>women</u>, against our cities, against our towns, against our villages, against our camps.'

Load-Date: February 8, 2002



<u>DESPAIR: THE TERRORIST'S BEST RECRUITING OFFICER;</u> THE ROAD MAP' FOR PEACE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT RESPECT FOR Palestinian children look back at an Israeli tank in the West Bank URIEL <u>SINAI/AP</u>

Independent on Sunday (London)

May 4, 2003, Sunday

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 25

Length: 1392 words

Body

While the governments of the United States, Europe and Russia, together with the UN, have put the Middle East "road map" for peace back on the table, watchers of Arab satellite television see quite a different picture. Day in day out, two juxtaposed stories unfold on al-Jazeera or Abu Dhabi television. On the one hand, there are images of suicide attacks in Palestine, followed by scenes of Israeli repression, and of the burial of "martyrs" watched by angry crowds of bearded youths and close shots of veiled <u>female</u> mourners. And on the other, images of Iraqi hostility towards American troops, scenes of armed retaliation and, again, burials where turbaned sheikhs chant defiant slogans against America, and followers praise Allah the Almighty, as well as close shots of spilled blood on the streets.

These distressing images are a far cry from the virtuous circle the Americans wanted to implement in the Middle East as a result of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" (or OIF - preferred to "Operation Iraqi Liberation", which bore the somewhat embarrassing acronym OIL). The toppling of a brutal tyrant in Iraq was meant to engineer gradual prosperity and democracy in the whole region, and facilitate the re-floating of the sunken Israeli- Palestinian peace of the 1990s via the process known as the "road map". This would involve a restoration of Palestinian democracy mixed with Israeli territorial concessions, and would lead to mutual recognition of the two states, while appeasing political and religious tensions between the Mediterranean and the Gulf. Cheap oil would flow securely to consumer markets of the West and Asia, while petro-dollars, Arab workforce and Israeli know-how would combine to shape a new and strong economic region.

This dream of a reconciled Middle East is, up to a point, nothing new. President George Bush Snr had tried to make it come true in the aftermath of another war against Iraq won by US forces, Operation Desert Storm of 1991. Then, Saddam Hussein's armies were pulled out of Kuwait following a strikingly victorious blitzkrieg, although no effort was made to get rid of the master of Baghdad. George Bush Snr had used the wide consensus of nations that backed America and took part in the military operations as a lever to put major pressure on Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Shamir. Both were coaxed into the peace process that would lead to the Madrid conference, and then to the Oslo agreements, by American muscle-flexing. Both were unable to resist: one ruined politically by his backing of Saddam, with a Palestinian society exhausted by the first intifada (which started in December 1987), the other unauthorised to retaliate to Iraqi scuds falling on Tel Aviv, and morally damaged by the severe blows inflicted upon Israel's image by this very same intifada.

DESPAIR: THE TERRORIST'S BEST RECRUITING OFFICER; THE ROAD MAP' FOR PEACE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT RESPECT FOR Palestinian children look back at an Israeli tank i....

Today's "road map" process also builds upon American victory in Iraq to achieve peace in the Holy Land - although the picture rather differs from 12 years ago. First, President Bush Jnr's military success in Iraq was a lonely one, with little backing from a fragmented Western alliance, from Russia and European public opinion, and ambivalent hostility emanating from most US allies in the Arab and Muslim worlds. But the "road map" is deemed to be the outcome of a global consensus. Second, while his father was eager to put equal pressure on Palestinians and Israelis, "Dubya" seems reluctant, to say the least, to hurt any of Ariel Sharon's vested interests and, instead, all the pressure has been exerted on Palestinians. Arafat, never to be forgiven by Washington or Tel Aviv for his political mistake of launching a second intifada in September 2000 that was soon taken over by <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad's repugnant suicide attacks against civilian Israeli targets, has been forced out of the scene.

Though there is little doubt that a failed political leader is bound to disappear, Palestinians are left with no figure of standing, let alone charisma, as they begin a final negotiating process. They are not even made to believe they make their own decisions in this matter: they are being cornered, and obviously so. The belief in Washington and Tel Aviv is that the Palestinian prime minister designate, Abu Mazen, will be a more amenable negotiator. But one also needs domestic legitimacy to convince one's own people that they have to make major concessions in a negotiating process, something that Mazen still lacks.

Instead, Washington, right after the fall of Baghdad, twisted Syria's President Bashar Assad's arm with a combination of threats and economic sanctions. This was because the Americans considered that the major obstacle to peace was the action of armed Islamist movements, such as Lebanese Hizbollah, Palestinian *Hamas* and Jihad. Without Syrian backing those groups would soon enough become inefficient and innocuous. Such a strong- arm approach is certainly bound to weaken the Palestinians' hand, and quite possibly lead to political concessions by Mazen, such as complete renunciation of violence. It is not without its own logic.

But, as the latest deadly attacks on Israeli territory - perpetrated by Britons converted to radical Islam - show, political despair is still a fertile ground for terrorism, and resilient terror is enough to ruin all efforts, unless there is a clear-cut rejection of violence by the overwhelming majority of Palestinians. They won't do it just because they are beaten on the head until they yield. Instead they need to be convinced not only that terror is a dead end, but also that they can reap political, social and economic benefits of peace. The past decade, however, is more of a liability than an asset. They also need to be persuaded that the peace brokers are honest, and that brutal Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian territory in the course of the second intifada, together with its targeted "elimination" of Palestinian activists and "collateral damage" calling for an endless vicious circle of bloody revenge, is condemned on an equal footing in Washington.

Can the present American administration deliver? President Bush will soon begin the re-election race, and he is torn between domestic, short- term tactics and international, long-term strategies. For what it is worth, common wisdom in Republican circles maintains that Bush Snr, in spite of the 1991 military triumph, lost re-election because he had alienated the pro-Israel American lobby by forcing too many concessions on Tel Aviv for the sake of the peace process. Though non-partisan political analysts rather tend to think that Clinton's victory in 1992 stemmed from the incumbent's poor economic record, it is fair to believe little will be implemented by the United States in the Middle East today if it jeopardises the Republicans' 2004 re-election prospects. Alienating the pro-Israel lobby, strongly "embedded" as it is in the neo-conservative Pentagon civilian elite, therefore seems totally unrealistic.

On the other hand, so much was invested, and so many lives of young American soldiers were exposed to danger that Dubya risks his political future if no significant breakthrough is achieved to bring the whole Middle East region back to normality. This involves the ccurbing of terrorism, comforting Israeli security, belittling Saudi Arabia, enhancing Iraqi democracy and ensuring a steady flow of cheap Middle East oil into America's fuel tanks - an ambitious international agenda indeed. More suicide attacks in Tel Aviv's streets, leading to a stalemate in the Holy Land, would be enough to ruin the whole building up of this grand strategy and precipitate an infamous electoral defeat in 2004. As such, the implementation of the "road map" is a crucial issue for the Israeli, Palestinian and, not least, American political leadership. But the sound and fury of weapons won't suffice: nothing durable can be achieved without a negotiating process that takes into account legitimate Palestinian claims for a state. In the

DESPAIR: THE TERRORIST'S BEST RECRUITING OFFICER; THE ROAD MAP' FOR PEACE CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT RESPECT FOR Palestinian children look back at an Israeli tank i....

Middle East temporary losers may prove, in the long run, a major impediment to any form of lasting peace, unless they are treated with dignity.

Gilles Kepel is chair of Middle East Studies at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, and the author of Jihad' (London, IB Tauris, 2003, updated edition) and Bad Moon Rising: A Chronicle of the Middle East Today' (London, Saqi, 2003)

Load-Date: May 4, 2003



US pins weapons shipment on Arafat

The Australian

January 29, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 531 words

Body

* Correspondents in Washington and Jerusalem

THE Bush administration has for the first time directly implicated Yasser Arafat in a recent arms-smuggling incident, a day after Palestinian militants unveiled a new tactic in their intifada against Israel -- sending a woman on a suicide mission.

Hours after Sunday night's powerful explosion ripped through a dozen shops in Jerusalem, killing a civilian and the suicide bomber, a Lebanese television station said the bomber was a *female* student at An Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus. It did not give her name. Nablus is a stronghold of Islamic militancy.

MATP

The other victim was identified as an 81-year-old man, Pinhas Tokteli of Jerusalem.

The blast gutted the Freimann and Bein shoe shop, just metres from the Sbarro pizzeria on Jaffa Road where 15 victims were killed in a suicide-bombing by the radical *Hamas* militant group on August 9 last year, police said.

Three of the injured were in serious condition, Israeli emergency services said. Almost 40 suffered lesser injuries from flying glass and debris.

The attack came two days after a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv injured 18 people. That blast was claimed by Islamic Jihad and an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

On Jaffa Road last Tuesday, an Al-Aqsa gunman killed two Israelis, including a 78-year-old woman, in a shooting spree before being shot dead. About 100 extra police were deployed in the area on Sunday night for fear of more and placed on maximum alert, police sources said.

US Vice-President Dick Cheney said yesterday the administration had seen evidence that Mr Arafat was involved in an attempt to smuggle 50 tonnes of arms into the Palestinian territories earlier this month.

The arms were on board a freighter, Karine A, seized by Israeli forces in international waters of the Red Sea on January 3. Asked during an interview on US television network ABC about the Palestinian leader's earlier denial of his involvement in a letter to President George W. Bush, Mr Cheney said: "We don't believe him."

US officials had until now said Palestinian Authority officials were involved in the smuggling attempt but Mr Cheney's comments marked the first time Mr Arafat himself was implicated.

US pins weapons shipment on Arafat

"He has been implicated now in an operation that puts him working with a terrorist organisation, Hezbollah, and Iran, a state that's devoted to torpedoing the peace process," the Vice-President said.

The Palestinian Authority and Iran have denied any knowledge of the shipment. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said yesterday Mr Arafat had dismissed a senior officer and issued arrest warrants for two more over the arms shipment.

"On the recommendation of the commission of inquiry into the affair of the Karine A, President Yasser Arafat has dismissed General Fuad al-Shubaki and issued arrest warrants against two other officers, General Fathi al-Razem and General Adel Awadallah al-Moghrabi, who are abroad," WAFA said.

General al-Shubaki, who was in charge of the finances of the Palestinian security services, and the two other officers of the Palestinian navy, were named by Israel as being involved in the smuggling.

AFP, KRT

Load-Date: January 30, 2002



Attack is a dare to Israel; Palestinians fire rockets, risking fierce retaliation

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
February 11, 2002 Monday,
Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 563 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Jerusalem --- In an ominous escalation of violence in the Mideast, Palestinians fired rockets into Israel on Sunday for the first time in more than 16 months of fighting.

The three rockets landed in a farm field, injuring no one.

But the Israeli army said the missiles, fired from the Gaza Strip, were Kassam II rockets built by <u>Hamas</u>, the fundamentalist group that has sent dozens of suicide bombers to attack civilian targets.

Cox Washington Bureau

Israeli officials had warned of a ferocious Israeli military response --- "like something you've never seen before," a senior army officer said --- if the rockets were fired into an Israeli city.

"This constitutes a very serious escalation," said government spokesman Avi Pazner.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, just returning from a visit to the United States, convened an urgent meeting of his senior Cabinet officials Sunday night to discuss probable retaliation.

The crude missiles, about 5 inches in diameter, carry a warhead with slightly less explosives than the amount carried by many suicide bombers. But they are more deadly than mortars, they can be fired by remote control, and their range of a few miles opens up many Israeli cities to air attack from Palestinian territories.

Earlier Sunday, Israeli warplanes and helicopters bombed a Palestinian security headquarters. Israeli F-16 jets also dropped three bombs on security buildings in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound.

The bombs blew out the windows of the United Nations' special coordinator in the Middle East and slightly injured 18 people, including two U.N. employees, Palestinian officials said.

Attack is a dare to Israel; Palestinians fire rockets, risking fierce retaliation

Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. official, said that "Israel's security needs will not be met by hitting civilian targets or by destroying the Palestinians' ability to police and maintain order."

The Israeli bombings came hours after Palestinian gunmen killed two <u>female</u> Israeli soldiers in a cafe shooting spree in the usually quiet southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

Two Palestinians drove to a cafe near an army base, jumped from the car and sprayed rifle fire at lunch customers, most of whom were soldiers.

The gunmen were killed in less than a minute by return fire from soldiers and police. Police said one of the gunmen was wearing explosives that he did not detonate.

The Palestinians killed two <u>women</u> soldiers, First Lieutenant Keren Rotstein, 20, and Corporal Aya Malachi, 18. Five others, including civilians, were seriously wounded.

Beersheba, a city deep within Israel at the edge of the Negev Desert, had seen little violence during the current fighting. Other cities, especially Jerusalem, have been under high alert with hundreds of extra police on patrol.

The fighting continued several days of intense strikes and counter-strikes.

Sharon returned from his four-day trip to the United States and blamed the attacks on Arafat, who Israeli and U.S. officials say has not done enough to rein in militants.

Arafat remained pinned down in his West Bank headquarters by nearby Israeli tanks. He called Saturday for "a million martyrs" to carry on resistance to Israel.

Early Monday, Israeli tanks entered the West Bank city of Nablus and surrounded a hotly-contested Jewish shrine, Joseph's Tomb, that Israel had abandoned one month after the current uprising began. They pulled out after less than two hours.

This article was supplemented by news services.

Graphic

Photo:

An Israeli surgeon coming out of an operating room briefs the family of a wounded soldier on his condition Sunday. / RINA CASTELNUOVO / New York Times

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerrillas kill 2 female officrs eating lunch

Daily News (New York)
February 11, 2002, Monday
SPORTS FINAL REPLATE EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 478 words

Byline: BY CORKY SIEMASZKO DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

Two <u>female</u> Israeli soldiers were killed and six people were wounded yesterday when Palestinian gunmen jumped from a car and opened fire on a cafe near a military base.

Lt. Keren Rotstein, 20, and Cpl. Ayah Malachi, 18, were gunned down as they ate lunch in the Israeli desert town of Beersheba.

Furious soldiers quickly killed the gunmen, who were identified as members of the <u>Hamas</u> terror organization. The Israeli government also retaliated quickly.

At dusk, Israeli F-16s circled over Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters - giving those inside time to escape - and then attacked. Despite the warning, dozens of people were wounded. The blast also blew out windows at a nearby UN office.

Rocket factory hit

Israel also struck what it called a rocket factory in the nearby Jebalya refugee camp.

UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen condemned the revenge attacks and said "Israel's security needs will not be met by hitting civilian targets or by destroying the Palestinians' ability to police and maintain order."

The deadly shooting in Beersheba came just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned home from a U.S. visit.

Bush administration officials turned down his request to cut contacts with Arafat, who remains trapped by Israeli tanks at his offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

It was lunchtime in Beersheba, and the cafe near the gates of the Israeli Army's southern command headquarters in the city center was filling up with soldiers when the gunman sprang from a car and started shooting machine guns.

"I was on the street and suddenly the two got out of a car and started firing in all directions," Army Capt. Guy Shaham told Israeli radio. "They were spraying from the hip in all directions. I whipped out my gun and started firing back at them."

When it was over, wounded soldiers and civilians lay bleeding and moaning on the streets.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS SLAIN Guerrillas kill 2 female officrs eating lunch

Until yesterday, Beersheba had escaped much of the violence from the Palestinian uprising, which has left more than 1,000 people dead.

This morning, Israeli tanks entered the West Bank city of Nablus for the second time in two days. The armed vehicles surrounded a Jewish shrine, Joseph's Tomb, abandoned one month into the violent Palestinian revolt.

But they were not there to take back the tomb, as some Israelis have demanded ever since it was evacuated in October 2000 following a two-day battle in which six Palestinians and an Israeli border cop were killed.

The military said this morning's operation followed "many attacks originating from the Nablus area" and was aimed at stopping more terror attacks. In yesterday's operation, an apartment building was raided.

Joseph's Tomb, believed by many Jews to be the burial place of the biblical Joseph but claimed by Palestinians as the tomb of an Arab sheik, can be reached only by passing through a crowded Arab neighborhood. With News Wire Services

Graphic

Lt. Keren Rotstein Cpl. Ayah Malachi AP DEAD GUNMAN Israeli police fingerprint one of two Palestinian guerrillas shot to death after they opened fire on a street in Beersheba.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



THREE ISRAELIS KILLED BY BOMB AT SHOPPING CENTRE

The Independent (London)
May 20, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 592 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM Volunteers clear the scene of a suicide bombing at a mall in the northern

Israeli town of Afula Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/AP

Body

A PALESTINIAN suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at the entrance to a crowded shopping centre in the northern Israeli town of Afula, killing three Israelis and wounding at least 18.

One of the dead was a <u>female</u> security guard who had prevented the bomber from going inside the building. It was the fifth Palestinian suicide bombing in three days. A senior Israeli police officer said: "We are in the middle of a wave of terror that is growing and gathering strength."

Israeli commentators compared the spate of attacks to the surge of bombings that killed dozens of Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv early in 1996. This time, they said, the assailants were aiming to damage Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian Prime Minister, as much as Israel. Radical groups were determined to sabotage his attempt to return to the negotiating table and to implement the international "road-map" to peace.

But President Bush said he was sure the peace process would continue despite the latest bombing. He said: "I've got confidence we can move the peace process forward."

Islamic Jihad and Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the Afula attack. The previous four were carried out by <u>Hamas</u>, another militant group. Abdullah al-Shami, one of Islamic Jihad's leaders, said in Gaza: "This is our response to the crimes of the occupation. We resist it whether there is a road-map or not. We don't want the Zionists to feel safe."

Danny Seaman, an Israeli government spokesman, said: "Unless the international community and the Palestinians put a stop to this, there will be no hope for peace. The road-map has been replaced by a trail of blood that will lead the Palestinians to disaster."

Israeli officials blame Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, for encouraging terrorism. Mr Arafat is locked in a power struggle with Mr Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen), whom he appointed under pressure from the US and Egypt.

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, said on Sunday that he had rejected calls to send Mr Arafat back into exile, but Shaul Mofaz, his Defence Minister, said yesterday: "If Arafat continues to act as a main obstacle to the peace process, and at the same time Abu Mazen is willing to battle the terrorist organisations, there will be no alternative but to think about steps to deport him."

THREE ISRAELIS KILLED BY BOMB AT SHOPPING CENTRE

Security sources believe that yesterday's bomber infiltrated Israel from the West Bank in defiance of a siege on all Palestinian towns imposed by Israel after a suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem on Sunday. Afula is about 6 miles north of the West Bank border and 10 miles from Jenin, a militant stronghold. Religious volunteers, who retrieve body parts for burial, said the blast was magnified in the enclosed space. Limbs were blown off and windows shattered.

Avner Vigeema, a lorry driver, said: "I saw one woman running away, then falling flat on top of a white car, covering it in blood," he said, his own T-shirt stained with blood. "I saw a man move his head from side to side, then die."

Mr Vigeema, who fought with the Israeli army in Lebanon 20 years ago, said: "In a situation like this, you have to forget the dead and help the wounded. It's not a time to be emotional."

Earlier yesterday, a cyclist detonated a bomb near an army vehicle in the Gaza Strip, killing himself and wounding three soldiers. A settler and his wife were killed in the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday. Seven passengers died on Sunday in the Jerusalem bus bombing and another man blew himself up at a nearby checkpoint when challenged by police.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003



Five arrested in Britain over suicide bomber

The Times (London)
May 3, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 11

Length: 613 words

Byline: Robert Tait in Tel Aviv Dominic Kennedy and Patrick Barkham

Body

ANTI-TERRORISM officers investigating two British Muslims accused of a suicide bomb attack in Israel arrested five people in the East Midlands last night.

Two men and two <u>women</u> were held by armed officers in Derbyshire and another woman was seized in Nottinghamshire. Properties in the two counties were also searched.

Officers are investigating alleged links with Asif Mohammed Hanif, who died in a suicide attack in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, and his alleged accomplice, Omar Khan Sharif.

Mr Sharif, 27, from Derby, is being hunted by Israeli police after fleeing the scene of the attack. They believe he is still in the country.

The five arrested by armed officers last night are being held under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which relates to the power of arrest of individuals suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. All were taken to a Central London police station.

The raids followed a warning from Israel on Thursday that the British Government must deal severely with Islamic extremists and came hours after Gordon Brown ordered the Bank of England to freeze all accounts belonging to Hanif and Mr Sharif.

Further details also emerged yesterday of the two men's movements on the night of the bombing. They checked into an Israeli hostel at about 5pm on Tuesday and another man - possibly a source of explosives - later called for them at reception. The British pair left with him and returned without him.

Hanif, 21, who came from Hounslow, is then reported to have violated his devout Muslim beliefs by drinking beer before carrying out the suicide attack. Ruti Asnan, the owner of a bar near the hostel, said that he entered her premises at about 8pm, five hours before the attack on Mike's Place, another bar five minutes' walk away.

"He bought four Carlsbergs at eight shekels (Pounds 1.20) each, two to drink here and two to take away," she said. "I asked him where he was from and he said he was from London. He didn't talk that much, but he was looking around a lot."

Consuming alcohol contravenes the Islamic principles which Hanif professed as an adherent of al-Muhajiroun, the radical organisation that campaigns for a worldwide Islamic state. However, drinking is not unprecedented for

Five arrested in Britain over suicide bomber

suicide bombers. Several of the September 11 bombers are reported to have drunk heavily before the attacks on New York and Washington.

Both Hanif and Mr Sharif had religious instruction from Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad, the British-based founder of al-Muhajiroun, who is emerging as an important influence on the pair. He told The Times that both spoke Arabic with a Syrian accent, adding to suspicions that their mission was arranged through Damascus. *Hamas*, which claimed responsibility for the attack, has an office there.

"I saw them together in Derby," Sheikh Muhammad said. "Omar Sharif studied Arabic in Syria. He recited for me a couple of Koranic verses. He was very good at reciting. He wanted to debate in Arabic. He wanted to impress me." Mr Sharif attended ten hours of lessons at Sheikh Muhammad's Shariah Islamic law school over eight weeks, finishing three weeks ago. On one occasion he took along Hanif.

Sheikh Muhammad also saw Hanif at a class in London.

Both men were devout students. In Derby, Mr Sharif was known as an active follower of al-Muhajiroun. He had been seen distributing leaflets on Normanton Road, Derby, between his house and the Jamia Mosque, where Sheikh Muhammad often went to hand out his own literature. According to Omar Abdulah, 30, the leader of the Derby branch of al-Muhajiroun, Mr Sharif was a follower rather than one of the group's 200 or so directly involved members.

Load-Date: May 3, 2003



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS; Many problems with war on Iraq

Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota)
February 15, 2003, Saturday,
METRO EDITION

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Length: 580 words

Body

By GINGER HUSHKA, Bismarck

When the war on terror yielded no conclusive victories, America's fear and anger against al-Qaida morphed into fear and anger against Saddam Hussein. For President Bush, getting Saddam was personal: His father was criticized for failure to 'take out' Saddam, and targeted for assassination by Saddam.

None of its neighbors see Iraq as a threat. Much of Europe is against America's rush to war, claiming U.N. inspections in the 1990s and again now make it unlikely Saddam will 'get out of the box' and pose a threat. American opinion is divided, but a majority stands against unsanctioned action.

Soon, 150,000 troops will have assembled in the Gulf. It looks like war is inevitable.

Many of us oppose a war against Iraq. We do not believe it will be a quick and easy victory, and even if it is, securing the peace will not be. Besides collateral damage -- charbroiled <u>women</u> and children -- we fear the unintended consequences of war. Some are:

Isolation in an increasingly interdependent world; setting a precedent for other countries to pre-emptively attack (North Korea being the Wal-Mart for nukes); our soldiers becoming the target of Saddam's chemical and biological weapons; urban warfare in Baghdad (<u>Hamas</u> is advising Iraqis to employ suicide bombing against Americans); destabilizing a volatile part of the world (Gen. Wesley Clark said a unilateral U.S. attack would 'super-charge recruiting for al-Qaida').

Say no to war with Iraq.

Our job to prevent war

By BRIAN PALECEK, Bismarck

North Dakotans, millions of Americans, and a billion people throughout the world have been trying to deliver this message for the past few months: 'Say no to war with Iraq.'

It is our job to prevent this war. Unfortunately, politicians of our country have got us into a real predicament, but world leaders in the United Nations have so far successfully slowed the war process as they attempt to deter a U.S. attack, establish a process of international law and disarm a nation that may have weapons of mass destruction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS; Many problems with war on Iraq

Regardless of whether these efforts succeed, our tasks remain. We have been reminded once again of the horrors of weapons of mass destruction and why development and possession of these weapons by individuals, groups or nations must be declared a crime against humanity.

I am grateful that the United Nations and international law have been enhanced and that the word 'disarmament' is back in our vocabulary. But we should be reminded of how hard it is to account for the whereabouts of these weapons and to work for their elimination, whether they are located in Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, North Dakota or North Korea.

From now on, this is everyone's task, not just that of a handful of weapons inspectors and peace activists.

(The writer is on the steering committee of the North Dakota Peace Coalition. -- Editor)

Defer or refer

By IMELDA LONG, Mandan

What part of 'no' do our legislators not understand? How can they again try to enforce a seat-belt law, when car manufacturers have not been able to come up with a seat belt you can open when you're hanging upside down in a rollover, perhaps in a water-filled ditch or with the vehicle burning? You are trapped. I think we all know people who have died this way.

Listening to some of the testimony, you'd think people who want to buckle up can't if there isn't a law.

How many times does this same measure have to be referred before our lawmakers hear the people they are supposed to represent?

Load-Date: February 17, 2003



<u>The World; Just Try to Imagine A Palestinian Democracy - Correction</u> Appended

The New York Times
May 19, 2002 Sunday
Late Edition - Final



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Section: Section 4; Column 1; Week in Review Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 1290 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

REFORM of Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority is suddenly dominating the diplomacy for Middle East peace, and as is so often true of this suffocating conflict, the debate is already narrowing to self-serving questions: Is Mr. Arafat speaking of reform simply to sustain his power? Is Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime minister, calling for reform just to postpone peace talks? Will the Bush administration settle for cosmetic change to appease Arab states?

Reform, in short, is turning into a political football. But consider if it were a grail instead.

True democratic reform would be a gamble for everyone, but one with a potentially impressive payoff: it could create a model for ending not only the crisis over Israel's legitimate borders and even its right to exist, but also the similar, simmering doubts about Arab nations arbitrarily sketched out by Europeans on the map of the dying Ottoman Empire 80 years ago.

The Palestinian Authority is being asked to do something that American administrations have not asked of any established Arab state: to create a true democracy, with civil protections, separation of powers, direct accountability of officials, freedom of the press and speech, and transparency of governing institutions.

Many Palestinian officials and citizens are eager to take up the challenge -- perhaps a higher proportion of the elite and the average citizenry than elsewhere in the Arab Middle East. The ache for civic change was captured last week by the speed with which members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the oft-sidelined legislature of the Palestinian Authority, responded to Mr. Arafat's invitation for proposals.

But doubts about the prospect for real change were also fanned, by the way Mr. Arafat reversed course and suggested that elections had to await the end of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Though it is far from clear they will stand up to Mr. Arafat, many Palestinians are yearning for democracy. "Working on the constitution, being a member of the first Palestinian parliament and being part of creating a parliamentary and democratic tradition in our society is all interesting and exciting," said Nabil Abu Amr, a Palestinian legislator. "But the frustrations are even greater, because I don't want to wait forever."

The World Just Try to Imagine A Palestinian Democracy

It is perhaps Pollyannaish even to conjure the scenario, at such a dark moment in Israeli-Palestinian relations. But imagine the effect on Israeli fears about Palestinian intentions, and on Arab-Israeli diplomacy, if a democratic Palestinian government sought a peace accord guaranteeing a two-state solution with Israel. Imagine the effect on Palestinian life.

To play Pollyanna for a moment, there are reasons to think this could happen, with enough work by other nations and daring by leaders on both sides here.

Among the Arabs, Palestinians are uniquely suited for such a democratic experiment, because of their bitter, close relationship with Israel, their stateless years and the intense international focus on their cause.

Nader Said, a sociologist at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah, said that the Israeli occupation had instilled in Palestinians "their defiance of authority in general, and this sort of tendency for freedom -- wanting personal freedom, and to not be controlled." At the same time, he said, "even under the worst of circumstances, Palestinians have admired Israeli democracy." These are experiences that Mr. Arafat and his closest associates, in exile for so many years, did not have.

Palestinians have traveled the world, and many have lived in the United States. As agriculture floundered here, the importance of education grew, partly as a path to jobs overseas. Particularly in the West Bank, Palestinians are relatively wealthy, not because of the oil that sustains elites elsewhere, but because of their own efforts and foreign assistance. The aid has led to corruption within Mr. Arafat's administration, but it also has helped develop a strong middle class outside it.

Foreign aid has helped spawn a network of civic organizations, from advocacy groups for <u>women</u>'s rights to programs that grapple with juvenile delinquency. Labor and student unions put down roots long before Islamic organizations like *Hamas*.

The gamble is that elections might benefit extremists. Recent polling has shown Mr. Arafat's more secular Fatah movement and Islamist groups like <u>Hamas</u> each supported by a quarter to a third of Palestinians, leaving 40 to 50 percent in play.

Until now, the Bush administration has resisted European calls for Palestinian elections partly out of fear that in the present, venomous environment candidates would compete to be the most militant. At this low point for peace efforts, it might be impossible for a Palestinian to campaign in favor of a peace agreement.

In its time, so long ago now, the Clinton administration also compromised on its stated values, resisting Palestinian reform in the belief that only a strong Mr. Arafat could reach a peace agreement.

THE advocates of secular democracy have watched the current conflict with growing despair, marking the steady march of Islamic fundamentalism as more young <u>women</u> began covering their heads and Islamic groups scored a smashing victory in student elections at Al Najah University in Nablus. Few Palestinian leaders spoke up against suicide attacks against Israeli civilians, as they became more frequent.

Dr. Said said he used to walk on the Tel Aviv beach with Israelis, while younger Palestinians now encounter them at checkpoints. "Palestinians 40 and above are more liberal than Palestinians below 40," he said.

Members of nongovernmental organizations, along with civil servants, medical workers and others have been meeting recently in Ramallah in hopes of rallying liberal, democratic forces.

The most senior Palestinian leader arrested recently by Israel was Marwan Barghouti, an official of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement whom Palestinians regard as a potential democratic leader. Before this conflict, Israelis thought of him that way too.

Maybe the Israeli government truly regards Mr. Barghouti as a terrorist now. It says he has admitted under interrogation to being one. Maybe, as many Palestinians believe, Israel is trying to discredit and silence a popular reform-minded leader. Other Palestinians say that maybe, by imprisoning Mr. Barghouti, Israel is trying to enhance

The World Just Try to Imagine A Palestinian Democracy

his standing in the Palestinian street, in hopes of boosting prospects for Palestinian democracy and a diplomatic settlement some day.

In 1947, Arabs rejected the United Nations plan to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, and when Israel declared its independence in 1948, five Arab nations attacked. The new Israelis drove them back beyond the allotted borders, and some 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were forced from their homes. Last week, Palestinians marked the day Israel declared its independence, a day they call the Nakba, or catastrophe.

As David Fromkin concluded in "A Peace to End All Peace," his study of the breakup of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, "In the Middle East, there is no sense of legitimacy -- no agreement on rules of the game -- and no belief, universally shared in the region, that within whatever boundaries, the entities that call themselves countries or the men who claim to be rulers are entitled to recognition as such."

Perhaps real democracy in the Palestinian Authority would only backfire, and would not put Nakba day to rest by easing doubts of the legitimacy of Israel's borders. Perhaps Palestinian democracy would not point the way to easing similar doubts about the borders of nations like Jordan and Iraq. Given the political and diplomatic games being played now with reform, the world may never know.

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

An article last Sunday about the possibilities of reform in the Palestinian Authority misidentified a reform-minded Palestinian legislator. He is Ziad Abu Amr; Nabil Amr is another Palestinian reformer.

Correction-Date: May 26, 2002

Graphic

Photo: At the Jenin refugee camp, a banner honoring Yasir Arafat came down when Mr. Arafat didn't speak there. (Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: May 19, 2002



Israeli missile kills 2 militants

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

November 27, 2002 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2002 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A

Length: 635 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM; ROME; MALAGA, Spain; KINSHASA, Congo; DILI, East Timor

Body

An Israeli aircraft fired a missile into a house in the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank late Tuesday, killing two senior Palestinian militants wanted by Israeli security services, Palestinians said.

Witnesses identified the two as Alaa Amhad Sabbagh, 21, head of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in Jenin, and Imad Farouq Masharqi, 26, local commander of the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or <u>Hamas</u>. Both organizations have carried out numerous suicide bombings against Israeli civilians during the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising.

No one else was killed or injured in the attack, witnesses said. Compiled from Times Wires

ISRAEL SEEKS AID: Israel is asking the Bush administration for about \$4-billion in new military aid and \$8-billion to \$10-billion in loan guarantees to bolster its economy, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. loans and grants.

Fertility doctor claims

cloned baby is on the way

ROME - An Italian fertility doctor who has claimed that several <u>women</u> are carrying cloned babies said Tuesday that one of the children would be born in early January. But as with earlier statements, he again offered no evidence.

Dr. Severino Antinori said that a woman was about eight months pregnant with a cloned baby boy and that the child was developing in an "absolutely healthy" way.

Antinori refused to identify the woman or give her nationality. When asked where she was going to give birth he said only "countries where this is permitted."

Experts have repeatedly dismissed Antiniori's claims and say they doubt that he is capable of achieving a cloned pregnancy.

Spain, France impose

tougher rules on tankers

MALAGA, Spain - Spain and France said Tuesday they would impose exhaustive safety checks on all single-hull oil tankers more than 15 years old that enter their waters, in a bid to avert a repetition of the Prestige tanker disaster.

Any ships deemed dangerous will be expelled from the nations' waters, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said in a news conference with French President Jacques Chirac.

The controls begin today.

Chirac and Aznar said that all suspect tankers within the country's exclusive economic zones, which stretch about 230 miles from the coast, will be checked.

The 26-year-old single-hull Prestige sprung a leak Nov. 13. Six days later, the vessel split in two and sank, taking most of its 20-million gallons of fuel oil to the ocean floor.

On Tuesday, the Spanish government revised its figures for size of the Prestige's spill, raising it from 2.9-million gallons to 4.5-million gallons.

Flu outbreak kills

more than 500 in Congo

KINSHASA, Congo - The World Health Organization on Tuesday reported an outbreak of flu in rebel-controlled northern Congo, and the country's health minister said more than 500 people have died.

WHO officials in the capital could not say how many people had been infected or killed. It was not immediately clear what strain of flu was involved. A team was sent to the region last week to investigate.

The illness was apparently spread by people fleeing an Oct. 25 coup attempt in Central African Republic.

East Timor bishop resigns,

citing poor health

DILI, East Timor - Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, whose resistance to Indonesia's bloody occupation of East Timor earned him a Nobel Peace Prize, resigned Tuesday, citing poor health.

Belo is a spiritual icon in the largely Roman Catholic nation of 800,000 people whose faith was seen as a key part of their struggle for independence.

"I am suffering from both physical and mental fatigue that will require a long period of recuperation," the 54-year-old bishop said in announcing his resignation.

Last week, Belo returned from a three-month stay in Portugal where he underwent undisclosed medical treatment.

Load-Date: November 27, 2002



Suicide bombers hit Israeli bus, kill 14

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
October 22, 2002 Tuesday
Home Edition

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 574 words

Byline: CRAIG NELSON

Body

Jerusalem --- This time they attacked on wheels.

Instead of strapping nail-packed explosives to their bodies, two suicide bombers packed a vehicle with explosives and detonated it alongside a commuter bus in northern Israel on Monday.

The attack set the back of the bus aflame and trapped helpless passengers inside. At least 14 passengers were killed and another 45 wounded, police said.

For the Journal-Constitution

The militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for Monday's attack, which came as U.S. envoy William Burns was touring the region with a peace proposal that calls for Palestinian reforms followed within 18 months by the establishment of a provisional state.

The Bush administration is eager to damp down the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as it tries to rally support for a possible war with Iraq. Monday's bombing is unlikely to further that aim, with Israeli retaliation all but certain.

Chaim Avraham, the driver of the bus, said the explosion blew him from the vehicle, which was traveling along busy Highway 65, several miles from the town of Hadera. The highway runs parallel to the 1967 border that divides Israel and the West Bank.

"Within a few seconds the bus was in flames. I tried to help two **women**, but I couldn't move my arms," said Avraham, 50.

Leoni Gino, a passenger, said she scurried over the body of a soldier to escape the twisted metal and shattered glass.

"Everybody started running away --- I mean everybody who was still alive. Then suddenly the bus blew up in flames," said Gino, 17, who was returning to her boarding school in nearby Karsaba.

Suicide bombers hit Israeli bus, kill 14

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority has frequently condemned the tactic of suicide bombings and it did so again following Monday's blast.

"You know that the Palestinian leadership position is against such attacks that target civilians, Israelis or Palestinians," The Associated Press quoted Arafat as saying from his compound in Ramallah, near Jerusalem.

Yet, as it has following other suicide bombings, the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held Arafat responsible for failing to curtail the bombings.

"It's high time, I think, that the Palestinian leadership understood that if it wants to move away from the situation into a mode of negotiation, into a mode of talks, it cannot do so unless it cracks down on the terrorist organizations that come from within its own midst," said Mark Sofer, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

As it weighs its reply to the attack, the Sharon government's options for increasing pressure on Palestinians to stop the attacks are limited.

Israeli troops already occupy six of seven cities in the West Bank, home to more than 2 million Palestinians. The demolition of houses belonging to the families of suicide bombers is routine. Arafat's compound in Ramallah is already in shambles from a 10-day Israeli military siege in response to a suicide bombing last month.

Since the second uprising, or Intifada, against Israel's occupation more than two years ago, suicide bombings have become the main weapon of Palestinian militants. Most of the bombers are affiliated with Islamic Jihad and another Palestinian militant group, *Hamas*.

The use of a vehicle that police said was carrying 220 pounds of dynamite in Monday's bus attack signaled a possible change in tactics by Palestinian militants. Islamic Jihad called it a retaliation for civilian Palestinian deaths during recent Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Graphic

Photo: Israeli authorities work at the site of a car bombing Monday after a vehicle pulled up next to a bus and explod-ed in northern Israel during the afternoon rush hour, killing at least 14 people and wounding at least 45 others. / EITAN HESS ASHKENAZI / Associated Press

Load-Date: October 22, 2002



Suicide attack claims many student victims

Philadelphia Daily News

November 22, 2002 Friday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 54

Length: 554 words

Byline: Chicago Tribune **Dateline:** JERUSALEM

Body

To be a schoolchild in Israel today means making life-and-death decisions between breakfast and the bus stop. For instance: What bus seat looks safe from a suicide bomber, those in the back or those in the front of the bus?

Maor Kimchi, 15, made a good choice yesterday and lived to tell about it.

"I always sit in the back of the bus," the slight boy said, nursing a leg wound at Hadassah Hospital little more than an hour after a suicide bomber set off a powerful explosion in the middle of the city bus that Kimchi rides every morning.

"I have to take the bus," he said. "What can I do?"

The second large-scale militant attack in a week struck at the heart of a working-class neighborhood in Jerusalem, killing 11 and wounding 30, with a number of high school students among the casualties.

Within hours of the bombing, the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility, warning more attacks were ahead as "long as there is occupation and there are crimes" against Palestinians.

By midday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was in consultation with top military and intelligence advisers, weighing how best to hit back at militant groups that, for two years, have shown no sign of scaling back a coordinated campaign of terror and resistance.

Minutes after yesterday's bus bombing at 7:15 a.m. Israeli time, young Kimchi struggled to wrest himself free, jumping from the charred bus window and landing near a taxi driver who offered to take him to the hospital. Kimchi, like all the youngsters at Hadassah Hospital, had no idea that any of his friends had died in the blast. That, his parents said softly by his bedside, would come later.

"Every morning, I worry," Ilana Kimchi, a secretary, said about her middle child's morning ride to the middle of Jerusalem. Still, Doron, the boy's father, said the family would not bow to fear. Maor would be riding the bus again, he said.

Suicide attack claims many student victims

"The terrorists are just looking to kill children...He shouldn't ride a bus because it could be dangerous? We shouldn't be afraid of them," Doron Kimchi said.

Yesterday's suicide bomber, the son of a vegetable seller, hailed from Bethlehem. In the afternoon, the mother and father of Nael Abu Hilayel, 22, were sitting on their doorstep, accepting kisses and congratulations from Palestinians who praised their son's deadly deed. Two other sons had been arrested by Israeli authorities after the attack, but now was the time to celebrate the Palestinian cause.

"Nael went to kill himself for the good of God," said Azmi Abu Hilayel, garbed in a white caftan and white head cover, and holding a large color photo of his son to his chest. His wife, Fatima, sobbed. Surrounded by <u>women</u> wearing traditional colorful robes and white head coverings, she insisted she was proud and "very happy" about the choice of her most religious son.

"I only wished he had said goodbye," said the mother. Both parents, who have four boys and nine girls, said although they had no idea what Nael had planned, they could only hope for such "martyrdom" for all of their children.

"Thank God, he sacrificed his life for the sake of Palestine," his mother said.

"Every night, the Israeli airplanes come and shell our children," Abu Hilayel said, when asked about the notion his son killed youngsters. "My son is the shell of the tank, the missile of the airplane" in return, he said.

Load-Date: November 22, 2002



<u>ISRAEL KILLS 6 IN GAZA VIOLENCE;</u> SAYS TROOPS WERE SHOT AT; 2 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN DIE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 18, 2002 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD, Length: 591 words

Byline: PETER HERMANN, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

At least six Palestinians were killed and dozens injured yesterday in the southern Gaza Strip when Israeli soldiers fired tanks and machine guns during what the army described as a fierce gun battle.

Army officials said the battle began when soldiers building an embankment near the Egyptian border were attacked by anti-tank grenades and returned the fire. The dead included a 4-year-old boy, a 12-year-old girl, an elderly man and two **women**, according to Dr. Ali Mousa, head of Mohammed Yousef Najjar Hospital in Rafah.

He said the dead were civilians who had been inside homes that were hit by tank shells. The army later said that two of the dead Palestinians had been armed.

Mousa said most of the injured were children near a United Nations school that was hit by gunfire and at least one tank shell. "It's a crime," the doctor said, describing his emergency room as jammed with critically injured patients. "The ambulances are still coming."

Witnesses said the clash began when Israeli soldiers started building a new army tower near the Egyptian border, a volatile strip of land controlled by Israel and a frequent flash-point in the two-year conflict.

Army officials said their soldiers were attacked while building a protective embankment with a bulldozer.

They said rock and bottle throwing escalated to gunfire and then anti-tank grenades were thrown, damaging an armored vehicle.

"The terrorists were shooting from heavy machine guns and they were throwing grenades," an army spokeswoman who declined to give her name said last night. "After a while, the soldiers got to be in serious jeopardy."

The spokeswoman confirmed that troops, none of whom were injured, fired tank shells, but said only buildings identified as sources of fire were targeted.

She said that Palestinian militants "work from within the civilian population. Our forces try to avoid hurting the innocents, and of course we express regret if we have."

ISRAEL KILLS 6 IN GAZA VIOLENCE; SAYS TROOPS WERE SHOT AT; 2 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN DIE

Yesterday's battle comes after a series of Israeli army raids in the Gaza Strip -- home to 1.2 million Palestinians and 7,000 Jewish settlers -- in which many civilians were killed.

In July, an F-16 warplane dropped a 1-ton bomb on an apartment in Gaza City to kill the head of the militant wing of the *Hamas* group, but also killed 15 bystanders, nine of them children.

On Oct. 7, an army raid into the Khan Younis refugee camp north of Rafah killed 17 people, a dozen of whom died when a helicopter fired into a crowd as the operation was drawing to a close.

The army said it fired at armed militants shooting at retreating troops; Palestinians said all killed were civilians inspecting damage from the raid.

About 120,000 people live in Rafah, a militant stronghold and the site of frequent battles with Israeli troops. The army regards it as a key arms smuggling port and frequently raids border houses to uncover tunnels dug under the fenced-in border with Egypt.

Army officials said yesterday that their forces came under fire for more than an hour.

But Palestinians in Rafah described the firing from Israeli soldiers as indiscriminate. They said heavy tank-mounted machine guns were used, as well as at least five tank shells that slammed into homes and a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Sami Mushasha, a U.N. spokesman in Gaza, said there were few students in the school because it was between shifts. But he said many students going to and from the building might be among the injured. "It seems that our school was caught in the line of fire," he said in a telephone interview.

Load-Date: October 19, 2002



SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS ISRAELI WOMAN AT BUS STOP

The Independent (London)
October 11, 2002, Friday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 16

Length: 552 words

Byline: Justin Huggler In Jerusalem Mourners at the funeral of Oded Wolk, an Israeli who was killed in an ambush

by Palestinian gunmen near Hebron earlier this week AP

Body

AN ISRAELI woman was killed in a suicide bombing yesterday, after a bus driver and a passenger pinned the bomber to the ground and almost certainly saved several other lives.

But in the Gaza Strip, the killing went on unabated: two more Palestinians, one of them a 12-year-old boy, were shot dead by Israeli soldiers. The number killed in the Gaza Strip this week rose to 20, with Israeli raids continuing despite international condemnation.

Sixteen people were injured in the suicide bombing yesterday morning in Bnei Brak, a suburb of Tel Aviv. The driver of a bus, Baruch Neuman, was hailed as a hero by Israelis who believed his actions had prevented a much greater toll of casualties.

"I opened the door to let people on and off, and before I closed the back door I noticed a man trying to sneak on to the bus," Mr Neuman said.

"I shut the door, and apparently the man fell on to the road and hurt himself." Mr Neuman said he quickly got up and went to help the man. A passenger, reported to be a doctor, and a woman paramedic also went to help.

"We opened his shirt and saw an explosives belt strapped on to his body," Mr Neuman said. "I was in shock. The man who was with me shouted that we should each grab one of the bomber's hands and not let him move so he couldn't detonate himself.

"Meanwhile, the bomber, who was conscious, began fighting us, and we yelled for all of the passengers on the bus, as well as those close by, to clear the area."

Mr Neuman and the male passenger held the bomber's hands pinned to the ground while the other passengers ran. Then, Mr Neuman said, the other passenger suggested they both let go at once and run for it. When they did, the bomber got up, ran towards a group of people at a bus stop near by and detonated his bomb. The dead woman was identified as 71-year-old Se'ada Aharon.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the suicide bombing, but a spokesman for <u>Hamas</u> said it was a response to this week's killings of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

America has already urged Israel to show restraint, apparently fearing reprisals will undermine its chances of winning Arab support for any military action against Iraq.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS ISRAELI WOMAN AT BUS STOP

Two more Palestinians were killed yesterday when Israeli tanks raided Rafah refugee camp in the south of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian witnesses said. One, Saher al-Hout, a 12-year-old boy, was hit by Israeli fire as he stood in a street near the fighting. The other victim, 18-year-old Ihab al-Mghaiar, was shot in the chest, doctors said. Witnesses said he was not armed.

The Israeli army has launched repeated raids on the Gaza Strip recently, firing on heavily populated areas with scant regard for civilian life. On Monday, an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into a crowd that contained <u>women</u> and children, as well as Palestinian militants. Ten people were killed. The hospital where the wounded were taken was itself hit by Israeli gunfire - the Israeli army said it was responding to mortar fire - and one man, a hospital worker, was hit and died.

Two more Palestinian teenagers were killed in the Rafah area on Wednesday. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli soldiers in tanks opened fire with machine -guns on a group of youths throwing stones at them.

The Israeli army said its soldiers had responded after coming under fire.

Load-Date: October 11, 2002



Massacre averted by bus driver's bravery: Bomber pinned down until passengers had fled

The Guardian (London)
October 11, 2002

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 18

Length: 559 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Tel Aviv

Body

The slip of a foot and the desperate courage of a bus driver who pinned down a suicide bomber as his passengers fled probably saved dozens of lives in Tel Aviv yesterday.

An elderly woman was killed and 16 other people injured when the bomber finally detonated the explosive intended for the bus, but the police said a "major disaster" had been averted.

The driver, Baruch Neuman, said the bomber tried to board his bus through the exit but slipped and fell when the doors closed on him. Mr Neuman, a *female* paramedic and a male passenger got off to see if the man was injured.

"I noticed that the man who had fallen off the bus had a light head wound and was bleeding, apparently from the fall. The medic tore open his shirt to see if he was all right and there was an explosives belt strapped on to his body. We saw the wires. I was in shock," Mr Neuman said.

"The man who was with me shouted that we should each grab one of the bomber's hands and not let him move so he couldn't detonate himself. I knew that if he blew himself up there would be a lot of dead people."

Mr Neuman called to the passengers still on the bus to run for their lives. The bomber, who was stunned for a short while by his fall, began to fight back.

When everyone was clear, the driver made a run for it.

"We let go of his hands and ran away. When I looked back I saw the bomber get up, start running, and blow himself up."

The bomber ran to the bus stop, where he set off the explosives, killing Se'ada Aharon, 71.

Last night the bomber was named as Rafik H'mad, 31, a father of four, from the West Bank.

<u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility. A senior official, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said "the Zionist enemy" would not be safe so long as Palestinians were not safe in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, where 10 people died on Monday when an Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a crowd which included <u>women</u> and children.

Massacre averted by bus driver's bravery: Bomber pinned down until passengers had fled

Two more Palestinian children were killed during Israeli tank incursions to demolish the homes of alleged terroristsin Gaza yesterday. Witnesses said Saher al-Hout, 12, was shot by a soldier in Rafah refugee camp. The other killed was a teenager.

Israeli officials say that the security forces had already been ordered to be on the alert for a new wave of attacks in revenge for the Gaza killings.

The Israeli army claims to have uncovered evidence of a direct link between one of Iraq's two vice-presidents, Taha Yasin Ramadan, and suicide bombers. It says he used codes to order attacks.

It says it got the evidence in a raid on the offices of the Iraqi-funded Arab Liberation Organisation.

The parents of 20 children killed in the bombing of a Tel Aviv disco in June wrote to Tony Blair yesterday accusing him of falling for "blood-soaked" propaganda and of "blasphemy", because of a speech in which he drew attention to the fact that 243 children have died in the two years of intifada, two-thirds of them Palestinian.

They said Mr Blair had failed to distinguish between Israeli children who were innocents picket by terrorists because they were Jewish and Palestinian children killed unintentionally as "a sad but inevitable result of the Israeli army having to defend its people".

Although any life was sacred, especially that of a child, "you can't put (them) on the same scale", they wrote.

Special report on Israel and the Middle East: guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: October 11, 2002



NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
September 1, 2002 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 5; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 632 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL 3-16

Swedes Say Detainee Was Flight Student in U.S.

Swedish authorities said that a man arrested with a gun in his carry-on luggage as he tried to board a London-bound flight had studied at an aviation school in the United States and had a criminal record. Swedish officials denied reports attributed to Swedish intelligence and police circles that the man had planned to seize the plane to attack an American embassy in Europe in a conspiracy with four other men. 6

Conflicting Views on Iraq

The world is responding to the Bush administration's verbal war against Iraq with statements that contain more skepticism and disapproval than support. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, who has probably come closest in aligning his government with the United States on Iraq, affirmed earlier statements calling for action against Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader. 16

Helicopter Crash in Chechnya

A Russian helicopter gunship crashed in Chechnya, evidently shot down by Chechen fighters, the Ministry of Defense said. The helicopter's two pilots were killed. Chechen rebels claimed responsibility for the attack in a message posted on their Web site. 13

Israeli Missiles Kill 5

Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a Palestinian vehicle driving through a West Bank village, killing three men inside and two children who were outside their home. Israelis also arrested the West Bank political leader of the militant **Hamas** movement in Ramallah. 6

NATIONAL 18-28

Congressional Candidates Trumpet Domestic Issues

The fight for control of Congress is revolving more around domestic than foreign concerns, with candidates battling over corporate abuses, prescription drug costs and Social Security rather than the threat of terrorism or the prospect of a war against Iraq. 1

NEWS SUMMARY

Menopause Drug Substitutes

Ever since the government halted a study of a popular hormone therapy used by postmenopausal <u>women</u>, doctors have been deluged by a tide of promotional material for anything and everything that could substitute for the drug used in the study. 1

West Nile-Organ Donor Link?

Three of four patients who received organs from one donor have apparently developed encephalitis and tests show that one recipient is infected with the West Nile virus, raising suspicion that the virus can be transmitted through organ transplants, federal health officials said. 18

States Block Gun Lawsuits

A spate of government litigation against the nation's gun companies has been stifled in 30 states that have passed laws granting the industry immunity from civil lawsuits. The suits accused gun companies of being public nuisances and sought huge damage awards in a campaign similar to that waged against the tobacco industry. 27

Scientists to Get Skeleton

A federal magistrate judge has ordered the government to let scientists study the bones of Kennewick Man, an ancient skeleton discovered on the banks of the Columbia River. The government had planned to give the remains to Indian tribes. 24

NEW YORK/REGION 29-34

Final Death Toll Near In World Trade Center Attack

From the earliest hours after the destruction of the World Trade Center, one of the most painful and complicated tasks has been determining precisely how many people died and exactly who they were. Now, after a year of tireless labor, New York is finally on the verge of establishing the final death toll. 1

Connecticut Priests Rebuked

Two Fairfield County priests were admonished by the Bishop of Bridgeport for failing to tell church officials the whereabouts of a fellow priest who is accused of sexually abusing more than a dozen children. 34

OBITUARIES 34-35

Lionel Hampton

A jazz musician whose flamboyant mastery of the vibraphone made him one of the leading figures of the swing era, he was 94. 1

Chess 34 Weather 36

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: September 1, 2002



Mothers and children malnourished

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 6, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B01; News

Length: 593 words **Byline:** Larry Kaplow

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

A new study released yesterday showed high rates of malnutrition among Palestinian mothers and children, raising concerns of a possible humanitarian emergency after nearly two years of conflict.

The study, commissioned by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Atlanta-based CARE International, found that 9.3 per cent of Palestinian children between six months and five years of age suffer moderate or severe malnutrition. Nearly one-fifth of the children given blood tests showed they suffered moderate or severe anemia, caused by a lack of iron. The deficiency leaves the children susceptible to disease.

Cox News Service

The study, which looked at several aspects of nutrition, food availability and consumption, was carried out by researchers from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the Al Quds University in Jerusalem. Most of the study, which cost about \$380,000, was done in June and July.

International agencies and U.S. officials have repeatedly urged Israel to ease travels restrictions that have crippled the Palestinian economy and increased poverty, which researchers said was the main cause for the malnutrition. Israel insists the closures are necessary to stop suicide bombings.

On malnutrition, the study surveyed 936 children and 1,534 **women** in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, predominantly Palestinian areas.

In the Gaza Strip 17.5 per cent of children suffered chronic malnutrition as evidenced by "stunting," or low height for their age.

The West Bank and Gaza are agricultural zones with their own food companies and are close to Israeli suppliers. Palestinians do not suffer from starvation. But, chronic malnutrition can take a costly human and societal toll in listlessness, illness and poor childhood brain development.

The study was released as fighting between Israelis and Palestinians continued. An Israeli helicopter fired missiles at an alleged missile workshop of the <u>Hamas</u> radical group in Gaza City, wounding four people.

Earlier yesterday, Palestinian gunmen shot to death a couple driving in the West Bank, wounding two of their children. Their eight-month-old child was also in the car, but not hurt.

Mothers and children malnourished

In the Palestinian city of Nablus, Israeli troops killed a 15-year-old boy who was outside during an army-imposed curfew, Palestinians said.

And a car exploded in northern Israel, killing one person and wounding another. Police said it appeared the slain passenger was a Palestinian militant en route to carry out an attack.

After three Palestinian suicide bombings within the past week, Israeli troops clamped down on movement between several Palestinian cities.

The study reported that food wholesalers and retailers faced shortages of such basic products as bananas and milk. The food sellers said the shortages were caused mainly by the closures, which restrict travel into and out of Palestinian cities.

The study showed that mothers are consuming fewer nutrients than they were before September 2000, when fighting began between Israelis and Palestinians. Mothers in their 20s who were surveyed on their typical food intake, for example, showed lower consumption of protein, carbohydrates, calcium and iron compared to 2000 levels.

Generally food is available in markets in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, but researchers said malnutrition comes from widespread poverty.

Israeli officials did not dispute the results of the malnutrition study. They noted that conditions in the West Bank were not as bad as in Gaza and said they have tried to allow aid agencies to continue to deliver food despite the closures.

Graphic

Photo: Ahmed Jadallah, Reuters; Israeli travel restrictions have helped cripple the Palestinian economy and increase poverty. A new study says chronic malnutrition can take a costly human and societal toll.

Load-Date: August 6, 2002



THE WEEK ON A PAGE: VIOLENCE CAN'T BE PIGEONHOLED

Scotland on Sunday July 28, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 14
Length: 617 words
Byline: Alex Massie

Body

ISRAEL'S assassination of the leader of <u>Hamas</u>'s military wing, Sheikh Salah Shehada, was initially hailed as a great success by prime minister Ariel Sharon. When the body of a two-month-old child was pulled from the rubble it seemed to confirm Israel was again unconcerned about killing civilians.

Pro-Palestinian commentators make little effort to understand Israel's predicament. Palestinians' grievances are easy to comprehend and they attract sympathy as underdogs. This means the Palestinian leadership's behaviour is held to less exacting standards than Sharon's. Curiously, this results in the patronising attitude towards Palestinians: they're not ready for a properly democratic government and can't be held responsible for the actions of militant Islamic fundamentalists.

Only a simpleton can believe that in the Middle East you can divide violence into camps: the understandable' and the reprehensible'. There are, though, a lot of simpletons out there.

Frontier Spirit falls flat in face of fast food

US lawyers have lodged a lawsuit against four fast food companies - McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's and Kentucky Fried Chicken - arguing the companies misled consumers, by feeding them high-fat, greasy, salt-filled meals. The improbably named Caesar Barber, who suffers from diabetes, weighs 20 stone and has had two heart attacks, justified the action: My doctor said it was killing me and I don't want to die. Barber ate at fast food outlets four or five times a week. Truly, the great Frontier Spirit of self-reliance that built America has been consigned to history.

Happy end to doggy paddle

THE undoubted hero of the week was a two-year-old Labrador named Todd who, after falling overboard while out on a day's sailing off the Isle of Wight, promptly turned and swam 10 miles across the Solent and up the River Beaulieu to his Hampshire home.

His owners had given him up for dead but had not reckoned on the fortitude of the canine spirit. Lab lovers will not have been unduly surprised since this confirms their view that Labradors are not just better swimmers than humans but much nicer as well.

Tories' claim to 'cool'

THE WEEK ON A PAGE: VIOLENCE CAN'T BE PIGEONHOLED

IAIN Duncan Smith has decided his party is not doing enough to attract support from <u>women</u>, homosexuals and ethnic minorities.

I fear the Tories have some way to go. A mere 10,000 of their supposed 318,000 membership are under 30. More troublingly, the Tories view this figure as encouraging. A spokesman for Conservative Future argues implausibly, We're getting members on a lot of university campuses.

Students like to be antiestablishment so it's becoming cool to join the Conservatives. But surely even having a party chairman with the same name as porn actress Teresa May (above) can't make it 'cool' to join the Tories.

Net closes on rambler's enemy

NICHOLAS van Hoogstraten has not, understandably, received a good press lately.

The ruthless property tycoon was convicted of the manslaughter of Mohammed Raja last week. Van Hoogstraten who ordered a hit on Raja, is of course famously hostile to ramblers.

Now they will be free to trek along a public way across the East Sussex estate where his unfinished GBP 40m mansion stands in mockery to his delusions of grandeur.

While on the witness stand he advised the prosecuting QC to read psalm 141, the last two verses of which say, Protect me from the snare which they have laid for me and from the traps of the evil doers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I myself escape.

Without wishing to heap further injury upon the Raja family, van Hoogstraten fulfils a necessary role: pantomime villain. He is a latterday Sheriff of Nottingham, and therefore, regardless of his sins, great entertainment.

Load-Date: July 29, 2002



<u>Light in the Middle East darkness as grannies from hell refuse to take war</u> for an answer; Entertainment

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 3, 2002 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 591 words **Byline:** Robin Oliver

Body

True Stories: Women

in Black

ABC, 10pm: In vaguely more peaceful times, when mutual loathing, barbed wire and sporadic gunfire were the principal weapons across a great divide, maps printed in England and posted in the old city of Jerusalem depicted the Arab lands of the Middle East in some detail, although the smaller area in which Israel was then contained was obliterated by a dense white cloud. The printed legend said "Occupied Palestine". Over in Amman, the butane gas salesman displayed one such map in his shop and every so often he would drive across the beautiful brown hills to Jerusalem, past thousands of Palestinian refugees, and climb the city's great dividing wall to look down on the Israeli family that occupied the house he once owned and for which he had received not a penny in compensation. "I could spit," he said. Now one feels like spitting at television images of tanks pumping shells into Arafat's compound at Ramallah as they growl over land where I once strolled.

Boys far too young to be soldiers scuttle about hurling rocks at the tanks, are shot at and often killed. And over on the other side, the cafes where once I might have sat have become targets for the dreadful acts of suicide bombers. Is there no end to this nightmare in ancient lands which, one has to remind oneself, became the breeding grounds for the Stern Gang, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, and the Haganah long before *Hamas*? *Women* in Black offers no more than a glimmer that there is such hope or that at the very least the lantern has been lit. Last December film-maker Donna Baillie travelled to Israel and Palestine to meet the original Hell's Grannies, as the British press has dubbed them, a group of Israeli women opposed to their government's determined occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. What Baillie records, apart from the shell holes of Jenin, are angry, though peaceful demonstrators opposed to the silent vigils of The Women in Black there are now over 150 such groups in various countries holding weekly vigils. They are jeered, abused "you pigs", one Israeli man shouts, while others wave placards, some depicting Yasser Arafat as Hitler. Baillie says The Women in Black was formed in the face of what she observes, and films the devastating level of destruction in the occupied territories. She says it was this that caused deep concern among some Israelis as they saw the traditions of their country as a haven for oppressed people being challenged. The group believes the only way Israel will achieve peace is to end such occupation. Baillie's is a forceful message of support, backed by indelible images of life in Jenin and of a Palestinian family struggling to maintain a normal family life while surrounded by tanks and snipers. Sadly, it is also a message that will rouse new passions on both sides.

Light in the Middle East darkness as grannies from hell refuse to take war for an answer Entertainment

Small Potatoes

ABC, 9pm: Now surfacing presumably as an act of kindness after spending three years on the shelf, this series is billed as a comedy set among underchievers Ed, Rick, Benett and Juliet, but on the video clock it was four minutes and 42 seconds before I could consider smiling. It didn't happen, though the sight of Juliet (Emma Rydal) attacking the hard skin on the soles of her feet with a metal file almost worked. Without Tommy Tiernan, as Ed the idiot video shop assistant, Small Potatoes would be struggling; without Rydal it would be hopeless. Made in 1999 and offering an early assessment of Sanjeev Bhaskar, who plays Rick and would later play host in The Kumars at No 42, this first episode merely irritates.

Graphic

Drawing by Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Briefly... NATION; WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News August 13, 2002 Tuesday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: N; Pg. 25; news

Length: 635 words

Body

States revenuers can't smoke out cig-tax info

States are losing millions in taxes as more people buy cigarettes from Internet vendors who routinely ignore a federal law requiring them to report sales to local regulators, according to a General Accounting Office report due out today.

New Jersey and New York state both have a \$1.50 per pack tax, the nation's highest. Pennsylvania has a \$1 a pack tax, as of last month.

Internet sellers are refusing to provide state names and addresses of customers to state revenue officials, who could then go after the local sales taxes.

Israeli military court: OK to evict suspects' kin

An Israeli military court yesterday approved the expulsion of three Palestinian relatives of suspected terrorists from the West Bank to Gaza.

The expulsions would be the first of their kind, a new Israeli tactic aimed at discouraging Palestinians from carrying out attacks. Human rights activists said the decision would be appealed to Israeli civilian courts.

In a statement, the Israeli military said it would carry out the expulsions "in the framework of the struggle against suicide terrorism and its supporting environment."

The three Palestinians facing expulsion are Intisar and Kifah Ajouri, the sister and brother of Ali Ajouri, who is accused of giving belts with explosives to suicide bombers, and Abdel Nasser Asidi, brother of a <u>Hamas</u> activist who is suspected of killing several Israelis.

Treasury secretary bullish, despite market

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill doesn't see the U.S. economy falling back into a recession, despite stock market turbulence, Americans' eroding confidence and a fitful recovery.

Briefly... NATION; WORLD

"The fundamentals of our economy, I continue to believe, are sound," O'Neill told the Associated Press.

His upbeat remarks come a day before President Bush convenes a summit in Texas on the struggling economy and the Federal Reserve examines its policy on interest rates, which are now at 40-year lows.

The sputtering economy is posing a political challenge for Bush, with Democrats sharpening their attack as the country heads into midterm elections.

Probers find mailbox bearing traces of anthrax

U.S. postal inspectors investigating the anthrax mailings linked to five deaths have discovered a mailbox in New Jersey that tested positive for traces of the bacteria.

The mailbox was found Thursday night in Princeton and has been sent to a U.S. Army facility in Aberdeen, Md., for analysis, U.S. Postal Service spokesman Dan Mihalko told Reuters.

He said investigators checked hundreds of boxes from which mail is funneled to a postal sorting center in Trenton, where four anthrax-laced letters were postmarked last year.

11 hours and no verdict in killing of 7-year-old

A jury of six men and six <u>women</u> in San Diego ended a third day of deliberations yesterday without reaching a verdict in the trial of a neighbor accused of kidnapping and murdering 7-year-old Danielle van Dam.

The jury today was to resume weighing kidnapping, murder and possession of child pornography charges against 50-year-old David Westerfield, having spent a total of about 11 hours behind closed doors so far.

Mugabe: 'Loyal' whites won't lose everything

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe told the nation yesterday that the days of whites owning large farms were over but "loyal" whites would not be left completely landless.

The fate of hundreds of white farmers defying government orders to give up their land remained unclear after the anxiously awaited speech, which Mugabe delivered to commemorate the war that ended white rule of what was then Rhodesia two decades ago.

Mugabe said he would not tolerate opposition to his plans to redistribute white-owned farms to blacks.

But, he said, he would still be willing to do business with white farmers who cooperate with his government.

Daily News wire services

Load-Date: August 13, 2002



RABBI SHOT TO DEATH BY GUNMEN IN W. BANK

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 26, 2002 Friday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD, Length: 609 words

Byline: MOLLY MOORE, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Gunmen believed to be Palestinians yesterday killed a rabbi who headed a Jewish settlement school in the West Bank and wounded his companion, then opened fire on an ambulance and rescue team trying to aid the victims, Israeli officials said.

The attack, near the Alei Zahav settlement just inside the north-central area of the West Bank, appeared to be the first act of revenge from Palestinian organizations enraged about the killings of 15 people by a one-ton bomb dropped Monday night on a densely populated neighborhood in Gaza City.

The bombing targeted Salah Shehada, a leader of the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or <u>Hamas</u>, which has carried out numerous suicide bombings against Israeli civilians. The blast killed him and 14 other people, including nine children.

Because of the high civilian toll, the bombing has provoked a barrage of Palestinian and international criticism of Israel, including a rare rebuke from the Bush administration. As a result, the Israeli government has ordered an investigation, and the Israeli news media, along with numerous senior politicians, have launched a round of blamelaying and criticism.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters in Washington that the United States is reviewing Israel's use of U.S.-supplied weapons, such as F-16 warplanes, in attacks that kill civilians. But he and State Department spokesman Richard Boucher gave no indication that the administration has concluded that the Israeli attack Monday night violated U.S. law, which limits the weapons' use to self-defense.

Threats of revenge by Palestinian militant groups have provoked widespread fear in Israel of a new wave of suicide bombings and attacks. Police have intensified already-stringent security precautions, reinforcing security at malls, bus stations and other areas that attract crowds, and erecting roadblocks in Jerusalem.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group linked to Palestinian Leader Yassar Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the ambush that killed Rabbi Elimelech Shapira, 40, and wounded another person in his car at about 3:30 a.m. yesterday. Shapira, the father of eight children, was the principal of a religious military preparatory academy, Israeli authorities said.

RABBI SHOT TO DEATH BY GUNMEN IN W. BANK

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades did not link the attack to the Gaza bombing. But a second group that also claimed responsibility, the Popular Army Front Return Battalion, said the shooting was a response to Shehada's killing.

In addition to the shooting, two Qassam 2 rockets were launched at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and into Israel during the night, and mortars were fired at several Israeli military posts, according to a military spokeswoman.

In speeches, newspaper columns and radio talk shows, Israeli officials and analysts pummeled the military and its use of such a powerful weapon to target a single individual in a densely populated urban area.

The Israeli news media reported yesterday that military briefings given to Israeli authorities before the attacks indicated that only Shehada's house would be destroyed. Instead, five houses were devastated, and 15 people were killed -- Shehada, his wife and 14-year-old daughter, eight other children, two other <u>women</u> and two other men. Hospital officials said they treated 150 wounded.

Field manuals for U.S. special operations combat controllers -- ground troops who help pilots shepherd laser-guided bombs to a target -- recommend that friendly forces remain at least 500 yards from the detonation of a 2,000-pound bomb such as the one dropped from the U.S.-supplied Israeli F-16 warplane.

Load-Date: July 27, 2002



Arafat in, or no deal

The Southland Times (New Zealand)

June 27, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: FEATURES; EDITORIAL;

Length: 610 words

Body

ANY hopes that United States President George Bush's long-awaited policy speech on the Middle East would contain a tangible blueprint for peace were dashed before he had stopped talking. His vision of the creation of a Palestinian state within three years without Yasser Arafat as its leader was all the justification Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon needed to continue his latest offensive in the occupied territories. Just hours after Mr Bush's speech, his appeals for restraint and reform had been drowned out by the rumble of Israeli tanks lumbering into the West Bank city of Hebron.

The US president called for Palestinians to democratically elect new leaders "not compromised by terror" as a condition of moving towards statehood, Pointedly, he did not name Mr Arafat, although the inference that the Palestinian president was considered irrelevant to the peace process was stingingly clear. It is not surprising that reaction to Mr Bush's message was polarised, when the subtext read: shoot first, figure out the consequences later.

The Arab world, naturally has taken great offence at America's double-edged pledge of support with strings attached. It is seen as a ringing endorsement of Israel's offensive in the illegally occupied territories. Why should Palestinians see it as anything else? They democratically elected Mr Arafat and are now being told their choice is unacceptable and that they should elect someone else.

They hear no such call by Mr Bush for the replacement of Mr Sharon, the man who has provoked Palestinians in their desperation for a homeland to blow themselves up just so they can take a few Israelis with them. And in the current climate of attack and counter-attack, with 68 percent of Palestinians reportedly in favour of the suicide bombings, there is every likelihood a new democratically elected leader would be from an even more extreme school than Mr Arafat. That is in the unlikely event, of course, that some as-yet-unknown charismatic statesman emerged from the Palestinian ranks and laid down a challenge to Mr Arafat, thereby risking being terminally branded as George Bush and Ariel Sharon's lapdog.

The notion that Mr Arafat is a lame-duck leader, however, is gaining increasing currency, even among his own people. They recognise the duplicitous politics involved in his selective condemnation of the suicide bombings, even if a majority of them support the attacks themselves.

Mr Arafat warns <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad to reign in their attacks -- even going as far as to arrest hundreds of them when international pressure on him to do so become intolerable -- but benignly says nothing when the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, affiliated to his own faction Fatah, starts carrying out bombings, concerned that it is lagging in popularity behind the two factions that carried out the earlier attacks. He condemns the suicide bombings in Israel which claim the lives of <u>women</u> and children but again says nothing about the attacks that kill civilians in the West Bank Jewish occupied territory.

Arafat in, or no deal

Israel, meanwhile, can scarcely contain its delight at the tone of Mr Bush's speech, which it understandably reads as evidence that Washington supports Mr Sharon's drive to sideline Mr Arafat.

The Palestinian chairman is no angel, tainted as he is by his own self-interest and double standards, but until he schedules a new round of elections the Middle East peace process must involve him or there can be none. Mr Bush's vision of a new Palestine in three years is a pipedream without Palestinian approval of the mechanisms to put it in place. That, for the time being, means any deal must include Mr Arafat, lame duck or not.

Load-Date: June 30, 2002



KILLER WITH A CASE

The Sun May 8, 2002

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Section: WAR ON TERROR

Length: 601 words

Byline: Brian Flynn in New York, James Clench and Sara Nathan

Body

Suicide bomber kills 16 in snooker hall outrage

THE suicide bomber who killed 16 in a snooker club last night calmly walked in with a suitcase full of explosives.

He detonated a huge nail-packed blast that ripped the roof off the three storey building, which was crowded with young people.

Last night there were fears the death toll would rise further as scores of Israelis still lay trapped in the rubble.

Police commander Haim Cohen described how the fanatic had calmly walked right into the building, saying: "He entered all of a sudden -and then he exploded."

A motorist who had been filling his car at a petrol station opposite said: "Glass blew up. People were screaming from the windows. It was a terrible scene. People were covered with blood, screaming."

Hanit Azulai said: "I turned the corner and I saw the whole building go up before my eyes."

Off-duty soldier Amit Elor said: "All of a sudden we heard this blast. I went in to help."

Bleeding Other witnesses said the blast hurled people out of the building.

Eli Ninio, 52, said: "It became dark and I flew backwards. A friend helped me bleeding down the stairs."

Dozens of ambulances and police cars raced to the Sheffield Club in Rishon Letzion, ten miles south of Tel Aviv. Sixty people were taken to hospital, ten seriously injured. Sixteen people were confirmed dead last night, including the bomber.

Ambulance service spokesman Yeruham Mandola said: "Some of the wounded are trapped in the building."

The ceiling of the top floor collapsed in a welter of debris, among it a pathetic broken sign reading: "Sheffield Club, snooker, cafeteria."

A shop called Baby World occupied the ground floor underneath.

Outside, young \underline{women} and men cried as they looked up at the building while emergency workers helped the injured to ambulances.

KILLER WITH A CASE

Israeli TV said there was no guard posted outside the hall, despite new rules ordering places of entertainment to provide security.

A police spokesman told reporters that people using the club had "noticed a stranger with an odd expression" simply walking in.

A man called Nissim said he had seen the bomber walking up the stairs towards the club, saying: "I asked him, 'Where are you going?' The man did not answer but kept walking. Seconds later there was an explosion."

It was the first time the town, home to 100,000 people, had been hit by a blast and the first Middle East suicide bombing since April 12.

It was also the first major suicide attack since Israel launched its military offensive in the West Bank aimed at rooting out maniac bombers.

The blast came as Israeli PM Ariel Sharon met US President George Bush at the White House.

Disgust The talks over the future of the possibility of a Palestinian state ended in deadlock when Mr Sharon cut short his visit and flew home.

The grim PM ignored questions as he left but aide Dore Gold said Israel "will have to do what is necessary to protect itself". Mr Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said the President had personally conveyed his regret to Mr Sharon and "registered his disgust with this wanton waste of life".

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who had just arrived in Washington for talks on the Middle East, condemned the "appalling, callous" attack.

A TV station in Lebanon said it had received a claim of responsibility from Islamic militant group *Hamas*.

The blast came as moves to end the Israeli army's five-week siege of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity descended into confusion.

A plan to send 13 Palestinian gunmen into exile in Italy was stalled by government officials in Rome.

The Sun Says -Page Eight

Load-Date: May 9, 2002



Standoff ends with exit from Church; The 13 Palestinian militants were the first to leave and will go to Cyprus. Conditions inside had been desperate.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

May 10, 2002 Friday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: Pg. A01; news

Length: 559 words

Byline: Alfonso Chardy Knight Ridder News Service

Dateline: BETHLEHEM, West Bank

Body

The 38-day siege at the Church of the Nativity came to an end this morning as the 13 most-wanted Palestinian militants emerged from the church, passed through metal detectors, and boarded red and white buses of the Israeli Defense Force.

The last of the 13 was carried out on a stretcher by priests at the church and handed over to Israeli soldiers.

The 13 were to be taken to the airport in Tel Aviv with an escort of U.S. officials and then flown to Cyprus, where they will stay before being sent to exile in eight European nations.

Meanwhile, leaders of <u>Hamas</u>, a militant Islamic group, promised that suicide bombings against Israel would not end and said they would defend Gaza against any incursion. Israel is preparing to retaliate for Tuesday's suicide bombing near Tel Aviv that killed 15.

The end of the siege at the Church of the Nativity brings to a close the most visible remaining Israeli military operation in the West Bank and will allow the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Bethlehem. Israeli forces surrounded the church after Palestinian gunmen took refuge inside.

The first Palestinian to walk from the church was Abdullah Daoud, director of Palestinian intelligence in Bethlehem. As the men exited the church, a group of relatives on a nearby rooftop, including <u>women</u> and children, waved and cried out the names of men who they were unlikely to see again for some time.

Twenty-six militant gunmen were to be boarded on buses and taken to Gaza.

After that, 84 people, including Palestinian civilians, 10 international peace activists who entered the church a week ago, and a Los Angeles Times photographer, Carolyn Cole, were to leave. These remaining people were to be

Standoff ends with exit from Church; The 13 Palestinian militants were the first to leave and will go to Cyprus .

Conditions inside had been desperate.

taken to the Israeli police station in Gush Etzion for questioning. The peace activists and Cole face possible charges and deportation, Israeli officials said.

Conditions inside the church had grown increasingly desperate in the final days.

"There is hunger, fear, exhaustion," said Mohammed Madani, 56, the governor of the Bethlehem district, who walked out of the church around 4 a.m. yesterday after he heard that a deal to lift the siege finally had been struck between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

That deal collapsed, but a complicated new one was put together late last night. It was clinched when Cyprus agreed to allow the 13 most-wanted militants to stay there temporarily.

Madani said the people in the church had run out of food and were eating leaves plucked from lemon trees in the church complex at Manger Square. He said one Palestinian fighter had been shot and killed by an Israeli sniper while trying to collect lemon leaves in a church garden.

Israeli officials denied that people in the church were starving and said they had delivered food to the church several times.

Madani said that whatever food was delivered was not enough for the number of people in the church.

He also said eight Palestinians in the church had been killed and 20 wounded by Israeli soldiers. He said more than 20 people had fallen ill.

Madani offered his account of conditions in the church that Christians believe marks the spot where Jesus was born in an interview at a Bethlehem home.

The siege started April 2, when armed Palestinian fighters took refuge inside from invading Israeli soldiers. Israeli authorities decided not to storm the church to expel the Palestinians.

Load-Date: May 10, 2002



Sharon cuts U.S. trip short as bomb kills 16

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

May 8, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 572 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- At least 16 people were killed Tuesday and 60 injured -- 12 of them seriously -- in an explosion in an unlicensed snooker and gambling club in Rishon LeZion, south of Tel Aviv.

Israeli police said the explosion at the Spiel Snooker Club was caused by a suicide bomber carrying explosives in a large bag -- the first terrorist attack on the suburban town. Police said the bomb was filled with pieces of metal and screws designed to cause as much injury and death as possible.

Southam Newspapers

The Islamic militant group *Hamas* said it carried out the attack.

It came as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was meeting with President George W. Bush at the White House in Washington. Within minutes of receiving the news, Sharon decided to return immediately to Israel.

"The timing which the murderers chose to carry out this attack was carefully planned," said Israeli cabinet minister Eli Yishai, who was with Sharon at the White House. "It seems the prime minister will decide to cut short his trip and return to Israel."

Ambulance service spokesman Yerucham Mandola said parts of the targeted building had collapsed, trapping people underneath.

"There are bodies and perhaps injured people trapped under the rubble," said Mayor Meir Nitzan. "The emergency services are trying to get them out as quickly and carefully as possible."

Eyewitnesses said the explosion occurred on the third floor, causing the ceiling to collapse on dozens of people below. The club, on the top floor of a shopping and commercial centre, was a meeting place mainly for men, with billiard tables and slot machines.

Motti Monir, who was slightly wounded in the attack, said he was leaving the club just after 11 p.m. when there was a huge explosion. "I don't know how I got out of there," he said.

It was the first major terror attack inside Israel since April 12, when a <u>female</u> member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade blew herself up in a Jerusalem market, killing six people and injuring more than 30. That attack occurred as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was in Jerusalem, causing him to delay a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat by 24 hours.

Sharon cuts U.S. trip short as bomb kills 16

Israeli forces launched a major military offensive in the West Bank at the end of March after more than 100 Israelis were killed that month in a wave of terror attacks. Hundreds of terror suspects were captured, along with thousands of weapons and tons of explosives.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society says more than 280 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive. Operation Protective Shield was supposed to have dealt a severe blow to the infrastructure of Palestinian terrorism, but Tuesday night's attack showed it has failed to halt the ability of terror groups to send suicide bombers into the heart of Israel.

"We will carry out similar activities in the future, too," said Public Security Minister Uzi Landau on his arrival at the scene.

"In most of the cases we will be successful. In some we will pay a price as we did here this evening. The point is that still we have terrorists on the other side. We have to protect ourselves and we will do it."

Israeli security services have been on high alert in recent days and said they had stopped at least one suicide attack each day for the past week.

Earlier Tuesday, a suspected Palestinian suicide attacker was intercepted and killed as he tried to enter an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Graphic

Color Photo: Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi, Associated Press; TERRORIST WREAKS HAVOC AT POOL HALL: An Israeli police officer bows his head after an explosion destroyed a pool hall killing at least 16 in Rishon LeZion, Israel, Tuesday.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002



THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: KILLER OF 3; How 2 Took the Path of Suicide Bombers

The New York Times
May 30, 2003 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1298 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: TUBAS, West Bank, May 27

Body

To her peers and family, Hiba Daraghmeh was a self-confident path breaker.

In 10th grade she began veiling herself, except for her eyes, asserting a religious devotion that is rare here. She turned down two proposals of marriage, her father said, because she wanted to continue her studies and earn a doctorate in English.

On May 19 she blew herself apart outside a mall in the Israeli town of Afula, killing a security guard in his first day on the job, an Israeli Arab on his way to an electrical engineering class and an Israeli Jewish man, the police said. She wounded many more.

At 19, disguised as an Israeli woman in jeans and a T-shirt, she became the first Palestinian woman to blow herself up on behalf of an Islamist group, Islamic Jihad, which has unveiled her face on posters here claiming responsibility for the attack.

With that, another barrier tumbled before a phenomenon that is penetrating ever further into Palestinian society after 32 months of conflict with Israel.

Four other Palestinian <u>women</u> have blown themselves up, beginning with Wafa Idris, a 28-year-old medic who killed herself and an 81-year-old man on a Jerusalem street in January 2002. But they were dispatched by Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a more secular group linked to the mainstream Fatah faction.

"This would be the first one claimed by a group that has Islam in its name, which claims to be guided in its actions by the moral code of Islam exclusively," said Martin Kramer, an expert on Islam and Arab politics. Traditionally, Islamic religious leaders have insisted that **women** cannot reach paradise through such killing.

The fact that such a devout woman carried out a suicide bombing did not seem to cause consternation here. "She made us feel proud," said a 19-year-old fellow student at the local branch of Al Quds Open University, who gave her name only as Jumama.

THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: KILLER OF 3 How 2 Took the Path of Suicide Bombers

"More important and even older people couldn't make that decision," she continued, holding a spiral notebook with a picture of flowers on its cover. "It's courageous."

After a suicide bombing, the mythmaking begins almost as soon as the ambulances start their wailing rush to the scene. The how and the why blur as wondering friends and relatives of the bomber retrieve and burnish memories, at times conflicting, that might explain how their loved one became a willing "martyr."

To explain this bombing, several versions of a similar story are being told here about how Israeli soldiers once forced Ms. Daraghmeh to lift her veil. Her father, Azem Said Daraghmeh, provided the most detailed account, saying that a year ago, Israel imposed a curfew on Tubas but made an exception for students who had exams.

Ms. Daraghmeh, veiled, was making her way to school with other students when soldiers stopped them and demanded to see her face, he said. "The girls begged her," he said. "She removed the veil. They saw her. She collapsed and started crying."

But he said that despite that incident, he remained baffled. "All her needs were provided for," he said. "She did well in school. She was living with her family."

Her mother, Fatmeh, said Ms. Daraghmeh picked grape leaves for her to stuff the next day before disappearing at 12:30 that Monday afternoon, veiled and conservatively dressed as always.

Citing Israel's military attacks and restrictions, few Palestinians openly condemn the bombings, either out of personal belief or fear of social sanction, which seem to amount to the same thing in the end. In this way, each bombing broadens permission for the next.

After Ms. Daraghmeh struck in Afula, Sheik Yusef al-Qaradawi, an influential cleric based in Qatar, issued a religious ruling that **women** "in Palestine" could reach paradise through suicide bombings.

Releasing them from strictures insisted on by other clerics, he said that they did not need a chaperone on their way to attack, and that they could take off their veils if necessary. "She is going to die in the cause of Allah, and not to show off her beauty," he explained.

Yigal Carmon of the Middle East Media Research Institute, who has studied such rulings, called that one significant. "Everybody was not too comfortable with the whole thing, so it's important to have such a personality support it," he said.

But also after the Afula attack, Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian prime minister, issued an unusually strong condemnation, saying the bombing "contradicts our moral values and tradition and only feeds into the hatred of the two peoples." He says he will stop <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad and other groups from carrying out such attacks.

Sitting on the concrete patio by his crumpled home, demolished by Israel after the bombing, Mr. Daraghmeh, 50, did not have a ready answer when asked whether his daughter's action was right or wrong. "I don't know," he said. "I can't tell. I'm sure she believed in what she did."

But Ms. Daraghmeh's 47-year-old mother muttered as she hauled on a rope to drag a bucket of water up from a cistern, "If I had known, Hiba, that you were going to do this, I would have tied you up with a rope."

From his plastic chair in the shade of a grapevine, Mr. Daraghmeh surveyed a view of tranquillity and beauty. He looked across a patch of zucchini and green beans, across a mown field studded with blocks of hay, to the town of Tubas, pillowed in West Bank hills that were golden brown in the heat of early summer and the sunlight of late afternoon.

Yet the conflict is as present in this quiet place as it is in cities like Hebron and Nablus. At Al Quds Open University, where enrollment is soaring because Israeli travel restrictions put more established schools in nearby Jenin and Nablus beyond reach, a list hangs in the main hall of 44 people from Tubas who have died violently.

THE MIDEAST TURMOIL: KILLER OF 3 How 2 Took the Path of Suicide Bombers

Two more names, including that of Ms. Daraghmeh, who was in her second semester, had yet to be added, students said. There was no room left on the poster board.

Of several photographs on a poster about student life, one captured Ms. Daraghmeh, her friends said. It was impossible to tell; her face was a wash of white, entirely hidden by her veil as she bent over a paper. Several students said they could never pick her out among the four or five veiled <u>women</u> at the school.

For Palestinian <u>women</u>, wearing the veil is a sign of self-confident choice, not submission, Dr. Kramer said. "It's political self-assertion," he said. "Women do it to make a statement."

Ms. Daraghmeh would not eat in the cafeteria, friends and relatives said. She would hide behind a closed door or go to an aunt's house, so that men would not see her face as she ate. She was known as a member of the "Islamic bloc" of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, students said, and she helped the bloc stage exhibits of political posters and cartoons, at which it sold cassettes of songs calling for jihad.

She spoke often of a beloved older brother, Bakr, whom the Israelis had jailed as a member of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, which claimed responsibility for the four previous suicide bombings by **women**.

Tawfik Kilani, 26, the head of the student council, said he disapproved of the suicide attack because the Daraghmeh family was already suffering. "If she was someone else we wouldn't care," he said.

But the head of the local youth movement, Raed Mallak, 28, seemed proud. Indicating paintings in the student council office of Palestinian fighters from the school who had died in the conflict, he said, "Now we have four, not three."

One student recalled that two weeks before the attack Ms. Daraghmeh gave away her books, saying she was going to "a university very far away." Another student, 19, said that on the day before the attack Ms. Daraghmeh seemed very happy.

"I asked her, 'How come you're happy?" said the woman, who insisted that her name not be published. "She said, 'Later you'll know.' "

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Hiba Daraghmeh, the first Palestinian woman to blow herself up on behalf of an Islamist group. (Reuters)(pg. A1); The family of Hiba Daraghmeh stood near their tent, not far from the rubble of their house, in the West Bank on Wednesday. She blew herself up in the Israeli town of Afula last week, killing three other people. (pg. A12)

Load-Date: May 30, 2003



DEEPENING DESPAIR AMONG PALESTINIANS BRINGS OUT MARTYRS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

March 24, 2002, Sunday

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Section: Front Page; Pg. a1

Length: 596 words

Byline: LAURA KING, Associated Press writer

Body

DEHEISHE REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank -- After the cafe explosion, the bus bombing or the carnage on a crowded Israeli street, the parents of the Palestinian suicide attacker can usually be counted on to express pride and declare their child a martyr headed directly to paradise.

But these days, some parents are more like Ahmed Draghemeh, a middle-class Palestinian electrician whose eyes showed only pain and bafflement. Until he heard his son's name on television, he said, he had no idea the teenager was planning to blow himself to pieces in order to kill Israelis.

For years, Palestinian suicide attackers have tended to fit a standard profile: a lone, deeply religious youth, probably from a poor family, usually affiliated with a radical group like *Hamas* or Islamic Jihad.

In recent weeks, however, some attackers have been secular rather than religious, or <u>women</u> instead of men, or grew up in an educated, middle-class family that would never have dreamed of such a bloody destiny for their child.

Such was the case with Ahmed Draghemeh's 17-year-old son, Mohammed, who carried out a March 2 attack in Jerusalem that killed 10 Israelis as people were emerging from their synagogues at the close of the Sabbath.

Mohammed had attended a Christian-run high school in Bethlehem. He was Muslim, but neither he nor his family were religiously observant. His father had never heard him talk about politics.

Before he carried out his attack, he like many others was photographed with an assault rifle and a backpack to be filled with explosives.

His father had nothing to say about shahids martyrs or paradise, or the Palestinian cause. He said he felt he didn't even know the boy in the picture now made into a poster that dots the doors and walls of his refugee camp.

"I cried when I saw it," Ahmed Draghemeh said, his hands trembling too badly to pour his coffee. "I couldn't believe this was my son, who grew up before my eyes. I never imagined he had in him this despair."

For Israelis, who have died by the scores in suicide attacks, this enlarging of the bomber pool is a nightmare one for which they blame Palestinian leaders.

"They sanctify and glorify the shahids," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We hear senior officials glorifying the shahids Arafat in his own voice has done that."

DEEPENING DESPAIR AMONG PALESTINIANS BRINGS OUT MARTYRS

Many Palestinians, including those who oppose violence, say it is the extremity of their daily plight not money or leaders' rhetoric that is driving a broader spectrum of Palestinians to suicide missions.

"Ordinary people are thinking extraordinary thoughts, considering extraordinary actions," said Raji Sourani, a prominent Palestinian human rights lawyer in the Gaza Strip. "No one's life is unaffected by what is happening to us."

The families of some attackers know beforehand of their plans or at least are aware of their involvement with a radical faction.

The family of Rafat Abu Diyak, who blew himself up on a bus in northern Israel and killed seven passengers Wednesday, believed when he first went missing that he was simply out with his frequent companions comrades from Islamic Jihad.

The 24-year-old man was a devout Muslim from a hard-pressed Palestinian family in the northern West Bank town of Jenin, which was the scene last month of an Israeli offensive ordered by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to search for Palestinian militants.

"My son will go to heaven," said his father, Tahseen Abu Diyak, a janitor, receiving congratulatory visits at the family's run-down home. "He would not have carried out such attacks if not for Sharon's crimes."

Load-Date: March 25, 2002



<u>A NATION CHALLENGED: THE MONEY TRAIL; U.S. Raids Continue,</u> Prompting Protests

The New York Times

March 22, 2002 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; National Desk; Pg. 13

Length: 625 words

Byline: By JUDITH MILLER

Dateline: WASHINGTON, March 21

Body

Prompting vigorous protests from Arab American and Islamic groups, federal law enforcement officials today continued raiding the homes and offices of individuals suspected of helping to launder money for Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups.

There was no public announcement of the raids, which began on Wednesday and continued overnight and throughout the day, mainly in Virginia.

But people close to the investigation said the raids were conducted by the Treasury Department counterterrorism task force responsible for stopping the flow of money to terrorist groups in the United States and abroad. The agency has declined to comment on its action or to identify the targets of its searches or the nature of the information being sought.

A copy of one of the sealed search warrants states that the government is seeking wide-ranging financial information about the Safa Trust and the Saar Group, a sister organization, both of which have ties to one of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest families, as well as 17 other Islamic charities and businesses, many of them also financed partly by wealthy Saudis and the Saudi government.

The St. Petersburg Times in Florida first reported on the search warrant's contents today.

The warrant also states that the government is looking for information about Al Qaeda and two Palestinian terrorist groups, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and <u>Hamas</u>. It is also seeking information relating to the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, or WISE, a now-defunct research group in Florida; the Islamic Committee for Palestine; and a Palestinian professor of computer engineering in Tampa, Fla., whom law enforcement officials are investigating in connection with terrorist ties.

Officials say the professor, Sami Al-Arian, used WISE and the committee to raise money for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which the State Department labeled a terrorist group in 1995. The professor was suspended from his university position but has never been charged with a crime. He could not be reached for comment today.

A NATION CHALLENGED: THE MONEY TRAIL U.S. Raids Continue, Prompting Protests

The warrant also states that the government is seeking "any and all information" that refers to Osama bin Laden, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman -- the blind sheik who is serving a life term in prison for his role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center -- and several other people the government has designated as terrorists.

Among the residences raided today were those of Dr. Abdulhamid Abu Sulayman, and Hisham Al-Talib, both in Reston, Va.

State records list Dr. Sulayman as the director-general of the International Institute of Islamic Thought, a nonprofit group in Herndon, Va., that was a leading financier of Mr. Al-Arian's defunct research group. Virginia records identified Mr. Talib as the one-time treasurer of the Islamic-thought institute, as well as a director and treasurer of the Safa Trust.

On Wednesday night, federal customs agents also seized documents, files, three desk-top computers, numerous diskettes, and copies of a recent academic manuscript from the home of Taha Al-Awani and Mona Abul-Fadl, both associated with the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences in Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. Abul-Fadl, who teaches political science and <u>women</u>'s studies, said federal agents stormed into their home in Herndon, Va., at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. Mrs. Abul-Fadl, who said she was alone, said she was awakened as they broke in the front door, with guns drawn. "They claimed to have knocked," she said.

Mrs. Abul-Fadl, who said she felt as if she had been raped, was clearly shaken as she described the incident almost 24 hours later.

"Normally, if one is in that situation, one would call the police," said Mrs. Abul-Fadl, 56. "But now, there is something ironic, even pathetic about it.

"What police would you call now?"

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: March 22, 2002



Suicide bombing turns war back on Arafat

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 30, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 28

Length: 594 words

Byline: WARREN P. STROBEL

Body

ISRAEL'S declaration of war on Yasser Arafat is the toughest escalation in 18 months of conflict since the Palestinian uprising against Israel began.

The attack on Mr Arafat poses the biggest threat to his grip on power since his return to the West Bank from exile in 1994.

Israeli forces entered Ramallah, 15km north of Jerusalem, after Israel rejected an offer of an unconditional and immediate ceasefire by Mr Arafat following one of the bloodiest suicide attacks yet.

MATP

Palestinians had been braced for retaliation for the suicide bombing in the resort of Netanya and for the killing of four Israelis yesterday.

Suicide bomber Abdelbeset Odeih of the *Hamas* group killed 22 Israelis and wounded 170.

More than 200 guests were in the Park Hotel banquet hall for the ritual Passover meal commemorating the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt when Odeih got past a security guard.

A huge blast ripped apart the hall, blowing out windows and walls.

Before Wednesday's attack Israel had been subjected to a series of suicide bombings and murders.

- * MARCH 21: Three people were killed and 86 injured -- three seriously -- in a suicide bombing on King George St in the centre of Jerusalem. The terrorist detonated the bomb, packed with metal spikes and nails, in the center of a crowd;
- * MARCH 20: Seven people, four of them soldiers, were killed and 30 wounded in a suicide bombing on a bus travelling from Tel Aviv to Nazareth.
- * MARCH 17: 25 people were injured after a suicide bomber blew himself up in northern Jerusalem;
- * MARCH 9: 11 people were killed and 54 injured -- 10 of them seriously -- when a suicide bomber attacked a crowded cafe in the centre of Jerusalem:

Suicide bombing turns war back on Arafat

* MARCH 7: 15 people were injured after a suicide bomber blew himself up in the lobby of a hotel in the

commercial centre on the outskirts of Ariel in Samaria:

* MARCH 5: One person was killed and many others injured when a suicide bomber attacked a bus as

it entered the Afula central bus station; and

* MARCH 2: 10 people were killed and more than 50 injured -- four critically -- in a suicide bombing in centre of

Jerusalem where people had gathered for a bar mitzvah celebration. The terrorist detonated the bomb next to a

group of women waiting with their baby carriages for their husbands to leave the nearby synagogue.

Violence has raged on this week, crushing efforts by US envoy Anthony Zinni to broker a ceasefire.

Following Wednesday's suicide bombing, tension had soared, despite the offer of an Arab plan for Middle East

peace that was unanimously endorsed at a summit in Beirut and welcomed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Palestinians have been waging an uprising against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since

September 2000.

At least 1108 Palestinians and 382 Israelis have been killed in tit-for-tat violence since the revolt began.

The incursion unfolded as the Israeli Cabinet met to to flesh out plans for what Palestinians feared would be a

major reprisal.

They stocked up on food and other essential supplies beforehand to prepare for siege conditions.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon signalled he was in no mood for compromise when he convened the Cabinet,

saying Israel faced a "new situation" after the Netanya attack.

Israeli military sources said more combat reserve units had been called up.

Earlier this month, the army briefly reoccupied Ramallah in Mr Sharon's fiercest offensive against cities handed to

Palestinian rule under the 1993 Oslo interim peace accords.

Israeli officials swiftly dismissed Arafat's truce offer.

Load-Date: March 30, 2002



Israeli retaliation leaves 17 dead; Cycle of violence continues as gunman kills 3, wounds 25 in Tel Aviv bloodbath

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 5, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D02; News

Length: 597 words **Byline:** Eric Silver

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Yesterday it was the Palestinians' turn to mourn their innocent dead and vow revenge.

With warplanes, tanks and guns, Israel staged raids on targets including the Bethlehem headquarters of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, Palestinian refugee camps and an upscale West Bank neighbourhood. They killed 17 Palestinians, including five children and a doctor in an ambulance.

The Independent, London

But the vicious circle of violence continued early today as a gunman opened fire on a Tel Aviv street, killing three people and wounding 25 before he was shot and killed, news services said.

In the Israeli attack yesterday, Bushra Abu Quaik, the wife of a leading <u>Hamas</u> militant, and her three children, aged eight to 17, were killed when an Israeli tank shell hit their van as she was driving them home from school near Ramallah.

A second vehicle passing in the opposite direction was hit by shrapnel. The driver and two children aged four and 16 were killed.

Witnesses said the seats of Quaik's van were soaked with blood. Schoolbooks were scattered and charred.

An Israeli army spokesman said the tank had fired at another car carrying armed Palestinians, but had missed. He regretted the loss of life.

That was no consolation to the bereaved father, Hussein Abu Quaik, who told hundreds of angry mourners after viewing the bodies: "The enemy has unmasked its ugly face. Sharon, the bloodsucker, wants to break our will and our steadfastness. I say to him he will not celebrate our defeat. The resistance will continue and the Palestinians and Israelis in this hellish war will pay the price."

Elsewhere on the West Bank, Israeli infantrymen shot at an ambulance in the Jenin refugee camp, killing the head of local emergency services, Dr. Khalil Suleiman, and wounding two paramedics. The Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees said troops also fired at another ambulance.

Israeli retaliation leaves 17 dead; Cycle of violence continues as gunman kills 3, wounds 25 in Tel Aviv

The Israeli spokesman said Suleiman's ambulance was travelling at high speed at the soldiers, who called on the driver to stop. When he failed to comply, the soldiers fired single shots with light weapons.

The Israelis said the ambulance then exploded, though they could not tell whether it was carrying a bomb or whether the fuel tank had been hit.

Jibril al-Rajoub, the Palestinian preventive security chief for the West Bank, said: "These are massacres, and it is these crimes that make suicide bombers out of our people and bring about retaliation and more victims and bloodshed."

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, of the medical relief organizations, said five other people were killed in Jenin when Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers invaded the camp for the second time in a week: a man and two <u>women</u> were hit inside their homes and two gunmen were killed in exchanges of fire.

The Spectator's view: A12

Near the West Bank town of Qalqilya, troops shot a man they claimed ran at them with a knife shouting "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is Great).

According to Barghouti, 165 ambulances have been hit since the intefadah began 17 months ago. Suleiman's death brought to 11 the total of Palestinian doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers killed. An Israeli colonel claimed at the weekend that ambulances were sometimes used to transport Palestinian fugitives.

Israeli troops were still on the periphery of the Jenin refugee camp last night, and exchanges of fire were continuing. Earlier yesterday, the army stormed into the Rafah camp at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, killing three Palestinians with automatic fire. Doctors said two were civilians, one of whom was trying to get his child away from the shooting.

Graphic

Photo: Gadi Kabalo, the Associated Press; The brother of Avi Hazan grieves during his brother's funeral yesterday. Hazan was killed by a suicide bomber on Saturday.

Load-Date: March 5, 2002



Error appeared on front page, but correction ran inside

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

February 10, 2002, Sunday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; If you ran the newspaper; Pg. 21A

Length: 587 words

Byline: Lou Gelfand; Staff Writer

Body

For the last 30 years or so, Star Tribune corrections have appeared on Page A2 or beyond.

But a number of readers called for a page one correction Wednesday, when a copy editor's goof misidentified an alternative school as a charter school both in a precede and in a picture caption.

Oversized text that preceded the front-page headline said: "The future of a Minneapolis charter school founded by a man with a conviction for theft by swindle raises concerns about the monitoring of fledgling schools."

Should the correction have appeared on Page A1?

Yes, chorused 25 or more readers, most aroused and a few apoplectic.

Nearly all hammered the point that the precede had maximum impact because it was above the fold. The caption was under a picture that was the photographic cynosure of the page.

Reporter Allie Shah's story correctly identified Minneapolis Technical Training Academy as an alternative school.

Among those who championed a front-page position for the correction were former Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge, DFL-New Hope, cosponsor of the charter school legislation, Rep. Alice Seagren, R-Bloomington, and Milo Cutter, codirector of City Academy in St. Paul, the state's first charter school.

All expressed concern that the error will affect legislative funding.

A charter school is an independent public school authorized to operate for three years, with renewal dependent on performance. Today there are 67 such schools in Minnesota.

Star Tribune Tim McGuire responded: "The error was unfortunate and unintentional. I never say never, so there could well be an error that would necessitate a front-page correction, but this error was not such an exception.

"We are convinced they get excellent readership [on Page A2]. I can't remember when we've made an exception to the rule."

I am not aware of a single metro U.S. newspaper that runs corrections on the front page except in an extraordinary case. That described the New York Times on July 13, 1987, publishing a story under a two-column headline that said:

Error appeared on front page, but correction ran inside

"A correction: Times was in error on North's secret-fund testimony."

The Washington Post said the size and prominence of the correction was "virtually unprecedented for news organizations."

Response

Last Sunday's item in this column explaining the newspaper's policy on use of the word "terrorist" convinced at least 20 readers that the newspaper is anti-Semitic.

The best-sculptured of the responses:

Jerry Ribnick: "You contradict yourself . . . by acknowledging that even though <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah are on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations, they still don't meet the paper's standard as terrorists."

Sexism

Jane Truesdale said the first five men finishers in the St. Paul Winter Carnival's half-marathon (13.1 miles) were published but only the <u>women</u>'s winner.

The top five <u>women</u>: Kelly Keeler, 40, Bloomington, 1:19.45; Staci Bennett, 33, White Bear Lake, 1:21:47; Sonja Anderson, 35, Minneapolis, 1:25:04; Suzanne Ray, 49, Minneapolis, 1:27:27, and Judy Meyer, 41, Minneapolis, 1:28:12.

'Or,' not 'and'

Doug Trouten spotted it on Monday's metro/state cover:

Out for Equity was described as a support program for people "who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered."

_ The reader representative catches bouquets and brickbats from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 612-673-4450. Outside the metro area call 800-827-8742. He can be contacted at <u>readerrep@startribune.com</u>.

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: February 12, 2002



Secret of Palestine's first female bomber

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

January 31, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 25

Length: 663 words

Body

THIS is Palestine's first woman suicide bomber.

The identity of 28-year-old Wafa Idres had been a mystery since she died bombing Jerusalem's bustling Jaffa Rd on Sunday, killing an elderly Israeli and wounding 150 people.

And the reason for Idres, a divorcee from the Al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, in the West Bank, being involved remains a secret.

She had no known links to Palestinian factions and an Israeli police spokesman last night could make no comment as investigations continued.

MATP

It remains unclear whether Idres detonated the bomb herself or was killed by a faulty fuse.

The resurgence of Palestinian bombing and shooting attacks has rocked Israel in the past two weeks.

Last night, a Palestinian man set off a powerful explosive charge next to a parked van, killing himself and wounding two Israelis, police said.

Police spokesman Gil Kleiman said it appeared that the assailant blew himself up deliberately, pressing himself against the van in a suicide attack on its occupants, who suffered light to moderate shrapnel wounds and burns.

Police bomb experts had not yet confirmed that the man's body was free of booby traps so forensic examination had yet to begin.

The blast went off near the Israeli Arab town of Taibe, about 100m from a checkpoint marking the line between Israel and the West Bank.

More than 30 suicide bombings have been carried out in 16 months of fighting, but, until recently, all were claimed by two militant Islamic groups, *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

In all, just over 100 such attempts have been carried out since the tactic was first adopted by Palestinian militants eight years ago -- although about a quarter of them were intercepted by Israelis before the attacker set off the bomb.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat declared a ceasefire on December 16 and it brought an immediate and sharp drop in violence -- no Israelis were killed by Palestinians for almost a month afterwards.

Secret of Palestine 's first female bomber

However Palestinians say that Israel did not respond in kind.

From December 13 to January 9, no Israelis were killed in Palestinian attacks. During the same period, 33 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces -- 22 in Israeli raids and 11 while carrying out attacks on Israeli soldiers or civilians.

When a Palestinian militant was killed on January 14 in an attack that had the hallmarks of an Israeli targeted killing, Palestinian militants vowed revenge, and the suicide attacks resumed almost immediately.

As Israel's government tried to calm a jittery citizenry with an overwhelming show of strength after Ms Idres' suicide bombing, politicians and security officials yesterday presented Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with long-term plans for sealing the ancient mountaintop city against Palestinian attackers.

On nearly every downtown Jerusalem street corner rifle-toting Israeli soldiers were on duty, while police stopped Arabs and checked their identification.

Soldiers also guarded heavily travelled streets leading into the heart of the city, and special anti-terror teams circled on motorcycles.

The plans call for added security and a buffer zone around Jerusalem with walls, barriers, ditches and roadblocks limiting access to the city.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday denied any intention to monitor Arabs' travel within Jerusalem. The goal of the effort, he said, "is to make entry into Jerusalem for unwanted visitors very, very difficult."

Last night Israeli troops backed up by tanks raided a Palestinian-ruled area of the Gaza Strip and arrested several people, a Palestinian security source said.

The army moved some 200m into Palestinian territory at Al-Qarara near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, where they carried out searches and made an unspecified number of arrests.

An Israeli army spokesman reported that two nearby settlements had come under fire from a mortar bomb and light weapons fire, while anti-tank grenades and light weapons were also used against an Israeli army post guarding another settlement.

Load-Date: January 30, 2002



Newspaper careful in use of label 'terrorist'

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)
February 3, 2002, Sunday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; If you ran the newspaper; Pg. 27A

Length: 661 words

Byline: Lou Gelfand; Staff Writer

Body

Jerry Ribnick and Sybil Rubin say that Palestinian suicide bombers should be called terrorists.

Ribnick wrote, "I don't understand why terrorists who kill Americans are called terrorists, but those that kill others are either militants, Palestinians or, in the latest case, just <u>women</u>."

"The Star Tribune generally tries to avoid labels," says assistant managing editor Roger Buoen.

"Our practice is to stay away from characterizing subjects of news articles but instead describe their actions, background and identity as fully as possible, allowing readers to come to their own judgments about individuals and organizations.

"In the case of the term 'terrorist,' other words _ 'gunman,' 'separatist' and 'rebel,' for example _ may be more precise and less likely to be viewed as judgmental. Because of that we often prefer these more specific words.

"We also take extra care to avoid the term 'terrorist' in articles about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because of the emotional and heated nature of that dispute.

"However, in some circumstances in which nongovernmental groups carry out attacks on civilians, the term is permitted.

"For example, Al-Qaida is frequently referred to by the Star Tribune and other news organizations as a 'terrorist network,' in part because its members have been convicted of terrorist acts and because it has been identified by the United States and other countries as a terrorist organization."

The Associated Press, says spokesman Jack Stokes, uses a variety of terms and does permit the use of the word "terrorist" for those in nongovernmental groups who carry out attacks on the civilian population.

Comment: The Star Tribune policy is evenhanded. But it will not satisfy Israel's supporters who can point out that because <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah are on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations, they could be so identified when they take responsibility for bombings.

Thin skins

Newspaper careful in use of label 'terrorist'

Several readers were askance that the sports department last Sunday published the results of the Senior Skins golf tournament in Wailea, Hawaii, before ABC televised the final seven holes that afternoon. The network showed the first 11 holes the day before.

James F. Larson of Roseville was infuriated. He figured an editor goofed and "thought maybe you'd fire someone."

Comment: This was not a tournament closed to the public. To hold back public information for the benefit of a TV network and its sponsors makes no sense.

He scored!

Andrew Selden blitzed the critic's ending in a Jan. 19 review of conductor Nicholas McGegan's leadership of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra,

A tribute to McGegan's artistry ended:

". . . it's hard to imagine him leading, say, a Mahler symphony (though it's fun to try). But in his chosen sphere, this ebullient little man is pure gold."

Selden said the relevance of McGegan's stature "was gratuitously demeaning. McGegan is not a candidate for a basketball team."

Comment: To me, as a little guy who can be ebullient, McGegan wields a responsive baton.

Rewriting history

Tib Shaw Wozniak and her mother spotted it in the Jan. 20 Arts & Entertainment section:

"The installation places 25 of Crosby's black-and-white photos of women, from infants to centurions "

Centurion was the commanding officer of an ancient Roman military unit of 100 men. The writer surely meant to say centenarians, people over 100 years old.

It was the aide

Several callers caught this dangling modifier on last Monday's obituary page:

"Harvey Matusow, 75, a former aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy who was sent to prison for perjury and later starred in a children's TV show, died "

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Load-Date: February 4, 2002



DISQUIET IN ISRAEL FOLLOWS WRECKING OF GAZA HOMES

The Scotsman

January 14, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 13

Length: 581 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield In Rafah Refugee Camp

Body

THE 511 Palestinian refugees whose homes were demolished on Thursday by Israel spent their fourth day shivering in tents yesterday, while those responsible for their plight defended it as an act of military necessity.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, the champion of Israel's "war on terror", backed the demolitions last night on the grounds that Israel needs to clear the inhabited area along the Gaza Strip border with Egypt to stop weapons smuggling.

"Israel will take all the necessary steps to stop smuggling of weapons," he said.

For dovish Israelis, it was Mr Sharon's most controversial operation since sending Lebanese Christian militiamen into the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in 1982, where they slaughtered more than 700 Palestinians in an operation with the Israeli army.

An editorial in Haaretz warned that the action testified to the callousness of the country's three top leaders: Mr Sharon, the defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, and the ultra-nationalist army chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, who, it said, "is liable to transform the Israel defence forces into an army with no restraints or morals".

Doron Almog, senior commander in Gaza, said the houses were demolished because soldiers had been shot at from them. "During the last three months five explosive devices were activated from the area."

Many Israeli commentators, even those who normally support tough army measures, said it had undertaken a "revenge operation" against civilians for the killing of four Israeli soldiers by <u>Hamas</u> on Wednesday. What the commentators did not admit is that such actions have been going on for 15 months. And it has become very much accentuated during Mr Sharon's tenure.

On Friday, in the Rafah camp, The Scotsman was witness to <u>women</u> picking through debris among the remnants of the 58 houses. A huge area along the Israeli army's border with Egypt had been cleared.

Jihad Ghassas, in his twenties, stood in the only part of his house still intact as he recalled events. His family was sleeping at 2am. "I heard shooting and saw three bulldozers, eight tanks and armoured personnel carriers. I carried my brothers, Mohammed, three, and Saleh, five, out of the house. Then I went to help my uncle with his children and I went back to check if anyone was left. There was shooting all the time, and the children were crying."

All the families who lost their homes are descendants of refugees expelled by Jewish forces or who fled the fighting that surrounded Israel's emergence in 1948. They were given no warning.

DISQUIET IN ISRAEL FOLLOWS WRECKING OF GAZA HOMES

This reporter counted more than 70 UN-provided tents near the demolished homes.

Mr Ghassas said 75 per cent of the houses demolished were occupied, and that houses that were abandoned were the closest to the Israeli troops along the border with Egypt. The army put the number of demolished houses at 21 and Mr Ben-Eliezer said none were inhabited.

Many Israelis espouse the idea that their government offered generous peace proposals before the confrontations in September 2000 and the Palestinians responded with violence. They deduce from that it is acceptable to cause avoidable deaths of Palestinians or to wipe out entire neighbourhoods.

One is left with the uneasy feeling that Mr Sharon believes he can get away with anything. And he is probably right. "I grew up in this beloved and cursed country and I have never lived at a time like this, when injustice is carried out without there being protest," wrote Yigal Sereneh in Yediot Ahronot.

Load-Date: January 14, 2002



Tourist caught in street war crossfire

The Australian

January 24, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 559 words

Byline: * A correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

AS he walked out of a jewellery store, Michael Rosner heard an ear-splitting burst of gunfire unleashed by a Palestinian just a few steps away.

The 48-year-old businessman, a tourist from New York City, turned and saw two <u>women</u> crumple under the spray of gunfire at a bus stop.

"The shooting was so close. My God, he must have been 10 feet (three metres) away from me," said Mr Rosner, who had run into an electronics store and taken cover behind the counter with his wife Judy.

AP

The Palestinian militant, shouting "God is great", fired an automatic rifle randomly into the late afternoon crowd in Jaffa Street, one of Jerusalem's main arteries, for 10 minutes on Tuesday before police arrived and shot him dead.

Sixteen people were wounded, six of them seriously, and more than 20 people were treated for shock, police said. Two *women* later died of their wounds in hospital.

Saeed Ramadan, of the Al-Aqsa Brigades, linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, carried out the shooting spree, said sources in the group and Palestinian security officials. His uncle Adnan Ramadan, Mayor of the West Bank village of Tel, confirmed this and said he was a member of the Palestinian naval police.

Israeli authorities said they held Mr Arafat and the Palestinian Authority ultimately responsible for a shooting that was likely to bring a strong Israeli response.

"You can certainly expect an Israeli reaction," said Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said: "We are at war. This war is not taking place in some far-off battleground, but is happening here, at home, in the street, in shops, restaurants, businesses."

A source in the Al-Aqsa Brigades said the attack was revenge for last week's killing -- widely attributed to Israel -- of Raed Karmi, the group's leader in the West Bank town of Tulkarm.

The shooting spree came shortly after the Islamic radical group <u>Hamas</u> threatened "total war" on the Jewish state for killing four of its militants in a dawn raid in the West Bank's main town of Nablus.

Tourist caught in street war crossfire

As police descended on the street and chased the assailant, people scattered in all directions. Civilians pulled pistols from their belts, levelled their weapons and took cover behind garbage cans and the corners of buildings.

Liat Moshe, 24, said she lay on the floor of her mobile-phone store as customers ducked behind the counter and the gunman ran past: "He was standing near my door. He was shooting at people like a maniac ... I was sure he was going to turn around and start shooting here too."

Ms Moshe said the man was wearing a military coat, carrying an M-16 with a shoulder strap and shouted "God is great," before he opened fire.

Staff Sergeant Hanan Ben Naiim, 26, of the Jerusalem police motorcycle unit, battled with the gunman before shooting him dead: "I ran toward the terrorist and I shot at him while he was shooting at me. He was shooting at me the whole time. I was 10m away."

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana gave a downbeat assessment of the prospects for peace in the Middle East yesterday, describing the situation as "very dramatic" following a meeting in Strasbourg with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"The situation today is very dramatic and we have to see how to get out of the circle of violence," Mr Solana said after a 45-minute meeting with the Israeli minister.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002



BUSH INSISTS ROAD-MAP' TALKS WILL GO ON DESPITE FRESH ATTACK

The Independent (London)

May 20, 2003, Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 645 words

Byline: ERIC SILVER IN JERUSALEM Volunteers clear the scene of a suicide bombing at a shopping centre in the

northern Israeli town of Afula yesterday Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/AP

Body

A PALESTINIAN suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at the entrance to a crowded shopping centre in the northern Israeli town of Afula, killing three Israelis and wounding at least 18.

One of the dead was a <u>female</u> security guard who had prevented the bomber from going inside the building. It was the fifth Palestinian suicide bombing in three days. A senior Israeli police officer said: "We are in the middle of a wave of terror that is growing and gathering strength."

Israeli commentators compared the spate of attacks to the surge of bombings that killed dozens of Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv early in 1996. This time, they said, the assailants were aiming to damage Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian Prime Minister, as much as Israel. Radical groups were determined to sabotage his attempt to return to the negotiating table and to implement the international "road-map" to peace.

But George Bush said yesterday that he was confident in the Middle East peace process would continue despite the latest suicide bombing. "I've got confidence we can move the peace process forward," Mr Bush said.

The militant groups Islamic Jihad and Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades both claimed responsibility for the attack in Afula. The previous four were carried out by *Hamas*, another militant group.

Abdullah a-Shami, one of Islamic Jihad's leaders, said in Gaza: "This is our response to the crimes of the occupation. We resist it whether there is a road-map or not. We don't want the Zionists to feel safe."

Danny Seaman, an Israeli government spokesman, said: "Unless the international community and the Palestinians put a stop to this, there will be no hope for peace. The road-map has been replaced by a trail of blood that will lead the Palestinians to disaster."

Israeli officials blame Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, for encouraging terrorism. Mr Arafat is locked in a power struggle with Mr Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen), whom he appointed under pressure from the US and Egypt. Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, said on Sunday that he had rejected calls to send Mr Arafat back into exile, but Shaul Mofaz, his Defence Minister, said yesterday: "If Arafat continues to act as a main obstacle to the peace process, and at the same time Abu Mazen is willing to battle the terrorist organisations, there will be no alternative but to think about steps to deport him."

BUSH INSISTS ROAD-MAP' TALKS WILL GO ON DESPITE FRESH ATTACK

Security sources believe that yesterday's bomber infiltrated Israel from the West Bank in defiance of a siege on all Palestinian towns imposed by Israel after a suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem on Sunday. Afula is about 6 miles north of the West Bank border and 10 miles from Jenin, a militant stronghold.

A huge red "Welcome" sign above the entrance to the shopping centre was shredded by the explosion. Religious Zaka volunteers, who retrieve body parts for burial, said the blast was magnified because it was in an enclosed space. Arms and legs were blown off and windows shattered.

Avner Vigeema, a lorry driver delivering building materials, was one of the first on the scene. "I saw one woman running away, then falling flat on top of a white car, covering it in blood," he said, his own T-shirt stained with blood. "I saw a man move his head from side to side, then die. There were four wounded people piled on top of each other." Mr Vigeema, who was with the Israeli army in Lebanon 20 years ago, said: "In a situation like this, you have to forget the dead and help the wounded. It's not a time to be emotional." Earlier yesterday a cyclist detonated a bomb near an army vehicle in the Gaza Strip, killing himself and wounding three soldiers. A settler and his pregnant wife were killed in the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday. Seven passengers died on Sunday in the Jerusalem bus bombing and a second man blew himself up at a nearby checkpoint when police challenged him.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003



Bombings' appeal driven by despair, political rage

The Philadelphia Inquirer MAY 19, 2003 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A08

Length: 705 words

Byline: Caroline Drees REUTERS

Dateline: CAIRO, Egypt

Body

Born of desperation, nurtured by hatred and fostered by extremist zeal, suicide bombings have become the weapon of choice for Muslim militants seeking to avenge perceived injustices against their faith and homelands.

Islamic radicals have resorted increasingly to the technologically simple, financially cheap and devastatingly effective weapon - wreaking death and destruction in Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Israel over the last week.

"This isn't a moral issue for [Islamic militants]. It's a means of delivery," said Walid Kazziha, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo.

"This is someone who is weak, who doesn't have cruise missiles or B-52s. So he's delivering [an attack] in probably the most primitive way man has ever delivered it."

Since the launch of the U.S.-led war on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network after the Sept. 11 attacks, counterterrorism experts have struggled to thwart the unique threat posed by militants willing to die for their cause.

Even the world's most modern security forces have been forced to find ways of adapting to the threat, which brushes aside conventional warfare.

"You can't deter [a suicide bomber], because he is ready to die," said Ephraim Inbar, head of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel, a country that has battled years of suicide attacks.

"The way to stop the suicide bomber is to have intelligence and get ahold of him before he is equipped with material; otherwise he is like a rocket launched, and that's it," Inbar said.

Although Islam, like Christianity and Judaism, prohibits suicide, analysts say radical Islamic preachers and militants tell their followers that a suicide attack in defense of homeland or kin is a noble act of sacrifice and martyrdom.

In Arabic, suicide attacks are routinely referred to as "martyrdom operations."

Bombings' appeal driven by despair, political rage

"We will continue to use [suicide bombings] as a deterrent against an enemy that continues to commit crimes against our people," said Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, a top official of the Palestinian militant group *Hamas*.

The concept of suicide attackers is not unique to the Islamic world.

Historians point to Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II and the Tamil Tiger rebels of Sri Lanka. In those cases, the historians say the "sin" of suicide was considered outweighed by the need to defend the homeland.

In recent years, socioeconomic despair and poor education in some Arab and Muslim states, coupled with popular political impotence, made the region fertile ground for would-be suicide attackers, analysts say.

The trend began in Lebanon in the 1980s, and was used by Islamic and secular guerrillas alike.

Analysts say militant groups have an easier time recruiting attackers when widespread unemployment, poverty and frustration spawn armies of young men who feel they have nothing to lose and no other means of fighting perceived iniquity or oppression.

"Most of the people who carry out these suicide operations do not possess any economic or social standing and thus are easy prey," Yemeni political analyst Abdul Karim Sallam said.

But analysts say it has become harder to profile suicide bombers, as <u>women</u> and middle-class recruits join their ranks.

Egypt's semiofficial al-Akhbar daily said unpopular U.S. policies were driving the "frustration and desperation which are the cornerstone of the brainwashing used to recruit the unthinking elements who carried out these terrorist operations."

Some analysts say a dubious interpretation of Islam, combined with hostility toward U.S. regional policies, especially in Israel and Iraq, made militants see Western civilians as legitimate targets in a war against perceived U.S. domination.

"The people killed in Casablanca and Riyadh were a symbol of the West for the attackers," terrorism expert Hala Mustafa said.

She said some Muslim clerics had often failed to take an unequivocal stand against suicide attacks, thereby fostering the idea that they could be accommodated in Islam - a belief that makes the majority of Muslims bristle.

Some analysts also say that because many Arabs distinguish between suicide bombings against Israel and similar attacks elsewhere, it muddies the moral waters and makes it easier for militants to say their end justifies the means.

Load-Date: July 28, 2005



Suicide bombing leaves 3 Israelis dead

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

May 20, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A3; News

Length: 609 words

Dateline: AFULA, Israel

Body

AFULA, Israel (AP) -- A Palestinian woman blew herself up during a security check outside a mall Monday, killing three Israelis in the fifth suicide bombing in 48 hours -- a violent challenge to a U.S.-backed Middle East peace initiative and the new Palestinian prime minister.

The bombings, as well as suicide attacks in Saudi Arabia and Morocco in the past week, also raised questions about U.S. President George W. Bush's ability to stem global terrorism.

Monday's blast in the northern working class town of Afula near the West Bank was claimed by a militia linked to the mainstream group Fatah, proving particularly embarrassing to the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, a Fatah leader, who has denounced violence and promised to rein in the militants.

Israel blamed Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for one of the steepest spikes in violence in nearly three years of fighting, saying he encourages terror, even if he is not directly involved in planning attacks. Arafat angrily denied the accusations, claiming Palestinian security agents have foiled several attacks.

Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resisted renewed pressure from his cabinet to expel Arafat, apparently because of U.S. opposition to a step that could derail the "road map" plan.

After the Iraq war, with Bush promising to turn his attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there had been hope of a breakthrough in ending 32 months of fighting. However, Palestinian militants have often stepped up attacks at critical times in peacemaking, to prevent progress. Sharon, in turn, has given veto powers to the militants by insisting that violence must stop before negotiations can begin.

Bush said he was determined to push ahead with the peace plan, a prescription for ending violence and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005. "We're still on the road to peace," the president said. "It's just going to be a bumpy road. But I'm not going to get off the road until we achieve the vision."

The blast in Afula went off at 5:14 p.m. at a back entrance to the Shaarei Amakim mall, where shoppers were waiting in line for a security check.

The attacker, identified as Hiba Daraghmeh, 19, from the West Bank village of Tubas, detonated the explosives as she stepped up to security guards, witnesses said.

"There was a big explosion and my friend and I were blown over backwards," said Etti Pitilon, 19, a border policewoman. "I saw bodies, but I don't want to think about it," she added, crying.

Suicide bombing leaves 3 Israelis dead

Two guards, a man and a woman, were among the three people killed. Forty-seven people were wounded, several of them seriously.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Fatah, and the Islamic Jihad group both claimed responsibility for the bombing. The two militias have carried out joint attacks in the past.

The bomber was an English literature student, described as very devout by her father, Azem. She usually wore a veil over her entire face except her eyes, a particularly conservative covering rarely seen even among religious Palestinian <u>women</u>. She left home Monday afternoon, saying she was going to class, her father said.

The latest string of attacks began Saturday evening, just before a Sharon-Abbas meeting, the first Israeli-Palestinian summit since the outbreak of fighting.

<u>Hamas</u> bombers struck in the West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday, twice in Jerusalem on Sunday, and in the Gaza Strip on Monday morning, killing a total of nine Israelis and wounding 23. Three of the bombers were from Hebron.

The attacks come at a time when Abbas and Sharon are in a deadlock over who should make the first move on the new peace plan.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Israeli forensic experts clean up as religious volunteers, right, collect human remains at the scene of a suicide bombing at a mall in the northern Israeli town of Afula, Monday. It was the fifth suicide bombing in less than 48 hours.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003



World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

March 18, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 681 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Central African Republic

BANGUI -- Armed gangs roamed the capital of the Central African Republic on Tuesday, pillaging homes and looting shops just days after rebels occupied the city. Former army Gen. Francois Bozize, who declared himself president after the takeover, said his forces were not involved in the destruction. Stores in the central business district of Bangui either were shuttered or destroyed after looting Sunday, and armed men in stolen vehicles fanned out into the suburbs.

China

BEIJING -- Two pandas scheduled to spend the next decade at the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee will leave China on April 7, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday. Le Le, a male, and Ya Ya, a *female*, are to make the 15-hour flight in two custom-built containers aboard a FedEx MD-11 jet, Xinhua said, citing Xie Zhong, vice secretary of the China Zoo Association.

Colombia

BOGOTA -- Gunmen killed a Colombian print and radio journalist outside his office in the turbulent eastern state of Arauca on Tuesday. Luis Eduardo Alfonso Parada, 27, was the second reporter with Radio Meridiano-70 killed in the past year.

England

LONDON -- A 46-year-old man was arrested Tuesday in the slaying of an American artist who was stabbed to death while jogging in a London park last month. The Metropolitan Police said a man from east London was arrested Tuesday morning. It was not immediately known why police believe he is connected to the death of Margaret Muller, a 27-year-old native of Falls Church, Va.

Germany

KARLSRUHE -- Germany's highest court on Tuesday threw out the government's bid to outlaw a far-right party accused of inciting racist violence and spreading neo-Nazi propaganda, delivering a defeat to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government. Schroeder's administration invested considerable political capital in the drive to outlaw the National Democratic Party after a wave of hate crimes blamed on neo-Nazis in 2000.

World datelines

Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran announced Tuesday it has handed over 390 of the 1,240 Iraqi POWs it was still holding from the two countries' 1980-88 war. The fate of thousands of Iranians missing in action from the war remains a source of tension between the two neighbors. Both have accused each other of concealing how many prisoners they hold.

Israel

JERUSALEM -- An Israeli soldier and two leaders of the militant group <u>Hamas</u> were killed Tuesday in separate clashes in the West Bank, military officials said.

Philippines

COTABATO -- Suspected Muslim rebels ambushed a minibus Tuesday, executing at least six passengers. In separate attacks, a bomb exploded outside a church, injuring five people and nine separatists died in a clash with soldiers. All three incidents took place in the southern Philippines, where Muslim militants for decades have waged a guerrilla war to push for independence from the largely Roman Catholic nation.

Jordan

AMMAN -- The emir of Qatar pardoned a Jordanian journalist Tuesday, six months after the reporter was convicted of spying and sentenced to death, the Qatari news agency said. Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani issued the pardon to mark the visit to his nation of Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Russia

MOSCOW -- Russia's lower house of parliament on Tuesday decided to indefinitely put off a vote on ratification of a U.S.-Russia nuclear arms treaty because of the U.S. threat of war against Iraq. The treaty, agreed to last May by Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Bush, calls on both nations to cut their strategic nuclear arsenals by about two-thirds, to 1,700 to 2,200 deployed warheads, by 2012.

Serbia-Montenegro

BELGRADE -- Police arrested two suspects and seized weapons in the home of a slain underworld boss during a massive manhunt for the assassins of the Serbian prime minister, the government announced Tuesday. Dragan Ninkovic and Zoran Vukojevic, two key members of an underworld clan blamed for Zoran Djindjic's assassination last week, were arrested late Monday.

South Korea

SEOUL -- Prime Minister Goh Kun warned Tuesday that high tensions over North Korea's nuclear programs could rise further with an outbreak of war in Iraq.

Load-Date: March 18, 2003



13 Palestinians killed in day-long gun battle

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 2, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C03; News

Length: 650 words

Byline: John Ward Anderson

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A day after the release of a new 'road map' to peace, dozens of Israeli tanks rolled into the Gaza Strip early yesterday and surrounded the house of an alleged Palestinian bomb-maker.

The manouevre set off a day-long gun battle and siege in which at least 13 Palestinians were killed, including a two-year-old boy and two 13-year-olds.

Two other Palestinian militants were killed in the West Bank, and the Israeli army demolished about 16 homes in Gaza as part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's campaign to crack down on the families of Palestinians accused of participating in attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians.

The Israeli attacks and the ensuing bloodshed prompted angry charges that Israel was trying to sabotage the initiative, called the "road map," and undermine the credibility of the Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian prime minister who took office on Tuesday.

The Washington Post

"Our extremists are opposition groups, but the Israeli extremists are operating the government," said Michael Tarazi, a legal adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat's omnibus political group. "We cannot control our extremists, but who is going to control the Israeli government?"

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said there was no message or ulterior motive in yesterday's military actions.

Recent events underscore the predicament Abbas faces in addressing apparently conflicting demands. The Americans and Israelis want him to control Palestinian violence and be a negotiating partner in peace talks. The Palestinians want him to contain Israeli military operations and end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abbas has little sway with either side. Since he agreed to serve as prime minister a week ago, Palestinian militants, who do not recognize his authority, have committed two suicide bombings that killed four Israelis.

And since he formally took office two days ago, Israeli military forces have killed at least 22 Palestinians in operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

13 Palestinians killed in day-long gun battle

Reacting to the latest developments, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, in Madrid, said that "we have got to get beyond this period of suicide bombings and retaliatory actions, or other defensive actions that are taken."

"We can't let these sorts of incidents immediately contaminate the road map, or contaminate the process that we are now involved in."

The plan released Wednesday by a group called the quartet, which is made up of the United States, Russia, European Union and UN is a seven-page document calling on both sides to take "reciprocal steps" that will lead to the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

It calls on Palestinians to undertake an "immediate cessation of violence" and comprehensive political reform -including drafting a constitution and holding new elections -- and to resume security co-operation with Israelis.

Israel must "take all necessary steps to help normalize Palestinian life;" withdraw army forces from areas occupied after the second intifada began Sept. 28, 2000, and freeze Jewish settlements and immediately dismantle "settlement outposts" erected since March 2001.

Yesterday's operation began at 1:30 a.m. when about 30 60-ton Merkava tanks, backed by at least three AH-64 Apache helicopter gunships, converged on the Shijaia neighborhood in eastern Gaza City and surrounded the five-story house of Yousef Abu Hein, 32, a reputed bomb specialist for the Islamic Resistance Movement, or *Hamas*.

At 1 p.m., the fighters ordered the <u>women</u> and children out, leaving only Abu Hein and two of his brothers inside. At 5 p.m., the officials said, the last of the brothers was shot and killed by Israeli troops when he stepped onto a balcony and opened fire.

At least 13 people were killed during the incursion. Amir Ayyad, 2, shot in the head when he wandered to a window in his family's neighbouring house to peek outside, said his father.

Graphic

Photo: Adel Hana, the Associated Press; Salah Abu Zerena, 44, cradles a wounded arm after Israeli troops entered his Shijaia neighbourhood in Gaza to blow up a house of suspected militants.

Load-Date: May 2, 2003



Hobart Mercury (Australia) July 31, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1515 words

Body

Cars are ruining the city

Returning after a long absence, I am appalled at the apparent dominance in the minds of planning authorities of accommodation for private motor vehicles.

At a time when busy centres around the world are implementing plans to keep cars out of CBDs, Hobart appears to be encouraging them.

Richard McCure (Letters, July 26) correctly identifies development of the one-way system as the basic contributing factor to the absurdity that now exists.

Shopping in the CBD and precincts is a nightmare for motorists and pedestrians alike.

The latter are at considerable risk. One has to pad for blocks past vacant and sometimes derelict premises to find an objective.

It is no surprise when Alderman Freeman points out (Letters, July 23) that commercial property rated value has dropped 10 per cent.

D. B. Pybus

Battery Point

Clean air

One need only look at the pall of smoke which hangs over Launceston and Hobart on a winter's morning to appreciate the merit of the clean heating/clean air message delivered by Aurora Energy.

R. Thomas of Taroona ("Aurora: Holier than thou", July 30), is really missing the obvious with his assertions about the impact of woodheating on the air we breathe in Tasmania's urban centres.

The evidence is provided by Aurora's customers, who have made the change in droves. In Launceston, which has suffered the state's worst air quality problems, the Commonwealth Government's woodheater replacement program has been established to tackle the problem.

More than 430 notices have been issued to households for having "excessively" smoking chimneys, and a further 1300 notices for smoky chimneys.

Clean and convenient electric heating is the leading choice for home owners in Launceston and increasingly in Hobart.

Thousands have taken up the challenge to improve air quality, and over the past 18 months alone Aurora has secured more than 6000 HydroHeat-compliant heater sales.

Research conducted for Aurora shows customers have a clear preference for electric heating over gas or wood.

Adrian Wild

Manager Corporate Affairs

Aurora Energy

Hobart

Appalling words

I was appalled by the comment from Dr Pell (The Mercury, July 30) suggesting that abortion was a worse moral scandal than the sexual abuse of young people by priests.

Quite apart from the fact that priests should be the upholders of moral standards, there are countless circumstances that may justify abortion in individual cases.

I doubt if even Dr Pell could name one circumstance that would justify sexual predation by a priest.

David Christian

Cambridge

Conflict

I refer to the editorial on the lack of interest shown by the TCA, and in particular, chairman Denis Rogers, in assisting AFL Tasmania in getting St Kilda to play games at Bellerive (July 26).

The reason given by Mr Rogers is that the TCA is concentrating on cricket games. Imagine if the chairman of the MCG had that attitude.

The real reason could be Mr Rogers' conflict as chairman of the TCA and chairman of the Department of State Development. As chairman of the DSD, Jim Bacon is his boss. So if Jim says York Park, Denis ain't going to argue; simple as that. Just another incestuous Hobart board overlap.

Paul Blizzard

Blackmans Bay

Different values

Lilith Waud's letter, "Locking up kids" (July 26), is a one-sided generalisation which perpetuates untrue bias.

The so-called stolen generation were taken from their families legally for their own benefit. Living on the ground with animals in a primitive way with adults who were often uncaring of them for various reasons was seen to be unhealthy and detrimental to the children's future.

Australian welfare placed them in homes and institutions where they could be educated and cared for. White children were (and are) given the same consideration.

The evacuees brought during the war were moved away from the fighting for their own benefit.

The fact that some of their carers abused them is to be regretted but this has been found in many other areas involving children and adults, and has nothing to do with why they were brought here.

Illegal immigrants who bring their children with them are responsible for what they do, not the Government. When the children are ill-treated by their parents then they can legally be removed for care elsewhere.

That these people's values are different to ours is obvious, but it is not the Government's fault that they have to deal with the problems illegal immigrants bring with them.

David Hammond

Lutana

I am a moderate person, enjoying friendships with people regardless of their ethnic or religious backgrounds.

I lose sleep every night over events in Israel and the Palestinian territories. My blood boils when someone such as Mr James (Letters, July 27) has such a one-sided view of the situation.

I lost my schoolteacher in the war of 1967, schoolmates in the 1973 war, and my friend's sister was brutally murdered by Palestinians.

Still, my heart goes to every innocent Palestinian who dies in this conflict.

<u>Hamas</u> and Arafat's Force 17 deny the very existence of Israel. Just look at their emblems.

Mr James finds Israel's actions deplorable and ethnically based. Weren't the ties of Haj Amin El Houseini (the Mufti of Jerusalem) with Nazi Germany ethnically motivated?

Isn't rejoicing in the murder of Israeli children, blowing up Jews in Argentina and brutalising them in France, racist and deplorable?

Yoram Levy

Mt Stuart

I agree totally with Ross James that the Australian Government should deplore the harsh actions of the Israeli Government.

However, Australia should also deplore the British Government's action in Northern Ireland, the Russians in Chechnya, the Americans in Afghanistan, the bombing of the civilian population of Dresden, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the napalm bombing of innocent civilians in Vietnam, not to mention the African genocide.

At the same time it should be mentioned that there is a world of difference between what is now happening and the Holocaust.

The Nazis attempted to systematically exterminate a whole race whereas the Israeli Government is fighting a war against individual "terrorists" and suicide bombers as much as America and its ally, Australia, is doing.

Although Palestinian civilians are innocent victims, the Israeli killings are genuinely "accidental" to their determination to eliminate the leaders of <u>Hamas</u> and the PLO whose stated aim has always been to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

This has been the situation ever since the state of Israel was established by a majority vote of the United Nations.

If, on the other hand, it is believed that Israel should never have been established on the assumption that the UN didn't take into account a local population that already existed, then what about the original inhabitants of Australia?

If, however, we accept the words of the Bible then the state of Israel has every right to exist!

Myer Fredman

Sandy Bay

On September 11 last year, President George W. Bush rightly expressed his outrage at a cowardly act of terror in New York and his response was to rally the world in his war on terror.

What was so different in the cold-bloodedness of this New York act by Muslim extremists and the cold-blooded butchery perpetrated on the people of Hebron last week?

Israel, in targeting a Palestinian leader for political assassination, launched an air-to-surface missile into a crowded apartment block in order to "take out" one man. It knew its actions would cause massive civilian casualties.

Their indiscriminate butchery of innocent men, <u>women</u> and children was justified along the lines that those who share an apartment building with any suspected terrorist must themselves be legitimate targets and their deaths become justifiable collateral damage.

We in Australia should be ashamed of the sycophantic manner in which the Howard Government remained silent as this story broke.

The US supplied Israel with the planes, the weaponry and moral support for this terrible action.

It continues to supply Israel with the bulk of its massive military budget, in the knowledge that Israel openly practises state terrorism, state-sanctioned political assassinations and is a user of institutionalised torture, as reported by both the UN and Amnesty International.

The Howard Government's silence in this affair can only be construed as collusion with the US in condoning a blatant act of state terrorism!

Andrew Lanzlinger

Lindisfarne

The global community manages to negotiate a truce between Israelis and Palestinians, eventually leading to relative calm.

As is the trend, it is inevitably broken by a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings such as have occurred in recent weeks.

This, of course, leads to Israeli retaliatory strikes against terrorist groups in Palestinian areas, and so the violence spirals out of control.

What astounds me is the audacity of Palestinians to complain when they suffer civilian casualties, when it is civilian deaths that start each round.

The situation is so easily avoided, if only the Palestinians could let commonsense prevail and control themselves.

Samuel Tal

Montrose

Load-Date: July 30, 2002



Briefly... NATION/WORLD

Philadelphia Daily News March 26, 2003 Wednesday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; BRIEF; Pg. 57

Length: 669 words

Body

Americans' plane crashes in search for three others

A light plane carrying three Americans crashed in southern Colombia just after sunset yesterday while searching for three other Americans captured by rebels last month, the U.S. Embassy said.

Colombian troops reached the crash site near Larandia military base in southern Colombia's Caqueta state, but the fate of the three-man crew was unknown, said U.S. Embassy spokesman Gerald McLoughlin.

A Colombian military official said the Cessna 208 had been incinerated in the crash and that there appeared to be the burned remains of the three crew members in the wreckage.

USAF reassigns officers in academy rape scandal

Four top officers at the Air Force Academy will be replaced - at least two of them by <u>women</u> - after a series of rape reports and allegations by *female* cadets of an academy culture that blames victims for assaults.

Air Force Secretary James Roche briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee in private yesterday to discuss the military's response to allegations that <u>female</u> cadets at the academy were ostracized after they reported they were raped.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said Roche outlined the academy staffing changes. She said a change in leadership is a start, but there "has to be a change in values from top to bottom."

10-year-old girl, boy, 14, killed by Israeli soldiers

Israeli forces killed two children and three gunmen in the West Bank yesterday, doctors and Israeli Radio said. Israeli forces looking for suspected *Hamas* militants in Bethlehem shot three Palestinian gunmen dead after they opened fire on the soldiers from a car, Israel Radio said.

The report said soldiers then opened fire on another car they thought was trying to run them over, killing a 10-year-old girl.

Briefly... NATION/WORLD

In the West Bank town of Jenin, a 14-year-old boy was killed and a 12-year-old boy was seriously wounded by fire from an Israeli tank, doctors said. The Israeli military said they were shot while climbing on an armored vehicle and trying to steal a machine gun.

Suspected Serb assassin was cop under Milosevic

The man accused of assassinating Serbia's pro-Western prime minister ran an elite police unit tied to organized crime and former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, authorities said yesterday.

Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic, who succeeded Zoran Djindjic after his March 12 ambush slaying, identified the suspect as Zvezdan Jovanovic, a deputy commander of the Unit for Special Operations used by the former Yugoslav president during the 1990s wars in Bosnia and Croatia. Jovanovic was arrested Monday.

The probe continues.

Ex-Bosnian U.N. envoy stole \$2.4M, feds say

Federal agents in New York arrested the former Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations yesterday after authorities in Bosnia accused him of embezzling \$2.4 million from that government.

Muhamed Sacirbegovic, 46, was ordered detained without bail.

Prosecutors said they would move for Sacirbegovic's extradition to Bosnia.

Sacirbegovic was ambassador to the United Nations for Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 until 2000, according to papers filed by federal prosecutors.

The Bosnian government accuses him of stealing about \$1.8 million from the nation's Investment Fund Ministry and more than \$600,000 from the account of Bosnia's representation at the United Nations.

Sacirbegovic is married and lives on Staten Island.

\$20M document survey yields \$61 discrepancy

A \$20 million study of mountains of records from government-managed American Indian land found a single discrepancy of less than \$61 between what was owed and what was paid to the landowners.

The report, commissioned by Congress, summarizes royalty payments from the use of land owned by four American Indians from 1915 to 1999.

Those four are leading a class-action suit against the Interior Department. Their attorneys claim the government squandered as much as \$137 billion through sloppy management and say the \$20 million study is based on inaccurate documents provided by the government.

Daily News wire services

Load-Date: March 26, 2003



How to make human bombs

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

April 3, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 20

Length: 697 words

Byline: Dr Andrew Newman

Body

SEVEN <u>women</u> and children were killed this week when US troops fired on their vehicle, which failed to stop at a checkpoint.

It follows the suicide car bombing in Najaf on Saturday that killed four US soldiers.

This is one tragic consequence of a war in which distinguishing between civilians and the military is increasingly difficult.

And because Iraq's use of "irregulars" is proving effective, it is likely that such incidents will become more common.

Suicide bombing is not new and, pre-September 11, the US was not immune. In 1983 two Hizbollah suicide bombings in Beirut -- which took 353 lives -- hastened the US withdrawal from Lebanon.

Al-Qaida operatives conducted the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen that killed 17 sailors with a boat packed with explosives.

The commander of the task group of Australian ships, Captain Peter Jones, observed that small boats on suicide missions now represented the most prevalent threat to ships in the Gulf.

The logic of suicide bombing is coherent.

Given the Islamic prohibition of suicide, a senior Shiite cleric justified such operations as a tactic born of necessity: if an oppressed people cannot confront imperialism with the weapons in which the imperialists are superior, they are forced to redress the balance through unconventional means.

Thus, there is no difference between dying with a gun in hand or exploding oneself.

Dr Abdul Aziz Rantisi, one of the founders of *Hamas*, preferred to describe suicide bombers as self-chosen martyrs, which implies religious obligation.

Author and academic Avishai Margalit indicates that the ideas of martyrdom and revenge for specific acts are powerful motivators.

By making themselves the ultimate victims of such acts, killers claim the moral high ground. It secures entry to paradise and celebrity status among their supporters.

How to make human bombs

"Profiling" a suicide bomber is less satisfactory. Margalit has shown that while most bombers are young, unmarried men, it is not possible to generalise. Contrary to popular belief, they are not depressed or lonely or driven by economic despair.

Suicide bombing is asymmetric warfare at its

most primitive.

Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadhan predicted: "If US B-52s can kill 500 people at a time, operations by freedom fighters will be able to kill 5000 people."

He also encouraged Arabs everywhere to turn every country in the world into a battlefield.

Although this statement is largely a propaganda exercise, it should be remembered that Islamic militants identify with the Iraqi people.

While Saddam Hussein's regime is secular (Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is Christian), that groups in the region are using the war as a call to action should be no surprise.

Radical Islamic groups are no friends of Saddam Hussein but they like what the coalition is doing even less. Just as disturbing, the longer the war drags on, the more it alienates moderate Islam.

S UICIDE bombings will not alter the military outcome of the war but they demonstrate how badly the coalition is faring on the political front.

Volunteers are reportedly lining up in countries such as Syria, Saudi Arabia and as far away as the Russian Republic of Daghestan (bordering Chechnya) to join jihad.

Uniting Muslims against the coalition is precisely what Saddam Hussein wants.

This logic prompted his Scud missile attacks on Israel during the 1991 war and it helps explain Iraq's compensation payments to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. He seems to be having more success this time.

Commentators who suggest that George W. Bush is finishing the job his father would not, totally ignore the enormous differences between 1991 and the current conflict.

George Bush Snr worked assiduously to cultivate a broad coalition with a very specific mandate: to expel Iraq from Kuwait. This was successfully achieved.

Regime change is a very different proposition and the coalition of the willing is far narrower. This is not surprising. It sets a very dangerous precedent for other countries in the region.

Dr ANDREW NEWMAN is research fellow, global terrorism research unit, Monash University

Load-Date: April 2, 2003



Briefly

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 26, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D08; Brief

Length: 717 words

Body

ONTARIO

Licence needed to test water

TORONTO -- Mandatory licensing of all labs that test drinking water is being proposed by the Ontario government, Environment Minister Chris Stockwell announced yesterday.

"This is a first for Ontario and a first for Canada," Stockwell said. "Licensing of laboratories will ensure that there are strict standards in place for those who test Ontario's drinking water. In addition, laboratories will be subject to random visits by ministry inspectors for the first time in Ontario's history."

The Hamilton Spectator

The proposed Drinking Water Testing Services Regulation will make it an offence to submit false or misleading information relating to drinking-water tests, samples and results.

Licensing and inspection of laboratories were recommended in the Walkerton inquiry report and mandated by the recently enacted Safe Drinking Water Act.

CANADA

Gun registry gets \$59m boost

OTTAWA -- The Liberal government pushed another \$59 million for the troubled federal gun registry through the House of Commons yesterday, overcoming opposition objections and internal dissent from some of its own backbenchers.

The funding, approved in a pair of votes by margins of 173-75 and 173-76, will be used to top up the registry budget for the fiscal year that ends March 31. Another \$113 million will be required later to cover next year's operations.

No Liberals voted against the measure -- they had been warned by the prime minister that they could be expelled from caucus -- but three who were in the House, Paul Steckle and Rose-Marie Ur of Ontario and Andy Savoy of New Brunswick, abstained when the roll was called.

Priest, 80, faces sex charges

SYDNEY, N.S. -- A Roman Catholic priest who faces numerous sex-related charges stemming from alleged incidents in Cape Breton has been released on conditions.

Briefly

Rev. Hugh Vincent MacDonald, 80, did not enter a plea during a brief court appearance yesterday. He was ordered to have no contact with alleged victims or witnesses.

The judge also ordered a publication ban on any information that would identify alleged victims, family members or witnesses in the case.

MacDonald returns to court in Sydney on May 29 facing 23 charges stemming from alleged incidents in the 1960s and '70s involving 10 men and five **women**.

WORLD

Israeli army kills two children

JERUSALEM -- Israeli forces killed two children and two gunmen in the West Bank yesterday, doctors and media reports said, and three Palestinians were sentenced to multiple life terms by an Israeli military court.

Israeli forces looking for suspected <u>Hamas</u> militants in Bethlehem shot two Palestinian gunmen dead after they opened fire on the soldiers from a car, Israel Radio said. Soldiers then opened fire on another car they believed was trying to run them over, killing a 10-year-old girl.

In the West Bank town of Jenin, a 14-year-old boy was killed and a 12-year-old boy was seriously wounded by gunfire from an Israeli tank, doctors said.

The Israeli military said they were shot while climbing on an armoured vehicle to steal a machine-gun.

Catalonia wants sovereignty

MADRID -- Catalonia's ruling nationalists have launched a daring plan to transform their autonomous region of Spain into a fully fledged sovereign nation in "association" with Madrid.

Among the proposals are for Catalonia to have its own independent voice in Europe, field its own sports teams in international competitions and that public employees must speak Catalan.

The proposal, to be debated by the conservative Convergence and Union (CiU) party leadership next week, augments the prosperous region's already extensive powers, and has rattled the government in Madrid.

Space Agency looking to Mars

PARIS -- The European Space Agency will send an unmanned mission to Mars in 2009 to put a roving vehicle on the planet to search for evidence of life, the agency said yesterday.

The space agency hopes the mission, known as ExoMars, also will provide new insight into the planet's surface and atmosphere.

The trip is part of the space agency's preparation for eventual manned missions to Mars.

The current mission plan will use a solar-powered vehicle to drill holes into the Martian surface and take soil samples from sites where scientists believe primitive life forms may have existed.

-- Hamilton Spectator wire services

Load-Date: March 26, 2003



ISRAELI OPERATION ENGULFS RAMALLAH WITHOUT A BATTLE

The New York Times
June 24, 2002 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 6; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1384 words

Byline: By JOHN KIFNER with DAVID E. SANGER

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Monday, June 24

Body

Israeli tanks and troops surrounded Yasir Arafat's battered compound at dawn this morning, extending the shutdown of nearly all of the Palestinian West Bank, as President Bush's advisers said he was tentatively planning to announce his new Mideast policy -- including a path to creating a Palestinian state -- this afternoon at the White House.

As the sun rose, more than 100 Israeli armored vehicles were seen moving into Ramallah, the Palestinian intellectual, political and commercial capital, expanding an operation that has left more than 600,000 people confined to their homes in the cities of Nablus, Qalqilya, Jenin, Tulkarm and Bethlehem.

For the most part, this Israeli offensive, in contrast to fighting in Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp in April, has been without resistance. Two Palestinian police officers were killed Sunday, however, one in the Al Yamun village near Nablus and another when an Israeli tank shell hit a building in the Tulkarm refugee camp.

It was unclear whether the latest Israeli action would once again force the White House to put off Mr. Bush's speech, which has been the subject of constant debate among his national security team. The suicide bombings last week, and Israel's reaction, have reopened a long-simmering discussion about how quickly Mr. Bush should advocate moving toward the broad goal of creating a state called Palestine, and what kind of conditions he should declare that the Palestinians must meet before that state would come fully into existence, with defined borders and a seat at the United Nations.

Mr. Bush is scheduled to be in New Jersey at a political fund-raising lunch today, but he has no public events scheduled in the afternoon. That would be one of the last opportunities to give the speech before he heads to Canada the next day for the annual meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

Israel's latest incursions only complicate Mr. Bush's problem. His last major speech, on April 4, also came at a time when Israeli forces were occupying Palestinian-controlled territory, and it led to tense encounters between Mr. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel before the army withdrew. "Now we are in a similar position," one exasperated administration official said Sunday night, "where the headlines will be dominated by the Israeli occupation, making it harder to build steam for the ideas in the president's speech."

ISRAELI OPERATION ENGULFS RAMALLAH WITHOUT A BATTLE

In Ramallah, the Israelis were reported to be tightly gathered around Mr. Arafat's compound, much of which lies in ruins from earlier Israeli attacks. A Palestinian official inside the compound said at 6 a.m. that there had been no gunfire.

"A large number of tanks and Israeli jeeps are surrounding the president's office from all sides," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, an aide to Mr. Arafat.

Armored bulldozers were scraping barricades around the headquarters, witnesses said, and Israeli riflemen had taken up sniper positions in some parts of the ruined buildings. Apache attack helicopters flew overhead, firing in at least two places. Several explosions were heard. Loudspeakers atop the armored vehicles warned the city's population, about 55,000 people, to stay indoors.

The Israeli move came shortly after Palestinian officials, apparently acting in hopes of staving off just such a strike, ordered the house arrest of Sheik Ahmed Yassin and several other ranking officials of the Islamic militant movement <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza. The sheik, who uses a wheelchair, has been a relentless advocate of attacking Israel, and the move was widely seen as a belated effort to assuage the Israelis.

A *Hamas* official, Ismael Abu Shanab, said of the house arrests, "This is a dangerous escalation."

If Mr. Bush goes ahead with his speech, Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders will face a difficult choice. At a moment when they are surrounded by Israeli troops, they would have to decide whether to welcome Mr. Bush's ideas, denounce them as a trap intended to set requirements for statehood that Palestinians cannot meet for years, or find diplomatic language in between. Mr. Bush has been under great pressure, from circles of advisers around Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, not to offer a clear timeline of when Palestinians would obtain real statehood.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell has argued that Mr. Bush must describe a new "political horizon" to give hope to the Palestinians.

Mr. Bush's aides have spent the better part of a week drafting and re-drafting the speech, which Mr. Bush hoped to give last week. But the suicide bombings derailed that plan, and White House officials say they want Mr. Bush to make his deepest foray into Mideast peace at a moment when he would get maximum attention to the effort.

"The idea is to say to the Palestinians, 'Here's what you have to do, go do it,' " one administration official said. But he acknowledged that those requirements -- an end to terrorism and corruption, and the emergence of a trusted legal system, if not real democracy -- would take years for the Palestinians to meet. It is unclear how heavy a new burden Mr. Bush might put on Israel.

The move into Ramallah came at 4 this morning, after a day in which the Israeli Army called up a brigade of reservists to bolster its forces in the West Bank and the government struggled with a number of strategies to stem the tide of suicide bombers, ranging from building a wall to deporting bombers' families.

Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said the recent series of attacks against Israelis had necessitated "deep and thorough" action "against the terror infrastructures in the Palestinian cities in order to foil attacks."

In Israel, the army radio said thousands of reservists would be mobilized. The 1,200 called up on Sunday reported to mobilization centers, shouldering duffel bags, hikers' backpacks and rifles. They will get a few days' training before joining soldiers already in most of the main Palestinian population centers.

"We will be in the Palestinian territories for a prolonged period of time," Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar told reporters at the regular Sunday meeting of Mr. Sharon's full cabinet.

Nevertheless, some of what Israel said was confusing. Nor was it exactly clear what the army, having already destroyed much of the Palestinian Authority's institutions and having surrounded and sealed off West Bank population centers, could do that was much more forceful.

ISRAELI OPERATION ENGULFS RAMALLAH WITHOUT A BATTLE

Palestinian officials accused Israel of reoccupying the West Bank, scrapping the Oslo peace accords, under which limited control of parts of the West Bank and Gaza was transferred to the Palestinians, and preparing to reimpose the old Civil Administration -- actually military rule -- that existed before Oslo.

"It is their fatal mistake, to reoccupy again these Palestinian territories," Mr. Arafat said in Ramallah on Sunday. "They are agreeing to cancel what was agreed upon from Oslo until now."

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said: "It is obvious the Israeli government is resuming fully its occupation. We have been saying this is the endgame of Sharon for many months."

But Israeli officials insisted that they had no intention of assuming the politically loaded and costly burden of maintaining services like garbage collection, electricity and water in the Palestinian areas.

The army's coordinator of government activities in the territories, Maj. Gen. Amos Gilad, also made a rare appearance on the radio to deny that Israel had any intention of reinstating its previous administration.

If Mr. Arafat does not change his mind and prevent terrorism, General Gilad said, he may no longer remain where he is. "Any means that will be legal and just will be adopted," the general said.

At its Sunday meeting, the cabinet approved construction of the fence running roughly along the Green Line marking the pre-1967 border, even though Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned that it would be a diplomatic disaster and threatened, fleetingly, to resign. Ministers will have one month to suggest changes to the fence plan. The right wants the barrier moved farther east, to encompass Jewish settlements.

Deportations of the families of suicide bombers was discussed, and the attorney general was directed to review legal aspects of that and other measures.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: An Israeli soldier stood guard this morning in Ramallah outside the compound of the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, after Israeli forces surrounded him and his aides, and bulldozers piled debris so that it locked them in. (Associated Press)(pg. A1); Palestinian <u>women</u> took the opportunity to replenish supplies in Jenin yesterday after Israel lifted a curfew. (Ruth Fremson/The New York Times); An Israeli tank blocks the road to Yasir Arafat's compound in Ramallah. A wave of armored vehicles and troops recaptured the city early today. (Associated Press)(pg. A8)

Load-Date: June 24, 2002



<u>Palestinian group seeks peace; Reformers promise to reach out to Israeli</u> peace groups and try to bring prosperity

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 30, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D02; News

Length: 1412 words

Byline: Olivia Ward

Dateline: RAMALLAH

Body

Bulldozers began to remove barriers around Yasser Arafat's compound yesterday as British and American officials worked out a deal to let him go free after a month of siege.

But nine Palestinians were killed as Israeli tanks and troops rolled into the West Bank city of Hebron, in response to Saturday's shooting on a nearby Jewish settlement in which four civilians, including a five-year-old girl, died.

Meanwhile, Mustapha Barghouthi head of a Palestinian medical relief group, says he and other activists will shortly launch a grassroots movement that will include many political parties and **women**'s groups.

They aim to maintain strong links with Israeli peace groups, he said.

"All other ways forward have been tried and failed. Democratic and economic development is what we need. In other words, true reform."

Independant; Torstar News Service

Arafat stayed put yesterday for fear Israeli forces would storm the building and seize wanted militants inside.

Israel and the U.S. State Department both said Arafat was now free to go where he likes, including trips outside the Palestinian territory.

The Palestinians, however, said Arafat was not free and that if he tried to leave before the prisoners were transferred, Israel would seize the six men from the building.

Israeli forces entered Hebron, a bitterly divided town south of Jerusalem, about 4:30 a.m. yesterday, with tanks and armoured personnel carriers driving in from all directions.

Nine Palestinians, including six civilians, were killed by Israeli fire and more than 20 wounded, Palestinian witnesses said. A missile fired from an Israeli helicopter hit a house, killing a gunman and four civilians.

Witnesses told reporters that two more civilians who rushed to the scene to try to help were killed by helicopter fire.

Palestinian group seeks peace; Reformers promise to reach out to Israeli peace groups and try to bring prosperity

About 200 Palestinian men were reportedly detained in the sweep and Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said troops arrested 17, including several high on Israel's wanted list.

He said they also found two suitcases filled with explosives, as well as a car bomb ready for detonation.

Ben-Eliezer said troops wouldn't stay long. "We went there to hit that infrastructure (of terror groups) and to get out quickly," he said.

But in Ramallah, where Palestinians were under curfew for weeks, and much of the Palestinian Authority's infrastructure lies in ruins, there is increasing unease about the future, and a widespread belief that the agreement on freeing Arafat was unlikely to lead to long-term peace.

The American-brokered deal would allow Arafat to turn over the six men, including four wanted for the murder of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi, to a Palestinian prison where they would be guarded by American and British security personnel.

The visiting officials yesterday said the men might be jailed in Jericho, the only West Bank city unscathed in the assault Israel launched March 29 after suicide attacks killed scores of Israelis.

Palestinian officials said that once the details were worked out, Arafat might be free to leave his bullet-scarred headquarters and begin to repair the damage to his ministries, security forces and chain of command.

But analysts and politicians in Ramallah said the city in which he emerges has undergone subtle changes since the siege began, and Arafat will face major challenges as he tries to re-assert his authority.

"People are disgusted," said Barghouthi, an outspoken opponent of Arafat. "We asked for international protection and they've handed us international guards. This is a terrible deal."

During Arafat's imprisonment, the 73-year-old leader's popularity has escalated and he has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance.

But before the siege, Arafat's administration was widely seen as corrupt, authoritarian and out of touch with ordinary Palestinians.

Now, Barghouthi says, people who were afraid to speak out are ready to take action.

"This government is a disaster," he said. "Arafat has to launch reforms. We must become a proper democracy, with a clean administration and an independent judiciary. People stood up for Arafat when he needed them, but now they have had enough."

Nabil Amr, Arafat's minister for parliamentary affairs, is less pessimistic about the deal made to release Arafat. But he says, Arafat should be under no illusions that he can continue to rule in the same way now.

"From the first day he must start real reform and change his cabinet and he must unify the security forces and reform the judiciary," Amr said. "This is a popular demand and we in the government must support it."

Amr plans to resign as soon as he meets with Arafat and will urge all other cabinet ministers to do the same.

But plans for reform, as well as a peace settlement, depend on an Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns, Arafat's critics and friends agree.

"This deal could open the way for real peace negotiations," says Qais Abdul-Karim, a member of the central council of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization who is better known as Abu Leila.

"But without serious negotiations for Israeli withdrawal, it will be very difficult for Arafat to enforce any ceasefire," he said.

Palestinian group seeks peace; Reformers promise to reach out to Israeli peace groups and try to bring prosperity

The formation of new "buffer zones" around West Bank towns, patrolled by Israeli forces, will be a major setback to peace, he added.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says they are vital to protect Israel from suicide bombings that have killed and terrified Israelis.

But most Palestinians consider the fortified barriers and checkpoints punitive measures that make their lives a misery and offer a constant reminder of living under occupation.

"My husband is a doctor," says Samar, a well-to-do Ramallah university teacher.

"During the siege he wasn't allowed to go out and help wounded people and he was trapped in the house. Now he has to stay in his hospital in Jerusalem all week because it takes too many hours to pass through the checkpoints coming and going."

The rising tide of anger over the recent Israeli military action will make the prisoner deal for Arafat's release difficult to enforce, Barghouthi said.

"Arafat should have turned to the people to gauge their feelings before agreeing to this deal," he said.

"How can he think that the majority of people will be happy to see British and American officials guarding people whom they see not as criminals but as part of a resistance movement?"

The Islamic <u>Hamas</u> movement denounced the U.S. deal as "a new submission to Israeli and American demands and terms."

In a statement received in Beirut, <u>Hamas</u> said: "Attempts to focus all attention and efforts on lifting the siege on Yasser Arafat disgracefully dwarfs the Palestinian cause."

While officials finalize the deal to release Arafat, efforts continue to end the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem where about 30 Palestinian gunmen took refuge April 2.

Yesterday, an army ambulance removed the body of a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group in Arafat's Fatah faction, after an Israeli sniper shot him dead.

A Palestinian source named him as Nidal Abayat, 28, and said he had been standing in the garden of the Church of the Nativity. An army spokesman said the man was armed.

But in a sign of movement in the 27-day-old standoff, a Palestinian negotiator said 18 civilians were likely to leave the compound by agreement with the Israelis.

Dozens of Christian clerics and Palestinian civilians are also in the shrine, which Israel has said it will besiege until the gunmen surrender to face trial in Israel or be exiled.

Palestinian officials say they should be sent to the Gaza Strip, a suggestion rejected by Israel. But hopes have been raised that the Ramallah deal might be a blueprint for a similar arrangement to end the Bethlehem siege.

Meanwhile, Israel's deputy defence minister, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, hinted at a tradeoff between Arafat's release and U.S. assistance to Israel during its continuing confrontation with the UN over the Jenin mission.

"I assume that ... some sort of agreement was reached, some sort of deal, according to which Ariel Sharon gave up on his insistence that Arafat be isolated in his headquarters," said Rabin-Pelosoff, daughter of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"At this stage, we win U.S. backing concerning our reservations on the issue of the UN committee."

Palestinian group seeks peace; Reformers promise to reach out to Israeli peace groups and try to bring prosperity

Israel said it would not co-operate with a UN mission looking into a battle between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Jenin camp unless demands for changes in its composition and mandate were met.

Graphic

Photo: Goran Tomasevic, Reuters; The siege at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity continues, though there are some signs of hope that 18 civilians are to be released. A Palestinian gunman was killed yesterday and his body carried out by Christian monks and a lawyer negotiating an end to the standoff.

Load-Date: April 30, 2002



HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA'S FIRST LADY

The Sun

December 17, 2002

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Section: PROFILE; ASMA AKHRAS

Length: 620 words **Byline:** Sally Brook

Body

WHEN Syria's First Lady Asma Akhras arrived at Heathrow with her husband on Sunday she was actually returning home.

London-born Asma, 27, was known to British friends as Emma before she married the Syrian President two years ago.

Now she is acknowledged to be one of the most glamorous and influential women in the Muslim world.

Her Syrian dad Dr Fawaz Akhras is a leading Harley Street consultant cardiologist and her mum worked in London's Syrian Embassy.

Asma -the Arabic equivalent of Emma -went to a Church of England school, then got ten O-levels and three A-levels at Queen's College, an independent school in Harley Street.

Crucial

She studied computer science at King's College, London, and worked as an economist for bankers JP Morgan.

But her role in the three-day diplomatic trip -the first official Syrian visit to Britain -is too crucial to allow time for Asma to pop home to see her family in Acton, West London.

Along with her husband, President Bashar al-Assad, Asma will meet Tony Blair at Downing Street, The Queen and Prince Charles.

Asma has already been on official visits to Eygpt, France and Spain.

She has worried religious traditionalists in Syria by asking questions of world leaders and for having her own office in the Presidential Palace.

Asma met her husband-to-be as a teenager, through family friends, and soon fell in love. At the time, he was studying medicine at Paddington's Western Eye Hospital.

Her high profile as a member of Syria's ruling elite is a far cry from her early life. She was brought up in a semi -but now spends most of her time in the vast, marble-lined Presidential Palace in Syria's capital Damascus.

HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA 'S FIRST LADY

She is keen to dismiss reports of her luxurious lifestyle -she insists she eats in public restaurants and doesn't have a nanny to look after her one-year-old son, Hafez.

President Assad, 35, was not groomed for leadership. But his life turned upside down when his elder brother was killed in a car crash in 1994 and he was summoned back to Syria.

Supporters say his choice of wife shows he wants to improve relations with the West and free Syria from shackles imposed during his dad Hafez Assad's repressive 29-year rule.

But critics say she merely puts a gloss on the new regime's dark side. Her husband has been challenged by Britain over his links to pro-Palestinian groups.

Syria, which has a poor human rights record, allows militant organisations <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad to run offices in Damascus.

The Syrians also have close links with terror group Hezbollah, which pioneered suicide bombings in Israel and kidnapped Western hostages.

Assad outraged British Jews when he defended suicide bombers last week.

But he could be influential in diplomatic moves to avert a war with Iraq.

After Asma and Bashar's quiet wedding on New Year's Day last year, pundits predicted she would slip into a life of isolation and subservience. Hafez Assad's wife did not make a public appearance in 30 years.

Indeed, it was two months before Asma made a public appearance on Syrian TV. But in that March report, she wore a skirt that ended above the knee as her husband chatted with the President of Bulgaria.

Before that revelation she had been travelling around Syria, her identity a secret and dressed in jeans and a T-shirt to get to know her country.

Asma, right, says: "I wanted to meet ordinary Syrians before they met me. I was able to see their problems, what people were complaining about, what the issues are."

She has put her experiences to good use by founding an organisation to improve villages through development and by making interest-free loans.

With her stunning looks and determination, it is easy to see how Emma from Acton is already an icon for Syrians.

Load-Date: December 18, 2002



HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA'S FIRST LADY

The Sun

December 17, 2002

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Section: OPINION Length: 641 words Byline: Sally Brook

Body

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Along with her husband, President Bashar al-Assad, Asma will meet Tony Blair at Downing Street, The Queen at Buckingham Palace and Prince Charles.

Asma has already been on official visits to Eygpt, France and Spain.

She met her husband-to-be as a teenager, through family friends. At the time, he was studying medicine at Paddington's Western Eye Hospital.

Close pals say they fell in love soon afterwards.

Her high profile as a member of Syria's ruling elite is a far cry from her early life. She was brought up in a semi -but now spends most of her time in the vast, marble-lined Presidential Palace in Syria's capital Damascus.

Asma is keen to dismiss reports of her luxurious lifestyle -she insists she eats in public restaurants and doesn't have a nanny to look after her one-year-old son, Hafez.

HOW LONDON-BORN EMMA BECAME SYRIA 'S FIRST LADY

She says: "We don't live in the palace. That is just an official place for meeting people. We live in a house in the city." Although she might lead a simple life by state leaders' standards, she is seen as one of the most influential **women** in the Middle East.

President Assad, 35, was not groomed for leadership. But his life turned upside down when his elder brother was killed in a car crash in 1994 and he was summoned back to Syria.

Supporters say his choice of wife shows he wants to improve relations with the West and free Syria from shackles imposed during his dad Hafez Assad's repressive 29-year rule. But critics say she merely puts a gloss on the new regime's dark side.

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Indeed, it was two months before Asma -who has two brothers, law student Eyad, 20, and trainee doctor Ferras, 23 -made her first public appearance on Syrian TV.

Secret

But she had been away -travelling around rural Syria, which has a population of 16.5million.

She kept her identity secret and dressed plainly in jeans and a T-shirt to get to know her new country.

Asma says: "I wanted to meet ordinary Syrians before they met me. I was able to see their problems, what people were complaining about, what the issues are."

She has already put her experiences to good use -founding an organisation to improve villages through development and by handing out interest-free loans.

With her stunning looks and determination, it is easy to see how Emma from Acton has already become an icon for ordinary Syrians.

Load-Date: December 18, 2002



Vengeance calls the shots as Israel's bloodletting goes on

Sunday Times (London) March 10, 2002, Sunday

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Byline: Matthew Campbell in Tulkarm and Uzi Mahnaimi in Tel Aviv

Body

Gunmen mow down Israelis in attack on resort town

THEY came staggering out into the night, some helped along by medics, others weeping uncontrollably into their hands. A suicide bomber had brutally interrupted their evening in a cafe in one of the smartest districts of Jerusalem, detonating an explosive device strapped to his waist in a bloody climax to one of the most violent weeks in Israel's recent history.

These walking wounded were the lucky ones. Amid a wailing of ambulance sirens, rescue workers carried at least 11 bodies from the wreckage of the Moment cafe, almost opposite the official residence of Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister. Dozens more were injured.

"I was sitting there in a corner having a drink with a friend when there was this explosion," said a young man who identified himself as Shlomo. "I looked up and saw bits of bodies, all cut up, lying on the floor."

Outside the cafe, a popular haunt among students with a pavement terrace near the entrance, a woman was wailing into her mobile telephone as she was escorted by medics to an ambulance. Another woman clutched her stomach while shaking uncontrollably as she was carried out on a stretcher.

"There was smoke and blood everywhere," said a student who had been having a drink with a friend when the bomber, who had apparently been standing in the entrance to the cafe, detonated the device. "People were screaming. I saw people lying on the floor."

The attack came just two hours after two Palestinian gunmen tossed grenades and opened fire at a seafront hotel in the Mediterranean seaside resort of Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, killing at least three people, including a baby girl, and injuring 37. The gunmen were shot dead by police.

The hotel-lined promenade had been packed with people emerging from their homes at the end of the sabbath after a day in which a temperatures hit an unseasonally high 30C.

"I saw two Palestinians running with automatic weapons into the lobby of the Jeremy hotel," said one Jerusalemite who gave his name as Haggai. "The windows shattered, people were screaming. I ran away but returned a couple of minutes later to see many people lying injured on the pavements."

Netanya, popular with British holidaymakers, lies only 15 miles from the Palestinian refugee camp in Tulkarm and had already been the target for a number of terrorist attacks.

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Responsibility for both attacks was claimed by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a Palestinian militant group that has carried out dozens of operations over the past few weeks, including a suicide bombing in Jerusalem and the shooting of three Israelis in a popular Tel Aviv nightspot last Saturday night.

The cafe blast was also claimed by <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Islamic group. The news was greeted with rejoicing by Palestinians at a refugee camp in Sidon, in Lebanon.

Last night's violence capped a ferocious week of conflict in which Palestinian gunmen and suicide bombers brought terror to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and the Israeli military hit Palestinian targets.

The rate of bloodshed far surpassed that of any other week since the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, began in September 2000. The week's clashes pushed the number of Israelis killed to more than 300 and the Palestinian toll to more than 1,000, almost as many as were killed in the entire seven years of the first intifada between 1987 and 1993.

Such statistics have caught the attention of a distracted White House. Its redeployment of Anthony Zinni, the Middle East peace envoy, to the region this week together with talk of a mediating mission to Israel by Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, offered a glimmer of hope for a halt to the carnage.

America is worried about an all-out Arab-Israeli war diverting energies from the international campaign against terror. Diplomatic, military and political pressures seem to have left their mark on Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister.

Sharon had been gambling, apparently, on an effort to wear down Palestinian resistance and impose a peace settlement on his terms. Instead it is he who is being worn down, say critics, as his popularity declines and he comes under attack both from the left, for not negotiating, and from the right, for not delivering a decisive military blow.

The pressure from abroad, however, could prove more pivotal. Zinni is returning to the region with the aim of reactivating a dormant peace process amid hopes that a Saudi initiative offering a normalisation of relations between Israel and Arab countries might lead to a breakthrough.

Yet even if Sharon, a former defence minister renowned for his hawkishness in dealings with Arabs, is serious about talks, the road ahead looks bleak and dangerous.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian authority, is kept a virtual prisoner inside a ring of Israeli armour in the West Bank town of Ramallah. And with Palestinian areas such as Tulkarm refugee camp under Israeli occupation, the appetite among Palestinian militants for more ambitious revenge attacks is growing by the day.

So is the determination of Israel to block them. "We have to defend our people," said Gershon Yitzhak, the Israeli general in charge of operations on the West Bank who sent his troops and tanks into Tulkarm on Wednesday night. Some 600 Palestinians suspected of links with militant groups were taken to Israel for interrogation.

Sharon had suggested that the huge operation in the West Bank and Gaza was an attempt to bludgeon the Palestinians into accepting Israeli terms at the bargaining table. Tanks bulldozed their way into refugee camps and F-16 jets dropped bombs near Bethlehem.

Apache helicopter gunships swooped over Palestinian security buildings yesterday, leaving a police headquarters smouldering in Gaza City. The governor's headquarters in the West Bank city of Nablus also came under attack and seven Palestinians were injured. Israeli soldiers last night advanced into the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem in their search for militants.

Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah had been hit by rockets on Tuesday just as he was meeting Miguel Moratinos, a representative from the European Union. Sharon apparently does not want to kill Arafat, however.

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Some of the Palestinians' top officials were targeted, including General Ahmed Mefrej, the national security chief, who was shot dead in his car in Gaza on Friday. But the carefully calibrated attacks on Arafat's headquarters seemed designed more to unnerve the leader.

It may be working. Inevitably, important foreign visitors are for the time being considering it wise to steer clear of Arafat's compound. The Palestinian leader, anxious for a respite, is increasingly eager to negotiate terms allowing him out of Ramallah. He desperately wants to attend an Arab summit in two weeks' time, when he could expect to receive a hero's welcome - as well as a substantial Saudi cheque that had been promised for the depleted Palestinian treasury.

Such are the grim mechanics of retribution in this intractable feud that a Palestinian response of the kind that came in Netanya and Jerusalem last night had seemed virtually inevitable. No amount of vigilance has prevented "martyrs" from slipping into Israel to carry out their attacks. Under such circumstances, nervousness among Israeli troops manning checkpoints is perhaps understandable.

Yitzhak, the general in charge at Tulkarm, said he felt "deeply sorry" for the wounding of two pregnant Palestinian **women** shot at a checkpoint as they were driven by their husbands to hospital to give birth.

Yet Israeli checkpoints and tanks are not the only menace to ordinary Palestinians trying to survive on the West Bank as the combatants on each side prepare for more killing.

On Thursday night, when a Palestinian gunman went on a shooting spree in an Israeli settlement in Gaza, killing five religious students, angry Israeli settlers swarmed into Huwara, a village south of Nablus, the next morning intent on revenge.

The violent Palestinian reprisals last night were the almost inevitable result. It looks certain that they, in turn, will now be avenged by the Israelis.

After the bloodshed of the last few days, any end to the madness is increasingly difficult to envisage.

'MARTYRS' LEAD FIGHT

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which claimed responsibility for last night's atrocity in Netanya, has emerged at the forefront of recent Palestinian attacks.

It is an offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah organisation and seems closer to his chain of command than the extremist *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad bodies.

Named after the Al-Aqsa mosque, on the Jerusalem site revered as the place where the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, the brigades are linked to Tanzim, Fatah's armed wing.

Many members are said to have worked for Palestinian Authority security forces. Their suicide bombings could return to haunt Arafat, who claims not to back terror. But Hussein el-Sheikh, a senior Fatah official, was quoted in an Israeli paper as saying: "We can't watch our children being killed and sit with our arms crossed."

Graphic

Israel in Crisis

Load-Date: March 11, 2002



OBITUARY: MUSTAFA MASHHOUR; LEADER OF EGYPT'S OUTLAWED ISLAMIC OPPOSITION PARTY

The Independent (London)

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Byline: Adel Darwish Mashhour: called for a superstate

Body

THE FUNERAL last Friday in Cairo of Mustafa Mashhour, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, mirrored the confusion in the Egyptian political scene. No officials representing the government participated, in line with Egyptian custom. Only the Iraqi ambassador to Cairo and representatives of opposition parties attended the service, which was ringed by hundreds of policemen.

The event was tolerated by the authorities even though the party has been outlawed since 1954 by the State Administrative Court, for "unconstitutional use of violence". On other occasions, in a crackdown on Islamic activists in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September, membership of the Brotherhood has been used as a pretext to put troublemakers behind bars.

Since 1996, under the leadership of Mashhour and a 13-member executive bureau known as the Supreme Guide, the party had gained political ground. In the parliamentary elections of 2000, "independent" candidates endorsed by the Brotherhood secured 17 out of 454 seats, making the Islamists the single largest opposition bloc.

Born in 1921 to a rural family of modest but stable income, in the village of Saadieen, 80 miles north-east of Cairo, Mashhour spent two years in kuttab, one of the basic schools run by local clergy who beat children into memorising the Koran, believed by Muslims to be the word of God. The Koran was chosen as "the only recognised constitution" by Sheikh Hassan el-Banna when he founded the Muslim Brotherhood in 1928.

Mashhour read Physics and Science at King Fuad University in Cairo and was employed by the state National Meteorological Office after his graduation in 1942.

He had joined the Brotherhood at the age of 16, after regularly attending Sheikh Al-Banna's lessons in a local mosque in Cairo. He became active in Algihaz Alkhass ("the Special Apparatus" or SA), the underground terror wing of the Brotherhood involved in assassinations, kidnapping and planting bombs in cinemas and bars. The Brotherhood was regarded as an affront to Islamic values in the 1930s and 1940s. Other political groups, then struggling for reform and to expel British troops from Egyptian bases, branded the Brotherhood "agents of the British", especially as the Brotherhood's declared aims were to veil <u>women</u>, to ban alcohol and to implement Sharia Islamic law.

In 1948 Mashhour was sentenced to three years for "unlawful arms possession". He was released in time for the "Great Fire" of 1952 that burnt most of central Cairo, believed to be the work of SA. It was a catalyst for Colonel

OBITUARY: MUSTAFA MASHHOUR; LEADER OF EGYPT 'S OUTLAWED ISLAMIC OPPOSITION PARTY

Gamal Abdel Nasser's military coup in July of the same year. Nasser coordinated with the Brotherhood, according to Mashhour.

Following a failed attempt on Nasser's life in 1954, his regime executed and jailed scores of Brotherhood leaders, including Mashhour, who received a 10 -year sentence. Nasser arrested him in 1965 and held him without charge until he was released in an amnesty given by President Anwar Sadat in 1971.

When Mashhour became deputy leader in 1986, the Brotherhood tried to distance itself from the notorious Islamic terror groups, whose leaders had learnt their ideology and theories justifying violence in its ranks. These included the Islamic Group, which massacred innocent tourists in Luxor in 1998, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, who masterminded al-Qa'ida atrocities, and Palestinian groups like Islamic Jihad and <u>Hamas</u> and others in the Gulf.

Mashhour's 20-odd books are short and easy to read, calling for a totalitarian Islamic superstate that recognises no national borders. He called for the implementation of jizyah, a poll tax to be imposed by invading Muslim Arabs on the non-Muslim population. It angered the indigenous Egyptian Christian Copts - about 14 per cent of Egypt's 60-million population.

Mustafa Mashhour, politician, Islamic scholar and writer: born Saadieen, Egypt 15 September 1921; married (one son, three daughters); died Cairo 14 November 2002.

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