

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:39:00AM EEST

**Job Number:** 223498847

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Palestinian civilians feel Israel 's wrath\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

2. [\*UN rights council set to censure Israel for 21st time\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

3. [\*Top press photos go on show\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

4. [\*Between dust and deliverance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

5. [\*Letters to the Editor\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

6. [\*Led astray by Ramon\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

7. [\*TV soap captivates Muslims in Ramadan\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

8. [\*Leading article: Gaza : Punishing the people\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

9. [\*Between Dust And Deliverance\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

10. [\*There's little hope for Fourth Way in Arab world; Best and brightest are leaving Mideast to make their fortunes elsewhere\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

11. [Intelligent, politically skilled lady rises in Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

12. [Between dust and deliverance](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

13. [On Che, Iran, the ERA Redux, Harry Potter, Etc.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

14. [Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

15. [The spy who inspired George Clooney: A former CIA officer talks about dodging bullets in the Middle East, coaching a Hollywood movie star -- and why he thinks the car bomb is the terrorist's deadliest weapon](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

16. [Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

17. [5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

18. [Feature - Signs of change? Michael Glackin finds out if the kingdom's local elections of 2005 have changed anything](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

19. [Israeli PM to resign, won't run in primary](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

20. [Israel faces political turmoil](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to

Jan 31, 2009

21. [\*Shameful denial of Palestine holocaust\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

22. [\*Israel on moral high ground battling enemy's dirty war\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

23. [\*Toughest Test Of Brain Power\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

24. [\*Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

25. [\*Keep track of appointments - and terrorist threats\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

26. [Hilaly ends his exile - with some bouquets and brickbats FROM THE PULPIT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

27. [Wall is sensible solution to strife](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

28. [Israel wages PR battle as Gaza conflict rages High-tech tools a key part of arsenal, while foreign media kept on tight leash](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

29. [NEWS IN BRIEF](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

30. [Reason to doubt casualty claims; Arab neighbours send weapons to Hamas and Gaza, but no humanitarian aid](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

31. [Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

32. ['I'M THE BOSS' SPIRIT OF CHANGE IN A KNIFE-WIELDING BAPTISM.. PRIME MINISTER BROWN : DAY 1](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

33. [Israeli bombing causes serious implications for livelihoods and economy ENVIRONMENT: Israel Urged to Aid Oil-Stained Lebanon](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

34. [In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

35. [Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

36. [\*Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

37. [\*Readers' views\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

38. [\*Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

39. [\*Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

40. [\*Turkey moves to lift campus scarf ban\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

41. [\*WAR STORIES\*](#)



**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

42. [\*Hurting into the darkness\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

43. [\*The Gaza domino has fallen\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

44. [\*WORLD IN BRIEF\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

45. [\*Land of milk and caviar: Israeli fish farm nets millions\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

46. [\*Unity Fractures As Palestinians Battle in Gaza\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

47. [Peres, Barak run for top jobs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

48. [Peres, Barak run for top jobs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

49. [It's too easy just to blame Jews](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

50. [Israel devastates Hamas targets Raids strike next to premier's home, level university building. 3-day death toll at 364.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

51. [Fisk 'fiddles' the truth](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

52. [How many dollars would buy off Osama?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

53. [For Lebanese abroad, it's a buyer's market Letter from the Middle East](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

54. [CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS RAISE HACKLES](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

55. [Saturday: 22.12.07: 'He is very much alive': He was the warrior who discovered pragmatism, but two years ago he fell into a coma, leaving his people without a leader. Is Israel still waiting for Ariel Sharon to wake up?: 'He is very much alive'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

56. [Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

57. [New mufti takes back seat amid fears for his health](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

58. [Seeking common ground; Whether we like it or not, militant groups have millions of supporters in the Middle East -- we can't ignore them in the pursuit of peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

59. [Killing the messenger: the deadly price of war news](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

60. [Democracy and war Maybe someday Israel will get credit for freedoms it grants and that terrorists do not.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

61. [WALES: Demo for nine peace protesters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

62. [50/50](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

63. [Child of revolutionaries secures real power](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

64. [Enraged Lebanese bury slain lawmaker](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

65. [CHINA TIGHTENING OLYMPIC SECURITY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

66. [Wide support for new mufti](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

67. [\*Shifting sands\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

68. [\*International Briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

69. [\*THRONG FLEES PALESTINIAN CAMP\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

70. [\*Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

71. [\*Imam compares himself to Uluru\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

72. [\*Don't mention the war: new mufti muzzled by minders\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

73. [\*Heiress to Golda Meir?; ZIONIST ROYALTY: Tzipi Livni has the pedigree for a future in Israeli politics. Her parents were members of the underground group Irgun. She ran covert ops for a Mossad unit. Now she's an alternative to the macho men\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

74. [\*MPs overhaul Lebanese election law, but not everyone is satisfied\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

75. [\*Messing up the formula\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

76. [\*Nation on the edge\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

77. [\*Neon the beacon of hope\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

78. [Bush lectures Arab nations on political reform](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

79. [Tennis: Wimbledon 2008: Determined Keothavong relishes being in the orbit of Venus](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

80. [Letters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

81. [Images of bloodshed obscure truth of Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

82. [ATTACKS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"



**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

83. [\*Bush takes anti- Iran push to Saudis Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

84. [\*Islamists Win 24 of 50 Seats In Parliament Of Kuwait\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

85. [\*Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 229 in Gaza territory\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

86. [\*'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

87. [\*Night of a lifetime for Koppel\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

88. [\*'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

89. [\*Druze wives hope to reclaim old ties\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

90. [\*Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 230 in Gaza territory\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

91. [\*Sarkozy reaches wide, but where's the depth? Politicus\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

92. [\*TALKING POINT\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

93. [\*The myth of Palestinian moderation\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

94. [\*World Report\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

95. [\*The Guide: Islamic street preachers: From Boston to Lahore and beyond, the tentacles of taqwacore - aka Islamic punk rock - are spreading. And it's giving disenfranchised young Muslims a voice, says Riazat Butt\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

96. [\*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

97. [\*Karachi police foil march on US Consulate\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

98. [\*Israel strikes at Lebanon rocket site\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

99. [\*Israelis are hit by new wave of rockets fired from Lebanon\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

100. [\*War story helps Keothavong battle back\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Apr 15, 2007 to Jan 31, 2009

## *Palestinian civilians feel Israel's wrath*

The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan)

January 16, 2009 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** VIEWPOINTS; Pg. B8

**Length:** 742 words

**Byline:** Aijaz Husain, The Leader-Post

### **Body**

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Israel would have the world believe that the conflict in Gaza is the direct result of Hamas' constant rocket strikes against its territory -- a "security problem", it says, that needs to be "fixed once and for all". One wonders if the Hamas rockets -- slingshots compared to the weaponry that Israel has in its possession -- are such a serious threat to Israeli security then couldn't there be some better way to handle it than going to an all-out war? True, those rockets have been raining on Israeli border towns and villages for many years in retaliation for the harsh conditions under which the Palestinians in Gaza have been living under Israeli occupation. The rockets have indeed caused a few fatalities and some property damage. But that damage pales in comparison to the suffering the people of Gaza have endured as a result of the blockade that Israel has imposed on their territory.

The Hamas rockets have seldom caused any damage serious enough to warrant a military action on a scale as heavy as the one Israel is currently waging. Not all the people living in Gaza are Hamas militants. Of the 1.5 million Gazans, as many as almost two-thirds happen to be women, children and elderly residents, most of them living in conditions of near- starvation.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, writing in an op-ed article in the Washington Post on Jan. 8, recalls that at the time of his trip to Israel last April, he was told that there had been no more than three Israeli deaths in seven years of rockets attacks by Hamas. It was further brought to his attention by a U.N. source that "acute malnutrition in Gaza was on the same scale as the poorest nation in southern Sahara, with more than half the Palestinian families eating only one meal a day".

What then could have prompted Israel to use a military option to solve its security problems on its southern border? After all, a six-month truce brokered by Egypt last June, though fragile, had lowered the temperatures to some extent. With some diplomatic efforts that truce could have been further extended. The question is: why a shooting war now? Whatever the rationale for the start of the war, the fact is that a general election is due in Israel next month; and the ruling Kadima party is well behind former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline Likud Party in the opinion polls. The one hope that the Kadima leadership has of winning that election is by re-establishing its credentials as a party that can make tough decisions and stand up to Israel's enemies. A victory over Hamas -- something it did not achieve over Hezbollah in Lebanon two years ago -- will be a trophy.

A second factor that seems to have gone into Israeli calculations is the timing for the military action. There appears to be an urgent need to take advantage of the dying days of the Bush administration that has provided Israel with a level of unconditional support, they fear, they might not get from the newcomers in Washington.

## Palestinian civilians feel Israel 's wrath

And then, there is Ehud Olmert, the outgoing Israeli prime minister, who has a personal stake in scoring a victory against Hamas. The accusations he has faced for having bungled his handling of the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, plus many of the legal problems he is facing today, have turned him into a hawk in the hope that his initiative for going on the offensive in Gaza will rehabilitate him politically and help him regain some respectability among his own people.

It is not clear as to what the outcome of the current conflagration is going to be. Both parties to the conflict have rejected the UN ceasefire resolution. In the case of Hamas, the rejection of the call for ceasefire sounds more like a death wish -- a wish that Israel seems only too ready to help Hamas fulfill.

Already pretty close to a thousand Gazans, mostly civilians have perished in this war, and the death toll keeps rising. Thousands have been rendered homeless. The wounded have nowhere to go for treatment. The graphic television images of the dead and dying, children lying in hospitals with lost limbs and families shattered and traumatized are all too gruesome to comprehend: the brutality and senselessness of the war.

It is unlikely, in fact a certainty, that the war is not going to resolve anything. It remains to be seen if the good sense will ever prevail on the warring parties to drop their weapons, swallow their egos and go to the negotiating tables.

- Husain is a Regina freelance writer.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Getty Images ;

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2009

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End of Document

## *UN rights council set to censure Israel for 21st time*

The Jerusalem Post

January 11, 2009 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 665 words

**Byline:** TOVAH LAZAROFF

### **Body**

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The UN's Human Rights Council in Geneva is expected to censure Israel on Monday for its military operations in Gaza, according to Israel's ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

The draft text, which was proposed by Arab countries, "is totally unbalanced," Aharon Leshno Yaar told The Jerusalem Post by telephone from Geneva on Saturday night.

"I would have expected the council to condemn Hamas for using civilians as human shields" and "for storing weapons in mosques and schools," Leshno Yaar said.

At present there is no mention in the one-sided resolution of the thousands of rockets that Hamas has fired against Israeli civilians, he said.

The draft text gives the mistaken impression that Israel woke up one morning and decided to attack civilians in Gaza for no reason, he said.

This resolution "will plant the illusion in the minds of Hamas that the international community is supporting them, and that would be tragic," he said.

According to the UN Watch NGO, should the resolution pass, it would mark the 21st time that the council has censured Israel since it replaced the UN's Human Rights Commission in June 2006. It has issued 25 resolutions against countries, of which 20 resolution were leveled against Israel, four against Myanmar and one against North Korea, according to UN Watch.

Leshno Yaar said that he and the Foreign Ministry have lobbied European officials not to support such anti-Israel texts.

"The atmosphere is very heavy here in Geneva, because the focus is on human rights and humanitarian issues. I feel that I am fighting here alone with few friends," he said.

On Friday, when he spoke before the council at the start of its special session on "the grave violations of human rights in the occupied territories, including the recent aggression in the occupied Gaza Strip," he gave council members information on the rocket attacks and on Israel's efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the civilians in Gaza.

## UN rights council set to censure Israel for 21st time

In the last two weeks, Israel has facilitated the entry of 540 trucks carrying 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies into Gaza, Leshno Yaar said.

" Hamas has chosen a military buildup over the welfare of the Palestinian people, while masquerading as a legitimate government. It has imposed terror on the Palestinian population and Israeli civilians alike. Its endeavors are aided by partners Iran, Syria and Hizbullah, who supply Hamas with a vast arsenal of weaponry instead of donating money and materials that could be used to build infrastructure or aid development," he said.

Hamas is a threat to moderate societies in the region, he said. "This is not only Israel's war."

Reports by the United Nations, however, paint a bleak picture of IDF activities in Gaza. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as of Friday, 758 Gazans have been killed as a result of the fighting. Out of that number, 60 were women and 257 were children.

In addition, the UN said, 16,000 people have been displaced and are staying in shelters, and as of Thursday, some 800,000 Gazans were without running water.

"The situation is intolerable," the UN commissioner for human rights, Navanethem Pillay, said when she addressed the council's special session on Friday.

"The conflict has already caused the loss of hundreds of lives, a rapidly mounting score of injured civilians, the systematic destruction of basic means of subsistence, as well as the dangerous pollution of water resources and the degradation of indispensable services," Pillay said.

"Let me also underscore that while indiscriminate rocket attacks against civilian targets in Israel are unlawful, Israel's responsibility to fulfill its international obligations is completely independent from the compliance of Hamas with its own obligations under international law," she said.

The obligation of a state to protect civilian life "is not subject to reciprocity," she said.

Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits collective penalties or punishment of a civilian population, Pillar said.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011



## *Top press photos go on show*

The National Business Review (New Zealand)

October 19, 2007

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### THE NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW

**Length:** 291 words

**Byline:** World Press Photo Exhibition Tauranga Art Gallery Until November 11 John Daly-Peoples

## **Body**

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This year the travelling World Press Photo Exhibition of top international press photographers will be seen in New Zealand only as part of the Tauranga Arts Festival, a coup for the organisers.

The annual travelling show of prize-winning photographs is visited by over two million people in around 45 countries. A yearbook containing all prize-winning entries is published annually in six languages.

The more than 60 photographs are grouped in the categories of news sports, daily life, portraits, arts and nature.

Some of the photographs depict major conflicts and dramatic events such as the war in Iraq and the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The photographs capture spectacular moments in sport and entertainment as well as the drama and emotions of everyday life.

In the best of the photographs there is often a strong contrast between life and death or chaos and order. Most of the strong photographs focus on a single individual, even if they are in a crowd, to provide a personal connection with events.

There is a distinct contrast in the winning entry by Spencer Platt showing young Lebanese women surveying the destruction of Beirut from their red convertible. The almost surreal contrast highlights the polarised state of Lebanon and the divisions created by war.

The aftermath of an oil pipeline explosion in Nigeria, by Akintunde Akinleye, uses an individual to highlight the personal as well as social and political nature of the tragedy.

There is also what until recently was a no-go area for newspaper images: showing brutal killings. The photograph by Mohammed Ballas of two Palestinian terrorist shooting a suspected collaborator is both brutal and strangely sanitised.

On the web

n [www.worldpressphoto.org](http://www.worldpressphoto.org)

Top press photos go on show

Image: 01PLATT one use ONLY

## Graphic

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World Press Photo of the Year: Young Lebanese drive through a bombed neighbourhood in southern Beirut. Israel had been targeting southern Lebanon in a campaign against Hezbollah militants

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2007

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End of Document

## *Between dust and deliverance*

The International Herald Tribune

June 14, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 8

**Length:** 763 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at the Yasir Arafat Foundation, listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him.

What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbors today with money, skills or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind - one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" - after the collapse of the Israeli Left's land-for-peace strategy, the Right's permanent occupation strategy and the Israeli third way's unilateral withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e. authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes.

But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Falluja, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

Think about that. No - really think about it: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower? But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

I do not see any secular progressivism - a Fourth Way - emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance.

## Between dust and deliverance

Far from it, Egypt had an election in 2005, and Ayman Nour, the candidate who dared to run against President Mubarak, got thrown in jail on phony charges.

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging - a progressive Islam articulated by the big, popular Islamic parties like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese cabinet and then proceeded to launch its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, in a recent essay on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space. They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.' " No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state - and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there - small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance [armed] groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq - without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements - is an Arab Fourth Way.

But it has to come from them - and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2007

## Letters to the Editor

Christian Science Monitor

March 11, 2008, Tuesday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

**Length:** 677 words

### **Body**

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Hold accountable those responsible for racism

Regarding Richard Ford's March 6 Opinion piece, "Stop playing the race card": I believe Professor Ford is correct when he states that "The challenge for the civil rights movement in the 21st century will be to foster a constructive discussion of the real but often mundane racial inequities that confront many people every day - without being distracted by dramatic but trivial scandals."

I disagree, however, with his next statement - "Let's forget about Don Imus's offensive remark about the Rutgers' women's basketball team..." As the father of an extremely intelligent and beautiful 25-year-old black woman, I found Mr. Ford's willingness to excuse Mr. Imus's remark offensive and lacking an understanding of the manner in which black women have been portrayed and used by society at large (including by many in the black community). Imus's remarks were an ethnic slur and required a thoughtful but forceful response.

Holding Imus accountable for what he said is not playing the race card. We also need to hold accountable those segments of the black community (e.g., hip-hop artists) that engage in insulting remarks about black Americans, especially black women.

Elton E. Smith

Houston

Torture's illegality should be clear

Regarding the March 7 article, "Why Congress, Bush can't agree on limits to harsh interrogations": The title for this article is deeply misleading. Scant evidence is presented that the issues discussed at length in the article (reliability of evidence gathered under torture, desire to avoid courts looking into said reliability) explain why Congress and the administration disagree.

Even one line in the article that comes close is way off: "Supporters say the law is an effort by Congress to bring moral and legal clarity to a murky corner of America's war on terror."

There is no need to bring clarity to any "murky corner" of American law. No one was confused about torture law until the Bush administration's outrageous and unprecedented efforts to "murkify" what has always been and remains crystal clear: these "enhanced techniques" are torture, - inhumane, degrading to victim and perpetrator alike, and clearly illegal.

## Letters to the Editor

The reason they disagree? Because the Bush administration has recklessly asserted unprecedented authority to do what it pleases regardless of the law and America's core values.

The "opposition party" has finally gotten the guts to push back against these violations of both the letter and spirit of longstanding and - until the Bush administration's shamelessly sophistical arguments were concocted - uncontested laws.

Richard Cameron

Greencastle, Ind.

Shorten the voting season

Regarding your March 6 editorial, "Gloves off for Clinton and Obama?": You can't possibly mean that shortening the voting season would "make the process less democratic?" If you do, then I'm all in favor of less democracy. The length of these campaigns and the money spent is horrendous to say nothing of the toll it must take on the candidates.

Mary B. Larsen

Pittsburgh

Air Force's contract is fair

Regarding the March 7 article, "Huge defense contract for foreign firm riles Hill": Maybe the partnership of Northrop Grumman and EADS makes a better tanker. Give the new contract to the company that has a cheaper bid and will also probably make a better plane.

Carl Alan Large

Las Vegas

Correction: The March 3 editorial "Israeli exit from Gaza's maze" gave the wrong year for the recent Israeli-**Hizbullah** conflict. The correct year is 2006.

The Monitor welcomes your letters and opinion articles. Because of the volume of mail we receive, we can neither acknowledge nor return unpublished submissions. All submissions are subject to editing. Letters must be signed and include your mailing address and telephone number. Any letter accepted may appear in print or on our website, [www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com). Mail letters to Readers Write and Opinion pieces to Opinion Page, One Norway St., Boston, MA 02115. E-mail letters to Letters and Opinion pieces to OpEd.

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**Load-Date:** March 10, 2008

## *Led astray by Ramon*

The Jerusalem Post

July 9, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 13

**Length:** 726 words

**Highlight:** Editorial

### **Body**

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Cabinet ministers devoted nearly their entire weekly session on Sunday to Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann's proposal to establish a government investigation committee to probe allegations of questionable police wiretapping, particularly against Vice Premier Haim Ramon in his recent sex-abuse case. Thankfully the matter was, instead, entrusted to State Comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss's inspection.

The inordinate concentration on this affair - at a time in which the state is confronting incomparably greater tests, some existential in nature - is worth putting into perspective: The marathon cabinet session emanating from one convicted individual's private pique was longer, for instance, than the one devoted to the prisoner swap deal with *Hizbullah*. Indeed, many ministers attest that ministerial discussion of such duration and depth was missing during the entire Second Lebanon War. As for Israel's most intractable socioeconomic issues, they fail to win anywhere close to such consideration.

NONE OF this is to excuse the fact that the police have been lax - to resort to understatement - in their use of bugging. In October 2003, then-attorney general Elyakim Rubinstein recommended the dismissal of the then-head of the police investigations unit, Moshe Mizrahi, for not only dubiously eavesdropping on the conversations of politicians and their family members, including children, but also transcribing said conversations and hoarding material which had nothing to do with any relevant suspicions.

This was most glaringly the case in the prolonged, and still remarkably unconcluded, investigation into ex- minister Avigdor Lieberman's business connections. The upshot, as Rubinstein detailed, was that material - including intimate conversations, political chit-chat, tip- offs to the press, consultations with colleagues and much more of a nature that ought never to become public property - was being kept in police possession for unspecified purposes.

Nobody would like to be subjected to such intrusion by Big Brother, no matter what the impetus, pretext or backing. This also applies to any politician, and it should have applied to Lieberman. Yet not only did the government ignore Lieberman's furious protests; Ramon himself was conspicuously unsympathetic to Lieberman's plight.

That he should now spearhead the anti-wiretapping crusade smacks of personal interest. And that the government should be propelled to boost his cause smacks of misplaced priorities and problematic motives.

It's not only different strokes for different cronies. Ramon's case is inherently different from all others pursued, justifiably or not, against public figures. He was convicted of forcibly kissing a *female* soldier - not a fatherly peck on the cheek - and the conviction hardly hinged on wiretapping evidence. He could have avoided trial by merely apologizing. Moreover, if he perceives himself wronged, he could have appealed the verdict. He never did. Instead he has instigated a vendetta against the court, via the cabinet.

## Led astray by Ramon

Even if Friedmann were eminently motivated to take on police and prosecution malpractices, Ramon's case should not have been his launching pad, precisely because Ramon didn't avail himself of existing legal remedies. These are the only recourse for ordinary citizens. Why should Ramon alone be eligible for preferential treatment and granted the option of a special probe?

STILL, A probe by the independently minded Lindenstrauss is doubtlessly preferable to a committee appointed by Ramon's colleagues. It needs to be noted that the government committee proposed by Friedmann would have been equal in stature and authority to the one the government appointed, in lieu of a state judicial inquiry, to examine its own Second Lebanon War failings.

All the above concerns are exacerbated by the ongoing showdown between Friedmann and Attorney-General Menahem Mazuz which, if nothing else, further erodes the already undermined rule of law. The fact that Ramon insolently violated Mazuz's instruction that he not participate in the cabinet deliberation of his own affair further underscores his impudence.

It's ironic that what prevented an outright Ramon triumph was a "compromise" submitted by his political arch- foe Ehud Barak. Such a "triumph" for crusading minister Ramon, however, would have risked a gross distortion of justice.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *TV soap captivates Muslims in Ramadan*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 13, 2007 Saturday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** WEEKEND; Pg. C3

**Length:** 298 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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With its tales of brave men and dutiful women in a simpler, long-vanished Middle East, a Syrian soap opera has become the latest rage in the Arab world in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Throughout the month, people across the Middle East have rushed from mosques and flocked to coffeehouses each evening to catch "Bab el-Hara," or "The Neighborhood Gate." When the popular leader of the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah gave a televised address recently, many of his supporters watched the soap instead.

During Ramadan, which ends this week, Muslims fast during the day and sit down for an elaborate meal in the evening. Those ancient traditions have spawned a modern one: the Ramadan soap opera. Arab satellite channels broadcast the programs each night, trying to hook families who have gathered to break their fast.

"The Neighborhood Gate" is this year's hit, drawing millions of viewers - from poverty-stricken Gaza to the opulent cities of the Persian Gulf - with its nostalgic portrayal of the Middle East.

The show follows families in a Damascus neighborhood between the world wars, when the French ruled Syria and the local population chafed under foreign control and yearned for independence.

The neighborhood's brawny men wear baggy pants, in keeping with the time, and sport manly mustaches. Syrian beauties with curly hair and pouting lips are cunning, but invariably submit to the will of their husbands and fathers. Couples fight and mothers-in-law scheme, while a stooge for the ruling regime, disguised as a blind man, spies on everyone else.

The show debuted last Ramadan and won a loyal following. But this year it morphed into a full-fledged craze, easily dwarfing its closest competitor, "King Farouk," a dramatization of the life of the Egyptian monarch deposed in 1952.

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2007

**Leading article: Gaza: Punishing the people**

The Guardian - Final Edition

March 3, 2008 Monday

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**theguardian**

**Section:** GUARDIAN LEADER PAGES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 655 words

## **Body**

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Four months have passed since the peace meeting in Annapolis, and the smouldering fire of the Israel-Palestine conflict has once again combusted. Up to 70 Palestinians have died in two days of fighting, after Israel launched an offensive - involving ground troops, air strikes and shelling - to stop the firing of Qassam rockets. Half the casualties of Israel's onslaught are civilian, including women, children and a 21-month-old baby. Yesterday Ehud Barak, Israel's defence minister, said an even broader offensive was on the cards to crush the rocket squads - and maybe even bring down Hamas's rule.

Already critically weakened in the eyes of his people for his policy of engagement with Israel, the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas suspended peace negotiations yesterday, but stopped short of declaring the process dead. He declared Sunday a day of mourning and gave blood at his West Bank office. These gestures cut little ice even in the West Bank where Fatah's writ still runs. A violent demonstration broke out in Hebron, where a 14-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli soldiers. This raises the real possibility of anti-Fatah unrest spreading beyond Gaza.

It has been said often enough that a peace settlement is impossible while Gaza is being ignored. But if any sequence of events demonstrated the utter futility of Israel, backed by the international community, trying to negotiate over the heads of half of the Palestinian people, it is what has happened in the last 48 hours. Things were bad enough already. The independent Palestinian parliamentarian Mustafa Barghouti had counted 177 Palestinian deaths since Annapolis. Most were in Gaza, but there were also now more checkpoints in the West Bank than there had been before the November conference. While 788 Palestinians had been set free in a confidence-building measure, 1,152 had been newly arrested. In the same period there were four Israeli deaths.

Israel acknowledges military action on its own will not stop the rockets. For that you need a ceasefire, and for that you need negotiations with Hamas, which the Israeli leadership (though not the people) refuses to contemplate. So Israel is left with only military options - reoccupying parts of Gaza or assassinating Hamas's leaders. Both have been tried in the past, and both have failed.

Hamas, on the other hand, is gaining in at least one of its objectives: to be considered the lead movement of the Palestinian resistance. It still has no answer to the economic blockade. It may have acquired longer-range missiles but it is a long way from establishing with its enemy the balance of deterrence which Hizbullah has established in South Lebanon.

## Leading article: Gaza : Punishing the people

The unstoppable cycle of assassinations and Qassams constitutes a form of collective punishment in which civilians on both sides bear the brunt. Israeli suggestions that targeted assassinations would reduce the number of civilians killed have been exposed as threadbare. A major military operation is leading to more civilian deaths, not fewer. Haim Ramon, the vice-premier, was quite straightforward about it. He said yesterday: "If the Palestinians in Gaza are paying the price we are very sorry, but it is the responsibility of the leaders they elected." But there is another casualty which even he should care about: the two-state solution. It is already withering in the minds of the diaspora, and it could soon die inside Palestine itself. Israel is losing the Palestinian generation that is ready to accept it. The younger generation are moving towards a one-state solution. Once that is the demand, security fence or no security fence, the conflict will flare into civil war. Israel does not have a clear military strategy in Gaza. No matter how many Hamas leaders are killed, it will never be able to wipe the Strip clean of the movement. But Israel still possesses the means to negotiate a ceasefire. It should seize it before it is too late.

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2008

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## *Between Dust And Deliverance*

The New York Times

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 6; Editorial Desk; Pg. 21

**Length:** 770 words

**Byline:** By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**Dateline:** Ramallah, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasir Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him. What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbors today with money, skills or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind -- one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" -- after the collapse of the Israeli Left's land-for-peace strategy, the Right's permanent occupation strategy and the Israeli third way's unilateral withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e. authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes. But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

In my book, the day it died was May 24, 2007, in Falluja, Iraq. Why? Because on that day, 27 people were killed when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a funeral procession for Allawi al-Isawi, a local contractor, who was killed earlier in the day. According to Reuters, "as mourners walked down a main street holding aloft al-Isawi's coffin, the bomber drove into the crowd and blew himself up."

Think about that. No -- really think about it: A Muslim suicide bomber blew up a Muslim funeral. Is there anything lower? But that is what bin Laden and the jihadists have become: utter nihilists, responsible for killing more Muslims than anyone in the world today and totally uninterested in governing, only in making life ungovernable.

But who offers a way forward? Right now the best Arabs can hope for are the decent, modernizing monarchies, like Jordan, Qatar, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. I do not see any secular progressivism -- a Fourth Way -- emerging in the big Arab states like Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Iraq, that is, a progressivism that would effectively promote more rule of law, global integration, multiparty elections, women's empowerment and modern education to lay the foundations of decent governance. Far from it, Egypt had an election in 2005, and Ayman Nour, the candidate who dared to run against President Mubarak, got thrown in jail on phony charges.

## Between Dust And Deliverance

I also don't see a religious Fourth Way emerging -- a progressive Islam articulated by the big, popular Islamic parties like Hamas, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood. Hezbollah took seats in the Lebanese cabinet and then proceeded to launch its own war with Israel. What a great vision.

"Sadly," observed Middle East analyst Fawaz A. Gerges, in a recent essay on YaleGlobal Online, "mainstream Islamists have provided neither vision nor initiative to build a broad alliance of social forces and transform the political space. They arm themselves with vacuous slogans like 'Islam is the solution.' " No wonder, he adds, that the average Arab citizen is fed up today with both their rulers and the opposition, "who promised heaven and delivered dust."

But since the Islamic parties have monopolized the mosques and the authoritarian regimes have monopolized the public square, anyone trying to articulate an Arab Fourth Way today "is competing against either God or the state -- and between God and the state, what room is left for secular democrats?" asked Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki.

Only weeds can grow there -- small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Mr. Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance [armed] groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting us out of Iraq -- without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements -- is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them -- and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2007

***There's little hope for Fourth Way in Arab world; Best and brightest are leaving Mideast to make their fortunes elsewhere***

The Gazette (Montreal)

June 14, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A25; THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, New York Times

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

## **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at the Yasser Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him.

What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbours today with money, skills, or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf. As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind - one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

The other day, I wrote about how Israel was looking for a "Fourth Way" - after the collapse of the Israeli left's land-for-peace strategy, the right's permanent-occupation strategy, and the Israeli Third Way's unilateral-withdrawal strategy. Well, the Arab world also needs a Fourth Way.

The Arabs tried Nasserism, i.e., authoritarian-nationalism, and that didn't work. It tried various brands of Arab socialism, and that didn't work. It even took a flier with bin Ladenism. Osama bin Laden was the thumb that many Arabs stuck in the eye of the West and of their own hated regimes. But, I would argue, bin Ladenism, and its various jihadist offshoots, has died in Iraq. Yes, it will still have adherents, but it has lost its revolutionary shine, because it has turned out to be nothing more than a death cult.

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Only weeds can grow there - small nihilist weeds, like Fatah al Islam in Lebanon or Al-Qa'ida in Mesopotamia in Iraq or Islamic Jihad in Gaza. And they are growing.

"Now any five guys who want to work together and believe they can uphold God's name and have guns can start an army," said Kidwa. "Money is all over the place. There is no money for the needed things, but there is a lot of money to finance (armed) groups."

That's why decent people, particularly Arab college grads, are leaving the area. They have no one to cheer for. The only hope for getting them back or for getting the U.S. out of Iraq - without leaving the region to the most nihilistic or impoverished elements - is an Arab Fourth Way. But it has to come from them - and right now, it is not happening, not inside Iraq, not outside.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2007

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## *Intelligent, politically skilled lady rises in Israel*

Canberra Times (Australia)

September 23, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 15

**Length:** 799 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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As tipped by most of the polling, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni won the Kadima party leadership primary last Wednesday, although very narrowly. She now succeeds Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as the head of the largest party in Israel's parliament following Olmert's resignation as Kadima leader at the weekend.

Livni now has six weeks to form a governing coalition a task that could prove difficult or even impossible. If she does succeed in forming a government, Livni will join former Prime Minister Golda Meir as Israel's second **female** prime minister. If she does not, Israel will hold early elections, which Livni and Kadima might not win.

A lawyer by training, Livni represents a fresh and promising face in Israeli politics. Importantly, she is untainted by any hint of corruption and her integrity is viewed as an important asset. This should allow her the opportunity to turn the page on the political and personal scandals of the recent past and provide a new start for her government.

But don't confuse "fresh face" with inexperience. Originally elected as a member of the Likud party, Livni left Likud to become one of the founding members of the Kadima party in 2005 a party founded by former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the principle of "disengagement" from the Gaza Strip.

Livni first served as justice minister under Sharon, moving to her current portfolio as Foreign Minister during Israel's war with **Hezbollah** in 2006 is viewed more positively than that of Olmert or the defence brass.

Importantly, as Foreign Minister Livni also has been intimately involved in the negotiations with the Palestinians that followed the Annapolis peace conference last November. Indeed, Livni has led the talks with the Palestinian Authority for a "shelf agreement" between the two sides and all indications are that she plans to continue that process committed to a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

PA officials involved in the negotiations welcomed her victory, noting that "working with [her] will be much easier" and that Livni "knows her stuff".

But even with Livni continuing the negotiations she has been leading as Foreign Minister, there remain significant obstacles to the two parties reaching even a shelf agreement by the end of the year the original goal set-out at the Annapolis conference. The biggest of these obstacles are continued Palestinian violence and the fact that the Palestinian side remains completely fractured and dysfunctional. Despite Israeli and international efforts to bolster PA President Abbas and Fatah at the expense of Hamas, it is obvious that he currently does not have the capacity to make the compromises necessary to reach an agreement.



## Intelligent, politically skilled lady rises in Israel

With Hamas in complete control of the Gaza Strip as it has been since it evicted Abbas and Fatah from the Strip in a violent coup in June 2007 it is equally clear that Abbas would not be able to implement an agreement even if one is reached.

Even Abbas' grip on the West Bank is shaky: Hamas could overrun Fatah there too if not for Israel's security presence. Given Hamas' response to previous Israeli territorial withdrawals specifically, more violence directed at Israeli civilians Israel is understandably wary about putting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv within range of rockets from Hamas or other terrorist groups, which would result from implementing further withdrawals from the West Bank.

Nor is the recent Israeli-Hamas cease-fire reassuring. It has been repeatedly violated by rocket attacks against Israel and Hamas' refusal to negotiate in good faith for the release of captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Worse, Hamas made clear it views it only as a temporary measure to recuperate.

There also will be other issues competing for Livni's attention. On the security front, these include the looming and potentially existential threat posed by a nuclear-armed Iran and a **Hezbollah** which is fast becoming the dominant movement in Lebanon. Livni will also have to decide whether to continue the indirect negotiations with Syria, which seem to have stalled now that President Assad has somewhat shed his international pariah status.

On the domestic front, Livni will have to manage Israel's economy in a time of global financial crisis. She must also instil a renewed sense of integrity and incorruptibility to Israel's most serious political offices and will face calls for much needed yet difficult to enact reforms to the electoral system.

In her rapid rise to the top of Israeli politics, Livni has demonstrated a high degree of intelligence and political skills. As prime minister, she will need to call on both to successfully meet these and other challenges that Israel is sure to face.

Colin Rubenstein is the executive director of the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2008

## *Between dust and deliverance*

Yukon News (Yukon)

June 13, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIGHT; Pg. 7; The World Today

**Length:** 774 words

**Byline:** Thomas L. Friedman, Special to Yukon News

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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I'm sitting in Ramallah at The Yasser Arafat Foundation listening to Nasser al-Kidwa, the thoughtful former Palestinian foreign minister, talk about Palestinian society "disintegrating" around him.

What pains him most, he explains, is that any of his neighbours today with money, skills, or a foreign passport are fleeing for the West or the Gulf.

As he speaks, an old saying pops into my mind -- one that applies today to Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine: "Would the last one out please turn off the lights."

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## Between dust and deliverance

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Thomas L. Friedman writes on international affairs for the New York Times.

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2007

*On Che, Iran, the ERA Redux, Harry Potter, Etc.*

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

August 12, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. E-3

**Length:** 818 words

**Byline:** Ross MacKenzie

## **Body**

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A stew of quotations on topics currently in the news. . .

- Charlotte Allen, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, on hard-line feminist efforts to revive the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution: "Boy Scouts would be forced to 'integrate'; sororities and fraternities would be eliminated or required to merge; religious institutes that do not allow ordination of women would lose their tax-exempt status. Single-sex schools and summer camps for boys would be phased out. Tolerating them would be tantamount to tolerating separate but equal schools for blacks and whites or tax deductions for segregationist academies or religious cults."

- Army veteran Jim Kenfield, at the July 4 dedication of a bronze statue in Littleton, Colo., depicting a fallen local Navy SEAL in battle gear and cradling his assault rifle - responding to objections that the image and location are inappropriate for Littleton's children: "I guess they expect these guys to go over there . . . and sing 'Kumbaya.' "

- President Bush, on Iraq: "This is not the fight we entered in Iraq, but it is the fight we're in. Every one of us wishes this war were over and won. Yet it would not be like us to leave our promises unkept, our friends abandoned, and our own security at risk." And: "Victory in this struggle will require more patience, more courage, and more sacrifice. However difficult the fight is in Iraq, we must win it. We must succeed for our own sake, for the security of our citizens. We must support our troops, we must support the Iraqi government, and we must defeat al-Qaida in Iraq."

- President Bush, further on Iraq: "The time will come when Iraq has a stable, self-sustaining government that is an ally against these extremists and killers. That time will come when the Iraqi people will not need the help of 159,000 American troops in their country. Yet, withdrawing our troops prematurely based on politics - not on the advice and recommendation of our military commanders - would not be in our national interest."

- The Religion News Service's Jeff Diamant, on the Harry Potter books: "I [believe they show that Harry's] path is modeled on the Gospel accounts of Jesus, and, more significantly, that the link between him and wizardry-school headmaster Albus Dumbledore is patterned on the most essential relationship in the Christian Bible - that between Jesus the Son and God the Father."

- Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naim Kassem, on the deciding authority for suicide bombings and terrorist operations in Lebanon: "In order to know what is permitted and what is forbidden regarding the jihad, we ask for and receive overall permission [from the ayatollahs in Tehran], and then we do carry out the operation . . . The religious doctrine which dictates Hezbollah's actions in general, and those relating to the jihad in particular, is

## On Che, Iran , the ERA Redux, Harry Potter, Etc.

based on the rulings of the spiritual leader in Tehran. The spiritual leader has the power to permit our actions, and the spiritual leader can forbid them."

- Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman: "The fanatical regime in Tehran has concluded that it can use proxies to strike at us and our friends in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Palestine without fear of retaliation. It is time to restore that fear, and to inject greater doubt into the decision-making of Iranian leaders about the risks they are now running."

- David Malpass, chief economist for Bear Stearns, on the prospect of the Bush 2003 tax cuts expiring in 2010: "[Such expirations] would penalize the most growth-oriented parts of the economy, raising tax rates on capital gains and dividends and increasing personal income tax rates and those on small businesses. Thus, resolving the 2010 expirations may well be the biggest economic and market event of the next administration."

- Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, on the failed Democratic effort to abandon the secret ballot in union organizing elections: "We went to the secret ballot in this country almost 200 years ago because everyone believed that the only way to have a ballot that really counted was if somebody was not looking over your shoulder."

- Cuban-American Humberto Fontova, author of the new book 'Exposing the Real Che Guevara and the Useful Idiots Who Idolize Him': "The Cuban regime executed more people proportionately in its first three years in power than Hitler did in six. Think about that execution rate and then think about that slogan associated with Che - 'Resist oppression.' . . . And he said, 'We will continue to do executions' in 1964. According to the Black Book of Communism, published in Paris, 14,000 men and boys were executed in Cuba by that stage (that would be the equivalent of 3 million executions in the U.S.) and yet that man who carried them out was hailed by Jesse Jackson, who wrote a book condemning capital punishment."

Ross Mackenzie is the retired editor of the Editorial Pages.

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2007

## *Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary*

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 7, 2008, Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P7A

**Length:** 1302 words

**Byline:** Aron Heller and Steven Gutkin, The Associated Press

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - A gunman entered the library of a rabbinical seminary and opened fire on a crowded nighttime study session Thursday, killing eight people and wounding nine before he was slain, police and rescue workers said. It was the first major militant attack in Jerusalem in more than four years.

Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

The day's violence, which also included a deadly ambush of an army patrol near Israel's border with Gaza, was likely to complicate attempts by Egypt to arrange a truce between Israel and Palestinian militants. The United States is backing the Egyptian effort.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev and moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the shooting, but Regev said the Palestinian government must take steps against the extremists - not just denounce their attacks.

"Tonight's massacre in Jerusalem is a defining moment," he told The Associated Press. "It is clear that those people celebrating this bloodshed have shown themselves to be not only the enemies of Israel but of all of humanity."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who only on Wednesday persuaded Abbas to return to peace talks with Israel, called the attack an "act of terror and depravity."

Israeli defense officials said the attacker came from east Jerusalem, the predominantly Palestinian section of the city. Jerusalem's Palestinians have Israeli ID cards that give them freedom of movement in Israel, unlike Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the attacker walked through the seminary's main gate and entered the library, where witnesses said about 80 people were gathered. He carried an assault rifle and pistol and used both weapons in the attack. Rosenfeld said at least six empty bullet clips were found on the floor.

Two hours after the shooting, police found the body of the eighth victim. Rescue workers said nine people were wounded, three seriously.

## Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

David Simchon, head of the seminary, said the students had been preparing a celebration for the new month on the Jewish calendar, which includes the holiday of Purim. "We were planning to have a Purim party here tonight and instead we had a massacre," he told Channel 2 TV.

Yehuda Meshi Zahav, head of the Zaka rescue service, entered the library after the attack. "The whole building looked like a slaughterhouse. The floor was covered in blood. The students were in class at the time of the attack," he said. "The floors are littered with holy books covered in blood."

Witnesses described a terrifying scene during the shooting, with students jumping out windows to escape.

One of the students, Yitzhak Dadon, said he shot the attacker twice in the head. "I laid on the roof of the study hall, cocked my gun and waited for him. He came out of the library spraying automatic fire," he said.

Police said an Israeli soldier in the area then shot the man dead. After the shooting, hundreds of seminary students demonstrated outside the building, screaming for revenge and chanting, "Death to Arabs."

The seminary is the Mercaz Harav yeshiva in the Kiryat Moshe quarter at the entrance to Jerusalem, a prestigious center of Jewish studies identified with the leadership of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank.

It was founded by the late Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Hachohen Kook, the movement's spiritual founder, and serves about 400 high school students and young Israeli soldiers, and many of them carry arms.

"It's very sad tonight in Jerusalem," Mayor Uri Lupolianski told Channel 2 TV. "Many people were killed in the heart of Jerusalem."

Rabbi Shlomo Amar, one of Israel's two chief rabbis, led a prayer session at the seminary after the shooting. Students huddled together, and many sobbed uncontrollably.

In Lebanon, **Hezbollah**'s Al-Manar satellite TV station said a previously unknown group called the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh and Gaza was responsible for the attack. The claim could not immediately be verified. Mughniyeh, a **Hezbollah** commander, was killed in a car bomb in Syria last month. **Hezbollah** has blamed Israel for the assassination.

Hamas stopped just short of claiming responsibility for the Jerusalem shootings. "We bless the operation. It will not be the last," Hamas said in a statement sent to reporters by text message.

At mosques in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip, many residents performed prayers of thanksgiving - only performed in cases of great victory to thank God.

About 7,000 Gazans marched in the streets of Jebaliya, firing in the air in celebration, and visited homes of those killed and wounded in the latest Israeli incursion. In the southern town of Rafah, residents distributed sweets to moving cars, and militants fired mortars in celebration.

Rice said she spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to express U.S. condolences to the people of Israel and the families of the victims.

"This barbarous act has no place among civilized peoples and shocks the conscience of all peace-loving nations. There is no cause that could ever justify this action," she said.

Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the "abominable" attack and urged the world to rally with it against terrorism.

"Israel expects the nations of the world to support it in its war against those who murder students, **women** and children, by any means and with respect for neither place nor target," it said.

At his West Bank headquarters, Abbas condemned the attack. "The president condemned all attacks that target civilians, whether they are Palestinian or Israeli," a statement said.

## Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

Abbas had briefly suspended talks to protest an Israeli offensive in Gaza that killed more than 120 Palestinians.

The attack came on the same day Egyptian officials were trying to mediate a truce between Palestinian militants and Israel. The proposal, backed by the United States, would stop rocket fire on Israel in exchange for an end to Israeli attacks on militants and the resumption of trade and travel from Gaza.

An Israeli official confirmed that Israel is open to the idea of letting guards from Abbas' moderate Fatah movement oversee Gaza's borders - one of the main tenets of the truce idea, but the Israeli spoke before the shooting, and it was not immediately known whether his country's position would change.

The Egyptian proposal reflected a growing realization that Israel's current policy of blockade and military action has failed to weaken Hamas, which has proven its ability to disrupt a U.S.-sponsored drive to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal by the end of the year.

Still, a deal between Hamas and Israel was far from certain, with Israel fearing the militants will use any lull to rearm and Hamas raising tough conditions, such as a demand for Israel to stop targeting militants in the West Bank as well as Gaza.

Other militant groups are also likely to disrupt any attempts to restore calm. Early Thursday, Palestinian militants set off a bomb on the Gaza border, blowing up an Israeli army jeep and killing a soldier. Late Thursday, Israel said it shot a group of militants trying to plant a bomb in the same area. Palestinian officials said three militants were killed.

The seminary shooting was the first major attack by Palestinian militants in Jerusalem since a suicide bomber killed eight people on Feb. 22, 2004. There have been several attacks since then, and police and the military say they have foiled many other attempts. Militants have also hit other targets in Israel. Thursday's shooting was the deadliest incident in Israel since a suicide bomber killed 11 people in Tel Aviv on April 17, 2006.

Between 2001 and 2004, at the height of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Jerusalem was a frequent target of Palestinian attacks, including suicide bombings on buses.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2008



***The spy who inspired George Clooney; A former CIA officer talks about dodging bullets in the Middle East, coaching a Hollywood movie star -- and why he thinks the car bomb is the terrorist's deadliest weapon***

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

July 26, 2008 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. G9

**Length:** 1202 words

**Byline:** Neil Tweedie, Daily Telegraph

## **Body**

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LONDON - Bob Baer is sitting in a candlelit London restaurant remembering his plan to assassinate Saddam Hussein.

"We had some Iraqi generals and they were going to send some tanks up the road to a compound where Saddam was known to be staying. They were to surround it and level it."

It was the CIA man's straightforward, "kinetic" solution to the dictator and was promptly vetoed by a nervous Clinton White House. Saddam went on to rule for another eight years and to die at the end of a rope.

Baer is 56 but looks 10 years younger. Tanned, bespectacled and casually dressed, he could be a West Coast academic or a big fish in Californian IT. He is softly spoken, too, preferring not to waste words.

Not much like George Clooney -- not anything like George Clooney, actually.

But it was Baer on whom Clooney based his character in the 2005 film *Syriana*, a labyrinthine examination of oil, money and power in the Middle East.

Clooney plays a burnt-out CIA case officer who, at the end of the film, decides to abandon cynical power-politicking and do the right thing. Which gets him blown up.

Baer was the real thing: a career case officer in the agency's directorate of operations, based mostly in the Middle East, whose job it was to penetrate the inner workings of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups by recruiting agents, or "assets."

Based for a time in Beirut, he risked kidnap or assassination when meeting potential sources, and was routinely shelled and shot at in the course of his duties. The casualty rate for the CIA station in Lebanon at the height of that country's civil war was 60 per cent.

There was another cost: his marriage broke down and, with it, his relationship with his children.

After 21 years as a spy Baer resigned, disillusioned with an organization he judged fatally unfit for its purpose.

The spy who inspired George Clooney; A former CIA officer talks about dodging bullets in the Middle East, coaching a Hollywood movie star -- and why he thinks t....

Now he is a journalist with a column, four books to his name, including a forthcoming one on Iran, *The Devil We Know: Dealing With the New Iranian Superpower*, and a new Channel 4 documentary, *Car Bomb*, which chronicles the weapon's development.

But first, modern priorities being what they are, the showbiz. Baer spent a week travelling with Clooney, instructing him in the ways of the spook. It was instructive for him, too.

"I stayed with Clooney at his house on Lake Como. The girls were sitting in the branches of trees trying to catch a glimpse of him. Still, at least he can relax there. He eats dinner with his staff, plays basketball with their kids.

"But when you travel outside you get caught in the glow of Hollywood -- this world in which you fly into an airport and there's this car and a van and a minder from Warner Brothers. And you ask: 'What's the van for?' and the guy says: 'For your luggage.' I usually carry just a backpack.

"We flew on Clooney's jet to Baltimore and the immigration people came on -- not to get his passport but to carry his luggage."

So, not for him then?

"It means money, beautiful women and going anywhere you want, all of the time. But people bug him, all of the time. He tries to stay grounded, but it must be really hard. Can you imagine having somebody to hold your mobile phone for you?"

Baer's life may not have been in the Clooney league, but it had its compensations.

"I was in Paris for three years and had an unlimited budget -- any restaurant, any bottle of wine. Can you imagine what that does to your liver? The scope for adultery is amazing. In Paris I was out until seven in the morning -- and that was an early night."

Baer says almost every storyline in *Syriana* is based on truth.

In his account of his CIA career, *See No Evil?*, he lambasted his political masters for placing the needs of the oil lobby over the fight against terrorism.

He is vehemently anti-neocon, describing the invasion of Iraq as a disaster, and a believer in detente with Iran. He knows this view, aired in his new book, will make him unpopular with Washington hawks.

"Iran is the de facto regional power, which we cannot go on ignoring. The Iranians can close the Gulf, take out tankers, destroy terminals. Iran's deterrence is oil. I can't imagine the United States surviving economically on \$12-a-gallon petrol. Britain could, if it took off the tax. What's Bush going to say -- everyone get on a bicycle?

"It wasn't the Iranians who attacked us on 9/11, it was the Sunnis. I do not believe Iran wants to destroy Israel; I do not believe they are suicidal."

Iran has another potential weapon in its "asymmetric" armoury, the car bomb.

**Hezbollah**, the Lebanese Shiite terrorist organization directed from Tehran, is the most formidable in existence, and it knows about car (and truck) bombs.

"The car bomb defeats its enemies. For the first time in its history Israel lost a war, in May 2000. It had to leave Lebanon with no gains, heavy losses and **Hezbollah** intact.

"What we are seeing is a war-winning weapon. It's unstoppable, it can cause billions of dollars of damage to your economy. Take one of these things and jacket it with a radiological source and let it off in Manhattan. Bang! -- America is plunged into a 1929-type depression. The constitution would be ripped up.

The spy who inspired George Clooney; A former CIA officer talks about dodging bullets in the Middle East, coaching a Hollywood movie star -- and why he thinks t....

"Hezbollah could set off 50 car bombs in London in military order -- the same in the U.S. They are professionals."

SKI BUM FIRST

Baer was born in Colorado and first aspired to be a ski bum in the Rockies. His mother, with whom he had a difficult relationship, was unimpressed by his lack of application to his studies and packed him off to military academy.

So, what led him into the nether world of the CIA?

"A prank. I was studying Chinese at Berkeley, working as a bank teller at night. My friend told me to grow up and get a real job, get married. We started joking: 'What about the CIA?' I was sleeping on his couch. He went to work. I called 'em up and asked for an application form."

They liked him. In he went, spending a year in training, including a four-month paramilitary course. As a result, he can make a pretty handy car bomb himself.

But what makes a good spy?

"Curiosity, an ability to read, an ability to change your assumptions. And then you have got to be able to close the deal. I can't sell anything to anyone, so I don't know how I did it, but the person has to like you -- it's very personal. My success was in reading everything -- staying late.

"The best thing for my career was having a bad marriage, because I didn't have a place to go home to at night. If I'd got home at six o'clock each night and sat down with a very happy family I would have been a total bureaucrat, and then I would never have been able to go out and talk to these people."

His first marriage, to a U.S. diplomat, went downhill from the honeymoon. Foreign postings meant he could avoid troubles back home. Baer grew steadily more estranged from his children.

But 10 years ago he met his second wife, also a CIA officer. The two resigned from the agency and, unable to have children, adopted a child in Pakistan.

"She's a delight," says Baer. "And what's good now is the ability to be honest about everything, not having to lie."

An honest question, then: was he ever directly in the firing line?

"A couple of bullets have come very close, but they weren't aimed directly at me. It's really a very sedate profession."

## Graphic

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Photo: photoserv, File; George Clooney stars as a CIA agent who gets the shaft in the political thriller Syriana. ;

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2008

## *Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary*

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 7, 2008, Friday

Copyright 2008 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P7A

**Length:** 1302 words

**Byline:** Aron Heller and Steven Gutkin, The Associated Press

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - A gunman entered the library of a rabbinical seminary and opened fire on a crowded nighttime study session Thursday, killing eight people and wounding nine before he was slain, police and rescue workers said. It was the first major militant attack in Jerusalem in more than four years.

Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

The day's violence, which also included a deadly ambush of an army patrol near Israel's border with Gaza, was likely to complicate attempts by Egypt to arrange a truce between Israel and Palestinian militants. The United States is backing the Egyptian effort.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev and moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the shooting, but Regev said the Palestinian government must take steps against the extremists - not just denounce their attacks.

"Tonight's massacre in Jerusalem is a defining moment," he told The Associated Press. "It is clear that those people celebrating this bloodshed have shown themselves to be not only the enemies of Israel but of all of humanity."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who only on Wednesday persuaded Abbas to return to peace talks with Israel, called the attack an "act of terror and depravity."

Israeli defense officials said the attacker came from east Jerusalem, the predominantly Palestinian section of the city. Jerusalem's Palestinians have Israeli ID cards that give them freedom of movement in Israel, unlike Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the attacker walked through the seminary's main gate and entered the library, where witnesses said about 80 people were gathered. He carried an assault rifle and pistol and used both weapons in the attack. Rosenfeld said at least six empty bullet clips were found on the floor.

Two hours after the shooting, police found the body of the eighth victim. Rescue workers said nine people were wounded, three seriously.

## Gunman opens fire in Jerusalem seminary

David Simchon, head of the seminary, said the students had been preparing a celebration for the new month on the Jewish calendar, which includes the holiday of Purim. "We were planning to have a Purim party here tonight and instead we had a massacre," he told Channel 2 TV.

Yehuda Meshi Zahav, head of the Zaka rescue service, entered the library after the attack. "The whole building looked like a slaughterhouse. The floor was covered in blood. The students were in class at the time of the attack," he said. "The floors are littered with holy books covered in blood."

Witnesses described a terrifying scene during the shooting, with students jumping out windows to escape.

One of the students, Yitzhak Dadon, said he shot the attacker twice in the head. "I laid on the roof of the study hall, cocked my gun and waited for him. He came out of the library spraying automatic fire," he said.

Police said an Israeli soldier in the area then shot the man dead. After the shooting, hundreds of seminary students demonstrated outside the building, screaming for revenge and chanting, "Death to Arabs."

The seminary is the Mercaz Harav yeshiva in the Kiryat Moshe quarter at the entrance to Jerusalem, a prestigious center of Jewish studies identified with the leadership of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank.

It was founded by the late Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Hacohen Kook, the movement's spiritual founder, and serves about 400 high school students and young Israeli soldiers, and many of them carry arms.

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Between 2001 and 2004, at the height of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Jerusalem was a frequent target of Palestinian attacks, including suicide bombings on buses.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2008

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

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

February 15, 2008 Friday

Early Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A28

**Length:** 1294 words

**Byline:** Compiled by Meg de Jong, Calgary Herald

## **Body**

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### Top Stories

#### C-Train Riders Laud Police Presence

Commuters who say they sometimes feel unsafe on public transit were applauding news that Calgary police officers will ride C-Trains. Calgary police launched a three-month pilot project Thursday solely dedicated to beefing up security on and around the city's LRT system.

Page A1

#### Stelmach Accused of Misleading Voters

Swirling a political storm over partisan politics and patronage, opposition parties say PC party Leader Ed Stelmach has misled Alberta voters by suggesting that riding returning officers are chosen by an independent officer -- rather than Conservative party officials.

Page A1

#### Ex-Student Goes on Deadly Campus Rampage

A black-clad former student turned a university lecture hall into a Valentine's Day massacre Thursday, killing at least five people and injuring over a dozen others before turning a gun on himself in the fifth U.S. school shooting in a week, authorities said.

Page A8

### News Sections -- A and B

#### City & Region

#### Homeless Man Killed in Northwest Shelter

The killing of a homeless man inside a northwest shelter was a horrifying but rare incident, because the shelters are safe, staff insist. Police are treating Thursday morning's death of Jeffrey Marple, 45, as suspicious.

Page B1

### Teen Killed in Dispute Over Drugs, Witness Tells Court

Gage Prevost was pushed to his death between cars of a moving C-Train in a dispute over a \$10 drug deal he was making with his accused killer, a close friend of the victim testified on Thursday.

Page B1

Canada

### Discovery of 3rd Foot Stumps Vancouver Police

Three severed feet have washed ashore on B.C.'s Gulf Islands in the past six months -- all right feet, all in sneakers -- in an increasingly bizarre mystery for police. The latest foot was found Friday on Valdes Island, a small community between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Page A7

World

### Hezbollah Warns of Reprisals for Leader's Killing

Hezbollah's leader threatened Thursday to strike Israel anywhere in the world in retaliation for what he said was its role in assassinating Imad Mughniyeh, a Hezbollah commander blamed by the United States and Israel for killing hundreds in bombings, kidnappings and hijackings over a quarter-century.

Page A7

### Trailers for Katrina Victims Called Unsafe

Mobile homes provided to victims of hurricane Katrina in 2005 contain unsafe levels of cancer-causing chemicals and the 39,000 families still living in them should be relocated as soon as possible, health officials said Thursday.

Page A17

### China Bans Horror and Scary Sci-Fi Videos

In a move that smacks more of "maiden auntie" than Big Brother, the Chinese government announced a ban on horror flicks and scary sci-fi videos.

Page A24

Traffic

- Lane closed: On Edmonton Trail between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue N.E. until 12 p.m. today.
- Right lane closed, speed restricted to 50 km/h: On southbound Symons Valley Road south of 128th Avenue N.W. until 4 p.m. today.
- Road closure: On 12th Avenue between 6th Street and 7th Street S.W. Additional lane closures on 7th Street at 12th Avenue S.W. may be required until Feb. 19.
- Road closure: On 1st Street between 7th Avenue and 9th Avenue N.W. until Feb. 23.

Commuter Weather

6 A.M. Off to Work: Mainly clear with cloudy periods.



Temperature: -1 C

12 Noon Lunch: Variably cloudy. Winds westerly

25 km/h. Temperature: 5 C

5 P.M. Heading Home: Cloudy with clear breaks.

Temperature: 6 C

Overnight: Cloudy with clear breaks in the evening, becoming clear overnight. Low: -5 C

Saturday: Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. High: 3 C Low: -9 C

Online Features

CalgaryHerald.com

News: Swiss accounts opened for Mulroney, Moores, Commons committee told.

News: Pollsters raise doubts about getting ministers involved in polling contracts.

News: Garneau pushes trade ban on the environmentally unfriendly.

Quote of the Day

"It's pretty cool, like, literally."

Eric Ouellette, on an ice dome that he and some volunteers built that he hopes will be declared the world's largest self-supporting igloo.

See story, Page A2.

Calgary Business -- E1

Markets

- TSX Composite 74.27 13208.03

- Dow Jones 175.26 12376.98

- Nasdaq 41.39 2332.54

- TSX Venture 11.7 2573.01

Surging Production to Break Oil Industry Records

Surging production, particularly from expanding oilsands facilities, along with record-level prices are expected to push Canada's oil industry to record profits, up a sharp 18 per cent in 2008 to \$23 billion, the Conference Board of Canada said Thursday. Page E1

Strong Quarter for EnCana

EnCana Corp. on Thursday credited higher production, hedging gains and contributions from its U.S. refining joint venture for stronger fourth quarter profits. The company said it made \$1.08 billion or \$1.33 a share in the final three months of the year compared with \$663 million or 80 cents a year earlier.

Page E1

Editorial -- A26

### The Small Matter of Legal Costs

Striking Section 3 (1) from the act should be a priority for the provincial government, whose creature the legislation is. Until that is done, it seems elementary justice that defendants should expect their costs to be met, if the case fails to proceed -- or, if they are exonerated.

Page A26

### Letter of the Day

Amy Winehouse is a bad role model because of her drug history?

. . . So what? It is rock 'n' roll, after all. My recommendations to all moralists: Lock your children up -- and hope this will work.

Jurgen Kraus, Page A27

Sports -- D1

### McNamee Lawyer Expects Clemens to Get Pardon

An attorney for Roger Clemens' chief accuser, Brian McNamee, said he expects Clemens to be pardoned by U.S. President George W. Bush in connection with his steroids testimony to congressional investigators, following a hearing that was divided largely along party lines.

Page D1

### Bonds Tested Positive

U.S. baseball home run king Barry Bonds tested positive for steroids in November 2001, just a month after hitting his record 73rd home run of the season, U.S. prosecutors said Thursday. The allegation came in a legal filing in his steroid perjury case that referred to Bonds's longtime trainer, Greg Anderson.

Page D1

Entertainment -- C1

### Strange Bedfellows

As today's politicians try to lure both the youth vote and the baby boomer vote in the upcoming U.S. elections, they're increasingly using popular and nostalgic music to sell themselves.

Page C1

### Madonna's Directorial Debut Assailed by Critics

Critics damned *Filth & Wisdom*, Madonna's first feature film, with faint praise on Thursday and suggested her career behind the camera might be as successful as her acting.

Page C1

### Tonight's TV Picks:

- Celine Dion: *That's Just the Woman in Me*: 8 p.m. on CTV (Ch. 3).

- *Nip/Tuck*: 10 p.m. on CTV (Ch. 3).

Sudoku

World's Hottest Puzzle Craze

How to Play:

Complete this grid by placing the digits 1 to 9 exactly once, and only once, in each horizontal row and in each column. Also, each digit should only appear once in every 3x3 shaded or white mini-grid in the puzzle. Sudoku appears on the 5 Minute Herald page Monday to Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday puzzle pages.

Real Life -- C12

Sexual Healing

Columnist Robin Summerfield offers a post-mortem of Valentine's Day -- of love, sex, bad sex, no sex, begging for sex and STDs -- but not in that order. While author Ian Kerne espouses abstinence to spice up your sex life in Sex Detox, (Collins, 2008, \$26.95) a new book that promises to "recharge desire, revitalize intimacy and rejuvenate your love life," Summerfield notes that sexually transmitted disease rates in Calgary have risen dramatically over the last few years.

Page C12

It's An Odd World

Japanese Man Litters Town With Underwear

Kazuo Oshitani, 48, was arrested in Osaka, Japan, in December as the one who draped perhaps more than 170 items of women's underwear over objects in his neighborhood (and who possessed at least 200 more such items in his home). He was charged with littering.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Ed Stelmach ;

Photo: Gage Prevost ;

Colour Photo: Imad Mughniyeh ;

Colour Photo: Ken Gigliotti, Winnipeg Free Press; Picture of the Day: Queyen Huynh's eyelashes frost up during a walk with friends on a crisp Winnipeg morning. ;

Colour Photo: Amy Winehouse ;

Colour Photo: Roger Clemens ;

Colour Photo: Madonna ;

Photo: (See hard copy for description). ;

Colour Photo: Japanese man litters town with underwear ;

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2008

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## **Feature - Signs of change?; Michael Glackin finds out if the kingdom's local elections of 2005 have changed anything**

Morning Star

January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1322 words

**Byline:** Michael Glackin

### **Body**

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In 2005, thousands of Shias in Saudi Arabia's eastern province queued outside polling stations from dawn to vote in the kingdom's historic local elections.

**Women** were not allowed to vote, of course, and only half of the members of local councils were actually elected, with the remainder appointed by the government.

But, despite this, those who stood in the early morning light, inspired in part by the sight of Iraqi Shias braving bomb attacks to vote in their own elections, hoped that it would mark the first tentative step towards ending years of inequality and discrimination.

Unfortunately, as so often in the Middle East, it proved to be a false dawn. The local councils turned out to be more impotent than even cynics predicted and, more than two years on from the elections, the plight of Shias in Saudi Arabia has worsened in many respects.

Jafar Al Shayeb, a Shia politician who was successfully elected chairman of the local council in Qatif, which is a predominately Shia city, admits that the councils have failed to be a catalyst for change.

"It's true," he says. "The municipal council has very little authority regarding local community issues, especially religious and political ones. Shia community issues are far beyond the council."

A former exile, he returned to the kingdom in 1993 when King Fahd relaxed some of the restrictions imposed on Shias in exchange for them ending active opposition to the regime from abroad. He believes that some things have improved since his return, albeit due to benevolence from above rather than political power from below, but he concedes that the situation is far from perfect.

"Many types of harassment still take place, such as being held in prison for holding some religious ceremonies, distributing religious books and building religious places without a permit, which is hardly ever granted," he says.

Discrimination has long been a fact of life for Saudi Shias. They are prevented from building mosques, kept out of the upper ranks of the army and security services and deprived of senior jobs in the bureaucracy.

Things are even worse for the much smaller Ismaili Shia community that inhabits the south of the kingdom, where a judge annulled a marriage last year on the basis that the husband was "inadequate" because he followed the Ismaili creed and not the Wahhabi creed of his wife.

## Feature - Signs of change? Michael Glackin finds out if the kingdom's local elections of 2005 have changed anything

Shias are estimated to comprise between 1.5 to 2 million of a population of around 25 million, but they form the majority in the kingdom's eastern province - the strategically sensitive heartland of Saudi Arabia's oil wealth.

"The Saudi government has encouraged Sunnis to move to the eastern province by giving them jobs, while qualified Shias were denied," says Ali Al Ahmed, a Shia from the eastern province and director of the Institute for Gulf Affairs, a Washington-based think tank.

"There is a real sense today that Shia are under occupation and the situation is getting worse."

Al Ahmed's view is confirmed by humanitarian groups that are active in the region.

"There were signs of improvement in treatment of the Shia a year or so ago," says Human Rights Watch Middle East specialist Christoph Wilcke. "But, within the last 10 months, we have seen signs of regression."

The long-standing enmity between Shias and Saudi Arabia's dominant Wahhabi creed of Sunni Islam, which views all Shias as heretics, reached its apogee following the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the establishment of Ayatollah Khomeini's Shia theocracy.

Emboldened by events in Iran, Shias in the eastern province rioted, precipitating a crackdown by Saudi authorities.

'There is a real sense today that Shia are under occupation and the situation is getting worse.'

Many of the restrictions imposed then were later eased, most notably King Abdullah's decision as crown prince to allow Shias to observe the Ashura holiday, but the re-emergence of Iran as a regional power combined with a Shia-led government in Iraq has intensified Sunni suspicions that the kingdom's Shias are fifth columnists for outside forces who desire to annex the kingdom's oil.

These tensions were exacerbated further by the 2006 war between Lebanon's Shia militia Hezbollah and Israel and the filmed images of Iraqi Shias joyfully carrying out the execution of Saddam Hussein.

"Following Saddam's hanging, two senior Saudi clerics (Abdullah Bin Jebreen and Abdul Rahman al Barak) issued fatwas on the entire Shia population," says Wilcke.

"Shias who are found during police stop-and-search checks with photographs of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on their mobile phones are arrested. The same thing happens to anyone who displays pro-Nasrallah stickers on their cars."

There have been changes. King Abdullah's announcement in October last year that he intends to create a supreme court, an appeals court and new general courts to replace the Supreme Judicial Council represents a substantial curb on the hitherto unchecked powers of the conservative clerics who lead the judiciary.

Another visible sign of change is construction of the large Shia mosque in Al-ahsa. And, last year, al Shayeb's council succeeded in overturning a law which restricted the size of basements in Shia homes in Qatif, which was designed to prevent basements being used for Shia prayer meetings.

It remains the council's sole success.

But Al Ahmed disagrees.

"Yes, Shias have opened a mosque in Al-ahsa but Saudi Arabia does not have one Shia diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There are no Shia heads of universities or at the head of public companies. Shia girls cannot get into college in the east."

Nowhere is this discrimination more evident, he says, than in the hiring and promotion of staff at Saudi Aramco, the giant national oil company headquartered in Dhahran, just south of Qatif.

Feature - Signs of change? Michael Glackin finds out if the kingdom's local elections of 2005 have changed anything

"During the 1980s, the government suspended the hiring of Shia workers and that lasted until the mid-1990s, except in very rare cases. Now, Shias account for around 50 per cent of Saudi Aramco's workforce, but there are still no Shias at board level," he says.

Saudi Aramco would not specify how many Shias it employed in senior positions, but a spokesman insisted: "Saudis of all backgrounds are represented throughout the company, from new hires to executives.

"Our information systems aren't geared for tracking information like an employee's sect. Saudi Aramco is a global commercial enterprise and promotions are based on merit alone."

Of course, dread of the so-called "Shia crescent," stretching from Iraq through Iran to Lebanon, is keenly felt in the security-conscious oil-rich east. Yet, Shias hardly share uniform political interests.

Iraqi Shias, who owe their new-found status entirely to US military power, are no lovers of Lebanon's fervently anti-US Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, Iran is involved in a dispute with the predominantly Shia government of Azerbaijan over oil rights in the Caspian, which has seen one high-ranking Tehran official warn ominously that Iran may have to "reclaim" northern Azerbaijan, an area that formed part of the Persian empire two centuries ago.

But such subtleties are lost in the cauldron of Saudi Arabian politics, where King Abdullah must balance even snail-pace reform with the Wahhabi religious base on which the House of Saud relies for its legitimacy.

And things could still get worse. There is a real fear that violence between Shias and Sunnis in Iraq will spill over into Saudi Arabia as battle-hardened Saudi Sunni militants, who are currently causing mayhem there, return home.

Meanwhile, although 82-year-old Abdullah's successor will be the octogenarian Crown Prince Sultan, contrary to custom, there is currently no designated second in line to the throne, a deliberate oversight due to rivalry within the family.

Al Ahmed warns: "The family is not united about the succession, so the situation for Shias, indeed for the whole country, could become very fluid. A lurch back to greater repression could easily happen."

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2008

## *Israeli PM to resign, won't run in primary*

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 31, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 5

**Length:** 1353 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM (AP) - Facing burgeoning corruption allegations and plummeting popularity, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Wednesday he will resign in September, throwing Israel into political turmoil and heightening doubts about prospects for peace with the Palestinians and Syria. Olmert said he would not run in his party's primary election Sept. 17 and would step down afterward to allow his successor to form a government. But because of Israel's political system, he could serve until well into next year. His decision will end a long public career that has been clouded by allegations of corruption that have battered him in recent months.

Olmert's popularity dropped below 20 percent at one point after his bloody but inconclusive war in Lebanon in 2006. Political analysts had been predicting his resignation for weeks as details of the latest allegations against him dominated the news. The most damaging inquiry focuses on Morris Talansky, a 76-year-old American Jewish businessman who testified that he handed envelopes stuffed with tens of thousands of dollars to Olmert before he became prime minister, in part financing a luxurious lifestyle of expensive hotels and fat cigars. Talansky gave lengthy public testimony for days in a Jerusalem courtroom, defending his allegations under cross-examination by Olmert's attorneys - although Olmert has never been formally charged with a crime. The latest allegation was that Olmert double- and triple-billed trips abroad to Jewish institutions, pocketing the difference or financing trips for relatives. Other allegations include a shady real estate deal and questionable political appointments - all before he became premier. Olmert's brief address from his official Jerusalem residence included harsh criticism of the police investigations. He said he was choosing the public good over personal justice. Although he has consistently denied wrongdoing, he had pledged to resign if indicted. "I was forced to defend myself against relentless attacks from self-appointed 'fighters for justice' who sought to depose me from my position, when the ends sanctified all the means," Olmert said, appearing angry and reading from a text. He did not answer questions from reporters gathered in his courtyard. His decision not to run in the Kadima primary sets in motion a process to choose a new prime minister. Main candidates in his party are Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former defense minister and military chief of staff. Polls show Livni with an advantage in the primary. If she were to replace Olmert, she would become the second ***female*** prime minister in Israeli history, after Golda Meir. If Olmert's successor as party leader can form a coalition, Israel could have a new government in October. If not, an election campaign could extend into 2009. Olmert would remain in office until a new premier is chosen, heading a caretaker government after he submits his resignation to President Shimon Peres. Israel's labyrinthine political system is weighted against a quick internal Kadima resolution to the crisis - with hard-line ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud waiting to take advantage. Netanyahu opposes most concessions to the Palestinians and Syrians suggested by Olmert. Olmert's Kadima Party has only 29 seats in the 120-member parliament, and his successor must patch together a coalition with a majority. Olmert's main partner, Labor, is headed by another ex-premier, Ehud Barak, who would like his old job back and may be more comfortable forcing an election than playing second fiddle to Livni. Barak,



## Israeli PM to resign, won't run in primary

currently Israel's defense minister, supported Olmert's decision and left open the possibility that he might seek to replace him. "We will assist every opportunity to move forward," Barack said during a visit to the United Nations. The ultra-Orthodox Shas, another member of Olmert's coalition, traditionally exacts a huge price in budgets for its constituency, as well as pledges of legislation, before it joins a government. Its participation in a new Kadima team is not guaranteed. Possibly hinting at his expectation of being in power for some time, Olmert pledged to work for peace "as long as I am in my position," and said talks with Palestinians and Syria are "closer than ever" to achieving understandings. But the internal turmoil could make it difficult for Olmert to close deals with either the Palestinians or Syria, agreements that long have eluded Israeli leaders. Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki said Olmert's decision would not change much. "It's true that Olmert was enthusiastic about the peace process, and he spoke about this process with great attention, but this process has not achieved any progress or breakthrough," Malki said. He said the Palestinians would deal with any Israeli government. Olmert spoke as his delegation to indirect talks with Syria returned from a fourth round in Turkey. The two sides set another round for August. Israeli political analyst Yossi Alpher said Olmert's resignation would at least slow the process. "The Arabs are asking themselves how useful an agreement with Olmert would be, because he is a self-proclaimed lame duck and he will have a hard time to get his deals approved," Alpher said. While neither the Palestinians nor Syria would be eager to close a deal with a lame-duck leader, the prospect of Netanyahu lurking in the wings could propel them forward despite the fluid political situation. White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said President Bush called Olmert to pledge continued cooperation. "Relations between the United States and Israel during Prime Minister Olmert's tenure have been exceptionally close and cooperative, and the president has appreciated his friendship, his leadership, and his work for peace," Johndroe said. "We're confident that the close United States-Israel relationship will continue in the future." Israeli political analyst Dan Margalit, a longtime friend of Olmert who recently fell from his favor, called the decision to step down "a sad end to a miserable career." Olmert took over as premier after Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke in January 2006. Olmert was a relatively obscure politician who had been named vice premier as a move of political expediency when it appeared that Sharon would serve indefinitely. Instead, Olmert, known as a backslapping political operator with charm and fluent English, suddenly became prime minister. His first initiative was to go where even the popular Sharon never dared - following up Sharon's unilateral 2005 withdrawal from Gaza with a plan for a similar pullback in the West Bank. But events soon overtook him. Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon staged a cross-border raid, killing three Israeli soldiers and capturing two. Olmert hastily ordered his military into battle, pledging to smash Hezbollah and bring back the soldiers, but accomplishing neither goal. Instead, Hezbollah rained nearly 4,000 rockets on Israel, and Israeli forces ran an operation, later roundly criticized, that depended on airstrikes and bombing and only later on sweeps by ground forces. The war ended with a U.N. Security Council resolution that allowed both sides, equally battered, to declare victory, but an Israeli commission of inquiry excoriated Olmert and his team for the handling of the war. Olmert's proposed West Bank pullback dropped off the table as his popularity plunged. Like Sharon, Olmert underwent a political transformation from hawk to moderate, from backing Israeli control of all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with constant settlement expansion to helping Sharon lead Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. Olmert, 62, gained governing experience in a decade as mayor of Jerusalem, balancing Jewish and Palestinian interests and wrestling with constant budget shortfalls by raising money abroad. Bitterly summing up during his 10-minute address Wednesday, Olmert said, "Did I make mistakes over my political career? Without a doubt, yes, and I regret them and I am sorry. But is the real picture that which is presented to the public? Absolutely not."

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2008

## *Israel faces political turmoil*

Chicago Daily Herald

July 31, 2008 Thursday

L2 Edition

Copyright 2008 Paddock Publications, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 1376 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM — His voice shook with anger as he blasted his critics, charging the main goal of their investigations was to bring him down. But in the end, Ehud Olmert faced the inevitable.

"What is more important," he asked, "my personal justice or the public good?"

He chose the latter. Olmert announced Wednesday he will step down as Israel's premier, throwing his country into political turmoil and raising doubts about prospects for delicate peace efforts with both the Palestinians and Syria.

Reading from a prepared text in the courtyard of his Jerusalem residence, Olmert railed: "I was forced to defend myself against relentless attacks from self-appointed 'fighters for justice' who sought to depose me from my position, when the ends sanctified all the means."

Signaling an end to a long public career clouded throughout by corruption allegations, Olmert said he would not run in his party's primary election, set for Sept. 17, and would step down afterward to allow his successor to form a government. Because of Israel's system, he could serve until well into next year.

Olmert's popularity dropped below 20 percent at one point after his bloody but inconclusive war in Lebanon in 2006, and a string of corruption allegations and police interrogations have battered him in recent months.

Political analysts here had been predicting his resignation for weeks as details of the latest allegations against him dominated local news.

The most damaging probe focuses on Morris Talansky, a 76-year-old American Jewish businessman who testified he handed envelopes stuffed with tens of thousands of dollars in cash to Olmert before he became prime minister, in part financing a luxurious lifestyle of expensive hotels and fat cigars.

In an unusual legal procedure, Talansky gave lengthy public testimony for days in a Jerusalem courtroom, defending his allegations in cross-examination by Olmert's attorneys. Olmert has never been formally charged with a crime.

The latest allegation was Olmert double- and triple-billed trips abroad to Jewish institutions, pocketing the difference or financing trips for his relatives. Other affairs include a shady real estate deal and political appointments.

## Israel faces political turmoil

His decision not to run in the Kadima Party primary sets in motion a process to choose a new prime minister. Main candidates in his party are Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former defense minister and military chief of staff.

Polls show Livni with an advantage in the primary. If she were to replace Olmert, she would become the second **female** prime minister in Israeli history, after Golda Meir.

If Olmert's successor as party leader can form a coalition, Israel could have a new government in October. If not, an election campaign could take several months. Olmert would remain in office until a new premier is chosen, heading a caretaker government after he submits his resignation to President Shimon Peres. The process could extend into 2009.

Israel's labyrinthine political system is weighted against a quick internal Kadima resolution to the crisis — with hardline ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud waiting to take advantage. Netanyahu, who leads in current polls, opposes most concessions to the Palestinians and Syrians suggested by Olmert.

Olmert's Kadima Party has only 29 seats in the 120-member parliament, yet his successor must patch together a coalition with a majority. Olmert's main partner, Labor, is headed by another ex-premier, Ehud Barak, who would like his old job back and may be more comfortable forcing an election than playing second fiddle to a rival like Livni.

And the perennial wild card, the ultra-Orthodox Shas, another member of Olmert's coalition, traditionally exacts a huge price in budgets for its constituency, as well as pledges of legislation, before it joins a government. Its participation in a new Kadima team is not a foregone conclusion.

Possibly hinting at his expectation of being in power for some time, Olmert pledged to work for peace "as long as I am in my position," and said that talks with Palestinians and Syria are "closer than ever" to achieving understandings.

But the internal turmoil could make it difficult for Olmert to close deals with either the Palestinians or Syria, agreements that have eluded successive Israeli leaders for decades.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki said Olmert's decision would not change much. "It's true that Olmert was enthusiastic about the peace process, and he spoke about this process with great attention, but this process has not achieved any progress or breakthrough," Malki added. He said the Palestinians would deal with any Israeli government.

Olmert spoke as his delegation to indirect talks with Syria returned from their fourth round in Turkey. The two sides set another round with Turkish mediation for August.

Israeli political analyst Yossi Alpher said Olmert's resignation would at least slow down the process. "The Arabs are asking themselves how useful an agreement with Olmert would be, because he is a self-proclaimed lame duck, and he will have a hard time to get his deals approved," Alpher said.

While neither the Palestinians nor Syria would be eager to close a deal with a lame-duck Israeli leader, the prospect of Netanyahu lurking in the wings could propel them forward despite the fluid political situation.

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Olmert took over as premier after the popular Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke in January 2006. Olmert was a relatively obscure politician who had been named vice premier as a move of political expediency when it appeared that Sharon would serve indefinitely.

## Israel faces political turmoil

Instead, Olmert, known as a backslapping political operator with charm and fluent English, suddenly became Israel's prime minister.

His first initiative was to go where even Sharon, one of Israel's most popular leaders, never dared — following up Sharon's unilateral 2005 withdrawal from Gaza with a plan for a similar pullback in the West Bank.

But soon events overtook him. **Hezbollah** guerrillas in Lebanon staged a cross-border raid, attacking an Israeli army patrol, killing three soldiers and capturing two. Olmert hastily ordered his military into all-out battle, pledging to smash **Hezbollah** and bring back the soldiers, but accomplishing neither.

Instead, **Hezbollah** rained almost 4,000 rockets on northern Israel, and Israeli forces ran an operation, later roundly criticized, that depended on massive air strikes and bombing and only later on sweeps by ground forces.

The war ended with a U.N. Security Council resolution that allowed both sides, equally battered, to declare victory, but an Israeli commission of inquiry excoriated Olmert and his team for its handling of the war.

Olmert's proposed West Bank pullback dropped off the table as his popularity plunged in the wake of the war.

Like Sharon, his mentor, Olmert underwent a political transformation from hawk to moderate, from backing Israeli control of all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with constant settlement expansion to helping Sharon lead Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Olmert, 62, gained governing experience in his decade as mayor of Jerusalem, one of Israel's most sensitive jobs, balancing conflicting Jewish and Palestinian interests and wrestling with constant budget shortfalls by raising money abroad.

Olmert was born in 1945 in the town of Binyamina in northern Israel. His military service included a stint as an officer in an infantry unit and later as a reporter for the Israeli army soldiers' weekly.

He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and philosophy and later a law degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and worked briefly as a lawyer before entering politics.

Bitterly summing up during his 10-minute address Wednesday, Olmert said, "Did I make mistakes over my political career? Without a doubt, yes, and I regret them and I am sorry. But is the real picture that which is presented to the public? Absolutely not."

## Graphic

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ASSOCIATED PRESS Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, speaking from his Jerusalem residence, announced Wednesday he will resign in September, likely putting on hold progress on Mideast peace.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2008

## *Shameful denial of Palestine holocaust*

Irish Independent

January 25, 2008 Friday

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Independent.ie 

**Section:** LETTERS

**Length:** 327 words

### **Body**

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I am writing this with a painful sadness about what is happening in front of our eyes to the desperate 1.5 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

For a quite some time the majority there have lived below the poverty line.

The only lifeline has been the help they receive through the borders, especially from the United Nations.

Now this lifeline has been shut down by the Israeli authorities.

To punish 1.5 million people for the action of few will only increase the numbers of those few.

And it is morally wrong, if there is still a place for talk about morality.

Every year we all repeatedly say that we will never allow another holocaust to happen.

The problem with this phrase is that it means never again should another holocaust of the same nature as that of World War Two be allowed to happen.

Well, another holocaust is happening right now in front of our eyes.

But this new holocaust is in different circumstances and has different victims.

This time the victims are Palestinians.

When are we going to say "no" to any form, colour or shape of holocaust?

THE latest horror inflicted by the state of Israel on the innocent people of Gaza is yet another shameful chapter in its short history since that part of Palestine was handed over to it by the UN in 1948.

To say it is a tyrannical entity is not an exaggeration. But we must not say it out loud in case we are accused of being anti-Semitic and "holocaust deniers".

Very convenient. Adept as Israelis are at terrorising the women and children in the occupied territories with the jackboot heel of their security forces, the downtrodden Palestinians, who are also Semites, must have taken hope

## Shameful denial of Palestine holocaust

when the previously "invincible" army of Israel was soundly beaten and routed in Lebanon by the army of **Hezbollah**.

The UN, despite its monstrous mistakes over the decades, has for some time been saying the Palestinians are the most oppressed race on Earth. So why are they not doing more to help them?

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2008

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End of Document

**Israel on moral high ground battling enemy's dirty war**

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

January 4, 2009 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** THE EDITORIAL PAGE; Pg. A8; Lorne Gunter

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Lorne Gunter, Edmonton Journal

## **Body**

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Among the many civilians injured during this past week's war between Hamas and Israel, 12 were wounded beyond the ability of Gazan doctors and hospitals to treat them.

Where were these victims sent for the specialized care they needed to save their lives? To Cairo? Beirut? Riyadh or Dubai?

No, they were sent to (and willingly received at) hospitals in Tel Aviv.

Indeed, Israel is the default destination for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza when-ever one of them is hurt beyond the capacity of local hospitals to heal them. Many Jewish charities around the world raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually to operate hospitals where all are treated, Jew or Palestinian, for free.

If Israel truly were a heartless oppressor, would its hospitals, doctors and medical staffs so willingly treat members of an "enemy" community?

It may be true--may be --that since Israel began Operation Cast Lead against the Hamas government of Gaza last Saturday, 400 Gazans have died. And it may also be true, according to the United Nations, that a quarter of these -- approximately 100--have been civilians.

There is good reason to doubt the casualty claims of any terror organization battling Israel. Each knows full well that most western news agencies will uncritically report any death toll they announce, so most pad the numbers. Some even go to elaborate lengths to make their inflated claims appear accurate.

For instance, during the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the spring of 2002, Palestinian sources insisted upwards of 60 Palestinians, mostly civilians, had been lost. Bodies were brought from the morgue of a nearby hospital and placed around the inside of the church and in its yard, so that when the siege finally lifted and photographers and TV cameramen were permitted in, there were plenty of corpses to film.

In fact, just eight died during the siege, most of them Palestinian fighters.

Something similar happened at Qana in the summer of 2006, when Israel was battling **Hezbollah** in southern Lebanon. There, Israeli jets accidentally bombed an apartment building --they believed it housed a missile launching site that was actually the building next door.

## Israel on moral high ground battling enemy's dirty war

Hezbollah claimed 57 were killed, many of them women and children. Reporters and emergency crews were kept from the site for more than an hour, though, and when they arrived, they found bodies already decomposing, a sign perhaps that fresh graves had been hastily dug up and the corpses in them removed to the apartment rubble for media benefit.

In fact, around 20 were killed. At Jenin, Hebron and elsewhere, time after time, Palestinians and others seeking Israel's destruction have overstated their losses, especially the civilian ones.

There is plenty of reason to doubt the 400-killed number, then. But let's for a minute assume it is true. Can there be any doubt that were the roles reversed and Hamas had the modern jets and helicopter gunships and 1,000-kilogram bombs that only 400 Israelis would have been killed and of those only 100 civilians?

Four hundred dead in these attacks (versus four dead Israelis in Hamas's rocket attacks in the past week) seems disproportionate, even if this is not a numbers game. But would Hamas go to similar pains to kill only combatants and to kill civilians only when they are being used as shields to hide behind by Hamas officials and fighters?

It is unlikely Hamas would be Israel's greatest source of humanitarian aid once bombing began, too. Nevertheless, Israel has been Gaza's.

According to Israel government statistics (which you are welcome to take with a grain of salt), in the first six days of the conflict, nearly 200 trucks carrying more than 6,000 tonnes of supplies, "basic food commodities, medication, medical supplies . . . and blood units" have entered Gaza from Israel. Not a single truck has passed in from Egypt (Gaza's only Arab neighbour) nor have ships laden with supplies from Saudi Arabia or Iran docked.

Iran has threatened to send suicide bombers into the region, but no rations or bandages. No doubt Iran and other governments have provided Hamas with weapons since fighting began last weekend, but they have shown little enthusiasm for aid.

Israel has not been entirely saintly in this fight. The killing New Year's Day of Hamas leader Nizar Rayan, along with his four wives and 11 of his children, seems a particularly brutal act, especially when Israel's army has shown itself capable time and again of targeting only the terrorists it wants to kill and leaving nearby civilians unscathed.

Still, the deaths in the past week, civilian or otherwise, would have been avoided if Hamas and its allied Islamic radicals had not provoked Israel by lobbing more than 7,000 rockets and mortars into Israel since 2001 (nearly 2,800 in '08 alone), killing a total of 28 civilians.

Hamas has time and again shown itself incapable of honouring its peace agreements with Israel. So I cannot see how Israel can stop this fight before Hamas is incapacitated.

Lorne Gunter is a columnist with the Edmonton Journal and the National Post.

[LGunter@shaw.ca](mailto:LGunter@shaw.ca)

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2009



## *Toughest Test Of Brain Power*

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle, UK)

January 23, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. 10

**Length:** 333 words

**Byline:** Laura Caroe

### **Body**

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NERVOUSLY sitting in the waiting room, I geared up for a bonanza quiz.

I racked my brains to think about what questions would come up.

In the event I didn't fare too badly, correctly answering half of my 20 questions.

Here are some of the questions that came up during my hand-wringing audition:

Which reclaimed marsh area in Kent extends from Hythe in the north to the Dungeness promontory in the south and has a breed of sheep named after it?

LAURA: Pass

ANSWER: Romney

Elton John collaborated with which American pop band as pianist and co-writer on their 2006 chart-topper "I don't feel like dancin"?

LAURA: Scissor Sisters

ANSWER: Scissor Sisters

In Indian thought, what name, derived from the Sanskrit for "extinction", is given to the transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire or consciousness of self?

LAURA: Nirvana

ANSWER: Nirvana

Which French composer's orchestral work "La Mer" is said to have been inspired by the paintings of Turner and Monet?

LAURA: Pass

ANSWER: Debussy

Toughest Test Of Brain Power

Which Shia political and military organisation, whose name means "part of God" in Arabic, was founded in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of 1982?

LAURA: No chance, pass

ANSWER: Hezbollah

What type of structure features in the title of a 1927 novel by Virginia Woolf and a 2005 novel by PD James?

LAURA: Lighthouse

ANSWER: Lighthouse

To which Shakespearean king do the ghosts of Henry VI and Edward V appear as part of a series of apparitions?

LAURA: Richard III

ANSWER: Richard III

Which female tennis player collected her first grand slam titles in 2006, when she won the Australian Open and Wimbledon Ladies' Single titles?

LAURA: Mauresmo

ANSWER: Amelie Mauresmo

What is the general English name for the plants, including cacti and house-leeks, that are found in dry climates and have fleshy leaves and stems adapted to store water?

LAURA: Pass

ANSWER: Succulents

Which Asian country gives its name to a hard enamel-like varnish used to give a black glossy finish to wood or metal objects?

LAURA: Pass

ANSWER: Japan

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2008

## *Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 21, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** Hassan Abdo

## **Body**

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Tens of thousands of Shiites made their way down to the Southern city of Nabatiyeh Saturday to partake in the ritual celebrations marking the holy day of Ashura. Literally meaning the tenth day, Ashura commemorates the massacre of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein along with his family during the Battle of Kerbala in 680 AD.

NABATIYEH: Tens of thousands of Shiites made their way down to the Southern city of Nabatiyeh Saturday to partake in the ritual celebrations marking the holy day of Ashura.

Literally meaning the tenth day, Ashura commemorates the massacre of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein along with his family during the Battle of Kerbala in 680 AD.

The streets of Nabatiyeh filled quickly in the early morning hours as massive crowds gathered around the Husseinieh, a Shiite community center, to partake in the rituals of Ashura that are meant to remind all of Hussein's courage and sacrifice.

During the ceremonies men and boys marched through the streets surrounding the Husseinieh rhythmically beating their chests and heads as blood streamed down their faces. Many chanted prayers as they marched while others shouted "Haidar!" - which translates into lion - a nickname given to Hussein's father Ali.

Nabatiyeh is one of the few places in Lebanon that continues the practice of making cuts on the head to symbolize the pain felt over the loss of Hussein.

In the Husseinieh men stood with razor blades tapping the heads of the old and young. Some of the participants were children no more than a year old who were led through the procedure by their parents.

One father by the name of Tarek who led his two young boys into the Husseinieh to receive cuts explained that "this is a tradition that has been carried out for hundreds of years and it is important that my boys continue on with it." The boys expressed no fear in participating in the ritual.

The cutting of the self is a practice that has evolved as a form of repentance by some Shiites who do it to show solidarity with Hussein and his family's pain and persecution.

## Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh

However, many Shiites don't partake in cutting or shedding of blood. Some even frown upon it, while others continue to keep with the tradition. **Hizbullah**, the dominant Shiite political party in Lebanon, condemns any act during Ashura that inflicts harm onto the body.

Many of the participants in Nabatiyeh seemed to be more aligned with Amal, as signs and banners with their logo proved to be more prevalent.

The presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies along with other paramedic groups was prevalent Saturday with tents and ambulances set up all around the Husseinieh and its surrounding streets to aid those with wounds.

Ali Basharoush, who directed the Red Cross during this year's commemoration, reported that 110 Red Cross volunteers had been deployed to assist with the crowds.

"We have three camps set up in addition to 10 ambulances and our volunteers are not only working those stations but following along in the parade in case anything happens," explained Basharoush.

"Considering my past experience directing Ashura in Nabatiyeh, I am expecting approximately 1,300 people to come through our camps today for treatment," said Basharoush.

In addition to the parades, Nabatiyeh is also well known for the theatrical re-enactment of the Battle of Karbala that is performed during the commemoration every year.

Hussam Sabbah, who was the director of this year's play, explained that preparations had been under way for months.

"We started planning one month after the last year's Ashura commemoration, working with over 100 actors from Nabatiyeh and its neighboring villages," he said. "Every year we look to further improve the quality of the play and enhance the effects and I feel that this year's performance will stand."

The stadium across from the Husseinieh filled with a sea of black veils as an audience of mostly **women** filled the arena to watch the play.

"The play is the highlight of the event for me. I love watching the play because it depicts what Ashura means and what it is," said Zahra, 24, who makes the annual trip down to Nabatiyeh from Beirut every year specifically for the play.

"Ashura is emphasized not because religion is taken seriously. It's emphasized because the belief is that this was the moment in history of Muslims when the justice fought the injustice, when the brave and justice stood against tyranny and injustice. Hussein is seen as a martyr for the prevailing of justice for humanity," Zahra adds.

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

## **Keep track of appointments - and terrorist threats - Correction Appended**

Federal Times

January 21, 2008

### **Correction Appended**

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**Section:** NEWS WATCH; Pg. 9

**Length:** 329 words

**Byline:** STEPHEN LOSEY

### **Body**

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As the new year begins, anyone in need of a daily planner and with an interest in global terrorism should look to the National Counterterrorism Center.

NCTC's 2008 Counterterrorism Calendar is available for marking down your appointments alongside profiles of Islamic Jihad founder Ayman al-Zawahiri, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, VX nerve agent and hundreds of other terrorism factoids.

It's unclassified, so while you can find out that Osama bin Laden weighs 160 pounds, is left-handed and walks with a cane, you won't find out where the CIA thinks he may be hiding.

But there's still plenty of practical information. If someone calls in a bomb threat, never fear: Just flip to the last page, where you'll find a sheet titled "Bomb Threat Call Procedures." This suggests questions to ask the supposed bomber - Where is the bomb located? When will it go off? What's your name? - and includes a checklist to record whether the caller is well-spoken, foul or irrational, or whether you can hear factory machinery or animal noises in the background.

The calendar also lists notable events in international terrorism, date by date. For example, Jan. 14 marks the date of the first attack by a **female** suicide bomber.

An appendix lists the logos of 45 major terrorist groups such as al-Qaida, **Hezbollah** and Sinn Fein, and warns law enforcement officers to watch out for such emblems during traffic stops. One has to wonder: How many traffic cops have pulled over al-Qaida members wearing their official terrorist badges?

This is the fifth annual daily planner, although similar wall calendars have floated around the CIA since the 1990s.

Only people who know someone in the counterterrorism or intelligence community can get a hold of the fancy spiral-bound version of the calendar. Everyone else can print out the calendar or use the online interactive calendar at [www.nctc.gov](http://www.nctc.gov).

The center was created by Congress in 2004 and is part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

### **Correction**

Keep track of appointments - and terrorist threats

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1 COLOR PHOTO.

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2008

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End of Document

## **Hilaly ends his exile - with some bouquets and brickbats; FROM THE PULPIT**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 19, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 3

**Length:** 305 words

**Byline:** Joel Gibson

### **Body**

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IT WAS a case of "don't mention the war" as Sydney's usually outspoken imam Taj el-Din al Hilaly took to the pulpit for the first time in six months yesterday.

He ended a self-imposed preaching ban inspired by the furore over his comments comparing scantily clad women to uncovered meat, and fresh from interviews with the federal police over comments about Muslims "standing in the trenches with Iran".

Sheik Hilaly told worshippers at the Lakemba mosque that Australia was like a bunch of flowers, and its beauty depended on the range of colours and cultures it contained.

"He said as long as he's here, Lakemba will be a moderate place and that it will instil into the people who come to the mosque a love for this country and the ability to be effective, constructive citizens," said his spokesman, Keysar Trad.

Sheik Hilaly has been the focus of several controversies in his six months out of the pulpit.

He said they were the result of misunderstandings and a conspiracy of politicians, media organisations and opponents to use him as a punching bag for their own ends.

This month the imam was cleared by police of diverting funds raised for victims of the Israel-Lebanon war to supporters of al-Qaeda and Hezbollah.

His "trench" comments, made in Iran last month, should have been translated as Australians being "in the same boat" as Muslims there, he has said, and the uncovered meat line was a reference to work of the Arab writer Rafii.

In March the new Australian National Council of Imams stripped the imam of the title of mufti of Australia, giving him three months' grace to step down.

But his grassroots popularity and a reluctance by some imams to sideline him without his own acquiescence could yet derail plans to oust the sheik.

Sheik Hilaly said last week he would not step aside until a suitable replacement was found.

Hilaly ends his exile - with some bouquets and brickbats FROM THE PULPIT

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Sheik Hilaly ... preaching again.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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End of Document



## *Wall is sensible solution to strife*

Daily News (South Africa)

August 02, 2007 Thursday

e1 Edition

Copyright 2007 Independent News and Media Ltd All Rights Reserved

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 16

**Length:** 333 words

### **Body**

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With reference to the opinion piece by Iqbal Jassat entitled "A blot on our liberated nation's conscience" (Daily News, July 24), he uses the emotive rallying call of apartheid to show a similarity between the pre-democratic South Africa and Israel.

Factually, nothing is further from reality.

The population of Israel is made up of more than 50% of people of Near Eastern and North African origin, mainly Jews driven out of their homelands in Arab countries and including more than one million Israeli Arabs, who enjoy all the democratic freedoms Israel's dictatorial neighbours can only dream about.

Israeli Arabs of both sexes have full voting rights, enjoy freedom of expression, sit in the Knesset (parliament), are judges and hold other senior positions, have freedom of movement and enjoy freedom of religion.

Compare this to, say, Saudi Arabia where women cannot go on to the street alone, drive a car or vote. In other countries Christians are persecuted and definitely cannot proselytise.

The writer is concerned that South Africa recognises a sovereign state and member of the United Nations and is upset that Hamas, which refuses to recognise Israel's right to exist, is penalised.

The arguments under reference have nothing whatsoever to do with apartheid but is rather the relationship between Israel and those Arab countries who still consider themselves at war with Israel, including Syria and Saudi Arabia, plus the emerging world threat, Iran, whose hand-maidens are Hamas and Hezbollah.

Finally, has the writer ever considered how many suicide bombers from Israel have blown up aircraft, buildings, trains and buses worldwide over the years?

Israel has found an antidote - a wall and fence - which has been most successful in keeping these murderers at bay. This is not apartheid, but self-defence against foreign invaders.

The solution is simple.

If the Arabs put down their arms there will be peace.

However, if Israel were to put down its arms, there would be no Israel.

Wall is sensible solution to strife

BERNHARD LAZARUS

Durban

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2007

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End of Document

**Israel wages PR battle as Gaza conflict rages; High-tech tools a key part of arsenal, while foreign media kept on tight leash**

The Toronto Star

January 13, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA03

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** Oakland Ross, Toronto Star

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Israel's deadly war in Gaza is as far away as the Middle East - or as close as a click of your computer mouse.

Operation Cast Lead, code name for Israel's offensive in Gaza, is undoubtedly a military operation, but it is also on the World Wide Web, part of an Israeli military site that's updated regularly with videos, photographs, and information, all designed to present the conflict from the official Israeli point of view.

Call it public relations, call it propaganda, call it what you will - in the brutal conflict now unfolding, Israel seems to be making a far greater effort to tell its side of the story, and to do so convincingly, than it did during its last war, waged against Hezbollah militants in neighbouring Lebanon in 2006.

Granted, the country's public relations performance during that inconclusive conflict was widely regarded as a disaster.

"They are doing a much better job now," said Eytan Gilboa, chair of the communications department at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

"The message is clearer. The objectives of the military operation are clearer. There is much better use of new media."

For those who like to watch buildings and other objects go up in smoke, the Israeli Air Force is posting short videos of the war on YouTube, with titles such as "Israeli Air Force precision strike on Qassam rockets," or "Israeli Air Force strikes Hamas government compound."

The communications battle is also being waged with phones, or at least some phones - those that belong to journalists covering the conflict.

Reporters here regularly receive text messages from the Israel Defense Forces offering to help them cover the Israeli side of the war, in the language of their choice.

Support for the offensive remains pervasive among Jewish Israelis, a clear contrast to the war in 2006, when early public backing for the operation against Hezbollah quickly turned to dismay, as seemingly ill-prepared Israeli troops got bogged down in southern Lebanon. Many Israelis began to question why the war was being fought at all.

Israel wages PR battle as Gaza conflict rages High-tech tools a key part of arsenal, while foreign media kept on tight leash

Few such questions are being asked this time, or at least not by most people here.

"Public relations has something to do with reality," said Tamar Liebes, chair of the communications department at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. "It's very much clearer to Israelis and to the rest of the world that this was not a quick, un-thought-out action."

But to the extent that Israel's communications offensive is aimed at winning friends and influencing people in foreign places, then this country faces a major challenge - a powerful current of international opposition to the Gaza offensive.

"It's very hard to win the PR war," said Liebes. "Public relations cannot compete with television."

And the TV pictures from Gaza - images of bombs, death, and destruction, day after day - do not exactly paint Israel in a rainbow of pleasing hues.

"The pictures coming out of Gaza are pictures of dead children and dead women," said Yoni Ben-Menachem, director-general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. "This is creating a big protest in the Arab world and in Europe. I think the political echelon is very worried."

Still, Israel's public-relations initiative soldiers on, taking advantage of the hot and trendy as well as the tried and true. Ashkelon and Sderot are among the Israeli communities hardest hit by rockets fired from Gaza, and the government is eager to have their stories of suffering feature prominently in international coverage of the war.

Those stories are real, and that suffering is genuine - no question about it. But the IDF is not nearly as accommodating when it comes to the presentation of Palestinian pain, and this also seems to be an integral part of Israel's communications strategy.

Since this conflict began Dec. 27, the government has barred foreign journalists from entering Gaza, despite a Supreme Court ruling ordering small numbers of foreign media workers be allowed in. Only yesterday did the IDF relent and allow a handful of foreign journalists into Gaza, but only as embedded reporters under Israeli control.

The Israeli government has zealously sought to manage its message during the conflict, ensuring different government departments and agencies plug information leaks and speak from the same official page with a consistent voice - a rare phenomenon in this quarrelsome land.

But there are some aspects of this conflict even the steadiest of voices would be hard-pressed to illuminate in easily comprehensible terms. For example - the fatality figures. During more than seven years of rocket fire from Gaza, the missiles have claimed a total of 13 Israeli lives. An additional 13 Israelis have died in this war, four from Palestinian rockets.

Meanwhile, in the past 17 days of Israeli retaliation, more than 900 Palestinians are believed to have perished, in addition to hundreds more who lost their lives in previous punitive incursions by Israel.

Israeli authorities say this gaping disparity can be justified, but communications experts agree this is a difficult message to convey.

## Graphic

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HATEM MOUSSA ap Palestinian children who fled their homes during the Israeli offensive share a meal at a United Nations school where they are sheltering in the Jabaliya refugee camp, in northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Israel wages PR battle as Gaza conflict rages High-tech tools a key part of arsenal, while foreign media kept on tight leash

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2009

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

June 19, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 14

**Length:** 344 words

### **Body**

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#### Lebanon rocket alert

LEBANESE troops battled militants on two fronts yesterday, hunting gunmen who fired two rockets into Israel and tightening the noose on Islamists in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp. The army and UN peacekeepers were on full alert after rockets were fired at Israel for the first time since it fought last year's devastating war against the Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah.

#### Slave bosses caught

CHINESE police have detained 168 people accused of involvement in slavery. Of those held, 48 were caught in Shanxi province and the rest in neighbouring Henan, where hundreds of teens and poor farmers were trapped or cheated into kilns, mines and foundries.

#### Twin fertility find

WOMEN who had a male twin might have a reduced chance of having children because of testosterone exposure in the womb. Researchers at Britain's Sheffield University found women were 25 per cent less likely to have children if their twin was male.

#### Designer Ferre dies

GIANFRANCO Ferre, the Italian designer known as the "architect of fashion" for his sculpted shapes and his groundbreaking tenure at Christian Dior, has died aged 62 in Milan after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

#### N Korean nuke move

NORTH Korea would seal the Yongbyon nuclear reactor next month, Russia's Interfax news agency reported yesterday. The UN's nuclear watchdog said it would visit Pyongyang next week.

#### QE2 sets new course

CUNARD liner QE2 will cease ocean cruises and become a luxury hotel in Dubai. The 70,000-tonne vessel, launched in 1967, was sold to the Dubai World company for \$117.7 million yesterday.

#### Thaksin riches frozen

NEWS IN BRIEF

A THAI anti-graft panel yesterday ordered that \$292.4 in assets belonging to the family of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra frozen, after it froze \$1.94 billion last week in connection with the sale of his telecom company.

Too late to be sorry

JAPANESE teetotaller Tomoji Tanabe, aged 111, was awarded official recognition yesterday as the world's oldest man, and joked: "I have lived too long. I am sorry." The world's oldest person is Japanese woman Yone Minagawa, 114.

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2007

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End of Document

**Reason to doubt casualty claims; Arab neighbours send weapons to Hamas and Gaza, but no humanitarian aid**

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

January 2, 2009 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A18; Lorne Gunter

**Length:** 835 words

**Byline:** Lorne Gunter, Freelance

## **Body**

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Among the many civilians injured during this past week's war between Hamas and Israel, 12 were wounded beyond the ability of Gazan doctors and hospitals to treat them.

Where were these victims sent for the specialized care they needed to save their lives? To Cairo? Beirut? Riyadh or Dubai?

No, they were sent to (and willingly received at) hospitals in Tel Aviv.

Indeed, Israel is the default destination for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza whenever one of them is hurt beyond the capacity of local hospitals to heal them. Many Jewish charities around the world raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually to operate hospitals at which all are treated -- Jew or Palestinian -- for free.

If Israel truly were a heartless oppressor, would its hospitals, doctors and medical staffs so willingly treat members of an "enemy" community?

It may be true -- may be -- that since Israel began Operation Cast Lead against the Hamas government of Gaza last Saturday, 400 Gazans have died. And it may also be true, according to the United Nations, that a quarter of these -- approximately 100 -- have been civilians.

There is good reason to doubt the casualty claims of any terror organization battling Israel. Each knows full well that most western news agencies will uncritically report any death toll they announce, so most pad the numbers. Some even go to elaborate lengths to make their inflated claims appear accurate.

For instance, during the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the spring of 2002, Palestinian sources insisted upwards of 60 Palestinians, mostly civilians, had been lost. Bodies were brought from the morgue of a nearby hospital and placed around the inside of the church and in its yard, so that when the siege finally lifted and photographers and TV cameramen were permitted in, there were plenty of corpses to film.

In fact, just eight died during the siege, most of them Palestinian fighters.



Reason to doubt casualty claims; Arab neighbours send weapons to Hamas and Gaza, but no humanitarian aid

Something similar happened at Qana in the summer of 2006, when Israel was battling Hezbollah in South Lebanon. There, Israeli jets accidentally bombed an apartment building -- they believed it housed a missile launching site, when that was actually the building next door.

Hezbollah claimed 57 were killed, many of them women and children. Reporters and emergency crews were kept from the site for more than hour, though, and when they arrived, they found bodies already decomposing, a sign perhaps that fresh graves had been hastily dug up and the corpses in them removed to the apartment rubble for media benefit.

In fact, around 20 were killed.

At Jenin, Hebron and elsewhere, time after time, Palestinians and others seeking Israel's destruction have overstated their losses, especially the civilian ones.

There is plenty of reason to doubt the 400-killed number, then. But let's for a minute assume it is true. Can there be any doubt that were the roles reversed and Hamas had the modern jets and helicopter gunships and 1,000-kilo bombs that only 400 Israelis would have been killed and of those only 100 civilians?

Four hundred dead in these attacks (versus four dead Israelis in Hamas's rocket attacks in the past week) seems disproportionate, even if this is not a numbers game. But would Hamas go to similar pains to kill only combatants and to kill civilians only when they are being used as shields to hide behind by Hamas officials and fighters?

It is unlikely Hamas would be Israel's greatest source of humanitarian aid once bombing began, too. Nevertheless, Israel has been Gaza's.

According to Israel government statistics (which you are welcome to take with a grain of salt), since hostilities began six days ago, nearly 200 trucks carrying more than 6,000 tonnes of supplies, "basic food commodities, medication, medical supplies ... and blood units" have entered Gaza from Israel. Not a single truck has passed in from Egypt (Gaza's only Arab neighbour) nor have ships laden with supplies from Saudi Arabia or Iran docked.

Iran has threatened to send suicide bombers into the region, but no rations or bandages. No doubt Iran and other governments have provided Hamas with weapons since fighting began last weekend, but they have shown little enthusiasm for aid.

Israel has not be entirely saintly in this fight. The killing New Year's Day of Hamas leader Nizar Rayan, along with his four wives and 10 of his children, seems a particularly brutal act, especially when Israel's army has shown itself capable time and again of targeting only the terrorists it wants to kill and leaving nearby civilians unscathed.

Still, the deaths in the past week, civilian or otherwise, would have been avoided if Hamas and its allied Islamic radicals had not provoked Israel by lobbing more than 7,000 rockets and mortars into Israel since 2001 (nearly 2,800 in 2008 alone), killing a total of 28 civilians.

Hamas has time and again shown itself incapable of honouring its peace agreements with Israel. So I cannot see how Israel can stop this fight before Hamas is incapacitated.

[lgunter@shaw.ca](mailto:lgunter@shaw.ca)

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2009

**Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?**

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

September 12, 2007 Wednesday

National Edition

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**Section:** ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A18; Barbara Kay

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Barbara Kay, National Post

## **Body**

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Muslim Turkey doesn't allow it. Neither does Muslim Jordan. Nor Muslim Iran. Veils in the voting booth, that is. Moreover, no Muslim organization in Canada is asking for faceless voting, and some are downright opposed to it. There seems to be only one Muslim in Canada at the moment making an issue out of it.

Visiting globetrotter Yvonne Ridley, a British journalist who catapulted to celebrity after 11 days of captivity by the Taliban in 2001 turned her into an Islamist apologist, and who later converted to Islam, has accused Canadian politicians of Islamophobia, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of racism for voicing opposition to face-concealed voting.

At a fundraising dinner for the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) in Montreal I attended last Friday, keynote speaker Ridley challenged the women in the audience to "put on a niqab" (i.e., face veil) on voting day -- an exhortation that drew a round of applause.

Ridley's agenda in stirring up grievance around such a trifle is doubtless what has become her stock in trade: Nurturing Muslim revanchism and fomenting tension between Muslims and their fellow citizens.

Take a closer look at the woman the CIC saw fit to honour:

Like many other adult converts, Ridley went from Islamic zero to zealotry after she became a Muslim in 2003. She adopted colourful Middle Eastern garb and the hijab, issued savage denunciations of the United States, Israel and Tony Blair, and became a strident apologist for the worst of the worst of Islamist terrorists.

Apart from the Islamist fringe and the far left, Ridley has lost whatever personal and professional credibility she once enjoyed. She was even fired by al-Jazeera after a brief stint for her "overly-vocal and argumentative style." She joined disgraced MP George Galloway's pro-Islamist RESPECT party in Britain, and subsequently lost three elections in a row with ever-diminishing support (6.4% in the 2005 general election). She is now reduced to shilling for Iran's oppressive regime on PRESS TV, a 24-hour news channel, and peddling endless reprisals of her Taliban adventure to the curious and uncritical.

## Taliban stooge; Yvonne Ridley Is A Strident Apologist For Islamist Terrorists. So What Is She Doing At Canadian Islamic Congress Fundraisers?

Controversy dogs her. In 2006 she outlined her viewpoint in a debate at Imperial College London as "pretty much in line with Hamas." She defended the utility of British Muslims watching videos of Iraqi insurgents beheading hostages as a necessary counterpoint to Western media propaganda. When Chechen terrorist leader Shamil Basayev, the mastermind of both the Moscow theatre hostage crisis and Beslan school massacre, was killed, Ridley opined that he had become a shaheed (i.e., martyr) whose place in paradise was now assured.

Most problematic for Canadians, who appreciate that our security depends on Muslim co-operation in identifying jihadist elements amongst them, Ridley is on record counselling British Muslims "to boycott the police and refuse to co-operate with them in any way, shape or form." For this pernicious advice alone, the CIC must realize that her views are more than incompatible with Canadian values: They run dangerously counter to Canadians' national security.

In addition to her obsessive Islamocentrism, Ridley's Friday night speech revealed a narcissism that has her bizarrely detached from objective reality. Particularly surreal was the sitcom-storyboard pitch of her Afghanistan adventure: Set in rubble-strewn Kabul instead of verdant Sherwood Forest, nevertheless the nostalgically backlit narrative of her sojourn with the Taliban evoked a latter day Maid Marian kidnapped by a turbaned version of Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men.

In Ridley's weirdly jolly, revisionist account, the Taliban come off as roguish and unsophisticated, but well-meaning idealists who accepted her rudeness, cursing and spitting with bemused tolerance: "The harder I pushed them, the nicer they were to me!" (By the Prophet's beard, what zany prank will this English spitfire Ridley think of next?!). Not a word about the Taliban's notoriously ruthless oppression of Afghans, especially women. On the contrary. "Thank God," Ridley twinkled mockingly, "I was captured by the (air quotes) 'most evil regime in the world' and not by the Americans." She spoke more respectfully of her Taliban warders than of the "happy clappy" Evangelical Christian prisoners with whom she was briefly incarcerated, whose daily prayer sessions "tortured me."

Ridley closed her remarks with a wistful recollection of a previous fundraiser where she had raised thousands of pounds by waving a Hezbollah flag: "I wish I had that flag tonight."

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and officially recognized as such in Canada. And whether one approves or not, Canada is at war against the Taliban. Ridley's laundering of the latter and support for the former are, or should be, offensive to all Canadians.

The CIC erred in lending its name to the odious views of this Islamist dupe. I hope its leadership will not compound the mistake by reflexively adopting the Ridley strategy of labelling legitimate opinion as Islamophobia. From now on Yvonne Ridley should be persona non grata amongst all Canadian Muslims.

[bkay@videotron.ca](mailto:bkay@videotron.ca)

## Graphic

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Color Photo: Richard Arless Jr., CanWest News Service; Yvonne Ridley at a Canadian Islamic Congress fundraiser in Montreal last week. ;

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2007

**'I'M THE BOSS' SPIRIT OF CHANGE IN A KNIFE-WIELDING BAPTISM...;**  
**PRIME MINISTER BROWN: DAY 1**

The Mirror  
June 29, 2007 Friday  
Ulster Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 306 words

**Byline:** KEVIN MAGUIRE

## **Body**

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THREE more dead UK soldiers - two from his home patch in Scotland - were a bloody baptism for Gordon Brown.

The carnage of the morning of his first full day in No 10 will require him to start his first Prime Minister's Questions next Wednesday with solemn tributes.

But yesterday's cabinet reshuffle stressed change, a fresh start.

The Premier must wrestle with the legacy of Blair's war. Yet he wielded the political knife with a ruthlessness that often eluded his predecessor in the most sweeping game of cabinet musical chairs outside a general election.

Ten of 22 ministers were discarded and just one, Des Browne at defence, kept his old job.

The Premier's message was, "I'm the boss". And the cabinet has a distinctly-Brownite flavour with notable promotions for the Eds, Balls and Miliband.

But most significant may be the upgrade to Foreign Secretary of David Miliband (brother of Ed), at 41 one of the youngest in the post. Privately he believes Iraq a huge error and criticised Blair's refusal to condemn Israel's retaliation against Lebanon over last year's **Hezbollah** attacks.

Maybe tellingly, on the day three more soldiers paid the ultimate price, Iraq rebel John Denham who quit over the war was also restored as a minister.

The emphasis is on improving public services, with Alan Johnson switched to health. And while bundling anti-social behaviour and schools into a new department looked odd, Balls is Brown's most trusted lieutenant.

'I'M THE BOSS' SPIRIT OF CHANGE IN A KNIFE-WIELDING BAPTISM.. PRIME MINISTER BROWN : DAY 1

Jacqui Smith's appointment as Britain's first female Home Secretary failed to mask a cut of three to five in women members, suggesting more macho politics.

The Premier today reshuffles his middle and junior posts - and tipped for a return as deputy chief whip is Nick "Newcastle" Brown, sacked by Blair because he was too close to the new PM.

Mr Brown promised change and is living up to his word.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2007

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End of Document

**Israeli bombing causes serious implications for livelihoods and economy;  
ENVIRONMENT: Israel Urged to Aid Oil-Stained Lebanon**

IPS (Latin America)

November 2, 2007 Friday

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**Length:** 934 words

**Byline:** Thalif Deen

## **Body**

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And now, more than 15 months later, the United Nations has released a report detailing the extent of the destruction caused by that oil spill to human health, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism.

The destruction has had 'serious implications' for livelihoods and economy in that continuously trouble-plagued country.

The Israeli bombing, which destroyed storage tanks and the El-Jiyeh power plant, triggered the release of about 15,000 tonnes of fuel oil into the Mediterranean Sea, leading to the contamination of some 150 kms of coastline in Lebanon and neighbouring Syria.

The four weeks of bombings, characterised by an intense military conflict between **Hezbollah** and Israel, resulted in more than 1,183 fatalities, about one-third of them children, while 4,054 people were injured and 970,000 Lebanese displaced.

After an assessment of the economic damage, the World Bank said the overall cost was between 527 million dollars and 931 million dollars, averaging about 729 million dollars, or about 3.6 percent of Lebanon's gross domestic product in 2006.

The damages affected forests, water, air, hotels, beach resorts, public beaches, restaurants and commercial fishing.

The implications of the oil spill have been studied and assessed by over half a dozen international and environmental organisations, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

According to the IUCN, much of the shoreline ecosystem was physically and chemically contaminated.

The oil spill had a direct impact on biodiversity hot spots and fragile marine ecosystem, such as the only marine protected area in the country: Palm Islands Nature Reserve.

In a report to the current session of the General Assembly, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urges the government of Israel 'to take the necessary actions towards assuming responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the government of Lebanon.'

## Israeli bombing causes serious implications for livelihoods and economy ENVIRONMENT: Israel Urged to Aid Oil-Stained Lebanon

The international efforts to help Lebanon should be intensified, he says, in the study titled 'Oil Slick on Lebanese Shores', since Lebanon is still engaged in oil removal, treatment of wastes and monitoring of recovery.

It should also be recognised that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil-spill compensation funds, and thus merits special consideration, he notes.

According to the 14-page report, financial and technical assistance have so far come from more than a dozen countries, including Kuwait, Norway, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan and the United States.

But Israel is conspicuously absent from the list of donors.

To date, the report says, the government of Israel has yet to assume its responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the government of Lebanon.

The UNDP, which reviewed the many international and regional conventions that relate to oil pollution, found that all conventions are inapplicable during armed hostilities.

Additionally, the agreements that relate to spill compensation pertain only to oil spills from tanker vessels at sea, and not land-based incidents.

The U.N. report also says that when the oil spill occurred in July 2006, it overwhelmed national response capacity because of the ongoing conflict, the simultaneous need for a massive humanitarian response, the destruction of infrastructure and a land, air and sea blockade by Israel.

These factors also impeded initial efforts for international assistance.

In a report released last year, the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International said that during more than four weeks of ground and aerial bombardment by the Israeli armed forces, the country's infrastructure suffered destruction on a catastrophic scale.

Israeli forces pounded buildings into the ground, reducing entire neighbourhoods to rubble and turning villages into ghost towns, as their inhabitants fled the bombardments. Main roads, bridges and petrol stations were blown to bits, AI said.

Entire families were killed in air strikes on their homes or in their vehicles while fleeing the aerial assaults on their villages.

Scores lay buried beneath the rubble of their houses for weeks, as the Red Cross and other rescue workers were prevented from accessing the areas by continuing Israeli strikes, according to AI.

The Israeli Air Force launched more than 7,000 air attacks on about 7,000 targets in Lebanon between 12 July and 14 August 2006, while the Navy conducted an additional 2,500 bombardments, AI added.

On the humanitarian front, the United Nations and its relief agencies were outraged over the destruction of lives and infrastructure in Lebanon, in what then Secretary-General Kofi Annan called a grossly disproportionate use of military force.

The New York based Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the Israelis of using artillery-fired cluster munitions in populated areas of Lebanon.

Cluster munitions are unacceptably inaccurate and unreliable weapons when used around civilians, Kenneth Roth, executive director of HRW said. They should never be used in populated areas.

Israeli bombing causes serious implications for livelihoods and economy ENVIRONMENT: Israel Urged to Aid Oil-Stained Lebanon

Jan Egeland, then U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator, was quoted as saying ‘when one-third of the wounded and killed reportedly are children and women, then this goes far beyond responding to those armed groups (Hezbollah) and what they are doing against the civilian population in Israel. © 2007 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2007

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## *In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead*

The Jerusalem Post

June 20, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 723 words

**Byline:** ABE SELIG

### **Body**

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A warm dawn haze lifted over the desert, but the moon was still out, and it dimly lit a group of soldiers in the distance - dots of green against the dark, barren landscape - charging silently towards the village.

Within minutes the silence was shattered. Gunfire, smoke and the low boom of grenade explosions echoed through the early morning, as regular infantry outfits mixed with occasional long-haired reservists advanced on their targets, yelling out commands.

"Cover me, I'm moving ahead!" yelled one private, lifting himself up from the ground and bee-lining to a small house on the village outskirts. His comrades followed, one after the other, as rays of sunlight and the neon green light of mosque minarets began to better illuminate the scene

The soldiers moved boldly, pushing forward in clear, decisive steps. Their mission: Enter the large Arab village in pursuit of a terrorist cell and engage in intensive house-to-house combat. Each section of the built-up area would need to be cleared.

We could have been in Gaza, the West Bank or Lebanon. But the "fighting" that took place early Thursday morning was actually a training exercise outside Beersheba, and the guns were firing blanks.

Dozens of infantry companies, mainly from the Givati Brigade, stormed the large "village" set up in the desert, at the start of another day's instruction at the IDF's Ground Troop Training Center.

Built a year and a half ago, the GTTC is a mock Arab village complete with outlying rural areas, a downtown district and a winding maze of streets and alleyways, pregnant with the constant risk of an unexpected close encounter with the enemy.

During Thursday's drill, that enemy was a company of female soldiers, dressed in khaki pants and camouflage jackets - a nod to the garb of choice among Hamas and Hizbullah gunmen. Equipped with machine guns, Humvees mounted with rocket-launchers and a steady hold on key positions in the village, the "enemy" soldiers' resemblance to the IDF's most potent recent threats extended far beyond clothing.

Explosions continued rocking the town as the sun began to show itself completely, and soldiers, some of whom lay "wounded" or hunkered-down under enemy fire, were forced to deal with a range of volatile factors in the battlefield. As the drill progressed, dozens of officers monitored their troops, looking for flaws and weaknesses that on a real battlefield, in a real conflict, would mean real casualties.

In a sprawling 'enemy village,' IDF trains for battle that may lie ahead

"What are you doing?" barked one company commander as his troops barreled their way into the courtyard of a home. "Do you want to die? You have to move in better than that if you want to do it right."

Troops were seen evacuating their wounded comrades to safety as others focused heavy gunfire at buildings where "terrorists" had been trapped and were firing in volleys at approaching soldiers.

Designed to train combat units for urban warfare, the GTTC village aims to replicate situations that soldiers may encounter in an urban combat situation. While Thursday's drill highlighted basic familiarity with the buildings and other logistical factors in such an environment, other drills feature civilians, media personnel and a central market area filled with people and goods.

Additionally, the GTTC has made the implementation of lessons learned from the Second Lebanon War a top priority. Concepts such as the maneuverability of infantry forces and greater collaboration with the Air Force are heavily stressed, with an emphasis on creating a light, fast-moving fighting force that suffers minimal casualties - a tacit acknowledgement of key mistakes made in the summer of 2006.

Soldiers seemed to be adjusting well on Thursday morning, and commanders, who refused to be interviewed, seemed pleased with their troops' performance and hard work.

As the drill ended, smoke billowed over the village and the sun was rising red behind a hulking minaret. From that point, commanders were taken to a debriefing room outfitted with the latest digital equipment, to review snapshots, analyze video clips and make recommendations for improvements.

Soldiers were seen taking a break from combat, smoking cigarettes and sitting down in the sand as they relieved themselves of vests and stretchers. The village stood empty in the morning light. And preparations for the next drill were likely already under way.

## Graphic

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2 photos: A RECONSTRUCTION of an Arab village at an IDF base near Beersheba is allowing soldiers to practice the kind of alleyway warfare they may encounter in the future. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism*

Daily News Egypt

January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1887 words

### **Body**

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CAIRO: Last week it seemed obvious that Arabs had split into two camps.

On one side were the radicals meeting in Doha, surprisingly headed by Qatar and joined by countries like Iran, Syria delegates from Hamas, all famous for publicly calling to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, or temporarily suspending diplomatic ties with Israel and the US.

On the other side, meeting simultaneously, was the moderate camp headed by Egypt and joined by countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, which are keen on negotiating a peaceful solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

The general atmosphere was not encouraging. Never before in our recent history have differences between Arab states been so obvious. Although disagreements have always existed €" both publicly and behind the scenes €" at least they all occurred under one roof.

The day before the moderate states were to meet in Kuwait for an economic summit on Jan. 19, a local newspaper quoted Secretary General Amr Moussa as saying, "œI'm depressed" on its front page.

Other newspapers offered similar headlines that reflected the general Arab mood. The opening note of the host, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al Sabbah, highlighted the horrible destruction of Gaza, urging the Arabs to come together and put an end to Palestinian suffering.

The following day, the mood was no different. During a Q&A session with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora, a Kuwaiti journalist, instead of asking a question, started describing the sad, weak state of the Arab world, how Arab leaders' hands were tied while Palestinians are being massacred by the hundreds, and how far we have sunk compared to the Golden Age of Islam when Arabs fought with their swords in every corner of the world.

€œLet's revive pride to Islam and to ourselves,€ the journalist concluded, "œlet's take our rotten arms that we never dared to use, and fight; let's wipe out Israel.€"

His words were so passionate and eloquent that suddenly the hall turned euphoric, drowning out the journalist's words in applause and screams. The half-empty hall became overcrowded in seconds, and you could actually see

### Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism

tears in the eyes of some, mine included. My heart even started pounding, perhaps out of rage, sorrow, or disappointment, but I knew that at that very moment, everyone in the hall would have marched towards Israel to fight, with what and how didn't matter.

I knew that if I were in Mr. Seniora's shoes, who was still at the podium, I would have called my armed forces that very second and declared war.

But a few moments later, I paused and was shocked at my own reaction more than anything else. I realized how emotions can make you irrational, vulnerable and easily manipulated. I have never been pro-war and never will be. Interestingly, almost all the people in that hall shared my view. After all, we are all here in Kuwait supporting the moderates, not in Qatar with those I would describe as the radicals. Yet why were we so moved by these words? Quite simply, because we are all Arabs, and every true Arab with no exception, likes to hear these speeches. We all like to think of ourselves as strong and able to fight back aggressors, and defend our brothers and sisters all over the world.

But then again, we have to be realistic. That's the difference between some leaders and the rest of us.

What have the radicals accomplished?

Being realistic means we have to accept the fact that Israel exists and will continue to exist. The problem with Iran and its proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah, is that they do not want to accept this geopolitical fact. They undoubtedly know that Israel will never disappear, but they have to keep claiming that to score points with their own people, and with people in other countries to get them to turn against their own leaders who do not share their vision.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, mentioned more than three years ago and repeatedly afterwards that Israel should be wiped off the map. No one can deny the fact that he gained the admiration of many in the Arab world, but again we should pause and think twice. If he's really sincere, why didn't he even try to live up to his promise? What better opportunity than the current attack on Gaza? While Israel was at war with Hamas, Hezbollah could have started another war in the north; even better, the US is involved in two different wars €" both rejected by the majority of Americans €" and facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

So what is Mr. Ahmadinejad waiting for? Another 70 years for such an opportunity to come again? Or maybe to win the elections in June and try in the next term? The fact is that he never intended to go to war or to wipe Israel off the map. The West should have never taken him seriously; and more importantly the Arab people should never allow such empty rhetoric to manipulate them.

Now after four years in power, what has Mr. Ahmadinejad accomplished? The poor who elected him in the hopes of a better life are poorer, and the rich who can help provide a better life for the poor are also poorer. His country is isolated from the world due to UN sanctions, and according to many analysts Iran's economy is on the verge of collapse if the price of oil, now at \$42 per barrel, remains below \$75. Recent reports have emerged that the popularity of Mr. Khatami €" Iran's moderate ex-president €" is rising through the roof, even without announcing his intention to run in the upcoming elections. All this threat of destruction, for what? Simply to score some cheap points with some empty words.

On the international front, Mr. Ahmadinejad has supported Hamas and Hezbollah with funds and arms. Both groups have engaged in battles with Israel, but what did they accomplish? How many Israelis did they kill? In fact, in many instances they never hesitated to commit the major sin of killing fellow Muslims whenever their authority is challenged, such as in Lebanon in November 2007, when the Lebanese government tried to seize control of its national telecom network from Hezbollah; and in Gaza in July 2008, when Hamas seized control of the city, executing Fatah's soldiers and throwing them off rooftops.

Whether the conflict is with other Arab factions or directly with Israel, the outcome has always been to Israel's advantage while Arab losses total in the thousands of lives and billions of dollars.

### Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism

Those who believe that the Arabs can revive their Golden Age and conquer the world with their swords have to think again. Back then, we only needed faith and bravery to win a war; now wars are operated digitally thousands of miles away from battlefields where neither faith nor bravery are in the equation. In fact, you can lack both and still win a war by the push of a button. The unfortunate reality is that Arabs are trailing in these military technologies by tens of years. Those who believe that if Arabs unite and strike Israel as one, they can wipe Israel off the map also have to think again. Israel itself is not the problem. People seem to forget the Israel's patron, the United States, will never allow it to vanish, and neither will Europe or the UN.

In the 1973 war, Egypt and the Arabs did everything right. Perfectly synchronized attacks from Egypt and Syria were orchestrated; an oil embargo was secretly planned two months before the attack and announced a few days after the war started. When it finally seemed that the Arabs were winning the war, the United States intervened with major re-supplies and within a few days, the balance was back to Israel's advantage. What the Arabs need to understand is that regrettably they cannot prevail over Israel by the use of force, at least not under the current circumstances. History has shown us that Arabs lost land in every war they fought against Israel, and only gained land with peace. There is no shame in that; victories can also be achieved through peace.

### The Moderates

Given Israel's military might and its consistent violation of UN resolutions, one might ask another question: What prevents Israel from wiping Palestine off the map? Is it a fear of Hamas? Or is it Israel's humaneness that prevents it from killing women and children?

In retaliation for a bunch of tin cans thrown at Israel's backyard, the casualty ratio on the last assault on Gaza and Hamas, which involved ground troops, was 1 to 100. That answers my first question. Over 500 of the 1,300 dead Palestinians were women and children, and that answers my second question.

Israel undoubtedly wishes to wipe out Palestinians, exactly the way we Arabs wish Israel never existed. But as strange as it may sound, what is truly deterring Israel is the good relationship between the United States and Arab countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. It's the gas and trade agreements with some Arab countries, and more importantly, it's the Arab-Israeli and Arab-US diplomatic ties that allow Arab countries to sit on negotiating tables and relentlessly negotiate a fair settlement with Israel so that Palestinians can finally live in peace.

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The Arab saying "œthe enemy of my enemy is my friend" should in fact be "œthe friend of my enemy must be my friend, especially when it's the world's most powerful country.€

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On January 9, 2009 the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning Israel. This is probably the first anti-Israeli resolution to pass without a US veto in maybe 35 years. The US abstained. Since 1972, the US had vetoed over 40 UN resolutions condemning Israel. This vote by all counts is considered a great diplomatic victory for Arab countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, who carry enough weight to pressure the US not to veto such a resolution. According to Israeli officials cited in the international media, the US abstention is "œalarming,€ "œdepressing" and "œmight be a turning point in the US-Israeli relationship.€

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Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism

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**Load-Date:** January 29, 2009

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## *Arab leaders: caught between emotionalism and realism*

Daily News Egypt

January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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**Load-Date:** January 29, 2009

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## Readers' views

July 3, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A6

**Length:** 1848 words

### **Body**

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NIMBY syndrome

I would like to respond to the letter last week which was a classic example of how paralysis and policy pigheadedness are produced by paying too much attention to the NIMBY syndrome (Not in my backyard).

The writer likes trees. Well, I for one like trees as well, as do many residents in Bowie. As much as I like trees, however, I do not love the loss of power that every storm that hits Bowie with more than a moment or two of precipitation brings. The writer calls for compromise with BGE, who have been the subject of, er, shall we say intense feelings regarding the loss of power in a town that in no small part is a direct result of too many trees growing over too many power lines.

The writer does not think the No. 13 is the right number of trees that should be taken down or "severely trimmed" on his property under his definition of compromise.

Here is my proposed compromise: Cut down the exact number of trees - no more, no less - all over Bowie (including his property) that are causing, or likely will cause, the power to be lost.

MICHAEL P. MCARDLE

Bowie Stoning incident

There used to be a time, it seems ages ago, when diplomats transacted their nation's business surrounded by pomp and circumstance. Not anymore in today's volatile world.

Michele Sison, who heads the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, was the subject of a stoning incident as she visited a Shiite official opposed to the militant group, Hezbollah. According to press reports, Hezbollah supporters shouted "Death to America," and threw stones at Michele's motorcade.

A Bowie High School Class of 1977 graduate, Michele arrived in Beirut in early February after serving for three years as the U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. She has been interviewed on numerous occasions by Lebanese television and newspapers. She has highlighted the work of an international tribunal tentatively scheduled to begin proceedings this summer. The tribunal is investigating the Feb. 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Press reports have noted that the United States has a financial pledge of \$14 million for the court.

The Washington Times on June 19 noted that the Hezbollah demonstrators surrounded the home of the Shiite official in southern Lebanon who was hosting a lunch for Michele. Reporters estimated the crowd at between 100

## Readers' views

and 200 people. They threw stones at the bullet-proof embassy vehicles. A witness said some stones hit Michele's car as she left the luncheon.

No one was injured in the June 18 confrontation. The Washington Times story also noted that more than a dozen demonstrators, and not everyone in the crowd, threw the stones. Michele managed to get back into her car and continued with her schedule, according to a U.S. State Department spokesman. Hezbollah is on the State Department's terrorist list.

After several months' standoff, Lebanon's parliament has elected a new president, former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Michel Soleiman. Lebanese TV had a parody on the political scene, noting that there were too many male Michels in the country's political life, "at last there is a female Michele."

Michele's nomination as the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon is with the U.S. Senate. Pending confirmation, she heads the embassy in Beirut as charges d'affaires, with the personal rank of ambassador.

PASTOR B. SISON

Bowie

Shelter needed

This is in response to a letter written by Mike Rogers. It is apparent that he does not own a four-legged friend but there are hundreds of families in Bowie that do.

On occasion they have the misfortune of losing one. The feeling of helplessness and desperation that comes over you is overwhelming. I think the community would benefit from having a shelter in Bowie for several reasons. Not only would you have a place to look for your pet but also you would have a place to take strays to.

I can tell you there have been numerous occasions that I have picked up lost animals wandering the streets only to find their owners not aware that they were missing due to a small child letting them out. Bowie seems to be able to find the funds for projects less needed starting with our new police department. Bowie's level of safety has not increased, it still takes 40 minutes or more for a patrol car to respond to a call. If we had a local shelter at least our animals would be safe.

The one thing I do agree with Mr. Rogers on is the fact that the shelter on D'Arcy Road is a disaster. Anyone that has never been there should make a visit to our county's shelter and see the horrendous conditions that animals are forced to endure due to no fault of their own. It is time that we confront Prince George's County and make it accountable for allowing such a health hazard to be called the Humane Society.

I think Mr. Rogers should be the first to volunteer. It's very easy to criticize progress sitting in your own backyard bird watching. Words without works are empty.

LINDA GARCIA

Bowie

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Bowie

Speeding

The mayor asked what can we do about the speeding in Bowie? I have two suggestions:

First, I challenge every citizen of Bowie to do the speed limit on the residential streets. Are the few seconds you would save by speeding worth the risk of hitting a child or causing an accident? Consider, at 30 mph, your vehicle is traveling 44 feet every second. How fast are your reactions? I suggest instead, slow down, de-stress, after all, how far are you going anyway? Take the time to look at the beauty within our city. You'll be amazed at the wonderful job your neighbors have done to keep Bowie the desirable city that it is to live in.

Second, enforcement! I ask Chief Perez to expand the speed enforcement efforts especially during rush hour. Many drivers cut through on the residential streets to avoid the backups on the highways. I suggest speed traps on Tulip Grove Drive, Belair Drive, and Race Track Road for example.

If we, as a city, take a stand and increase the enforcement of our traffic laws, people will slow down. If we, as citizens, do our part at obeying the laws, then that will also be demonstrative of our resolve to make our roads safer for all of us.

SUSAN BECKWELL

Bowie

Broken system

Because the judicial/law enforcement system in Maryland/Prince George's County is sadly lacking, two people are dead. One is a law enforcement officer and the other is a convicted criminal. If the system had worked properly both would be alive and well today. In 2007 Ronnie White pleaded guilty to illegal gun possession. This should have gotten him five years but instead he was on the streets to continue his crime career and kill Officer Richard Finley.

Now Ronnie White is dead at the hands of some unknown while incarcerated in a jail cell. Both of these individuals should be alive today although Ronnie White would be serving his sentence for illegal gun possession. Obviously the system is broken.

The reason there is too much crime on the streets is because there are not enough criminals in jail. If the people of Maryland/Prince George's County continue to put up with this corrupt/deficient system then they deserve no better.

DAVE WARNICK

Bowie I am writing in regard to the article about Rhoda Pollack and an animal shelter in Bowie. I have known Mrs. Pollack for many years and she is also my pet-sitter. She has a passion for animals and is very kind and giving. I feel an animal shelter in Bowie is an excellent idea. I adopted my yellow Lab from the Forestville shelter and he was very ill. He had pneumonia and bronchitis and after thousands of dollars he finally recovered. His illness started as kennel cough that he contracted in the shelter.

I cry every time I go to the D'Arcy Road shelter. Bowie is full of animal lovers, but occasionally our pets do escape. I have picked up several lost animals over the years and have been very lucky to find all of their families. A local

## Readers' views

shelter would be an asset to Bowie in that it would be a place for local families to adopt wonderful pets that need a good home. Also, it would be easier for families to find their lost pets.

We also need an emergency plan for families with pets in case of a disaster. Bowie is a growing community and would only benefit from a shelter. Yes, the D'Arcy Road shelter is in disrepair and outdated and our tax dollars do support it but Prince George's County is a very large county and Bowie is a suitable location for another shelter.

We have voted in a new police force.

The council voted to build a new city hall, (which we do not need), so we could use the old city hall as a shelter and I am sure we could find the needed funds to properly outfit it. I say, let's lobby for a shelter in our community.

KERRI L. MCDANIEL

Bowie

Backs shelter

I read the article written by Jane McHugh on Rhoda Pollack of Bowie. Let me just say that I personally know Rhoda and she does God's work. Rhoda cares for my animals when I am out of town and with the money she earns, she rescues animals that would otherwise be euthanized if captured by animal control. I was appalled to read about the facility in Forestville. Not only does the city of Bowie need its own animal shelter but it should be a no-kill shelter for animals that can be adopted. In a city as prosperous as Bowie, I can find no reason for such merciless treatment of animals.

As you probably know, there are other cities even smaller than Bowie and in Prince George's County, with these types of facilities. I am hoping that you will be doing a follow-up story on this very important issue and share my views with the City Council if you interview them. Bowie needs to re-evaluate its priorities. Thousands of dollars will be spent on Fourth of July fireworks and so my question is: Why isn't the city creating a budget for an animal shelter?

People really have to start caring about the environment and the creatures we share this beautiful earth with. Rhoda is a kind soul who serves as a wonderful model for us all. Thank you for publishing this story on her and her mission to save those who can't save themselves.

GLORIA SUCCI

Bowie

**Load-Date:** July 3, 2008

## *Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 21, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** Hassan Abdo

## **Body**

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Tens of thousands of Shiites made their way down to the Southern city of Nabatiyeh Saturday to partake in the ritual celebrations marking the holy day of Ashura. Literally meaning the tenth day, Ashura commemorates the massacre of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein along with his family during the Battle of Kerbala in 680 AD.

NABATIYEH: Tens of thousands of Shiites made their way down to the Southern city of Nabatiyeh Saturday to partake in the ritual celebrations marking the holy day of Ashura.

Literally meaning the tenth day, Ashura commemorates the massacre of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein along with his family during the Battle of Kerbala in 680 AD.

The streets of Nabatiyeh filled quickly in the early morning hours as massive crowds gathered around the Husseinieh, a Shiite community center, to partake in the rituals of Ashura that are meant to remind all of Hussein's courage and sacrifice.

During the ceremonies men and boys marched through the streets surrounding the Husseinieh rhythmically beating their chests and heads as blood streamed down their faces. Many chanted prayers as they marched while others shouted "Haidar!" - which translates into lion - a nickname given to Hussein's father Ali.

Nabatiyeh is one of the few places in Lebanon that continues the practice of making cuts on the head to symbolize the pain felt over the loss of Hussein.

In the Husseinieh men stood with razor blades tapping the heads of the old and young. Some of the participants were children no more than a year old who were led through the procedure by their parents.

One father by the name of Tarek who led his two young boys into the Husseinieh to receive cuts explained that "this is a tradition that has been carried out for hundreds of years and it is important that my boys continue on with it." The boys expressed no fear in participating in the ritual.

The cutting of the self is a practice that has evolved as a form of repentance by some Shiites who do it to show solidarity with Hussein and his family's pain and persecution.

## Tens of thousands attend Ashura ceremony in Nabatiyeh

However, many Shiites don't partake in cutting or shedding of blood. Some even frown upon it, while others continue to keep with the tradition. **Hizbullah**, the dominant Shiite political party in Lebanon, condemns any act during Ashura that inflicts harm onto the body.

Many of the participants in Nabatiyeh seemed to be more aligned with Amal, as signs and banners with their logo proved to be more prevalent.

The presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies along with other paramedic groups was prevalent Saturday with tents and ambulances set up all around the Husseinieh and its surrounding streets to aid those with wounds.

Ali Basharoush, who directed the Red Cross during this year's commemoration, reported that 110 Red Cross volunteers had been deployed to assist with the crowds.

"We have three camps set up in addition to 10 ambulances and our volunteers are not only working those stations but following along in the parade in case anything happens," explained Basharoush.

"Considering my past experience directing Ashura in Nabatiyeh, I am expecting approximately 1,300 people to come through our camps today for treatment," said Basharoush.

In addition to the parades, Nabatiyeh is also well known for the theatrical re-enactment of the Battle of Karbala that is performed during the commemoration every year.

Hussam Sabbah, who was the director of this year's play, explained that preparations had been under way for months.

"We started planning one month after the last year's Ashura commemoration, working with over 100 actors from Nabatiyeh and its neighboring villages," he said. "Every year we look to further improve the quality of the play and enhance the effects and I feel that this year's performance will stand."

The stadium across from the Husseinieh filled with a sea of black veils as an audience of mostly **women** filled the arena to watch the play.

"The play is the highlight of the event for me. I love watching the play because it depicts what Ashura means and what it is," said Zahra, 24, who makes the annual trip down to Nabatiyeh from Beirut every year specifically for the play.

"Ashura is emphasized not because religion is taken seriously. It's emphasized because the belief is that this was the moment in history of Muslims when the justice fought the injustice, when the brave and justice stood against tyranny and injustice. Hussein is seen as a martyr for the prevailing of justice for humanity," Zahra adds.

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2008



## *Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran*

The Jerusalem Post

January 29, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** BENJAMIN WEINTHAL

### **Body**

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BERLIN - While German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Germany's Federal Parliament commemorated the victims of the Nazi regime on Holocaust Remembrance Day, and an expert international forum debated ways of combating anti-Semitism, a non-governmental German organization shone an uncomfortable spotlight on German-Iranian relations during a two-day conference last weekend at Humboldt University in Berlin entitled "The West and the Iranian War Against Israel."

The Coalition Against Appeasement argues that Germany in particular, and Europe in general, are contributing to a dangerously "cooperative approach to the mullahs" at the expense of the security of Israel and the entire Middle East.

"We want to make a point that Iran remains a threat. Iran has already set in motion its war against Israel and the West through its support for Hamas and Hizbullah. The publication of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report does not diminish the threat," Tobias Ebbrecht, a spokesman for the coalition, told The Jerusalem Post.

The NIE report asserts that Iran discontinued its nuclear weapons program in 2003. Israeli intelligence believes Iran continues to enrich uranium for a nuclear bomb.

The conference, which began on Friday and ran through Saturday evening, focused on German and European political, economic and cultural support of Iran's regime while ignoring its widespread human rights violations. Political scientist Alexander Gruber noted that the most dramatic wave of executions in Iran since 1984, when then-ayatollah Ali Khomeini ordered the deaths of thousands of imprisoned political opponents, was currently unfolding. Gruber also highlighted the persecution and murders of homosexuals and members of religious minorities in Iran.

A number of Iranian exiles, including the Iranian Green Party's European speaker, Kazem Moussavi, addressed the radical anti-Zionism of the Iranian regime, which, he stressed, could not be divorced from anti-Semitism.

The persecution of Iranian women was also a key topic of the conference. Fathiyeh Naghibzadeh, who fled Iran in 1985 and now lives in Germany, spoke about the situation of the nation's women. In February, she is scheduled to screen her documentary film Head Scarf As System, about the head scarf as a form of female oppression in Iran, in Israel.

German-Iranian conferences generally focus on either promoting business relations between the two nations or cultural exchange. Germany remains Iran's most important European Union trading partner, and Germany's import trade from Iran increased 50 percent this past year.

## Parley warns against 'appeasing' Iran

Moussavi closed the conference with a demand that "the global community and Iranian opposition stand firmly on the side of the Israelis and their country" and appealed for an end to the flourishing trade relationship between Europe and Iran.

The increasing cultural exchanges between Germany and Iran were both the topic of a panel discussion and a cause for protest. Following the final panel, roughly 50 conference participants walked to one of Berlin's most famous theaters, the Berliner Ensemble near Berlin's government quarter, and distributed flyers against the decision of theater director Claus Peymann to travel to Iran on February 11 and stage Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage And Her Children*.

Protesters claimed Peymann's theater group legitimized the anti-Semitism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his regime. Journalist Tjark Kunstreich stated that Peymann - who commented in a television interview that "Bush and Sharon have brought darkness" - "would rather travel to Teheran than Tel Aviv."

Berliner Ensemble spokeswoman Laura Diehl declined to answer several telephone queries. However, the theater forward an e-mail to the Post, stating that the troupe would perform between February 12 and 14th at the Vahdat Hall in Teheran.

The Berliner Ensemble theater is heavily subsidized by the Berlin state government, and its repertoire includes a drama based on the diary of Anne Frank. The theater also commemorates Berlin's Jews who were deported during the Holocaust.

Demonstrators questioned the Berliner Ensemble's solidarity with "dead Jews," saying this tradition was at odds with the theater's focus on a regime "which plans a continued mass murder" of Jews. A representative of the theater, who refused to be named, told the protesters that the performance of *Mother Courage* was "a sign of solidarity with Iranian artists."

Hermann Pegg, a visitor from Vienna, said that he thought "it's good that [the planned performance is] not just being accepted." In contrast, Alexandra Taket of Berlin said that "art is independent" from political situations.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *Turkey moves to lift campus scarf ban*

The International Herald Tribune

February 11, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 382 words

**Byline:** Sabrina Tavernise - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** ISTANBUL

### **Body**

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The Turkish Parliament has taken a major step toward lifting a ban against women's head scarves at universities, setting the stage for a final showdown with the country's secular elite over where Islam fits in the building of an open society.

Turkish lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Saturday in favor of a measure supported by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to change the Turkish Constitution in a way they say would guarantee all citizens the right to go to college regardless of how they dress.

The Turkish authorities imposed the ban in the late 1990s, arguing that the growing number of covered women in colleges threatened secularism, a founding principle of modern Turkey.

Secular opposition lawmakers voted against the change, with about a fifth of all votes cast. Crowds of secular Turks backed them on the streets of the Turkish capital, Ankara, chanting that secularism - and women's right to resist being forced to wear head scarves by family members or the religious authorities - was under threat and demanding that the government step down.

"This decision will bring further pressure on women," said Nesrin Baytok, a deputy from the opposition secular party, during the debate in Parliament. "It will ultimately bring us Hezbollah terror, Al Qaeda terror and fundamentalism."

Another deputy from that party, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, said the group would take the amendments to the Constitutional Court, a pro-secular institution that is likely to rule against Erdogan. That process must wait until the changes are approved by the president and published in the official state newspaper, which could take two weeks.

The head scarf ban, and the push to repeal it by Erdogan's governing party, has become one of the most emotional issues in Turkey. It pits a rising, increasingly wealthy middle class of observant Turks against a secular elite backed by the military and the judiciary.

"It's all about power," said Jenny White, a professor of anthropology at Boston University. "It's about who gets to decide what Turkey's image and emblematic lifestyle will be. Islam is the lightning rod for all the fears and concerns." Many secular Turks are concerned that Erdogan's Justice and Development Party will impose its own conservative values on Turkey.

Turkey moves to lift campus scarf ban

Sebnem Arsu contributed reporting.

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2008

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## WAR STORIES

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

December 9, 2007 Sunday

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**Section:** LATITUDES; Pg. 9L

**Length:** 369 words

**Byline:** Edward B. Colby

**Series:** Special to the Times

### **Body**

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In the Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars is as ambitious and unsparing a book as its title suggests - a text distillation of the multimedia reporting Kevin Sites produced from war zones around the world as Yahoo!'s first news correspondent. - A television journalist and veteran war correspondent, Sites left the world of Brokaw and Jennings in 2005 to join "the realm of companies whose names sound more like baby noises than words." Rare instances of humor aside (a "missed moment" with the Dalai Lama among them), this is a sobering experience.

Sites covers Iraq, Afghanistan and the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, but he focuses on the smaller tales that "put a human face on global conflict."

He profiles two young women, one Israeli, one Palestinian, who were physically maimed by that conflict, yet remain hopeful. He recounts the story of Gulsoma, an Afghan child bride who survived barbaric treatment by her father-in-law's family. And he meets a 25-year-old Congolese woman who, in two horrific incidents seven years apart, saw her two children and then her husband killed. She was raped both times.

In the Hot Zone draws attention to some more obscure global conflicts, from the carpet-bombed ruins of Grozny, Chechnya, to Uganda, home of the child-snatching Lord's Resistance Army. But it is really a personal journey, as Sites wrestles with his anguish over not helping a mortally wounded Iraqi man in Fallujah, for example.

The book comes with a DVD, A World of Conflict, a documentary that proves even more stark and affecting. Though Sites juggled news gathering in several media for the Hot Zone project, his primary talent still clearly lies in video reporting.

While in Colombia, Sites reflects on "wading chin-deep into the misfortune of others," writing, "Each profile I do hollows me out with its consistent thread of suffering."

And as Sites worries, that thread - endless stories of war-inflected pain and misery - eventually becomes numbing for readers as well. In the Hot Zone is most effective when read in small chunks.

Edward B. Colby is a journalist in the Boston area.

In the Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars

By Kevin Sites

## WAR STORIES

Harper Perennial, 368 pages, \$15.95

hotzone.yahoo.com

### Graphic

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PHOTO: In the Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars, By Kevin Sites

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2007

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## *Hurting into the darkness*

Weekend Australian

June 16, 2007 Saturday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Inquirer; Pg. 23

**Length:** 1463 words

**Byline:** GREG SHERIDAN FOREIGN EDITOR

### **Body**

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MATP

What we have seen in Gaza is radical Islamist extremism eating radical secular extremism

THE Palestinian civil war, in which the Islamist outfit Hamas has now taken control from Fatah of all of the Gaza Strip, is first a tragedy for the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territories. The fighting has been as cruel as anything seen in the Middle East.

**Women** and children have been gunned down trying to get to hospital. Opponents have been bound and gagged and thrown from the tops of buildings.

In one widely reported incident, Jamal Abu al-Jadian, a senior Fatah leader, dressed as a woman to escape his home. But when he went, wounded by gunfire nonetheless, to a nearby hospital, a group of Hamas gunmen discovered him and shot him through the head more than 40 times.

Since the election victory of Hamas last year in the occupied territories -- Gaza and the West Bank -- something in the order of 700 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians in factional fighting.

But tragedy aside, the Hamas victory in Gaza represents a new strategic reality in the Middle East. It is a profound strategic change and it is emblematic of a broader dynamic throughout the region.

What we have seen in Gaza is radical Islamist extremism eating radical secular extremism. Moderation and democracy have not been on the playing field for a long time.

No one should be in any doubt about what Hamas is or what it represents. It is a terrorist organisation backed by Iran and Syria, dedicated to the destruction of Israel and wider opposition to the West. Its manifesto is a hate-filled document. Its propaganda is frequently anti-Semitic. Its Islamist agenda is unambiguous. It is a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, the fountainhead extremist Islamist organisation in the Middle East. It has closed down bars and restaurants and the like throughout Gaza because they do not conform to Hamas's Islamist identity.

The Hamas victory follows a pattern we can see in many parts of the Middle East, and in some other parts of the Islamic world. Overtly, Islamist extremism is the only ideology left standing.

### Hurting into the darkness

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, of which Fatah is part, was for long a terrorist organisation that conceded only at the end of the 1980s, in a tenuous way, that Israel had any right to exist.

It pioneered much of modern international terrorism. But it was a broadly secular movement. In the '70s the PLO was widely supported by Western Marxists and it had a secular nationalist agenda, although it never had a democratic agenda that it believed in.

Arab secular nationalism is now dying all over the Arab world and it is being replaced by millenarian Islamism.

Every recipe, every received opinion about the Middle East is contradicted by the Hamas victory, and indeed by the trend of events in recent years.

It is as near to a universal truism of the international diplomatic community as there can be that the problems of the Middle East are all ultimately caused by, or at least mostly caused by, Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Yet look now at the history of Israeli withdrawals in recent years and see where they have led.

Several years ago Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon. The most morally compromising aspect of this withdrawal was that it left many of Israel's Lebanese allies, especially those associated with the South Lebanon Army, open to terrible retribution.

But the longer term strategic consequence was the emergence of Hezbollah as a powerful military and political force, which now threatens the Lebanese Government.

Broader trends in Lebanon are equally disturbing. An al-Qa'ida backed militant group has challenged the Lebanese army in fierce military clashes in Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon, opening a new front for al-Qa'ida in the Middle East.

Apparently Syrian-backed assassins are murdering Lebanese politicians who are opposed to Syrian influence one by one. The pro-Syrian Lebanese President, Emile Lahoud, is increasingly relying on Hezbollah, which stands a good chance of dominating and perhaps formally leading a Lebanese government in due course.

Similarly, the Israelis withdrew from all of Gaza in 2005. Gaza was to be the showpiece of Palestinian self-rule and democracy. Now the occupied territories have been shattered and divided into two. Gaza is now effectively Hamastan.

The West Bank is run by Fatah under the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.

But this bland statement in truth overestimates Fatah's strength. Fatah's domination of the West Bank is only really sustainable because the West Bank remains under Israeli military occupation.

Fatah has been competing with Hamas over claiming an Islamist identity. Fatah will presumably cling to power in the West Bank by whatever means are necessary, including tactical accommodations with Israel, but the sap of extremism rises in the West Bank

as well.

While the genuine grassroots support for the extremist Islamist ideology is perhaps the single most disturbing feature of the situation today, the role of outside powers is a close number two. Iran and Syria are delighted at the turn events have taken.

Western realists believe a grand bargain awaits the US with Iran. But Iran can look out at the broader Middle East delighted at what it sees. The US is bogged down and bleeding in Iraq. President George W. Bush, who once terrified the mullahs in Tehran, now looks enfeebled and embattled on all sides. Iran's nuclear program is proceeding effectively unchallenged with a huge increase in centrifuge numbers, a clear precursor to nuclear weapons.



## Hurtling into the darkness

Iran's proxies everywhere are flowering. Iran has sponsored Shia as well as Sunni terrorism in Iraq. It has manufactured the explosively formed projectiles used increasingly in improvised explosive devices, which are causing dreadful casualties among US troops and Iraqi civilians.

All the realists, from Washington to Brussels, from New York to the Australian National University, can suggest is that the US hold talks with Iran. Tehran is delighted with this prospect. It can play around with talks forever while it pursues its deeper strategic aims at home and abroad. Its role in the Gaza Strip should not be discounted.

The efforts of Syria and Iran in Iraq, Lebanon and the occupied territories demonstrate the way terrorism has become a strategic weapon and shows the folly of local analysts who believe that terrorism cannot be a threat to the international system.

After 60 years, Israel's neighbours, and especially its antagonists, have worked out that you cannot beat Israel with armies and air forces. No Arab power, nor Iran, will oppose Israel militarily. That way lies defeat, along the lines of 1948, 1967, 1973.

The enemies of the US have worked out the same truth. No nation, except Saddam Hussein's Iraq and the Taliban's Afghanistan, is suicidal enough to take on the Americans force on force.

Any army that marches against the US will be defeated in weeks, any air force in days, any navy in hours. But there are other ways to hurt the US, and to hurt it strategically.

China discovered this in years gone by and proliferated nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan to hurt India, and to the Middle East to hurt the US.

That is an example of one state going over the forces of the US to hurt it militarily and strategically. Now terrorism offers a new strategic weapon, a way to go below the forces of the US.

Iran and Syria and others can reach out through the sponsorship of terrorism to hurt the US and Israel and other allies and interests of the US throughout the Middle East and indeed throughout the world.

And where they can do this on the back of terrorist movements such as Hamas or Hezbollah, which have some genuine grassroots support, their connection can be more easily denied, greater distance between the state sponsor and the terrorist acts can be established.

But in any event at this stage in the US electoral cycle, and with Bush weakened, the state sponsors of terror calculate that the chance of any meaningful US retaliation is small.

And the extreme increase in lethality of weapons readily available to terrorists, from IEDs to anti-tank missiles, means any military confrontation with terrorists is militarily costly as well as politically fraught.

Hamas will now likely consolidate its rule in Gaza, murdering its opponents, perhaps seeking a period of relative peace, but all the time intensifying the arms trade across the Egyptian border.

Then there will be longer range rockets to fire at bigger concentrations of Israeli population across the border, forcing the Israelis once more into retaliation which, no matter what the justification, will once more cost them international support and help to further radicalise the Muslim population.

These are dark days in the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2007

## *The Gaza domino has fallen*

Weekend Australian

June 16, 2007 Saturday

All-round First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Inquirer; Pg. 23

**Length:** 1463 words

**Byline:** GREG SHERIDAN, FOREIGN EDITOR

### **Body**

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The enemies of the US have worked out the same truth. No nation, except Saddam Hussein's Iraq and the Taliban's Afghanistan, is suicidal enough to take on the Americans force on force.

Any army that marches against the US will be defeated in weeks, any air force in days, any navy in hours. But there are other ways to hurt the US, and to hurt it strategically.

China discovered this in years gone by and proliferated nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan to hurt India, and to the Middle East to hurt the US.

That is an example of one state going over the forces of the US to hurt it militarily and strategically. Now terrorism offers a new strategic weapon, a way to go below the forces of the US.

Iran and Syria and others can reach out through the sponsorship of terrorism to hurt the US and Israel and other allies and interests of the US throughout the Middle East and indeed throughout the world.

And where they can do this on the back of terrorist movements such as Hamas or Hezbollah, which have some genuine grassroots support, their connection can be more easily denied, greater distance between the state sponsor and the terrorist acts can be established.

But in any event at this stage in the US electoral cycle, and with Bush weakened, the state sponsors of terror calculate that the chance of any meaningful US retaliation is small.

And the extreme increase in lethality of weapons readily available to terrorists, from IEDs to anti-tank missiles, means any military confrontation with terrorists is militarily costly as well as politically fraught.

Hamas will now likely consolidate its rule in Gaza, murdering its opponents, perhaps seeking a period of relative peace, but all the time intensifying the arms trade across the Egyptian border.

Then there will be longer range rockets to fire at bigger concentrations of Israeli population across the border, forcing the Israelis once more into retaliation which, no matter what the justification, will once more cost them international support and help to further radicalise the Muslim population.

These are dark days in the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2007

## WORLD IN BRIEF

The Evening Standard (London)

June 30, 2008 Monday

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# London Evening Standard

Section: A; Pg. 28

Length: 384 words

## Body

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War crimes suspect pleads for release THE former foreign minister of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime appeared at a genocide tribunal today to press for his release from pre-trial detention. Ieng Sary, 82, is charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. His wife Ieng Thirith, 76, and three others are also being held. About 1.7 million people died during the regime's rule from 1975 to 1979.

Guards foil woman suicide bomber IRAQI guards opened fire on a suicide bomber, triggering her explosives belt and foiling the latest of more than 20 suicide missions by women this year. The bomber was targeting the headquarters of an awakening council Sunni volunteers who have turned against insurgents about 60 miles north-east of Baghdad yesterday. One guard was hurt.

Rivals claim victory in Mongolian poll THE two main political parties in Mongolia were both hopeful of victory in the general election today. The Mongolian Peoples Revolutionary Party said it had done well in rural areas. But the Democratic Party was confident that votes in the capital Ulan Bator would swing it for them, with a spokesman saying: The race is very tight.

Israel swaps prisoners for soldiers' bodies ISRAEL has agreed to hand five Lebanese prisoners back to Hezbollah in return for the bodies of the two soldiers whose kidnap sparked a war between the two countries in 2006. President Ehud Olmert's cabinet yesterday backed the deal by 22 to three. Samir Kantar, one of the men due to be freed, killed an Israeli girl, four, her father and a policeman.

Computer control at the tip of the tongue A MAGNET the size of a grain of rice implanted under the tongue can allow people with severe spinal injuries to control a computer cursor or steer a powered wheelchair. Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology showed a Washington conference their headset with magnetic field sensors which detects movements of the tongue and transmits wireless signals.

Girl cyclist, 14, mauled by bear during race A GIRL was attacked by a bear as she took part in a 24-hour mountain bike race in Alaska. The 14-year-old is fighting for her life after she was jumped on in the dark at 1.30am yesterday.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

in Bicentennial Park near Anchorage. She made an emergency call on her mobile but was only able to whisper bear. Another rider found her.

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

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End of Document

## *Land of milk and caviar: Israeli fish farm nets millions*

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

September 28, 2008 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** BUSINESS; Pg. 42

**Length:** 346 words

**Byline:** KIBBUTZ DAN, Israel

### **Body**

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THOUSANDS of kilometres from the Caspian Sea, Israel is cashing in on a global caviar crisis, gearing up to export tonnes of the costly roe from farm-raised sturgeon.

It may not be quite kosher - depending on who you ask - but there is a huge international demand for the gourmet treat.

"This is top quality," says Yigal Ben Tzvi, managing director of Caviar Galilee, holding up a blue tin of "Made in Israel" sturgeon eggs, which he says caviar giant Petrossian buys wholesale at \$US2800 (\$A3370) a kilogram.

In the past, the Caspian Sea was the world's main source of the coveted delicacy, but overfishing and pollution have led to dwindling yields in the region, triggering a grave caviar crisis.

Israel is making a name for itself in the lucrative market by farming Osetra sturgeon at Kibbutz Dan in the north of the country, just a stone's throw from positions of the Hezbollah Shiite militia in southern Lebanon.

To date, Caviar Galilee's limited production has earned praise from connoisseurs and orders from top retailers.

Pay-off time is just weeks away, says Mr Ben Tzvi, when he expects to harvest three tonnes of caviar from 7000 females born in Israel of eggs imported from the Caspian Sea.

Staff at Kibbutz Dan are already checking on the money-makers, inserting a special instrument to extract a few eggs from the fish in order to determine their size and quality.

Each of the females carries an average of two kilograms, which could bring in as much as \$US7.7 million (\$9.3 million).

The business began with the idea of raising a fish destined specifically for the sizeable Russian-Israeli population.

"Then in 2003, caviar prices skyrocketed so we decided to get into this business," Mr Ben Tzvi said.

But is it kosher? Most rabbis say sturgeon are not because the fish has no scales, which makes it forbidden under Jewish dietary laws.

## Land of milk and caviar: Israeli fish farm nets millions

Hebrew University scientist Berta Levavi-Sivan, who has participated in the sturgeon-rearing project, begs to differ, insisting that magnification will reveal that the fish do indeed have tiny scales.

"If you ask me, it's kosher," he said.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Cash crop ... Caviar Galilee's Yigal Ben Tzvi. Photo: AFP

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2008

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End of Document



## *Unity Fractures As Palestinians Battle in Gaza*

The New York Times

May 17, 2007 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 5; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1375 words

**Byline:** By STEVEN ERLANGER; Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Aqaba, Jordan, and Rina Castelnovo from Sderot, Israel.

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, May 16

### **Body**

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Gaza City was shuttered on Wednesday as gunmen took over rooftops and top-floor apartments. Most everyone else huddled fearfully indoors on the fourth day of factional Palestinian fighting that is drawing in the Israeli military.

At least 19 Palestinians were killed on Wednesday -- more than 40 have been killed over the past four days -- in fighting between Fatah and Hamas as their unity government fractures and rage rises on both sides.

"We want this to end, because what's happening endangers not just the unity government, but the Palestinian nation and cause," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian negotiator and an aide to President Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas attacked symbols of Fatah power in Gaza, including the home of the chief security commander. He was not there, but six bodyguards were killed.

Israel carried out a helicopter assault on a Hamas command center in the southern Gazan town of Rafah, killing at least four Hamas men and wounding at least 30, 5 of them seriously. It was retaliation for dozens of rockets launched from Gaza by Hamas militants at the Israeli town of Sderot where two women were wounded, one seriously.

The increase in Hamas attacks, perhaps intended to prompt Israeli retaliation that could reunify Palestinians, presented a political problem for Israel, under pressure to respond but conscious of the limited efficiency of military force to stop rocket fire.

Last summer, facing a similar situation with the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, Israel retaliated with weeks of heavy air raids, artillery and thousands of troops. But rocket fire from Hezbollah did not stop, and Israel's attacks ended up strengthening Hezbollah and weakening the Lebanese government Israel hoped to strengthen. The same could happen in Gaza, where Israel hopes Fatah will prevail.

Late Wednesday, the Israeli government announced an end to its moratorium on assassinations of Palestinian guerrilla leaders in Gaza as part of what it called a "severe and harsh" response to the rockets. But it said it would not let the Hamas militants who were launching rockets set the agenda.

## Unity Fractures As Palestinians Battle in Gaza

"Israel is not going to be dragged into the Gaza Strip the way that Hamas wants," said Miri Eisin, spokeswoman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. "We will choose the time and place to respond. The price of any operation must be measured in terms of how effective it would be in stopping rocket fire, and the cost in life on both sides, and what it would do to Gilad Shalit," the Israeli corporal held captive in Gaza since June.

On Wednesday evening, the Israeli military hit a car with Hamas militants that Israel said were on their way to launch rockets; at least one man was killed, bringing the total to 24 dead -- 19 from infighting, 5 from Israeli attacks. A Fatah spokesman, Abdel Hakim Awad, said Hamas leaders "want to turn Gaza into a new Somalia or Darfur."

After another day of fierce hit-and-run fighting, Hamas declared a unilateral cease-fire on Wednesday night. But a few hours later, the shootings continued, with three Palestinians, including two from Fatah, killed in gun battles.

At dawn on Wednesday, after a mortar attack, 200 armed men of the Hamas military wing occupied the house of a senior Fatah commander, Gen. Rashid Abu Shbak, who controls three main security services. General Shbak and his family were not at home -- most senior factional leaders are not living at home these days in Gaza -- but six of his bodyguards were shot dead, and part of the lavish house was set on fire.

Reached by telephone, General Shbak said, "After what has happened, the options are becoming very tough." Hamas fighters, he said, "are killing in cold blood and they are executing people, and this has exceeded all limits."

Mr. Abbas was said to be planning a meeting on Thursday in Gaza with the Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniya.

Islam Shahwan, a spokesman for the Hamas-dominated Executive Force, which had largely stayed out of the fighting in favor of the Hamas military wing, known as the Qassam Brigades, said that after Wednesday's attacks "we have decided to deploy." He added: "We're in a state of alert. After being silent and letting the Qassam Brigades confront Fatah, we have decided to respond with all our power."

The fighting on Wednesday was largely limited to Gaza City, and included bursts of extraordinary violence.

Hamas gunmen ambushed a police jeep containing their own fighters, who had been arrested by Fatah's Preventive Security forces. The Hamas fighters killed two Fatah men as well as five of their own men.

Fatah retaliated by attacking a position of Hamas's Executive Force, a parallel police force, killing four men. Another Fatah attack on the Executive Force prompted the Hamas men to take shelter in an apartment building, where they gathered the residents into the basement as Fatah forces surrounded the structure and shouted for revenge. The Fatah forces fired rocket-propelled grenades into the building of the Anour Tower and set it on fire.

Two hospitals in Gaza City counted the dead. Scores were wounded.

About 200 Gaza residents tried to demonstrate for calm, marching in the center of Gaza City with Palestinian flags. But masked gunmen used the diversion to move toward different positions, and in the gunfire that followed, one demonstrator was wounded and the others fled.

Hamas's military wing took responsibility for launching many of the Qassam rockets toward Israel, especially on Tuesday, which Palestinians marked in their calendar as the Nakba, or Catastrophe, when Israel declared independence in 1948. Hamas's rockets are more accurate than those of other groups, and rockets hit homes in Sderot, including one next to the house of the Israeli defense minister, Amir Peretz.

Mr. Peretz's wife, Ahlama, was seen running for shelter from her jeep and shouting at journalists to take cover.

Anat Roytero, 46, said she was sending her seven children out of the city to her father's house in Gedera, near Tel Aviv. "We can't rely on the prime minister, we can't rely on the defense minister, and the army's hands are tied," she said. Pointing to her daughter, Shirtal, 11, Mrs. Roytero said: "The kids are too frightened. I have to send them away so they can sleep at night."

## Unity Fractures As Palestinians Battle in Gaza

On Wednesday evening, a Qassam rocket managed to hit an electrical transformer, knocking out power to the town of about 24,000 people.

Hamas's open admission of responsibility for the rocket attacks prompted Israel's retaliation, leading some to suggest that Hamas was trying to draw Israel into the fight to take attention away from the intra-Palestinian bloodletting and provide a pretext for unity.

The Israeli airstrike raised the prospect of harsher military actions to stop the rockets, with options ranging from temporary raids to the establishment of a sort of buffer zone in northern Gaza, where the rockets are fired. But there is little appetite in Israel for a major operation in Gaza, which would take weeks and cause significant casualties.

Although the rockets coming into Israel have rarely stopped, Israel has generally not carried out military actions inside Gaza since an often-violated cease-fire was announced in November. Wednesday's violence followed another agreement on an intra-Palestinian cease-fire late Tuesday night, which was almost immediately broken.

A Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, said Fatah had violated the agreement first by firing on an Egyptian delegation, which was accompanied by members of the Palestinian government, as the group was touring the city to check on compliance. One Egyptian diplomat was lightly wounded. "They shot more than 100 bullets at them, despite coordination with them in advance," Mr. Barhoum said.

Jibril Rajoub of Fatah, the former Palestinian security chief in the West Bank, said that Mr. Abbas had made a mistake by appointing Muhammad Dahlan, the former security chief in Gaza, who is hated by Hamas, as his national security adviser immediately after the formation of the unity government.

Mr. Abbas should have "tried to make Hamas feel more comfortable," Mr. Rajoub said. He said he had urged Mr. Abbas to replace General Shbak, who is closely allied to Mr. Dahlan, for the same reason.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: Palestinians gathered at the site where an Israeli missile struck a building yesterday in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said the attack was an act of retaliation, noting that Hamas militants have launched dozens of rockets from Gaza at the Israeli town of Sderot. (Photo by Getty Images)

A father hugged his son yesterday after a rocket landed near their home in Sderot. Some homes in the town were hit by the Hamas barrage. (Photo by Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)(pg. A12)

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2007

## *Peres, Barak run for top jobs*

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; International News; Pg. 10

**Length:** 346 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Middle East Correspondent, Jerusalem

### **Body**

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TWO former Israeli prime ministers are hoping to redeem past failures this week in a key primary for the Labour Party leadership and a Knesset vote to select the country's next president.

Former prime minister, general and military chief of staff Ehud Barak is today contesting the run-off in Labour Party primaries against Ami Ayalon, a former admiral and chief of the Shin Bet security agency.

Meanwhile Shimon Peres, 1994 Nobel Peace Prize winner, father of Israel's secret nuclear weapons program and the sole political survivor from Israel's founding era, is seeking to become Israel's next head of state.

The current president, Moshe Katsav, is due to stand down in July, when he faces possible indictment on a number of charges of sexual assault and rape against women in his employ.

Himself a former Labour leader and three-time prime minister, Mr Peres defected in 2005 to the centrist Kadima Party then led by prime minister and former general Ariel Sharon.

Mr Peres is now running for the presidency as the official candidate of Mr Sharon's successor, Ehud Olmert, and claims to have canvassed broad support in the Knesset for tomorrow's vote. A victory for Mr Peres would force the great survivor to abandon active politics for what has traditionally been a figurehead role.

Today's Labour primary run-off between Mr Barak and Mr Ayalon could have serious implications for Mr Olmert's survival as leader of a coalition government in which Labour is the second biggest partner after Kadima.

Both candidates, who are running neck-and-neck in the polls, have hinted that they would refuse to serve under Mr Olmert, whose reputation nose-dived - along with that of outgoing Labour leader and defence minister Amir Peretz - following last year's failed war to stamp out the Hezbollah guerilla movement in Lebanon.

But both prospective Labour leaders have left themselves room to manoeuvre, and Mr Olmert's camp was yesterday signalling that it will try to tempt the victor to keep Labour in government by offering him his choice of the prestigious defence or finance portfolios.

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2007

Peres, Barak run for top jobs

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The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Load-Date:** July 3, 2007

Peres, Barak run for top jobs

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## *It's too easy just to blame Jews*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 12, 2009 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Opinion; Pg. 9

**Length:** 965 words

**Byline:** PAUL SHEEHAN

### **Body**

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'American Jews are not authentic. They're obsessed with money. There's something annoying about them.' This comment, from a Jewish reporter, Danny Ababa, for Israel's largest-selling daily, Yediot Aharonot, was published last November 21, while I happened to be in Israel. Not surprisingly, it caused consternation, especially among the American Jews attending an international assembly in Jerusalem.

On the same day, there was a report of physical violence between competing factions within the ultra-orthodox Jewish communities in Jerusalem. At the same time, ultra-nationalist Jews were preparing for a siege against the Israeli Defence Forces over their occupation of an illegal Jewish settlement in Hebron in the Palestinian territories.

When it comes to the morality of Israel's behaviour, no community is more fiercely divided, or vocal, or politically fractionalised than the Jewish community itself. Israel is special, and it inspires passions out of all proportion to its size given that the total number of Jews worldwide is about 13 million, or 0.2 per cent of the world's population.

This applies doubly to anti-Jewish sentiment, which is being carried by the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. Look no further than the demonstration in Melbourne eight days ago. Amid demonstrators protesting against the Israeli attacks on Gaza were those carrying signs that said: "Clean the Earth from the dirty Zionists" . . . "Chosen dirty people of the Earth" . . . "Stop the sub-human Zionist land-grabbing barbarian mass murder in occupied Palestine".

Then there was the young man with an Australian accent, interviewed by the BBC in Beirut last week, during a demonstration against Israel's actions in Gaza: "I'm an Australian, but I'm here to kill Jews."

Kill Jews. Dirty People. Sub-human. Mass murderers. Greedy.

The passions run deep and viscerally. After 60 years of conflict without end over the borders of Israel, since 1948, the intellectual and moral terrain is filled with ruts, trenches and no-go areas. On both sides minds snap shut at the first hint of sympathy for the enemy.

When I visited a Palestinian refugee camp in November, the Aida camp on the West Bank, near Bethlehem, I was escorted around by a charming 16-year-old, Mohammed, who wants to become a doctor. He is a third-generation refugee. When I asked if he had ever visited Israel, he replied: "Yes, I have been to occupied Palestine." (Where was the term "occupied Palestine" when the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza were an ethnic majority living under the rule of an ethnic minority, the Hashemites of Jordan, for 20 years until 1967?)



### It's too easy just to blame Jews

Even in Sydney, negative stereotypes of Jews sit quietly below the surface: the gaudy Hungarians of Double Bay, the haughty South Africans who left as soon as the blacks took over, the Zionist billionaires Frank Lowy and Dick Pratt, the divided loyalties of the orthodox Jews. It's not hard to scratch a Jewish itch in Lakemba, Punchbowl, Bankstown or Auburn.

The idea of disproportionate Jewish power and success is an unspoken emotional subtext that puts so much heat and resentment into the Israel-Palestine debate. It is not just geography and history and morality. Then action begets reaction. Complaints have come into the Herald from outraged Jews: your coverage is biased against Israel. It is insulting. Expect consequences. We will boycott your paper. You will feel our power.

Because the existence of Israel radiates an affront to the Muslim world, only Palestinians have been sequestered from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to a special agency. That agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, has warehoused displaced Palestinians for decades because it has been in the interests of the Arab world for this problem not to be solved.

Gaza has become a giant warehouse of misery. It has no economic growth, no prospects, almost no civil order, yet about half the population is under the age of 17. The population has exploded amid economic privation. Women, living under Sharia law, are used primarily as breeding stock. When Nizar Rayan, the most senior member of Hamas, was killed in the latest Israeli attacks, he had four wives and 14 children.

Why did Israel go into this strategically useless, densely populated area, which it had already given up, risking urban warfare, civilian casualties, international condemnation and more anti-Semitism? Based on briefings I received from the Israeli Government, there are four reasons for Operation Cast Lead:

- \* A perception had grown in the Arab world that Israel was losing its stomach for a war of attrition and had responded tepidly to 6000 Hamas rocket attacks. Israel wants to end that perception.

- \* To stop the rocket attacks, Israel has a very specific target, the Philadelphi corridor along the border with Egypt. It has occupied the corridor, destroyed the smuggling tunnels, and will pass control only to an international military force.

- \* Neither Israel nor Egypt want an Islamic Hamastan solidifying on their doorsteps in Gaza. They want Hamas to be synonymous with chaos.

- \* Finally, Israel believes it did not waste the war in Lebanon in 2006. Hezbollah was badly damaged. After 17 days of attacks in Gaza, Hezbollah has not opened a second front of rocket attacks from Lebanon. Its leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, remains in hiding, giving speeches and sermons via video link.

None of this answers the tricky question of Israel's disengagement, but a far more troubling question is why Hamas launched more than 6000 rockets into Israel despite the impossibility of military victory and the urgent need to rebuild society. Because Hamas is, above all, about jihad.

If Gaza becomes a sinkhole of oppression and dysfunction in the process, just blame the Jews.

## Graphic

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ILLUSTRATION: by Andrew Joyner

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2009

It's too easy just to blame Jews

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**Israel devastates Hamas targets Raids strike next to premier's home, level university building. 3-day death toll at 364.**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 30, 2008 Tuesday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** By Ibrahim Barzak and Matti Friedman The Associated Press Zeina Karam of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israel obliterated symbols of Hamas power on the third day of what the defense minister described Monday as a "war to the bitter end," striking next to the Hamas premier's home, and devastating a security compound and a university building.

The three-day death toll rose to 364 on Monday, with some 1,400 reported wounded, according to Palestinian medical officials. The U.N. said at least 62 of the dead were civilians, and medics said eight children under the age of 17 were killed in two strikes overnight.

Israel launched its campaign, the deadliest against Palestinians in decades, on Saturday in retaliation for rocket fire aimed at civilians in southern Israeli towns.

Since then, the number of Israeli troops on the Gaza border has doubled and the Cabinet approved the call-up of 6,500 reserve soldiers.

The strikes have driven Hamas leaders into hiding and appear to have gravely damaged the organization's ability to launch rockets, but barrages continued.

One medium-range rocket fired at the Israeli city of

Ashkelon killed an Arab

construction worker there Monday and wounded several others. He was the second Israeli killed since the beginning of the offensive.

On Sunday, Hamas missiles struck for the first time near the city of Ashdod, only 25 miles from Israel's heart in Tel Aviv. Hamas leaders also have threatened to renew suicide attacks inside Israel. A missile from Gaza struck Ashdod again on Monday, seriously wounding two people.

Palestinian health officials said one Israeli airstrike early Monday killed four Islamic Jihad militants and a child.

Israel devastates Hamas targets Raids strike next to premier's home, level university building. 3-day death toll at 364.

On Monday, the White House released a statement saying that "in order for the violence to stop, Hamas must stop firing rockets into Israel and agree to respect a sustainable and durable cease-fire."

But in Damascus, Syria, a senior exiled Hamas official said there could be no talk of a truce with Israel until the assault ended and Israel reopened the Gaza crossings.

"We need our liberty, we need our freedom, and we need to be independent," the official, Abu Marzouk, said in an English-language interview. "If we don't accomplish this objective, then we have to resist. This is our right."

A six-month truce between Hamas and Israel expired earlier this month, but Hamas refused to extend it, saying Israel had violated its terms.

### Civilian deaths

Most of those killed since Saturday were members of Hamas security forces, though the precise numbers remain unclear. A Hamas police spokesman, Ehab Ghussen, said 180 members of the Hamas security forces were among the dead. The reported civilian casualties could intensify international pressure on Israel to end the offensive.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli defense minister, told parliament Israel was not fighting the residents of Gaza. "But we have a war to the bitter end against Hamas and its branches," he said. Barak said that the goal was to deal Hamas a "severe blow" and that the operation would be "widened and deepened as needed."

Israel's intense bombings - more than 300 airstrikes since midday Saturday - reduced dozens of buildings to rubble. The military said naval vessels also bombarded targets from the sea.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon again condemned Israel's use of force as excessive and called for an immediate cease-fire.

One Israeli strike destroyed a five-story building in the women's wing at Islamic University, one of the most prominent Hamas symbols in Gaza. Other attacks ravaged a compound controlled by Preventive Security, one of the group's chief security arms, and destroyed a house next to the residence of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas prime minister.

Late Sunday, Israeli aircraft attacked a building in the Jebaliya refugee camp next to Gaza City, killing five children and teenagers under age 17 from the same family, Gaza Health Ministry official Dr. Moaiya Hassanain said. In the southern town of Rafah, a toddler and his two teenage brothers were killed in an airstrike aimed at a Hamas commander, Hassanain said. In Gaza City, another attack killed two women.

Gaza's nine hospitals were overwhelmed. Hassanain, who keeps a record for the Gaza Health Ministry, said that some of the more than 1,400 wounded were now being taken to private clinics and even homes.

In Israel, 17 people have been killed in attacks from Gaza since the beginning of the year, including nine civilians - six of them killed by rockets - and eight soldiers, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry.

### Protest in Lebanon

In Lebanon, on Monday, tens of thousands of Hezbollah supporters stood in pouring rain to protest Israel's air assault on the Gaza Strip.

The demonstrators thronged a huge square and nearby streets in the militant group's stronghold south of Beirut, carrying Palestinian, Lebanese and yellow Hezbollah flags and banners supporting the Palestinian people.

## Graphic

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Israel devastates Hamas targets Raids strike next to premier's home, level university building. 3-day death toll at 364.

PHOTO - An Israeli police officer comforts a woman after a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza hit the southern Israeli town of Sderot on Monday. Ariel Schalit | The Associated Press PHOTO - Samera Baalusha (right) carries her surviving child Mohamad, 15 months, while crying over the body of her daughter Jawaher Baalusha, 4, during a funeral held Monday with relatives in Jabalia, Gaza Strip. Jawaher and four of her sisters were killed during an Israeli air raid while they were sleeping together in their bedroom. Getty Images

**Load-Date:** December 30, 2008

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## *Fisk 'fiddles' the truth*

Cape Times (South Africa)

January 21, 2008 Monday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 403 words

### **Body**

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Robert Fisk ("Bush fiddles in Riyadh while Middle East burns", January 18) is the journalistic equivalent of a stealth bomber. He disguises his propaganda and misrepresentations under a cloud of irrelevancies and flowery prose.

But, while difficult to pin down, the message is delivered: America is foolish and evil, its allies like Saudi Arabia are tyrannical, religious zealots and, behind all, is cunning Israel.

Well, part of it is true. America can certainly be foolish and, occasionally, evil. The Saudis and some of the other oil sheikhs are indeed unattractive, intolerant regimes and the Israelis are not only cunning, but also tough and resilient and determined to survive on their tiny ancient homeland.

But in the Fisk universe, where may we find the equally tyrannical Iran with its uranium enrichment and holocaust denial, its suppression of women and political opposition and its ambitions in the Middle East and globally?

Where indeed was Saddam Hussein before the American intervention and where is Syria with its exploitation and infiltration of Lebanon and support for terror organisations? Where indeed are Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, al-Qaeda and the host of other despotic, violent and poverty-stricken states and terror entities in the Middle East? And where are Russia, and others, with their own global ambitions and arms sales?

These countries and organisations are airbrushed out of the Fisk universe on the basis of a simple rule: if at any time or manner an antagonist of the US or Israel, not only are their sins and shortcomings forgiven, but they themselves miraculously vanish into the Fisk underworld where inconvenient realities are stored out of mind.

Through this sleight of hand, Fisk is able to focus all his attention, and ours, on the villains of his fictional narratives - the West, the US and Israel.

There is no attempt at serious historical analysis or consideration of the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the parties involved or of the realistic options and obstacles which constitute the political equation within the Middle East.

Fisk has only one aim: to denigrate and vilify the objects of his animosity.

For his psychological and financial welfare, one must only hope that the Middle East does not lapse into peace and co-operation within his lifetime; an unlikely event at best, and one which he bends every effort at his disposal to prevent.

Fisk 'fiddles' the truth

Mike Berger

Cape Town

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2008

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## *How many dollars would buy off Osama?*

The Times (London)

September 12, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 17

**Length:** 928 words

**Byline:** Daniel Finkelstein , [daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk)

### **Body**

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On September 11, 2001, Mohammed Atta boarded American Airlines Flight 11 at Logan Airport in Boston and sat down in seat 8D. Not long afterwards, the plane took off on the fateful journey that left thousands of Americans dead and changed the world.

How much do you think it would have cost to persuade Atta to change his plans, get off the jet and go and enjoy a hearty breakfast instead of martyrdom? What would he have taken as a bribe? A tenner? A thousand dollars? A million?

The question seems ridiculous, even offensive. But it is simply a very crude version of a remarkably common theory -the idea that we can defeat terrorism with money. And among those with some sympathy for this notion is our Prime Minister.

Gordon Brown likes his big ideas, bless him, and to use them to batter his audiences into submission with his Shock and Bore speaking style. So naturally he has a big idea for the War on Terror. It's economic development through international action. This is not his only policy, of course, but it is, if you like, chef Gordon's signature dish. A Brown address on Iraq, the Middle East or domestic security is not complete without some mention of economic policy.

The notion is that by reducing poverty, by increasing the economic stake that citizens have in the success of their society, by combating illiteracy, you help to stop terrorism before it gets started. It is also a classic new Labour idea. It provides a third way between neocon aggression and liberal complacency. Tough on terrorism, tough on the causes of terrorism, that's Gordon Brown.

Which leaves this question -is the Prime Minister right? Is he right that economic development would combat terrorism and improve security? And we can ask the question sharply because it is possible to answer it sharply.

And the answer is no. No, he isn't right.

One way of responding to the Prime Minister is as I did in the beginning of this article. Simply by asking whether financial wellbeing was on the minds of the terrorists as they committed suicide, it is possible to cast doubt on the idea that you could have bought them off by making their living conditions somewhat better.



## How many dollars would buy off Osama?

Fortunately, we can do far better than this. For the Prime Minister's idea is that rare thing in politics -a testable hypothesis. Poverty, the financial stake that individuals have in society and rates of literacy are all measurable. So are the extent, the individual circumstances and country of origin of terrorist activity.

If the Brown big idea is correct, then the relationships between these variables are predictable.

The tendency to be a terrorist should go up as personal wealth goes down; terrorists will tend to come from poorer places rather than wealthier ones; and societies with low literacy rates will tend to produce more terrorists than those with higher literacy.

So, when you look at the data, what do you find? This week sees the publication of an invaluable little book by Alan Krueger, a professor of economics at Princeton.

What Makes a Terrorist uses standard tools of economics and statistical analysis to get at the truth about terrorism.

Krueger started by studying hate crimes in Germany. He regards hate crimes as a close cousin of terrorist activity, but likely to be more spontaneous and less well organised. He thought, therefore, that they were a good way of looking at individual behaviour before organisations became involved.

He studied different regions of the country and found that within them there was an inverse relationship between unemployment and ethnic violence -where there was less unemployment there was more hate crime. It seemed also that hate crime was less likely where standards of law enforcement were tougher.

He then created a tight definition of terrorism -"premeditated, politically motivated violence...perpetrated by substate organisations and individuals with the intent of influencing an audience beyond the immediate victims" -and began to look at different terrorist groups. Suicide bombers from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad were less than half as likely to come from families below the poverty line as an average Palestinian. Less than 15 per cent of Palestinians have more than a high-school degree, while almost 60 per cent of the suicide bombers did.

Krueger also studied Hezbollah. He found that "members of Hezbollah were better educated than the relevant segment of the Lebanese population, less likely to come from impoverished families". He also provides a survey of public opinion that shows that support for terrorism is associated with better education, literacy and personal circumstances.

That's all very well, but perhaps the terrorists are just a vanguard, a politicised elite reflecting the dire economies in which they live. The computer says no.

A study of the country of origin of terrorists reveals that lower-income countries are no more likely to produce terrorists and, crucially for the Brown hypothesis, "we find no significant impact of GDP growth on the frequency of international terrorism". Furthermore "neither the overall literacy rate nor the female literacy rate appeared to have any effect".

None of this means that you shouldn't try to improve living conditions in other countries. If it works, it's moral, it's right. But it is not, as the Prime Minister argues, a counter-terrorism strategy.

What would be? Krueger finds one familiar fact in all his numbers. Countries with fewer civil liberties tend to produce more terrorists. But that's the neocon contention. And we don't want to start up with them again, now do we?

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

## *For Lebanese abroad, it's a buyer's market; Letter from the Middle East*

The International Herald Tribune

October 10, 2007 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 915 words

**Byline:** Daniel Williams - Bloomberg News

**Dateline:** BEIRUT

### **Body**

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On Sept. 19, Edgard Baradhi heard an explosion near his house in the Sin el-Fil neighborhood of Beirut. A car bomb had killed Antoine Ghanem, a member of Parliament, and six other people. He went out and pulled some of the dead from their vehicles. "My hands were full of blood."

Baradhi, a 29-year-old Maronite Christian electrician, is moving to Qatar this month, joining thousands of Lebanese of all faiths and political inclinations who are emigrating for tranquility and higher-paying employment.

Job recruiters and analysts say the outflow is a double whammy: drying up the pool of skilled workers inside Lebanon and reducing salaries for some Lebanese outside.

"This is a buyer's market for Lebanese abroad," said Carole Contavelis, who heads Hunter International, a Beirut recruitment agency. "Nobody's in Lebanon anymore. The good candidates are out."

Across the Middle East and North Africa, it's rare to have a conversation with a young person who doesn't want to emigrate to the United States, Canada, Europe or Australia. Internal conflicts scar countries from Morocco to Iraq, and unemployment across the region tops 10 percent.

In Lebanon, the jobless rate is 20 percent, according to the Labor Ministry, and the country copes with a particular mix of sectarian tensions and dangerous politics. Half a dozen pro-government officials have been assassinated in two years, Parliament has met only once in nine months, and rival legislators are at odds over whom to elect when the term of President Emile Lahoud, 71, ends Nov. 24.

All this goes on against a backdrop of the war last year between Israel and Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim militia and fears of a clash between the United States and Syria over influence in the country.

Many Lebanese fled during the war, which killed about 1,000 civilians and combatants, destroyed homes, businesses and roads, scared off tourists and forced Lebanon to beg for aid.

Some people returned when the war ended, only to leave again, driven away by a bitter power struggle that pits Hezbollah and its allies against the government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora.

"They view instability as chronic instead of episodic," said Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, an analyst at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center in Beirut.

## For Lebanese abroad, it's a buyer's market Letter from the Middle East

Bishops of Lebanon's Maronite Church estimate that one million, or one in four, Lebanese left during the past year. "The country is on the edge of an abyss," they said in a Sept. 25 public letter urging politicians to settle their differences.

The General Directorate of Emigrants doesn't provide any statistics, although it does publish information about the Miss Lebanon Emigrant 2007 competition, with contestants from 12 countries.

Lebanon hasn't conducted a census since 1932 because of the sensitivities of sectarian demography.

"No one wants to know the real population of Lebanon," Sensenig-Dabbous said. "And no one wants to say which group is sending how many abroad." All religious groups are fleeing, he added. "This is not a sectarian issue," he said.

The emigration center estimates that the current exodus is bigger than the flight during the war last year.

In an April survey of 1,600 Lebanese, half of them wanting to emigrate and half of them who already have left, 31 percent blamed their decision to leave on political instability, 24 percent cited politics and 18 percent said there was a need "to secure their future."

Just over 73 percent in the survey didn't plan to return permanently.

Mustafa Shahrou, a Shiite Muslim computer technician, says he's going to Saudi Arabia this month to work in a restaurant. "Everything here has become about whom you support, if you're Shiite or Sunni or Christian," he said. "I don't want to live like that."

Sharhour, 26, wants to get married, though without money for a house and furnishings, women he knows aren't interested.

He makes \$300 a month as an electrician in Beirut and will pull in \$1,000 in Saudi Arabia. "I'm not coming back until Lebanon is a secular state," he said.

Marriage is also on the mind of Baradhi, the Christian electrician, who will join his girlfriend in Qatar. She teaches finance and earns \$6,000 a month, compared with \$1,200 as a professor at St. Joseph's University in Beirut. Baradhi makes \$300 a month in Lebanon and expects to make \$800 in Qatar.

"All my friends call from America or Canada or Qatar and say, 'Come on, you're wasting your life,' " he said.

Contavelis, of Hunter International, said the large number of emigrants was causing salaries to drop for some Lebanese abroad, though they're still higher than the pay at home. Offers for top executives in the Gulf states have fallen to \$4,000 a month from \$10,000; for assistant general managers, they've halved to \$1,500.

There is also some dispute about whether the migration harms or helps Lebanon.

Guita Hourani, the emigration center's associate director, said that "a significant brain drain is taking place that might hinder competition and economic growth."

In a report issued this month, she noted that remittances to Lebanon had decreased as emigrants stayed away longer.

Yasser Akkaoui, editor of the Beirut business magazine Executive, says emigration is a boon, making the nation a global entity.

"Lebanon has outgrown its borders," he said. "On paper, Lebanon does not make sense, but it has learned to survive."

For Lebanese abroad, it's a buyer's market Letter from the Middle East

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Tomorrow: Amelia Gentleman writes about India's tightened child labor legislation.

Bloomberg News

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2007

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## **CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS RAISE HACKLES**

The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

April 24, 2007 Tuesday

ALL EDITION

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**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A1

**Length:** 854 words

**Byline:** Judith Davidoff The Capital Times

### **Body**

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An influential group of evangelical Christian Zionists that has rented the Capitol Theater to honor and raise money for Israel is getting an icy reception from some in the Madison Jewish community.

Rabbi Jonathan Biatch of Temple Beth El denounced the group, Christians United for Israel, in a March 23 sermon for its aggressive stand toward Iran and its conservative stances on social issues. The local chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, a national grass-roots group, is planning to protest outside the theater in the Overture Center during the May 6 event.

Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman of Shaarei Shamayim is also not a fan, but Steve Morrison, executive director of the Madison Jewish Community Center, is not bothered by the controversy.

"Christian support for Israel is a good thing," Morrison said. "I have no idea what their politics are because we didn't discuss it."

Morrison said he will be in Israel on May 6, otherwise he would attend the event. The funds raised that night will be funneled through the Madison Jewish Community Center to the Israel Emergency Campaign Fund.

Christians United for Israel was founded about a year ago by Pastor John Hagee of San Antonio, Texas. The group's Web page ([www.cufi.org](http://www.cufi.org)) says that Christians have a biblical obligation to defend Israel and the Jewish people in their time of need and that support is particularly important now because President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran has threatened to wipe out Israel and is acquiring the nuclear technology needed to make good on his threat. The Web site says Ahmadinejad is "a new Hitler in the Middle East," adding that "if we learned anything from the Holocaust, it is that when a madman threatens genocide we must take him seriously."

Hagee urges members of Christians United to travel to Washington, D.C., in July to lobby their representatives on support for Israel.

He leads the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, which has 18,000 members, but Hagee has a worldwide audience on radio and television and was widely quoted in the national media last year in articles about evangelicals' views on world events. He has said Iran's nuclear threat and the fighting between Israel and **Hezbollah** are signs that Armageddon is near. In September, the Kansas City Star quoted Hagee saying that "Israel cannot allow Iran to be nuclear, and America cannot allow Iran to be nuclear."

## CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS RAISE HACKLES

Joel Kitsemble, pastor of Spirit of Faith Church on Seybold Road in Madison, is the state director for Christians United For Israel and is helping to plan "A Night to Honor Israel" at the Overture Center. He said in an interview that Christians United for Israel plans to hold 40 events honoring Israel across the country this year. A DVD of previous events prepared as a preview for the Madison show reveals they are slick, high-energy and, according to some participants, emotional, affairs.

Scheduled guests in Madison include Barukh Binah, consul general for Israel to the Midwest and David Brog, author of "Standing with Israel," with entertainment provided by Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago and Pastor Raygene Wilson of West Coast Believers Church in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Kitsemble said he was drawn to Hagee's group after visiting Israel two years ago and developing a love for the country and for Jewish people.

He said the group's goal is to build awareness among Christians "that the Jewish people have a place in the plan of God." Kitsemble said the organization strives to build bridges between Christians and Jews and to raise money to counter the threat to Israel posed by Iran and others.

"Our city in Madison tends to be pro-Palestinian and pro-Arab," Kitsemble said. "We want to make sure that there's also an event that says Israel has a right to exist and the Jewish people have a right to exist."

He said the funds raised in Madison would help Israeli families rebuild homes destroyed by terrorism, among other things.

HAWKISH BENT: Biatch, rabbi for Madison's Reform synagogue, supports Israel, but is particularly concerned about Christians United For Israel's hawkish bent toward war in the Middle East.

"I don't think that their promoting of a war is healthy for our country at this point," he said.

In his sermon, Biatch said that during last summer's war between Israel and Hezbollah, Hagee and his organization lobbied against finding a diplomatic solution during the early stages of the fighting.

"My real fear regarding Pastor Hagee's approach is that he and his ... followers would push our government toward an unnecessary confrontation," Biatch said.

Haley Pollack of Madison Friends of Jewish Voice for Peace, which supports an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, said her group will protest the event to show that not all Jews unequivocally support Israeli policy.

Pollack said Christians United for Israel has aligned itself with the most right-wing factions in Israel and the most socially conservative groups in America that oppose reproductive choice for women and gay and lesbian rights.

"This is not a group we should be aligning ourselves with," she said.

E-mail: [jdavidoff@madison.com](mailto:jdavidoff@madison.com)

## Graphic

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Rabbi Jonathan Biatch SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/ASSOCIATED PRESS Israeli soldiers salute after they placed flags on the graves of fallen comrades on Sunday during preparations for Israel's Memorial Day services on the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem's Old City.

## CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS RAISE HACKLES

**Load-Date:** April 25, 2007

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**Saturday: 22.12.07: 'He is very much alive': He was the warrior who discovered pragmatism, but two years ago he fell into a coma, leaving his people without a leader. Is Israel still waiting for Ariel Sharon to wake up?: 'He is very much alive'**

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 22, 2007 Saturday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN SATURDAY COMMENT PAGES; Pg. 25

**Length:** 1593 words

**Byline:** Rory McCarthy, Tel Aviv

## **Body**

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On the outskirts of Tel Aviv sits a sprawling mini-city, home to the largest medical centre in the Middle East. It has its own shopping mall, hotel and expansive fields. There are beds for 1,700 patients in dozens of different buildings across the 60-hectare site. Here, in a private room at the Sheba Medical Centre, lies Ariel Sharon, that most maverick of Israel's generals and politicians, a man who did so much to shape his country's past and future and who today remains in a long-term coma after a massive stroke two years ago.

His room is guarded by two plain-clothes agents from the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency. He remains unconscious and is being fed artificially but although he is attached to a respirator, his friends say he is breathing on his own.

Two years ago this month, at the age of 77, Sharon suffered a minor stroke. He was taken to hospital, was treated and went home. He seemed to recover and remained in office, but three weeks later, the night before he was due to go in for a heart procedure, he collapsed with a much larger stroke. "It was a total shock. He was nearly 78 but we never considered him an old man," said Dov Weissglas, a Tel Aviv lawyer who has known Sharon as a close friend for many years.

Sharon had had a cerebral haemorrhage and never regained consciousness. He underwent several operations at a Jerusalem hospital before he was transferred in May 2006 to the Sheba Medical Centre. In the months that followed he was twice rushed to the intensive care unit, once with pneumonia in his lungs, then with an infection affecting his heart. But each time he recovered and was allowed back to his room, where special nurses are on duty day and night. The bill, at 1,600 shekels (£200) a day, is reportedly met by the state.

His doctors will not talk about his case but in a brief statement the hospital appeared to suggest there were signs of hope. It said that Sharon's medical condition had not changed dramatically since he was admitted but added: "He was not in a deep coma on his admission and throughout this period there have been some signs of response to several kinds of stimuli."

There is only a very small group who visit Sharon, partly to avoid the risk of infection. But nearly every day someone attends: his sons Omri and Gilad, Gilad's wife, Inbal, or a select few others. Sometimes they play music,



Saturday: 22.12.07: 'He is very much alive': He was the warrior who discovered pragmatism, but two years ago he fell into a coma, leaving his people without a l....

or read to him. Among them is Reuven Adler, an advertising executive who has known Sharon for more than 30 years and who was instrumental in remoulding his public image ahead of his 2001 election victory.

"His children and the doctors who are treating him see different signs that he is aware, that he knows what is going on," said Adler. "It's difficult to tell if he listens, if he sees. They tell me: 'We saw an improvement today' or 'He reacted fantastically today.' Now, the two sons are very serious guys. They are not imagining these things."

Although connected to the machines around him, Sharon is not relying on them to stay alive and so, his friends say, there is no question of taking a decision to end his life. "He is breathing spontaneously, not on a respirator," said Weissglas. "If you disconnect him from the feeding machine it means he would die slowly out of hunger and thirst - no one on earth will do it. He is very much alive in terms of somebody who is in a coma."

Weissglas meets regularly with Sharon's sons. He too is struck by their conviction that Sharon might recover. "We are aware of stories of people who woke up after a year, two years, 10 years, 20 years," said Weissglas. "His family are so healthy in their attitudes. They deeply believe that a day will come and one of the zillion miracles that do happen in this region will happen with him. That's all."

However tough and controversial Sharon appeared in public, in private he commanded fierce loyalty, even from those who disagreed with him. Marit Danon had been the personal secretary to Israeli prime ministers going back more than a decade. "When he was elected I was terrified because my political views are on the other side," Danon said. "He seemed a very tough person." Yet Ehud Barak, Sharon's predecessor, convinced her to stay and she became one of Sharon's most loyal assistants, working long hours, talking to him as a friend, but always referring to him as 'Prime Minister.'

For three months after Sharon's collapse, Danon and another colleague went to his ranch in the Negev and spent nine hours a day cataloguing his papers, letters and papers from the army stretching back more than 60 years. Danon, who now heads the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, last saw Sharon when he left his office mid-afternoon on January 4, a few hours before his second stroke. "I don't want to see him in hospital because I don't want my last memory of him to be of a person on a bed," she said. "I want to remember him as strong, very confident and very funny - he had a great sense of humour."

"The fact that he is in a long-term coma is for us and for me personally much more difficult," she said. "On one level he is absent and we miss him. He is not here with us. And on the other side he is still alive."

Little has been said or heard of the former premier for months and yet, because he clings to life, there have been no formal ceremonies to mark his passing. None except an unusual commemoration granted at a modest opening ceremony two months ago when a vast former landfill site on the edge of Tel Aviv was renamed Ariel Sharon Park. Here, sandwiched between the commuter traffic on two of Israel's busiest highways, is a low, flat-topped hill of decaying garbage covered in soil and the occasional tree. An ambitious regeneration project, once championed by Sharon, will one day turn the site into a reclaimed natural wilderness and ecological study centre, a patch of green three times the size of Regent's Park in London.

It is a most unexpected memorial for the iconoclastic hardliner and comes at a time when his legacy is still fiercely debated by Israelis. The public knew Sharon as the self-styled "warrior" general, a hard man who had fought in all of Israel's wars: he was injured in 1948, fought again in 1967, emerged a hero from the near-disastrous 1973 Yom Kippur war and was then forced to resign as defence minister in 1982, after being found indirectly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp in Beirut.

But in the summer of 2005, Sharon surprised left and right when as prime minister he withdrew Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip. His collapse a few months later brought to an end what was a dramatic but only half-completed strategy for resolving this most intractable conflict. "It's like a movie, and at the most dramatic moment suddenly you get a sign saying 'The End' and the music starts," said Adler. According to Sharon's vision, Israel would unilaterally impose its own borders with the Palestinians, giving up the settlements in Gaza in order to avoid compromising on

Saturday: 22.12.07: 'He is very much alive': He was the warrior who discovered pragmatism, but two years ago he fell into a coma, leaving his people without a l....

the most sensitive issues for Israel: the desire to retain the whole of Jerusalem, to prevent Palestinian refugees ever returning to Israel and to hold on to the largest settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Yet much has changed while Sharon has been in hospital. First Israel launched another war in Lebanon, attacking Hizbullah after two Israeli soldiers were captured in a cross-border ambush. The war was widely regarded as a failure in Israel because Hizbullah seemed to have survived largely intact. At the same time there were continued rocket attacks from Palestinian militants in Gaza, which Israel tried to suppress with a series of tough military incursions that left hundreds of Palestinians dead but failed to stop the rockets. Not long after, Hamas, the Islamist group that had won Palestinian elections, went on to seize full control of Gaza. The lesson of Lebanon and Gaza appeared to discredit the idea of unilateral withdrawals and for months the Israeli government, led by his former deputy, Ehud Olmert, seemed directionless. Just in the past few weeks, Israel and the Palestinians have returned to negotiations for the first time in seven years.

But few expect this new rush of diplomacy will lead anywhere. Weissglas, who was closely involved in working out Sharon's strategy, argues the "disengagement" from Gaza was pragmatic. The warrior general had realised the only way to hold on to most of the prized Jewish settlements in the West Bank was to give up the dream of settling all the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the river Jordan.

"He used to say to us sometimes that he believed he was the last Israeli politician who could turn back to his public and say: 'Listen, we had a dream. What we managed to accomplish we did. What we did not, apparently we will not and that's it,'" said Weissglas. What may be recognised as Sharon's most important achievements is a letter of less than 1,000 words sent to him by President George Bush in April 2004, which in effect said Washington would let Israel keep its major West Bank settlement blocs, home to more than 100,000 settlers, in any final agreement with the Palestinians.

"At the end the overriding consideration would be safeguarding the future of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel for generations to come," said Eyal Arad, another friend who worked with Sharon when he was prime minister. "There was a realisation that the dream that we can hold on to the entire Land of Israel is an objective that cannot be realised in this generation."

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2007

## *Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem*

New York Sun (Archive)

March 7, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 1

**Length:** 991 words

**Byline:** BENNY AVNI -, Staff Reporter of the Sun

**Dateline:** UNITED NATIONS

### **Body**

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The shooting attack in which at least eight religious students were killed yesterday in the heart of Jerusalem is reminiscent of past major campaigns of terror in Israeli cities - leading some Israelis to conclude that the Palestinian Arabs are launching a "third intifada."

The shooting rampage that left the religious scholars at the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva dead, and that ended only after a student who was also an Israeli army officer shot and killed a gunman, was seen as a major escalation in Israel, a country that had been under constant rocket attacks in its southern regions. The massacre took place mere blocks away from government offices where, a day earlier, Secretary of State Rice conducted her efforts to revive peace talks between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs.

World leaders, presidential candidates, and New York's major Jewish organizations expressed their outrage, and President Bush said America "stands firmly with Israel."

Terrorist organizations backed by Al Qaeda, Iran, and Syria, have used the 2006 Lebanon war as a model for conducting a campaign of missile attacks from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on Israeli towns. After Israel conducted a two-day ground incursion into Gaza earlier this week, the rocket barrage only intensified, and leaders in Gaza and southern Lebanon declared a "victory" over Israel akin to the Lebanon war.

Although it was unclear late last night what organization was behind the Jerusalem terror shooting, officials in Jerusalem linked its timing to several key regional developments. Those included Ms. Rice's two-day visit; the 40-day anniversary of the assassination in Damascus of the **Hezbollah** terror master, Imad Mughnieh, and Hamas's desire to avenge the killing of some of its own terror leaders in Gaza.

"I also would not exclude" the Security Council resolution earlier this week that imposed sanctions on Iran for its nuclear weapons program as a possible cause of the recent escalation, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, Daniel Ayalon, told The New York Sun.

As of late last night, responsibility for the evening terror attack in Jerusalem had been claimed on the **Hezbollah**-financed television station, al-Manar, by an organization calling itself The Liberators of Galilee-Mughnieh Brigades. Israeli intelligence sources said they were unsure who - if anyone - was behind the name, which had been used in the past for claiming responsibility for terror attacks.

## Israel Backed After Killings in Jerusalem

Yesterday morning, several hours before the attack, Israeli press reports quoted the chief of the internal intelligence agency, Shabak, Yuval Diskin, as warning that as part of Hamas's efforts to extend its control beyond Gaza into the West Bank, it will attempt to carry a major - or "quality" - terror attack, conducted by West Bank- or Jerusalem-based operatives of its terrorist arm. The gunmen yesterday were unlikely to have come from Gaza.

There were celebratory gunshots in the air on the street of Gaza, nevertheless, and Hamas spokesmen expressed satisfaction. "The Israelis reap in Jerusalem what they have sown in Gaza," a Hamas military wing spokesman, Abu Ahmed, told Y-net. He said the shooting in Jerusalem was "only the first" of several planned attacks, but stopped short of declaring responsibility.

A day earlier, Ms. Rice secured a promise from the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to return to negotiations with Prime Minister Olmert, which he had suspended at the start of the Israeli attack on Gaza. No date for resuming negotiations has been determined however.

Mr. Abbas quickly condemned the Jerusalem shooting rampage, saying he deplores killing of civilians "be they Israelis or Palestinians." Mr. Olmert, who indicated the violence would not end the peace talks, spoke with several world leaders yesterday, starting with President Bush, but he spent most of the hours after the attack consulting with Israeli security officials, planning a response that might include a military assault.

Yesterday's attack at the Jewish seminary was only the culmination of a bloody day in which an Israeli soldier was killed and another one suffered severe injuries earlier in an ambush near the Gaza border, and a house in Sderot was directly hit by a Kassam rocket.

President Bush strongly condemned the "barbaric and vicious attack on innocent civilians" and Ms. Rice added, "There is no cause that could ever justify this action." Western world leaders, including the British and French foreign ministers and the U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, also used strong language of condemnation.

In a rare move, Jerusalem initiated a late night meeting of the Security Council, where it is more accustomed to fending off denunciations of Israeli actions than hoping for sympathy after its citizens are attacked. But the Arab representative on the Council, Libya, demanded to make an American-proposed statement about the Jerusalem attacks "balanced" by also mentioning Israel's attacks in Gaza, preventing a unified council statement. The terrorist attack in Jerusalem "stands out," said Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, who serves as the council president.

"What would it take for the council" to condemn one attack "specifically, without going through the entire history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?" Mr. Churkin asked.

The attack struck a special chord with Orthodox Jews in the way that an earlier attack on a Tel Aviv disco resonated with more secular or youthful observers. "Just as there is a special place in hell for perpetrators of attacks on men women and children doing nothing but going about their daily lives, there is a special section there reserved for attackers of young men who were sitting and studying Torah," said the director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, Rabbi Avi Shafran. "Those who were killed, not the murderers for whom Palestinians use the word, are true martyrs, holy innocent souls killed only because they are Jews."

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2008

## *New mufti takes back seat amid fears for his health*

Weekend Australian

June 16, 2007 Saturday

All-round First Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 8

**Length:** 373 words

**Byline:** Richard Kerbaj

### **Body**

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MATP

AUSTRALIA'S new Islamic spiritual leader, Fehmi Naji el-Imam, missed the opportunity to address his congregation yesterday and instead left his non-English-speaking deputy to deliver the sermon.

Less than a week after being elected mufti by the National Imams Council, the 79-year-old chose to take a back seat amid talk that his ill health -- he had a stroke last year -- was still a concern.

Sheik Fehmi has been gagged from speaking to the media following revelations earlier this week that he still did not believe Osama bin Laden was responsible for the September 11 attack on the US.

Sheik Fehmi looked frail and exhausted while being walked by his minder to his office from the prayer room at Preston Mosque, in Melbourne's north.

His son Ahmed Imam and the cleric's assistant, Baha Wehia, would not allow the mufti to speak to The Weekend Australian about his role.

They said Sheik Fehmi was unable to speak without the approval of the other six members of ANIC's fatwa body, which assists the mufti and offers religious rulings.

Sheik Fehmi was also advised by his assistants not to answer questions about the Iraq war in a press conference he gave on Monday.

This brings into question his ability to express his views independently of those around him who are more preoccupied with saving him from a scandal than interested in him sharing his thoughts about his new role with mainstream Australia.

The Australian yesterday revealed that Sheik Fehmi did not have the academic qualifications required by the council that appointed him to become mufti.

Some of Sheik Fehmi's fellow imams are angry that he was elected into the role given he only had the equivalent of secondary school qualifications in Islamic studies.

## New mufti takes back seat amid fears for his health

Sheik Fehmi migrated from Lebanon to Australia in 1951 and worked as a full-time electrician while serving his community as an imam.

He helped to establish Preston Mosque in 1978, and last year sparked a controversy when he called on the Iranian-backed terrorist group **Hezbollah** to be removed from the Government's proscribed list.

Sheik Fehmi's predecessor Taj Din al-Hilali tainted the role of mufti last year in his Ramadan sermon, in which he compared **women** to uncovered meat and joked about the notorious Sydney gang rapes.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2007

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End of Document

**Seeking common ground; Whether we like it or not, militant groups have millions of supporters in the Middle East -- we can't ignore them in the pursuit of peace**

Ottawa Citizen

May 25, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A15

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** James Clark, Citizen Special

## **Body**

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Canada's antiwar movement has recently been the subject of much discussion in the national press. At issue is the participation of Canadian delegates in an international peace conference in Cairo, and the relationship between progressives and Muslims in Canada.

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Cairo Conference. Held in central Cairo at the national union of journalists, the 2007 conference attracted 2,000 delegates from the Middle East and around the world including trade unionists, elected members of Parliament, students, women's organizations, peasants and farmers, civil liberties campaigners, pro-democracy activists, the antiwar movement and resistance groups. Every major political current and tradition in the Arab world was represented.

Twenty activists comprised this year's delegation from Canada, representing a variety of organizations including the Canadian Peace Alliance. Among the Canadian delegates were three Jewish activists, including a Holocaust survivor. They shared their experiences of anti-Semitism, expressed their support for Palestinian liberation and explained the difference between Zionism and Judaism. They were warmly received by the conference and spoke alongside activists of other faiths and political traditions who shared their opposition to war and occupation.

Some commentators have condemned the conference because groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood sent representatives.

Whether we like it or not, these groups are legitimate forces in the Middle East with millions of supporters. Hezbollah participates in Lebanon's national government, including in cabinet. Hamas, the democratically elected government of the Palestinian National Authority, enjoys a majority twice the size of Stephen Harper's minority Parliament. The Muslim Brotherhood forms the largest opposition bloc in Egypt with 88 elected MPs.

We don't have to agree with everything these groups stand for -- and we don't. But it's not up to us to decide who represents the people of the Middle East. That's up to them.

History shows that dialogue with all players is the only path to peace.

Seeking common ground; Whether we like it or not, militant groups have millions of supporters in the Middle East -- we can't ignore them in the pursuit of peace

During apartheid, antiracists who engaged the African National Congress were smeared and vilified. Nelson Mandela, then labelled a "terrorist," is today revered as an icon for peace, justice and equality.

This month, Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams joined British Prime Minister Tony Blair as Northern Ireland convened its historic power-sharing government. Decades earlier, Mr. Adams was called a "terrorist" and banned from speaking on the BBC.

Recently, Norway's deputy foreign minister met with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a leader of Hamas. Norway has recognized Palestine's unity government and called on the European Union to end sanctions. European parliamentarians have also met with Hamas, asking the international community to respect last year's election.

Co-operation between progressives and people of faith is nothing new. Socialists collaborated with Jews to resist the rise of fascism in the 1930s. Indeed, many leading socialists were of Jewish descent. Antiracist students worked with Baptist preachers in the 1950s and '60s as part of the civil rights movement. Anti-imperialists joined with Catholics inspired by Liberation Theology against U.S. intervention in Latin America in the 1970s and '80s. Today, antiwar activists and Muslims have united against racism and Islamophobia.

Despite this history of co-operation, some believe that such a relationship is not possible with Muslims. They argue that Islam is different from other faiths and that by working with Muslims, progressives somehow abandon their principles. This argument is wrong.

Progressives and Muslims are not two distinct and separate groups. In reality, many Muslims identify as both. There are Muslim socialists, Muslims in the New Democratic Party and left-wing Muslims. Their faith is not a barrier but rather what inspires them to seek peace, justice and equality.

Those who feel uncomfortable about Muslims in the antiwar movement usually demand more from the Muslim community than from other groups. Arguments about a woman's right to choose and same-sex marriage are never raised when a Catholic priest or an Orthodox rabbi speaks at an antiwar rally, and rightly so. Participation in the antiwar movement is based on a shared opposition to war and racism, and a recognition that we don't have to agree on every other issue in order to unite for peace. If it's not controversial for people of other faiths to be part of the movement -- who don't always agree with the left -- why is it controversial for Muslims?

It's because of Islamophobia. Sadly, this has been an effective tool for both the right and the left to create divisions within the movement. That's why antiwar activists have worked to build bridges between Muslims and non-Muslims in Canada, and between activists in the West and ordinary people in the Arab world. This is the true spirit of the Cairo Conference and what motivates the international antiwar movement: the faith that, when people of different backgrounds and experiences seek common ground, we can lay the groundwork for a world of peace and justice for everyone.

James Clark is an organizer with the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War and was a participant in this year's Cairo Conference.

## Graphic

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Photo: Hatem Moussa, the Associated Press; A Hamas supporter kisses a poster showing Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. Critics have focused on the presence of groups such as Hamas at this year's Cairo peace conference in condemning a delegation of progressive Canadian activists. But Hamas forms a democratically elected government. ;



Seeking common ground; Whether we like it or not, militant groups have millions of supporters in the Middle East -- we can't ignore them in the pursuit of peace

**Load-Date:** May 25, 2007

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## *Killing the messenger: the deadly price of war news*

The Irish Times

December 28, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** OPINION; Opinion; Pg. 16

**Length:** 1651 words

### **Body**

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In the most recent wars, journalists have been seen as targets by many of the factions, writes Tom Clonan.

After 40 years of reporting conflict from Vietnam to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, veteran war correspondent Martin Bell observes, "By now . . . I've figured that war is really about people. I've spent enough time following American, or Australian or British troops around Vietnam, Bosnia or wherever to know that war stories are about the people, the refugees, the ordinary citizens".

This point is echoed by **Irish Times** correspondent Lara Marlowe. In discussing the difficulty of reporting war and conflict at a time of increased danger for journalists, Marlowe sums up her approach as follows, "I've always found it more worthwhile to find normal people to talk to, like housewives and teachers, or doctors or mechanics. These are the kind of people I'd mostly gravitate towards, especially in time of war. They'll tell you what's really happening. They won't give you a history lecture or a propaganda piece like many soldiers or politicians will, they'll just tell what it is really like for people to live or perhaps die in war".

Despite the fact that journalists are often deliberately targeted by combatants in today's so-called "Global War on Terror", Marlowe is adamant that determined correspondents can still get access to conflict zones and a wide range of sources without necessarily becoming "embedded" with conventional armies.

"Where there is a will there's a way. Like my colleague, Céline Hennion from Le Monde, who was trying to get to south Lebanon at the height of the war between **Hizbullah** and the Israelis in the summer of 2006. All the bridges over the Litani river were blown by the Israelis and there were constant air strikes on traffic moving south. While most of the press corps were stranded at the Litani, Céline just waded into the river, chest high, with her laptop perched on her head and went south for the story. It took real courage and dedication".

Marlowe, at some considerable risk to herself, did get to south Lebanon in 2006 and reported extensively for The Irish Times on the situation there and continued, even after the massacre of Lebanese civilians at Qana.

Marlowe does not share the view that western journalists - including **female** journalists - are no longer able to cover conflict in areas where militant Islamists hold sway.

"Iraq is obviously the contemporary example. You can still get to Baghdad without being embedded. The embassy in Paris is still giving out visas. The question is what is your life expectancy once you step out of the airport. I went in 2005 and when I did, I put on a long robe and a headscarf and went around in a plain car with no fuss. No armoured car, no armed security guards. People will still talk to you. But it is extremely dangerous."

## Killing the messenger: the deadly price of war news

Marlowe also describes getting into Afghanistan in the run-up to the US invasion there in 2001. "I flew to Uzbekistan and drove from there to Tajikistan. I came across very corrupt border guards who took a lot of money from me to allow me to continue on Dushanbe. Then, I got on probably a very unsafe aeroplane for Faizabad in Afghanistan and then drove in a rotten old Soviet jeep through the Panshir Valley.

"So, it can be quite an undertaking to get to conflict zones without military assistance. But if you really want to do it, I find you can."

Marlowe is aware of the particular dangers posed to western journalists by certain elements among the various fundamentalist Islamic resistance groups emerging throughout the Middle East, Africa and Asia of late. "If you look back on the Arab-Israeli wars, you could always get interviews with people. I've interviewed a lot of Palestinians whom the Israelis call terrorists. And they will talk to you. They want to get their point of view across. I've done dozens of interviews with Hizbullah. They see the value of talking to the western media. But, other groups, such as the GIA in Algeria, or some of the groups in Iraq don't want to talk to you; they want to chop your head off.

"So, that is a change. Whether or not it is unprecedented in the history of journalism, I couldn't tell you. But it is unprecedented in my lifetime as a reporter."

In addition to Islamic resistance groups, Marlowe also identifies the US military as hostile to journalists, irrespective - almost - of nationality or ethnicity.

"I suspect they don't mind if journalists get killed because it gets them out of their way. The US army killed two of my colleagues, Taras Protsyuk and José Cuoso, when they fired a tank shell at the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. They said journalists shouldn't have been there anyway. They killed Reuters cameraman Mazen Dana outside Abu Ghraib Prison, even though the military had given him permission to be there. I've heard US soldiers in Iraq tell you that the press is losing the war for them just the way it 'lost' the war in Vietnam for the military. That is such a dangerous myth."

Despite the dangers, Marlowe describes the pain of leaving sources and contacts behind in conflict zones. "You invest so much in contacts; you get to care very deeply about them. You build up a relationship with a region. For example, after I left Lebanon, it felt like being separated from a friend or a relative."

Irish woman and veteran war reporter for the Guardian newspaper in London, Maggie O'Kane describes leaving contacts abroad as a sort of "amputation". O'Kane feels that there should be a mandatory period of "debriefing" for journalists returning from conflict zones.

"Because it is a very unhealthy environment. You sort of live on cigarettes and adrenaline. Personally though, it would be quite difficult to create the right environment for that to happen. You don't want to be debriefed by your foreign editor because you want to pretend that everything is fine. And, it should be mandatory so that you are not seen as 'having asked to see the shrink'. And the person who debriefs the journalist should not be involved in your appraisal or your employment."

In addition to the physical challenges and threats posed by war reporting, O'Kane highlights both the potential for psychological trauma and psychological healing afforded to those reporting on conflict.

"In Kosovo, I covered a really traumatic story about a whole family being assassinated and the mother trying to protect her kids with her own body. It was really very upsetting. I was haunted by the thought of this woman losing her two-year-old child in such violent circumstances." Perhaps counter-intuitively, O'Kane derived some comfort in her own crisis from the stories told to her by the victims of war in Kosovo and elsewhere. "It changed my perspective on my own loss. Losing a three-month-old foetus for example. Having just interviewed a woman who has just talked about using her body to protect her two-year-old child. And not succeeding.

"It certainly helped me psychologically to deal with my own loss. It gave me perspective. It really did."

## Killing the messenger: the deadly price of war news

O'Kane is sceptical of the value of being embedded with conventional military forces and describes the unseemly scrum for embedded slots among western journalists who become "seduced by tanks and helicopters and all that gung-ho nonsense.

"I've seen journalists compete in a terribly undignified way for slots on military aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan, you know, shouting 'me, me, me' and all of that.

"I remember thinking, you can have my seat, mate, I'm going to drive there, or walk there and get the real story from the refugees on the ground. And I've done that. Maybe arriving a day later than the others, but getting some real stories on the way. I always make a point of trying to be independent and travelling on my own time with my own agenda."

O'Kane does not feel that **female** journalists are any less at risk than their male counterparts when reporting from hostile environments. "I had what I call my Pollyanna phase. You know, reporting in a flowery dress with just a notepad. But I know now that appearing unthreatening is quite a thin veneer of protection to have. After the deaths of three colleagues from Corriere Della Sierra, El Mundo and El País in Afghanistan in 2001, I realised that there is no such thing as calculated risk taking. They were taken from a convoy in northern Afghanistan by the Taliban and summarily executed at the roadside. I was operating nearby and I realise that it could just as easily have been me."

Irish woman Orla Guerin, the BBC's Africa Correspondent, is also highly security conscious when reporting in the field.

"When I started out as a foreign correspondent, there wasn't really a systematic approach to safety. But, that has now changed and I would say the BBC, in common with other media organisations, has become very strict. The BBC and other broadcasters have definitely become very safety attuned and security conscious."

Guerin and other colleagues at the BBC are required to undergo mandatory "hostile environments" training courses and refresher courses at regular intervals.

"Part of the first aid we are now being taught is from trauma specialists from hospital accident and emergency departments," says Guerin. "The big question for journalists is, what would you do, if God forbid, you were with a colleague who got shot or seriously injured. Could you actually save someone's life by stopping them bleeding?"

Unlike newspaper journalists, broadcast journalists are particularly conspicuous in conflict zones.

"With a big TV camera and a microphone, you stand out so much," says Guerin. "Whether you'd like to be low-key or not, say in a tense situation, often that option just isn't open. With a camera you automatically become the focus of attention and you can become the focus of anxiety and aggression very quickly also."

Dr Tom Clonan is the Irish Times Security Analyst. He lectures in the school of media, DIT.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2007

**Democracy and war; Maybe someday Israel will get credit for freedoms it grants and that terrorists do not.**

Globes [online] - Israel's Business Arena

January 13, 2009 Tuesday

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**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** Lilac Sigan

## **Body**

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The sad thing about the growing trend called global terror is the cracks that it found in the timeworn concept called democracy, the way it gets into those cracks with impeccable precision, and the way it succeeds time and again in making a mockery of the concept.

Unpleasant as it may be, the fact that we are a democracy simply keeps working against us in our just attempt to fit in somehow here in the Middle East.

First of all, we are committed to the rules of the United Nations and its decisions, and to the Geneva Convention. And if we miss on any areas related to those pacts? We are immediately condemned by what seems like every country and journalist on the planet.

In contrast, Hamas has been firing, nearly daily, for years, aiming directly and intentionally into our citizen population, as far as it can, and everyone just lets it go, because Hamas is a terror organization. At the end of last week, Katyusha rockets were fired from South Lebanon, with the clear intention of harming Israeli women and children, and it hit a home for the elderly in Israel. But these actions remain uncriticized, because no one expects anything from Hamas and Hizbullah no one is threatening sanctions, and, most importantly, the foreign press is silent.

Besides humanitarian concerns that bind our hands, there are other disadvantages to the old and weary concept called democracy. Why? Because we have a free press. Everyone can say anything, and everyone takes full advantage of that.

It is reflected in the field day that our local media industry is having. Every military move is analyzed by at least 300 sophisticated and critical analysts, who succeed in withering our leadership and self-confidence, and in dividing and polarizing the nation. And in the slim chance they miss that opportunity, then 200 other analysts can be found to explain how the communications industry has been recruited by the government, and that it is truly disgusting and anti-democratic.

And what about our leaders? Here, too, democracy works against us. Instead of one person speaking for everyone, with one clear voice that represents the State of Israel, everyone takes full advantage of their freedom of expression, and speaks his or her mind, out of personal or political interest, and what comes out is one big cacophony, a cacophony that is misunderstood, inexplicable, unclear, and above all - confusing and contradictory.

Democracy and war Maybe someday Israel will get credit for freedoms it grants and that terrorists do not.

You have to admit that in this area the Palestinian Authority has a huge advantage over us: Who there even thinks to allow someone to voice his opinion? For some reason, no one seems to be bothered by that, so understandably no one rails against it. The only criticism heard is, of course, of democracy.

The story of the foreign press is the strangest. There is a war, and Israel, for very clear reasons, restricts foreign reporters from the battlefield. So what happens? The world media fumes more than ever at us. Not only that our Supreme Court eventually lets the foreign media in, because, after all, we are a democracy - and what happens? Do we see pictures of Hamas heads hiding behind children in hospitals, or setting up military camps in schools? No. The foreign media seeks out pictures of destruction in order to point a scathingly accusatory finger at Israel, and not at those people who turned innocent civilians into human shields in the first place.

Would they fume so much at us if we were unethical, conscience-less terrorists? Probably not. The foreign media would be scared to open its mouth, or at best, would not expect anything from us, and therefore not criticize. Exactly like the poor residents of Gaza. Who should they blame? A restrained, humane, Israel, or ruthless terror organizations?

Obviously it doesn't matter what happens, Israel will never be as scary and as threatening as terrorists who have neither morals nor conscience. Therefore, the foreign media is correct in that sense. Its journalistic courage manifests itself as attacks on those who will not attack back. Between you and me, it's a lot easier that way.

In short, it appears that as we are a democracy, we have two good options. The first is to adopt terrorism, and sooner rather than later, so that we can enjoy all the advantages that this developing concept brings when lined up against anachronistic rules of the game, that no longer hold true in the new global situation.

The second option, perhaps less advisable, but perhaps more realistic, is to try to emphasize once in a while this troubling fact that we are the only democracy in the Middle East, aiming to somehow survive.

Hey, who knows maybe sometime, in the distant future, even the foreign media will somehow give us some credit.

Published by Globes [online], Israel business news - [www.globes-online.com](http://www.globes-online.com) - on January 13, 2009

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**Load-Date:** January 13, 2009

## **WALES: Demo for nine peace protesters**

Daily Post (North Wales)

June 5, 2008, Thursday

North Wales Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 407 words

**Byline:** HYWEL TREWYN

### **Body**

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DEMONSTRATORS held a protest outside a the Flintshire plant of a defence industry firm in support of peace activists prosecuted for occupying the firm's premises in Northern Ireland.

The protesters from Wrexham and Malpas turned up with placards and banners to protest outside Raytheon's factory at Broughton.

The firm designs, develops and manufactures advanced military electronic products and systems for the defence and aeronautics industry.

The activists from Northern Ireland, known as the Raytheon Nine, were yesterday acquitted of damaging computers at Raytheon's factory in Londonderry.

The judge at Belfast Crown Court dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

The men had occupied the building in protest at the use of Raytheon's equipment by the Israeli Army in Lebanon in 2006. The nine accepted they had occupied Raytheon and destroyed their computer system, but claimed they had a legal, moral and political duty to do so.

Their intention was to stop - or at least delay - what they claimed were war crimes being carried out by the Israeli army in Lebanon.

The action was part of a wider protest at what the demonstrators viewed as Raytheon's involvement in the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supporters at Broughton yesterday carried placards with photographs of the victims of an Israeli air-strike on Qana in Lebanon in 2006 which killed several people.

Israel had mounted the air strike in response to repeated rocket attacks on its territory mounted from Lebanon by terror group **Hezbollah**.

Last night peace campaigner Genny Bove, 46, of Moss, Wrexham welcomed the news of the acquittals.

She said: "The case was supposed to have been held originally in Derry but was moved to Belfast because they thought the jury would be too sympathetic.

## WALES: Demo for nine peace protesters

"So they had to leave their homes and families at 7am each morning to get to court.

Ms Bove said: "Some of us from Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum and Wrexham **Women** for Peace went to the Broughton factory yesterday and held a peaceful protest outside in solidarity with the Raytheon Nine.

"They had carried out their action to try and stop the bombing of people in Lebanon.

"Because we have a Raytheon factory in Broughton, we also wanted to raise awareness because Raytheon workers are also working on the Astor surveillance system which is all part of the killing machine."

No-one was available for comment from Raytheon last night.

[hyweltrewyn@dailypost.co.uk](mailto:hyweltrewyn@dailypost.co.uk)

## Graphic

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Protesters from Wrexham and Malpas outside the Raytheon plant in Broughton

**Load-Date:** June 5, 2008

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50/50

Herald Sun (Australia)  
January 17, 2009 Saturday  
1 - FIRST Edition

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**Section:** SATURDAY; Pg. 70

**Length:** 403 words

## Body

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GREAT that Rob Hulls requires former MP Thornley to explain why he quit to the people who elected him two years ago. Pity he did not apply the same standard to Bracks and Thwaites.

John Muir, Vermont

CONNEX cannot be blamed for having to cancel a number of trains through defective track work. The blame lies with the Victorian Government, through Vic Track, for the continuing neglect of maintenance to the rail system.

I.S. (Tim) Dunlop, Alphington

ACCORDING to Life Saving Victoria, there have been almost 500 drownings in Victoria in the past 10 years, but not a single fatal shark attack since 1977. Perhaps it's not the sharks we should be worried about when we go to the beach.

David Scarlett, East Malvern

IF Robert Doyle and others are serious about clearing the CBD of the drunks and alcohol-related problems, it's simple: go back to early opening, early closing.

Barbara Parkinson, Kensington

A COUPLE of weeks ago the trains broke down in the rain, now they don't want to work when it's sunny. I bet Jeff Kennett cops the blame.

Tony Webber, Sunbury

OPPOSITION transport spokesman Terry Mulder, in constantly criticising the Brumby Government and Connex, is forgetting it was his government that privatised public transport and did nothing to improve services or update infrastructure.

Keith, Braybrook

LYNNE Kosky has achieved the impossible by making her predecessor, Peter Batchelor, look good in the transport portfolio.

Eamon Veaney, Abbotsford

I HAVE an idea. Instead of banning the religious hijab, how about we replicate the Middle Eastern punishment for robbers? That would solve the problem.

Julie, Murrumbena

I'VE seen many comments claiming that because ``Paki" is an abbreviation, it cannot be offensive. It has been used as a pejorative in the UK for years. And is ``Abo" not considered offensive here?

Robert White, Melbourne

SO Kevin 747 is heading overseas again. Maybe they should make Julia Gillard prime minister and Rudd the travelling salesman. He's good at selling.

Gordo, Keilor

AS there seems to be no legitimate use for lasers, why not ban the importation and sale of them. Perhaps we may then avert an airline disaster or a serious injury to a sportsman.

Arch, Frankston

IF an army were to advance behind a wall of women and children, firing as it went, it would surely be condemned. Why, then, do Hamas and Hezbollah escape condemnation for using women and children as shields?

Brian Meadows, Ballan

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2009

## *Child of revolutionaries secures real power*

The Australian

September 19, 2008 Friday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 9

**Length:** 388 words

**Byline:** Martin Chulov

### **Body**

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NINE years ago, she was a corporate lawyer entering public life with a skill set that seemed unlikely to propel her to the ranks of the world's most powerful women.

Then 41, Livni joined the Knesset as a child of the right wing. She had credentials that helped her slot in -- a rank of lieutenant from her army days and three years in her early 20s as a junior Mossad officer.

However, the young politician initially stood out largely because of her revolutionary parents, both of whom had held key positions in the Jewish resistance, which had fought British rule before Israel's creation in 1948.

Her parents, Sarah and Eitan, were the first couple married in the new Jewish state. Before then, they had played key militant roles in the hardline nationalist group, Irgun, which had attacked the mandated British troops for three decades in a campaign that was labelled as terrorism.

Livni's influence increased sharply from the turn of the century, as the intifada also rapidly gathered steam.

She joined parliament as a member of Ariel Sharon's Likud party and stayed a staunch advocate of its ideals, even as it began to drift away from the concept of a greater Israel towards the notion of land for peace.

Ambitious, she won the ear and confidence of Sharon, who promoted her through the ranks of the party and appointed her minister for regional co-operation in 2001. By early 2006, with Sharon comatose, his successor, Ehud Olmert, had appointed her Foreign Minister.

Ever since, she had seemed destined for the country's highest political office. But searching tests of her ability and staying power lay in store.

The new position brought with it immense responsibility, extra scrutiny, and a world stage that could launch her to stardom or crush her within a news cycle.

Livni's test came in southern Lebanon in mid-2006, when Israel and Hezbollah took to each other in a withering 34-day war. She played a key role in brokering ceasefire terms and has since turned her energies to the Palestinian front, attempting to instil the White House vision of prosperity and partnership in return for lasting peace.

Many in Israel, particularly in the Right from which she came, claim she has done poorly on both counts. The Kadima loyalists disagreed, giving her a chance to take their vision forward. But it was not a ringing endorsement.

Child of revolutionaries secures real power

**Load-Date:** September 18, 2008

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## **Enraged Lebanese bury slain lawmaker**

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

June 15, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A15

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** Louise Roug, Los Angeles Times

**Dateline:** BEIRUT

### **Body**

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BEIRUT -- Family, friends and party loyalists gathered yesterday to bury Walid Eido, a 65-year-old anti-Syrian lawmaker assassinated with his son and eight other people in a bombing on Beirut's waterfront the previous day.

Flanked by secret service agents speaking into their sleeves, the funeral procession passed billboards with images of the Lebanese politician and his son, and the words: "The men of justice, the martyrs of justice." Volunteers from Eido's Future Bloc put up the posters overnight and spent the morning distributing party flags.

A crowd of Sunnis at the mosque greeted the coffins with applause, chants and whistling.

"The Sunni blood is boiling," youths yelled out, with taunts directed at Hassan Nasrallah, the Shiite Muslim leader of the radical **Hezbollah** movement. "Nasrallah is the enemy of God."

U.S.-backed politicians blamed the killing of Eido on Syria, charging that the assassination was an attempt to destabilize Lebanon, an already frail country once dominated by Syria. While Eido did not enjoy the kind of broad popularity of other slain notables, his killing heightened sectarian tensions and sent angry Sunnis into the streets of Beirut on Wednesday night.

Canada also "strongly" condemned Eido's killing.

"This sixth killing of a leading anti-Syrian figure since 2005 is yet another attempt to undermine Lebanon's stability and democracy," Canada's Foreign Minister Peter MacKay said in a statement.

Since the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, in a similar bombing a few kilometres up the coast, Lebanon has suffered political instability, sectarian tensions and an economic downturn.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of people, most of them relatives and political party volunteers, walked from a posh Sunni neighbourhood to a Sunni mosque where Eido, his son Khaled and one of his bodyguards were laid to rest after noon prayers.

In the crowd, some Lebanese government agents wore hand-me-down U.S. military shirts, the American Airborne insignia showing underneath their black vests.

## Enraged Lebanese bury slain lawmaker

"With our blood, with our soul, we sacrifice ourselves for you, Saad Hariri," the mourners chanted.

## Graphic

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Photo: Anwar Amro, Agence France-Presse ; Getty Images; Lebanese women throw rice on the coffins of slain MP Walid Eido, his eldest son and their bodyguards during their funeral procession in Beirut yesterday. Lebanon observed a day of mourning to bury Eido, whose death in a Beirut bomb blast was the latest in a string of killings the ruling coalition has blamed on Damascus. ;

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2007

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## CHINA TIGHTENING OLYMPIC SECURITY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 18, 2008 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-3

**Length:** 413 words

### **Body**

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HONG KONG -- With three weeks to go until the start of the Olympics, Beijing officials are imposing increasingly stringent security rules there while Hong Kong, the host to all six Olympic equestrian events, is promising a more relaxed approach.

Mainland Chinese officials have sharply restricted the issuance of visas, installed thousands of outdoor surveillance cameras, clamped down more than usual on possible demonstrators and even disclosed plans to search large numbers of vehicles entering the greater Beijing area every day.

Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous territory of China since its return by Britain in 1997, plans to continue allowing immediate, visa-free entry during the Olympics to citizens of 170 countries. Hong Kong police officers have begun holding discussions over the past week with representatives of more than 20 local groups to work out the logistics of any demonstrations, and have pursued a low-key program of asking utilities, transport companies, the airport and others to update their security procedures.

President rebuffed on tax

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- An Argentine Senate vote that struck down the country's divisive grain-export tax yesterday may put more food on the world's tables, as members of Cristina Fernandez's own party turned against her only seven months into her presidency.

Ms. Fernandez had submitted the vote to Congress in a largely symbolic gesture, given that her party holds a majority in both houses. But Ms. Fernandez's own vice president cast the decisive vote against her attempt to spread farm wealth among Argentina's 10 million poor.

Returned soldiers buried

NAHARIYA, Israel -- Thousands of Israelis prayed and cried at funerals yesterday for two soldiers whose return from Lebanon in black coffins touched off a nationwide wave of anguish.

Across the border, a second day of celebrations swept Lebanon for the five militants freed by Israel in exchange for the soldiers' bodies.

The two soldiers, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, were captured two years ago in a cross-border raid by Hezbollah fighters.

## CHINA TIGHTENING OLYMPIC SECURITY

Also in the nation

Police in the Persian Gulf tourist hub of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, said yesterday they've detained 17 foreign men for allegedly being gay and wearing women's clothing in malls and other public places. ... A Spanish court absolved four men and upheld the acquittal of a fifth yesterday in the convoluted legal proceedings relating to the 2004 Madrid commuter train bombings that killed 191 people.

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2008

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## Wide support for new mufti

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

June 11, 2007 Monday

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**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 402 words

### **Body**

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AAP

OUTSPOKEN Muslim leader Sheik Taj Aldin Alhilali has stepped down from Australia's top Islamic post.

Sheik Alhilali yesterday declined another term as Australia's mufti, forcing the nation's Muslim leaders to appoint a successor.

Australia's imams yesterday elected Sheik Fehmi Naji El-Imam during a four-hour meeting behind closed doors at a Melbourne mosque.

But Sheik Alhilali was their first choice, despite recent pressure from within their own ranks for him to be sacked.

While his departure has pleased some Muslim leaders, a close confidant believes the outgoing mufti was the best cleric for the job, while others are calling for the position to be scrapped altogether.

Immediate past president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Rehin Ghauri, said most Muslims would be pleased to leave the controversy of Sheik Alhilali's 18-year tenure behind.

"I don't like his personality, I don't like his style -- uncompromising style. Pulling punches gets you nowhere. You bring controversy instead of friends," Mr Ghauri said.

"The ordinary Muslims don't like to see him as mufti."

The mufti sparked a storm of controversy last year when he likened immodestly dressed women to uncovered meat, suggesting they invited rape, during a Ramadan sermon to 500 worshippers in Sydney.

Those comments prompted calls for his resignation and were widely denounced by Muslim community leaders and politicians.

Sheik Alhilali has also praised jihadists for fighting against Coalition forces, been accused of mishandling charity money raised after last year's Israel-Hezbollah war and declared that Australian Muslims had greater citizenship rights than those with a convict heritage.

Islamic Council of Victoria director Waleed Aly said the cleric's successor was "an improvement" but the creation in 1989 of the post of mufti was a "Christianisation of Islam" and unrepresentative of Muslim Australians.

## Wide support for new mufti

"What's come out of today is at least an improved structure in that the mufti is now part of a broader board of imams and accountable to them," he said.

Sheikh Fehmi, a Lebanon-born imam who has served at Melbourne's Preston Mosque for 30 years, is described as a moderate.

But he refused to comment on whether he would be less controversial than his predecessor.

"And so we want to have a very nice relationship with everybody around us and everyone else have a nice relationship with us," he told ABC Radio.

**Load-Date:** June 11, 2007

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## Shifting sands

Guardian.com

May 17, 2008

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theguardian

Length: 868 words

### Body

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Over lavish buffets in giant air-conditioned tents whose generators battle with the searing summer heat, Kuwaitis have been arguing over an election that is being watched for signs that one of the freest countries in the Arab world is disillusioned with its political system.

Voters in the oil-rich emirate are choosing today between groupings (parties are still formally banned) of Islamists, independents, nationalists and liberals, against a background of turbulence that has included the dissolution of parliament and controversial cabinet resignations.

The 50-seat national assembly has a history of defying the government, unusual in a region dominated by Saudi Arabia and the smaller hereditary monarchies along the Gulf.

Kuwaiti MPs approve the state budget and other major laws and often exercise their right to question ministers, sometimes prompting them to resign under pressure - though they have no say in the formation of the cabinet, traditionally headed by a member of the ruling al-Sabah family.

In one recent incident, Islamist MPs tried to force the resignation of the female education minister, Nouriya al-Subaih because she refused to wear a headscarf. Two years ago a stormy parliamentary session broke up with a chaotic mass walkout of MPs protesting against constitutional reforms.

Kuwait matters, not only because of its immense wealth - its oil reserves, the world's fourth largest, were Saddam Hussein's target in the 1990 invasion - but also because it is an oasis of albeit limited democracy in a desert of autocracy.

It acquired its first parliament two years after independence from Britain in 1961. Kuwaiti women were granted the right to vote in 2005, though there are still no female MPs, and the emirate has a varied and lively media. In the region only Bahrain has a more developed democracy.

Kuwait's other near neighbours - Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar - are still ruled without parliaments and are far more successful economically, attracting western banks and blue-chip companies, vast amounts of foreign investment and building post-modern architecture that makes Kuwait look like a shabby backwater.

"The country has been retreating since the 1970s," the Islamist candidate Mohammad al-Mutairi told an election rally. "Development is on hold ... while smaller countries which don't have even a quarter of our wealth have progressed because they have an efficient political administration."

## Shifting sands

Kuwaiti reformers want to diversify the economy away from its heavy dependence on oil and shake up services - the state still employs 90% of all Kuwaitis - but new laws have been repeatedly delayed in parliament. A bill to sell off state enterprises has been stuck since 1992 and legislation allowing foreign firms to take part in a project to boost oil production has been stalled for over a decade.

"We should thank God for bestowing richness upon us. Kuwait is the fourth largest country after the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq in terms of world oil reserves," said candidate Yousif al-Zilzila. "The prices of oil are skyrocketing ... Why don't we use it to develop the services sector?"

The emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, dissolved the assembly in March. In the past the parliament has been suspended for long periods - twice unconstitutionally - though it was re-instated in 1992 after the US-led liberation from Iraqi occupation.

"The ruling family tends to blame the parliament for Kuwait's failure to develop as rapidly as Dubai - a model which allows the government to make decisions unhindered by democratic institutions," commented Nathan Brown of the Washington-based Carnegie Foundation. "Other countries in the region are coming to see Kuwait as a negative model of what democracy can result in. Kuwaitis are increasingly debating how to reform, or whether to scale back, their democratic experiment."

Underlying tensions have surfaced during the campaign, most strikingly when tribesmen stormed a police station to free men detained for holding illegal primaries. These were banned in 1998 because of the belief they encouraged allegiance to tribes rather than the state.

Alongside allegations of intimidation and vote buying, there have been protests over the redrawing of electoral boundaries, with five districts replacing 25 in a further bid to weaken the influence of tribes and Islamists. This was one of the key demands of the Kuwait Orange Movement (a reformist movement inspired by "people power" in Ukraine and elsewhere) that led to parliament's last dissolution and new elections two years ago.

Sectarian strains between Sunnis and the Shia minority have been more pronounced in the aftermath of the war in Iraq and the increasingly assertive Iranian role in the region. Shia MPs were threatened with prosecution when they mourned Imad Mughniyeh, the Lebanese Hizbullah leader assassinated in Damascus earlier this year (and who was implicated in the hijacking a Kuwaiti passenger plane in 1988).

Kuwait clearly has its own distinct problems, though Arab commentators like to emphasise the damage done by mayhem in Iraq and the "freedom agenda" pursued so selectively by the Bush administration. Its democracy, in any event, remains a fragile creature.

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2008

## International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

February 4, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** C; Pg. 5

**Length:** 413 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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#### Roadside bomb kills 8 in Somali capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia - A roadside bomb killed eight civilians and wounded nine others when it exploded near a minibus full of passengers in the war-ravaged Somali capital on Sunday, witnesses and hospital staff said.

Hussein Ali, a resident of Wabari district in southern Mogadishu, said he saw eight bodies in the minibus.

Fadumo Dahir, a nurse at Medina hospital, said nine people had been admitted after the blast. Two were in critical condition, she said.

#### Israeli gunfire on Lebanese border kills 1

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Israeli forces opened fire across the Lebanese border late Sunday, killing one person and wounding another, Lebanese security officials said, a rare shooting since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war.

The shooting occurred as the two were in Lebanese territory across from Israeli positions in the village of Ghajar, the officials said.

#### Mauritania charges 3

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania - Prosecutors charged three Mauritanian men Sunday with belonging to an al-Qaida-linked terror organization and murdering four French tourists who were gunned down on a roadside in this Islamic nation in December.

Two of the men were arrested this month at a hotel in Guinea-Bissau and extradited to Mauritania, and a third is still on the run, said top public prosecutor Ahmed Ould Abdalla.

The two arrested men were identified as Sidi Ould Sidna, alias Abou Jendel, and Mohamed Ould Sidi Chabarnou. Authorities are still searching for Maarouve Ould Habib, Abdalla said.

#### 6 die in Sri Lanka blast

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - A female suicide bomber blew herself up at the main railway station in the Sri Lankan capital Sunday, killing six people and wounding 95 others, the military and a hospital official said.

Six travelers were killed in the blast, Nanayakkara said.

## International Briefs

## Tadic wins in Serbia

BELGRADE, Serbia - Serbia's pro-Western president narrowly defeated an ally of late autocrat Slobodan Milosevic in a closely contested election Sunday only days before an expected declaration of independence by the breakaway Kosovo province.

President Boris Tadic won 51 percent of the vote, while Tomislav Nikolic, who ruled with Milosevic during the wars in the Balkans in the 1990s, had 47 percent, according to the state electoral commission.

## Pakistan blast kills 6

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - A suicide bomber on a motorbike rammed into a minibus carrying security personnel, detonating a blast today that killed at least six people in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, police said.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2008

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## **THRONG FLEES PALESTINIAN CAMP**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 23, 2007 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A-1

**Length:** 966 words

**Byline:** Scheherezade Faramarzi, The Associated Press

**Dateline:** TRIPOLI, Lebanon

### **Body**

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People flooded out of a besieged Palestinian refugee camp last night, waving white flags and telling of bodies lying in the streets and inside wrecked houses after three days of fighting between Lebanese troops and Islamic militants.

Earlier in the day, a relief convoy came under fire when a cease-fire abruptly shattered as U.N. workers tried to deliver food and water to residents. A U.N. official said some who approached the convoy seeking supplies were wounded or killed, but he did not have exact figures.

The nighttime lull that allowed the escape did not appear to be part of an organized truce -- and there was no sign that the battle was over. The government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said it was determined to uproot Fatah Islam, which took up residence in the camp late last year.

There was no immediate indication of whether the flight of civilians would give the government a freer hand in bombarding militants holed up in the camp. The army has said its troops were trying to target only militant positions.

Twenty-nine soldiers and at least 20 militants had been killed since the battle began Sunday in the heaviest internal fighting in Lebanon since the 1975-90 civil war. But the number of civilian casualties remained unknown because relief workers were unable to get inside the camp.

When fighting quieted after sunset, thousands of people took the chance to escape. They streamed out of Nahr el-Bared's western gate on foot and in cars, pickups and minivans jammed with men, women and children. Many waved white towels or white plastic bags from the windows as they passed Lebanese soldiers encircling the camp.

"The smell of corpses was everywhere. There was no food, water or electricity, and they were shooting at us," university student Dania Mahmoud Kassem, 21, said of the past three days in the camp on the outskirts of the northern port city of Tripoli.

Another refugee, Ibrahim Issa Dawoud, 42, said he, his wife and six children -- ages 3 to 13 -- had taken refuge in a mosque for three days, living off potato chips, while Lebanese army tanks and artillery fired at militants armed with mortars and automatic weapons. "Even the cemetery was bombarded, and the skeletons were uprooted," he said as he left with his family. "We thought this was our last chance because they will bulldoze the camp."

## THRONG FLEES PALESTINIAN CAMP

The camp is home to some 31,000 Palestinians who live crowded along narrow streets. AP Television News video taken in the camp showed streets littered with damaged vehicles, shards of glass and rubble from wrecked buildings, some in flames from shelling.

Despite broadcast images of Arab troops battering a Palestinian community, Lebanon's government has received widespread support at home and from Arab countries, some of which have even provided weapons to help the siege. The backing underlined Arab leaders' desire to break what they see as a nascent terror group. Fatah Islam's leader, Palestinian Shaker al-Absi, has been linked to the former head of al-Qaida in Iraq and is believed to have recruited about 100 fighters, including militants from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and other Arab countries.

Angry Palestinians elsewhere in Lebanon burned tires to protest the military assault, raising the threat of wider unrest in the country's volatile refugee camps. Some 215,000 people live in the 11 camps, which are rife with armed groups and Islamic extremists.

Reports from fleeing residents raised fears of a high civilian toll. "There's been a massacre. I witnessed it. In one room alone, there are 10 dead. Six shells fell on us, the bodies were cut to pieces," one man shouted angrily, as he and a few others managed to get out of the camp during the brief afternoon truce. He continued his flight before identifying himself or giving further details.

During an early-afternoon truce, the U.N. relief agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, tried to get a convoy of water and other supplies into the camp. But as workers distributed supplies, shooting broke out. It wasn't clear who was firing.

"We were hit, initially by light arms fire, then by heavier fire," Richard Cook, the UNWRA chief in Lebanon, told APTN. "We've not had any staff hurt, but there were injuries and possibly deaths among those coming to collect the food."

Another UNWRA official said 15 civilians were killed or wounded, but he did not give a breakdown. The official, who witnessed the incident, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

During the day's fighting, Lebanese troops tried to capture militant positions outside the camp, which they are not allowed to enter under a 1969 agreement with Palestinian groups.

Fatah Islam spokesman Abu Salim Taha told The Associated Press that the group fought off the soldiers. But APTN video showed at least one captured militant position

The military's attack at the camp also has raised fears the fighting could destabilize Lebanon's uneasy balance among its many religious sects and factions.

Mr. Siniora's Western-backed government already faces a domestic political crisis, with the Iranian- and Syrian-backed **Hezbollah** militant group campaigning for its removal.

But so far, Mr. Siniora's rivals have supported the assault. The Shiite Muslims of **Hezbollah** deeply opposes Sunni militant groups like Fatah Islam, and the movement issued a statement stressing the military's duty to safeguard the country.

The Bush administration repeated its support for Mr. Siniora, a close U.S. ally. It also hinted that it suspected a Syrian role in the turmoil.

The refugees fleeing Nahr el-Bared moved into the nearby Beddawi refugee camp. UNWRA officials registered them and distributed mattresses, food and water. Hundreds bunked at a school, while others moved in with relatives at the camp, already home to 15,000 people.

## Graphic

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## THRONG FLEES PALESTINIAN CAMP

PHOTO: Nasser Nasser/Associated Press: ' . . . OUR LAST CHANCE' IN LEBANON/Palestinians flee the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in Tripoli, Lebanon, yesterday during a lull in the fighting between Lebanese troops and Islamic militants.

**Load-Date:** May 24, 2007

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## *Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran*

The Australian (Australia)

October 26, 2007 Friday

All-round Metro Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 12

**Length:** 426 words

### **Body**

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AP, AFP

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has imposed sweeping new sanctions against Iran's Defence Ministry, its Revolutionary Guard Corps and a number of banks to punish them for purported support for terrorist organisations in Iraq and the Middle East.

The measures, announced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, cover some of the Iranian Government's largest military and financial institutions, which Washington blames for supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shia insurgent groups in Iraq, along with the Hamas and Hezbollah organisations.

The sanctions will cut off more than 20 Iranian entities, including individuals and companies owned or controlled by the Revolutionary Guards, from the US financial system and are likely to have a ripple effect through the international banking community.

The Quds Force -- a part of the Revolutionary Guard Corps that Washington accuses of providing weapons, including powerful bomb-making material blamed for the deaths of soldiers in Iraq -- and banks will be identified as "specially designated global terrorist" groups for their activities in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East.

The sanctions are the toughest the US has levied against Tehran since the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in the Iranian capital.

"What this means is that no US citizen or a private organisation will be allowed to engage in financial transactions with these persons and entities," Dr Rice said last night.

"These actions will help to protect the international financial system from the illicit activities of the Iranian Government."

The announcement of the sanctions is likely to fuel speculation that the US is readying military action against Iran for its nuclear program. But a senior official said the action complemented diplomatic efforts.

The Secretary of State told the US Congress on Wednesday that Iran constituted "perhaps the single greatest challenge" for US security. President George W. Bush suggested last week a nuclear-armed Iran could trigger "World War III".

## Rice imposes new round of sanctions against Iran

Dr Rice's comments followed a dramatic encounter with a **female** protester who confronted the Secretary of State and accused her of being a war criminal, before being hauled away by Capitol security.

Desiree Farooz accosted Dr Rice and waved her hands -- painted blood red -- just centimetres from the chief diplomat's face inside the committee meeting room as television cameras captured the confrontation.

"The blood of millions of Iraqis is on your hands," Ms Farooz shouted, before police wrestled her away.

**Load-Date:** October 25, 2007

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## *Imam compares himself to Uluru*

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

May 13, 2007 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 25

**Length:** 384 words

**Byline:** Taghred Chandab

### **Body**

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MUSLIM leader Sheik Taj el-Din al Hilaly has likened his strength to one of Australia's most famous landmarks.

The mufti is expected to return to Lakemba Mosque on Friday to deliver his first sermon since placing a self-imposed ban on speaking last year.

In his first interview since returning from a controversial conference in Iran and Turkey last month, the country's most senior Muslim cleric said he was determined to continue fighting the "vermin and snakes" who have spent the past year plotting to destroy him.

"I will persevere and be as strong and firm as Uluru," he said. "I'm heartbroken that we have more than one snake in this community.

"Hatred and grudges don't make better human beings or a better society. If God chooses to raise a person, no one can bring him down."

It's believed the sheik has been inundated with community support to return to the mosque as its head imam, with his supporters threatening to boycott the Lakemba Mosque.

"I don't want this to happen," he said. "This is pressure from the community and I have to listen to the people."

The sheik has not given a sermon since November, when he came under fire for comparing scantily clad women to uncovered meat.

He said he never wanted the mosque to be drawn into the debate and believed that at the time the best thing was for him to stop speaking until the situation eased.

Since the Ramadan sermon went public, Sheik al Hilaly has been embroiled in more controversy. The most recent includes accusations that he diverted \$12,000 earmarked for victims of the Hezbollah-Israeli war to supporters of a terrorist group.

Last week the sheik was cleared by the Australian Federal Police of any wrongdoing. He said he was still considering legal action against the many people who made the allegations against him, and that he was determined to find out who leaked the information to the media.

## Imam compares himself to Uluru

Sheik al Hilaly said he planned to continue working as Mufti of Australia until a suitable replacement could be found. He said the decision by the Australian National Imams Council to make the position of mufti redundant was against Islamic principles.

The sheik said he had no intention of giving up the position until a qualified person, with strong religious credentials, was found and appointed. He said the person had to be an Australian.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: MUFTI: Sheik al Hilaly. Picture:JANIE BARRETT

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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## *Don't mention the war: new mufti muzzled by minders*

The Australian (Australia)

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

Canberra Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1001 words

**Byline:** Cameron Stewart

### **Body**

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MATP

BARELY a day after being elevated to lead the nation's Muslims, Fehmi Naji el-Imam was yesterday muzzled by his own minders, who refused to allow the new mufti to articulate his views on the war in Iraq.

The extraordinary intervention came during Sheik Fehmi's inaugural press conference, in which the 79-year-old Melbourne cleric promised not to repeat the "haphazard" public comments of his predecessor.

But Sheik Fehmi's team were so anxious to avoid new controversy that they stopped the frail cleric from giving his opinion on the Iraq war -- arguably the biggest issue in the Muslim world today.

"We'll leave those questions for another time," his adviser said.

Sheik Fehmi -- who has previously insisted Hezbollah militants are freedom fighters, not terrorists -- also avoided giving direct answers to questions on extremists, jihad, and the colourful outbursts of his predecessor Taj Din al-Hilali.

In contrast, a defiant Sheik Hilali yesterday felt no compulsion to observe any vow of silence now that he has surrendered his title. "Don't think for a moment that I will stop speaking out. Of course I will, now I will be a V8 and speak with even more power. I want politics to be based on truth rather than lies, on facts rather than perceptions," he said yesterday.

"The three principles of being a mufti -- mind, heart, speech -- the three exist in me, but I do not have the title."

While naturally more reserved than Sheik Hilali, Sheik Fehmi has courted controversy in the past, supporting -- and later regretting -- the Australian residency application of Abdul Nacer Benbrika -- the Algerian-born, self-styled cleric now in jail awaiting trial on terror charges.

Yesterday, the Preston-based imam's answers were convoluted and delivered in poor English, providing few clues as to how he will handle the role as the new spiritual leader for the nation's 300,000 Muslims.

Although Sheik Fehmi is widely considered a moderate, the Islamic community's new spiritual leader did not provide any comfort for those hoping for a strong message against Islamic extremism.

## Don't mention the war: new mufti muzzled by minders

When asked if he wanted moderate Muslims to take a stronger stance against extremists, he replied by criticising the media for misrepresenting the facts about Muslims.

And when asked what he would say to those Australian Muslims who were tempted to go overseas to wage jihad, he replied: "I don't know what (the) circumstances outside (Australia) would be."

However, Sheik Fehmi did say that the proper interpretation of Islam did not allow for extremism.

"Islam is one way. If you don't follow Islam properly you are deviated from the path, simple as that."

The press conference underlined just how different the cautious Sheik Fehmi will be as mufti, compared with the outspoken, accident-prone Sheik Hilali.

Sheik Hilali yesterday blamed the Howard Government, rather than his own tongue, for his demise.

"All the projects for the Muslim community, the state and federal grants, would have dried up if I stayed on," he said. "By not staying on, I hope everything will return to

Continued -- Page 6

From Page 1

normal. I understood the pressure on the Muslim community was mounting to the point where it was becoming too much. I resigned for the benefit of our community," Sheik Hilali added.

"No doubt both federal and state governments are proud of their achievement that I am no longer mufti. But now I am freer than ever to speak up against corruption, racism, social injustice and Australia's foreign policy."

Sheik Fehmi yesterday said Sheik Hilali had sometimes gone too far in his comments but believed that he did not mean them to be as hurtful as they sounded.

"Maybe sometimes you may let your tongue go too far," Sheik Fehmi said.

"But still, maybe he didn't mean to harm others but the way he put it sometimes didn't sound to others as pleasant as you want it."

However, he made it clear that he would be more cautious, saying he would make comments based on consensus positions agreed to by the new Australian National Imam's Council.

"We decide matters after consensus -- we don't come to the public haphazardly; it comes after deep consideration," he said.

Sheik Fehmi enjoys much broader support in the Muslim community than Sheik Hilali, the spiritual leader of Sydney's Lakemba Mosque. He is seen as a moderate and unifying figure rather than a divisive one. However, his appointment will disappoint those who believe the Muslim community needs a young articulate Australian-born mufti rather than an old-school cleric.

And his links to Mr Benbrika are a source of embarrassment. Sheik Fehmi supported his residency application in the 1990s, but Mr Benbrika later became radicalised and led a push to sack Sheik Fehmi from his Preston Mosque and replace him with a more hardline cleric.

Sheik Fehmi says he very much regrets the decision to support Mr Benrika's application.

Although Sheik Fehmi is respected and liked by the Howard Government, he does not always agree with Canberra. His position on Hezbollah is the clearest example.

## Don't mention the war: new mufti muzzled by minders

Sheik Fehmi is not only respected for his religious knowledge but also for his pioneering role in Australia's Islamic community. When he first arrived in Melbourne from Lebanon as a newly trained 23-year-old imam in 1951, there was no such thing as a Muslim community in Victoria.

He led a group that built Melbourne's first mosque, in North Carlton, and then the city's largest and most popular mosque in Preston, where he is still the imam.

Sheik Hilali was initially reappointed mufti by the nation's imams, but decided to relinquish the position to Sheik Fehmi after a series of controversies -- revealed by The Australian -- including comparing scantily dressed women to uncovered meat and making light of the notorious Sydney gang rapes.

Sheik Fehmi has been appointed mufti for a two-year term but his health remains a concern after he suffered a stroke last year. He maintained yesterday that he could do the job, but at times appeared frail and breathless.

Editorial -- Page 11

**Load-Date:** June 11, 2007

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**Heiress to Golda Meir?; ZIONIST ROYALTY: Tzipi Livni has the pedigree for a future in Israeli politics. Her parents were members of the underground group Irgun. She ran covert ops for a Mossad unit. Now she's an alternative to the macho men**

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

July 29, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** SUNDAY READER - PEOPLE; Pg. E4

**Length:** 1479 words

**Byline:** Tracy Wilkinson, Los Angeles Times

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - She grew up in Zionist royalty, the pedigreed daughter of a "fighting family." She was a spy with the Mossad, her purportedly daring field exploits still classified.

Today, she is the face of the Israeli government, in a country where politics remain largely the purview of macho men and where being tough often outranks being smart.

And some people think Tzipi Livni could become Israel's first ***female*** prime minister in more than a generation.

Israel routinely recycles its mostly male politicians, whatever scandal or other difficulty might befall them.

How else can the country explain the long up-and-down career of Ariel Sharon, or the current comeback of Ehud Barak, or the omnipresence of Benjamin Netanyahu?

In that world, Livni is a fresh phenomenon. In just a few years, she has emerged from relative obscurity to become one of Israel's most important political figures.

At 49, Livni, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, has defied many stereotypes.

Livni evolved into a proponent of coexistence with the Palestinians, relinquishing the idea of a Greater Israel and instead advocating side-by-side states.

A one-time agent with Israel's storied spy agency, she now sits down with Arab leaders and speaks to Arab newspapers.

This combination of old ideals and contemporary pragmatism has earned Livni a respect among many Israelis, from the right and left, who see her as a leader who is honest and principled, if not always suave.

"Supporting a two-state solution goes with the values I was raised with -- the need to keep Israel a Jewish state and a democratic one," Livni said in an interview at the modern, limestone Foreign Ministry on the western edge of

Heiress to Golda Meir?; ZIONIST ROYALTY: Tzipi Livni has the pedigree for a future in Israeli politics. Her parents were members of the underground group Irgun.....

Jerusalem. "The need is to adapt the two-state solution in order to live in our homeland ... a Jewish homeland ... while giving the Palestinians a possibility to create their own homeland."

#### TZIPI LIVNI IS, IN MANY WAYS, THE ANTITHESIS OF A POLITICIAN

Livni is not a natural schmoozer; her English is not flawless, and her Israeli accent remains thick. She often seems aloof.

But she wins praise, here and abroad, for a willingness to seek compromise -- a skill not always valued in Israeli politics -- and to work not necessarily in the spotlight. Yet none of this should be mistaken for meekness, say those who know her.

"She shows strength without being aggressive, more of a European-style politician," said one veteran Israeli analyst.

"But she can also be behind the scenes with a knife in her teeth when she needs to be. She knows how to fight."

That fighting instinct led Livni to what many consider to be her first major misstep.

A special inquiry into last year's war between Israel and the Lebanese-based Islamic militant group Hezbollah blamed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his government for a string of strategic and political errors. Livni came off looking ineffective.

She then launched, but quickly abandoned, an attempted coup against Olmert.

The half-hearted mutiny cost her, and dearly. Suddenly, Livni's leadership abilities and judgment were doubted.

And now the questions are: Is she doomed by her blunders and the attacks of an unforgiving media that raked her over the coals? Or can she yet recover and attain the success and power that she clearly craves?

#### LIVNI'S PARENTS WERE MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND GROUP IRGUN

Tzipora Livni was born a decade after Israel was, in 1958. Her parents were famous members of the Irgun, an underground group of armed Jews fighting to establish the state of Israel. Her father, Eitan, was its near-legendary director of operations.

Decades later, Eitan Livni became a lawmaker with the right-wing Likud Party, which grouped fervent political Zionists and which his daughter also eventually joined.

In her office today, where many a foreign minister has hung photographs of themselves with the U.S. president, Livni has on display a single picture. It's her father, his craggy face in profile, cigarette in hand, smoke curling upward.

Livni says she has not abandoned the ideals of her formative years but rather tempered the dream with reality. It has required a certain degree of heart-wrenching introspection.

"For me, the choice was whether to give up the ideal of Israel as a state that combines the values of a democracy and a Jewish state, or to give up some of the land of Israel," she said. "And I believe this was the right choice."

"But it was not the easiest choice. Of course it is dramatic, it is painful, maybe in terms that outsiders cannot understand, that it is necessary to give up some of the land that Jews have (claimed) for thousands of years."

Like almost every Israeli, Livni served in the military in her youth. When she was 22, she joined the Mossad. The year was 1980.

Heiress to Golda Meir?; ZIONIST ROYALTY: Tzipi Livni has the pedigree for a future in Israeli politics. Her parents were members of the underground group Irgun.....

The Mossad in those days was hunting down and killing Palestinian militants who had slain Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics and laying the groundwork for a 1981 strike on an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Neither Livni nor her associates are allowed to talk about her four-year stint with the Mossad.

Former Mossad director Efraim Halevy said she belonged to an elite unit and suggested she was a field agent with hair-raising duties.

Her service in the Mossad "necessitated precision, courage, bravery and responsibility," he said.

"It required cool judgment and the ability to work in a team. ... That is not the work of an analyst" seated at a desk, he said.

#### LAW SCHOOL BECKONED AFTER HER STINT IN MOSSAD

After leaving the Mossad, Livni earned a law degree and practiced corporate law until entering politics in the late 1990s. By then she had married Naftali Shpitzer and had two sons.

From her first days in Likud, Livni was a protege of Ariel Sharon, the former warrior who had engineered his own comeback and was elected prime minister in early 2001.

Initially, he gave Livni the unimportant post of minister of regional co-operation, and, by many accounts, she was crushed.

Eventually, however, she would head seven ministries in five years and prove herself valuable to Sharon by negotiating support for his decision to pull Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and by gaining even more favourable treatment from Washington.

When Sharon abandoned Likud in late 2005 and formed a new party, Kadima, Livni followed without hesitation. And six weeks later, when Sharon was felled by a stroke, Livni went before the stunned nation to promise stability and rally behind Olmert, Sharon's heir apparent, despite her rivalry with him.

Livni's fumble in the eyes of many, however, came in the aftermath of the war with Hezbollah. An investigative panel issued a scathing report in May that blamed Olmert for miscalculating the threat and his country's preparedness, among other failings.

In a private meeting, Livni told Olmert he should resign -- and then, remarkably, she went before television cameras and said the same thing.

Olmert quickly rallied his allies within the government and stifled the fledgling mutiny. He secured pledges of loyalty from his cabinet, including from Livni, who was forced to back down.

Many who had expected her to lead the charge to oust Olmert were bitterly disappointed. To attack Olmert, they said, and then, in the end, remain in his government seemed hypocritical.

In the news conference, she looked indecisive and nervous; she tripped, literally, as she approached the microphone and nearly fell into the waiting journalists. Israel's high-spirited media, until that point fairly friendly to Livni, was savage.

#### NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME, CRITICS ARGUED

Livni's critics concluded that she was not ready for the bruising nerves-of-steel combat of Israeli politics. But her supporters saw something else: someone who spoke out frankly, however inelegantly, and who then chose to remain in the government to change from within.

Her chances for becoming prime minister are tangled in numerous complexities beyond the war with Hezbollah.

Heiress to Golda Meir?; ZIONIST ROYALTY: Tzipi Livni has the pedigree for a future in Israeli politics. Her parents were members of the underground group Irgun.....

For one, ultra-Orthodox and other religious parties these days exercise considerable power in Israel, and they do not approve of women in public politics. The last -- and only -- female prime minister of Israel, Golda Meir, who served from 1969 to 1974, did not have that to contend with, although discontent over the handling of a war also led to her downfall.

"Israel is a highly militaristic society; we regard ourselves as constantly under siege," said Hannah Naveh, a dean at Tel Aviv University and co-founder of its women's studies program.

"This makes society very chauvinistic and places women on the back burner. In politics, a woman is seen as being out of place."

Livni dismisses suggestions that the cards are stacked against her because of her sex. Israel, she insists with particular and rare animation, is definitely ready for another female prime minister.

Her time may yet come. Olmert eventually may not be able to resist demands he resign. And then it will be Livni's moment to move.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Charles Platiau, Reuters; Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, speaks to reporters after talks with France's President Nicolas Sarkozy at the Elysee Palace in Paris in early July. ;

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2007

## *MPs overhaul Lebanese election law, but not everyone is satisfied*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)  
September 29, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 866 words

**Byline:** Andrew Wander

## **Body**

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Senior government figures said over the weekend they were "disappointed" that proposed reforms to electoral laws were blocked by Parliament on Saturday, and pledged to continue pushing for "radical" change after next year's parliamentary elections. During a marathon sitting on Saturday, MPs adopted just 57 of 118 changes.

BEIRUT: Senior government figures said over the weekend they were "disappointed" that proposed reforms to electoral laws were blocked by Parliament on Saturday, and pledged to continue pushing for "radical" change after next year's parliamentary elections. During a marathon sitting on Saturday, MPs adopted just 57 of 118 changes suggested in a proposed replacement to the current election law. They rejected key reforms that would have allowed many more Lebanese to vote in elections, including lowering the voting age. They also blocked plans for a women's quota to be introduced to Parliament.

Lebanon's current electoral law was created in 1960, and is widely considered to be out of date. A replacement law based on a draft produced by the Butros Commission in 2006 was never adopted but leaders agreed to introduce reforms suggested by the panel. But Parliament's decision to reject many aspects of the reforms has come as a blow to democracy advocates, who have described the proposed law as "a minimum step" toward establishing a fair electoral system. The International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) has recommended that the Butros Law be adopted "as soon as possible."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Interior Minister Ziyad Baroud did not hide his disappointment at the rejection of important aspects of the draft law. "Compared to what we were working on under the Butros Commission, I don't feel that this is an ambitious law," he said. "It's not the law we would have liked. I would have preferred to see things change more radically."

But he added that the new law was not the end of the electoral reform process. "This will not be the best law ever," he warned. "I'm a bit disappointed, but the glass is half-full, not half-empty. I don't think this will be the last electoral law. Reform in Lebanon is a step-by-step process."

Baroud said some of the proposed reforms, such as lowering the voting age, were technically impossible to pass in Saturday's sitting of Parliament. "Lowering the voting age requires a constitutional amendment, which cannot

## MPs overhaul Lebanese election law, but not everyone is satisfied

happen before October," he said, but refused to speculate over whether the change would be adopted before next year's vote. "If there is political will, things will happen," he said.

Others were less optimistic.

Minister of State for Administrative Reform Ibrahim Shamseddine demanded to know why the Parliament had rejected giving members of the military the right to vote, opposed lowering of the voting age and refused to grant emigrants the right to vote from abroad.

He said Parliament's decision to retain aspects of the 1960 law represented a "land mine" in Lebanese politics. "The 1960 law ... is 48 years old and is no longer applicable," he said. "The repercussions will be on both Muslims and Christians."

Despite the proposed law being substantially watered down, some important reforms were adopted on Saturday. One of the major changes is the decision to hold elections on a single day. Previous elections have been held over several days for what were described as security reasons. Calling the move a "courageous step," the Interior Ministry pledged to ensure that enough manpower will be available on the chosen day.

Much of Saturday's debate was taken up discussing whether members of the armed forces should be allowed to vote. The prohibition on military personnel taking part in elections is supposed to help the army maintain its non-partisan status in Lebanese society.

But that idea was challenged by Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement (FPM), which said servicemen should be allowed to vote. Supported by Hizbullah and Amal, the FPM argued that soldiers should not be forced to give up their democratic rights on the basis of their military commitments and proposed an amendment to the draft law.

But others successfully argued against the change. Democratic Gathering leader and MP Walid Jumblatt said he believed the military should remain politically "neutral," and Future Movement leader Saad Hariri said that the ban on military voting reflected Lebanon's "exceptional situation."

The Lebanese Armed Forces' perceived neutrality has allowed it to avoid being drawn into Lebanon's delicately balanced sectarian politics of late. President Michel Sleiman was the chief of the military before being elected in May and was seen as the only candidate acceptable to all factions.

Also on Saturday, Parliament adopted the 10th article of the electoral law, which related to the time frame required between the resignation of mayors and their running for parliamentary elections. The Parliament decided to make this a six-month period for mayors and a two-year period for the heads of municipality unions.

Parliament will reconvene on Monday to continue discussing the draft proposals, which are increasingly being touted as a first step.

"This is only a starting point," Baroud said on Sunday.

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2008

## *Messing up the formula*

The Press (Christchurch, New Zealand)

June 14, 2008 Saturday

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**Section:** FEATURES; ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 4; 48 HOURS

**Length:** 424 words

**Byline:** CROOT James

### **Body**

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YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (M) Directed by Dennis Dugan \* \* Reviewed by James Croot

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Unlike Forrest Gump's box of chocolates, with an Adam Sandler movie you know exactly what you are going to get.

Despite a mid-career attempt at breaking out of his comfort zone with the likes of Punch Drunk Love and Spanglish, America's favourite man-child has recently returned to his routinely mediocre and mildly misogynist formula.

Depressingly, the originality of his early delights like Happy Gilmore has been replaced by a predictable Carry On-esque mix of scatological gags, sex jokes, animal cruelty and a Rob Schneider cameo.

Sandler's latest "comedy" has him playing crack Israeli spy Zohan Dvir. Known as a Rembrandt with a grenade, the Zohan has brought many of the Middle East's worst terrorists to justice. But lately Zohan has grown tired of the endless missions and the trappings of fame. The final straw comes when notorious Palestinian gun- man Phantom (John Turturro) is released, as part of a prisoner swap, just three months after being captured by Zohan.

Disconsolate and disillusioned, Zohan decides to take the Phantom on again and fakes his own death, allowing him to escape to New York and pursue his real dream of cutting and styling hair.

Returning to his fish-out-of- water speciality, Sandler surrounds himself with the usual bevvy of bikini-clad babes, trash-talking older women and dodgy ethnic stereotypes as well as cameos from his mates Kevin James, Chris Rock and Henry Winkler and celebs like John McEnroe, George Takei, Mariah Carey (proving she really can't act) and that ring announcer guy who says "Let's Get Ready to Rumble" really well (Michael Buffer).

But among the predictable moralising (America can teach the Arabs and Israelis how to get along - just build a mall on the Gaza Strip), ubiquitous lame love interest (here it's the French- Canadian Emmanuelle Chriqui playing an unconvincing Palestinian) and endless hummus gags, there are some moments of inspired madness. A middle-eastern flavoured Rocky homage, Hezbollah's phoneline and ads for the Phantom's fast-food chain are rare gems.

Even Sandler's co-writers, Saturday Night Live veteran Robert Smigel and writing wunderkind Judd Apatow (Knocked Up, The 40 Year Old Virgin) can't inject much new life into this stale-looking schtick.

Zohan is simply Sandler's take on Crocodile Dundee meets Borat via Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing and Michael Jackson's Black or White music video.

Messing up the formula

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CAPTION:

Predictable: Adam Sandler is man-child yet again.

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2008

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## *Nation on the edge*

Herald Sun (Australia)

May 13, 2008 Tuesday

1 - FIRST Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 26

**Length:** 442 words

### **Body**

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BEIRUT -- Lebanon was on a knife-edge after days of deadly sectarian battles that had driven the nation to the brink of civil war, and as ministers of Arab nations prepared to send in a team to try to end the crisis.

Army troops moved into the Druze mountains southeast of the capital after supporters of the Western-backed Government and the Hezbollah-led opposition engaged in heavy fighting yesterday, in which 36 people were killed.

In Beirut there was uneasy calm, though schools and some businesses remained shut after five days' unrest had left 47 people dead and scores wounded in the worst sectarian violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Bomber remarries at distance

JAKARTA -- Death row Bali bomber Amrozi remarried his ex-wife by proxy yesterday after authorities refused a jail wedding, his lawyer said.

Fachmi Bachmid said so-called smiling assassin Amrozi, 46, was represented by his younger brother at the ceremony at his bride's house in East Java.

The man convicted for helping plan the 2002 suicide bombings, which killed 202 including 88 Australians, remarried Siti Rahma with the consent of his second wife, to whom he remains married. He has one child with each of the women.

Vote monitors shunned

HARARE -- Zimbabwe would not invite election observers from Western countries to monitor a presidential run-off unless they removed sanctions, state media said, rejecting opposition demands.

After weeks of equivocation, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said at the weekend he would contest the run-off against Robert Mugabe even though he believed he won outright in the first round and accused the ruling ZANU-PF of vote-rigging.

Nationalists lose vote

BELGRADE -- Pro-Western forces in Serbia began tough talks to hammer out a coalition after claiming an upset general election win.

## Nation on the edge

President Boris Tadic said his pro-European bloc had won the polls, but without an absolute majority, meaning he would likely to need the support of at least one nationalist party to govern.

### Tornadoes wreak havoc

WASHINGTON -- US authorities rushed aid to disaster areas yesterday after a series of tornadoes tore across the US, killing at least 23 people.

US President George W. Bush called it a ``sad day" for devastated communities in the states of Missouri, Oklahoma and Georgia, and promised emergency federal aid. Fierce winds ripped roofs off houses, and other homes were thrashed to kindling as the storms downed power lines, utility poles and trees.

### Ghetto rescuer dies

WARSAW -- Irena Sendler, who saved the lives of some 2500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto during the World War II Nazi occupation, has died at the age of 98.

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2008

## *Neon the beacon of hope*

Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)

August 12, 2007 Sunday

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**Section:** SUNDAY; Pg. A04

**Length:** 456 words

**Byline:** CARLENE ELLWOOD

### **Body**

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Once Upon a Time

in Beirut

by Catherine Taylor

Random House

\$24.95

AUSTRALIAN journalist Catherine Taylor could not have had a more unsettling welcome to Beirut.

Exploring her elegant, oriental apartment, she learnt that an earlier journalist tenant kept a rope tied to his upper-floor balcony, ready to flee kidnappers who had already poisoned his guard dog. But the landlord reassured her that the kidnappers didn't get the journalist. They took Irish teacher Brian Keenan from the villa next door.

Taylor writes that the ordeal of Keenan, held hostage for 1500 days until his release in 1990, is just one of Beirut's horror stories now "submerged beneath time passed and beneath the burden of so many other, larger tragedies".

She and her reporter husband Matthew Carney arrived in the Lebanese capital in 2001 as newlyweds to work as freelance correspondents.

Amid the fading scars of the 1975-1990 civil war, they were captivated by the Paris of the East. It was a head-spin of contradictions -- from the ritzy nightlife, beach restaurants and women's obsessions with fashion and grooming to families living in buildings missing entire walls, "the minutiae of their lives visible as I went by".

They were intrigued by the complex mix of people -- Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, Druze, Maronite Christians, Greek Orthodox Christians, Catholics and more -- and an exuberance belying years of conflict.

Taylor came to understand the Lebanese by befriending a former Hezbollah fighter and a Christian militia vigilante, meeting the widows of suicide bombers, helping run photography workshops for still-hopeful children in a Palestinian refugee camp and visiting a hashish -- "oil of Lebanon" -- farm in the Bekaa Valley.

## Neon the beacon of hope

Beirut was her gateway to other adventures. In Egypt, she covered a Muslim women's boxing tournament and accompanied the champ home to her disapproving family. In Saudi Arabia, she and Carney dined with Osama bin Laden's best friend.

Taylor, Carney and their Beirut-born daughter were on holiday in Australia in 2005 when former PM Rafik al-Hariri, the billionaire who helped rebuild Lebanon, was killed in a bombing and the country's political minefield again exploded.

The family finally left Beirut before last year's 34-day war with Israel, but Taylor returned to see how her adopted homeland had coped. One of her ever-resilient friends could still joke, "Neon is the ultimate light" -- a teasing defence of Lebanese bad taste and because candles reminded her too much of war.

Taylor has written an absorbing account of learning to negotiate different cultures with humour and resourcefulness. She also provides an insight into how, no matter how often history repeats itself, people still find the heart to look forward.

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

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## **Bush lectures Arab nations on political reform**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 19, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 6

**Length:** 437 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP) - President Bush lectured the Arab world Sunday about everything from political repression to the denial of women's rights but ran into Palestinian complaints he is favoring Israel in stalled Mideast peace talks.

"Freedom and peace are within your grasp," Bush said despite scant signs of progress.

Winding up a five-day trip to the region, Bush took a strikingly tougher tone with Arab nations than he did with Israel in a speech to the Knesset. Israel received effusive praise from the president while Arab nations heard a litany of U.S. criticisms.

"Too often in the Middle East, politics has consisted of one leader in power and the opposition in jail," Bush told 1,500 global policymakers and business leaders. That was a clear reference to host Egypt, where main secular opposition figure Ayman Nour has been jailed and President Hosni Mubarak has led an authoritarian government since 1981.

"America is deeply concerned about the plight of political prisoners in this region, as well as democratic activists who are intimidated or repressed, newspapers and civil society organizations that are shut down and dissidents whose voices are stifled," Bush said.

Scattered applause followed, with barely a ripple of reaction later to his declaration that Iran must not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Bush arrived back in Washington late Sunday with little to show for the trip. Saudi Arabia rebuffed his plea for help with oil prices, Egypt's leader questioned his seriousness about peacemaking and Palestinians were annoyed by statements made in Israel. The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, did not conceal his disappointment.

"We do not want the Americans to negotiate on our behalf," Abbas said Sunday after talks with Mubarak. "All that we want from them is to stand by (our) legitimacy and have a minimum of neutrality."

"In principle, the Bush speech at the Knesset angered us, and we were not happy with it," Abbas said. "This is our position, and we have a lot of remarks (about the speech), and I frankly, clearly and transparently asked him that the American position should be balanced."

## Bush lectures Arab nations on political reform

Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden released a new message on Sunday denouncing Arab leaders for sacrificing the Palestinians and saying the head of the Shiite militant group **Hezbollah** did not really have the strength to take on Israel.

In his second audio message in three days focusing on the Palestinians, the al-Qaida leader said the only way to liberate Palestine is to fight the Arab regimes that are protecting Israel. And he called on Muslim militants in Egypt to help break the blockade of Gaza.

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2008

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## *Tennis: Wimbledon 2008: Determined Keothavong relishes being in the orbit of Venus*

The Guardian - Final Edition

June 26, 2008 Thursday

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# the guardian

**Section:** GUARDIAN SPORT PAGES; Pg. 4

**Length:** 416 words

**Byline:** Sachin Nakrani

### **Body**

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There are few sterner tests for a **female** tennis player than facing Venus Williams at Wimbledon but Anne Keothavong will step on to Centre Court for her second-round match against the defending champion this afternoon with little fear. Having recovered from serious injury and subsequently competed in one of the world's most inhospitable cities, Britain's No1 has the perspective to enjoy what will be the biggest match of her career so far.

"I am going to stay relaxed and as focused as possible and treat it as another match," the 24-year-old Londoner said yesterday. "I've always looked up to Venus and she's a great champion. That's why I play tennis, to get opportunities like this and be on the big stage."

Simply taking part at Wimbledon this year, let alone competing in one of the Championships' most highly anticipated contests so far, would have seemed unlikely four years ago when Keothavong underwent major knee surgery, a procedure which halted her career for eight months and caused a slide down the WTA rankings. She fought back to fitness, however, but the road to SW19 since has been hazardous - only last month she had to compete in a satellite tournament in Beirut to gain the ranking points needed to qualify for Wimbledon while that city was the scene of intense fighting between **Hezbollah** and Shia militia, a conflict which left 40 people dead.

It is little wonder then that Keothavong is staying calm before today's clash with Williams, but that should not hide her desire to win. Having battled to victory against another American, Vania King, in the first round on Tuesday, the world No92, who this year became the first British woman to qualify for Wimbledon through her ranking since Sam Smith in 1998, is determined to continue her progression, aided by what she hopes will be a partisan crowd.

She last reached the second round of Wimbledon in 2004 when she lost to the eventual winner, Maria Sharapova. Should she triumph today Keothavong, who yesterday won in the doubles, insists the success will belong not only to her but also to British tennis in general.

"All of us British players are aware of the impact doing well at Wimbledon can have; it's really a special place where we all want to do well," said the Hackney-born Keothavong. "But everyone has to realise tennis isn't just about this

Tennis: Wimbledon 2008: Determined Keothavong relishes being in the orbit of Venus

fortnight. We are grinding it out the rest of the year. The better we can do, the more exposure we get. If it's all positive, then that's only good for tennis in this country."

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2008

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## Letters

The Jerusalem Post  
July 13, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** Gerry Myers, Peter Simpson, Velvel Weisz, Debby Duitch, Gerti Kornfeld, Arthur Hippler, Rita Newman

**Highlight:** Readers' Letters

### Body

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The buck(et)

stops here

Sir, - "Drip, drip...drought" (Editorial, July 6) rightly noted that "Each year, the Finance Ministry gambles on rain and cuts back on long-term water supply solutions."

On an issue so vitally important and far-reaching, when members of the public turn on a tap and nothing comes out, they will want to know who shares responsibility. So here, in chronological order, from 1999, are our finance ministers:

Avraham Shohat, Silvan Shalom, Binyamin Netanyahu, Ehud Olmert, Avraham Hirschson and Ronnie Bar-On.

GERRY MYERS

Beit Zayit

Dampened hopes

Sir, - When the current cabinet could spend more time last Sunday on what sort of enquiry would be best for Vice Premier Haim Ramon's ego than on the proposed prisoner exchange with Hizbullah, no wonder Israel is facing the worst water crisis in 80 years. Water doesn't get a look in! ("Compromise reached: Comptroller to probe Ramon wiretapping affair," July 7.)

PETER SIMPSON

Jerusalem

Desalinated tears?

Sir, - According to the terms of the 1994 Peace Treaty with Jordan, Israel agreed to transfer 50 million cubic metres of water annually from Israel's north, and from the Arava groundwaters.

Now that Israel's water shortage has reached devastating levels, agriculturally and soon socially, the time has come to honor the age-old Jewish saying that one must look after the poor of one's own town before those of another.

## Letters

Meanwhile the powers that be, who are giving away the Kinneret's precious water to our neighbor for free, had better start conserving their tears over the lake's drastically dropping water level.

VELVEL WEISZ

Jerusalem

What school is,

and what it isn't

Sir, - Why anyone would suggest more school days is a mystery to me. Here we have a system where the older kids miss six weeks due to a strike and still get out for vacation on time, making up only a few of the hours. They say it is because they are "only studying for the bagrut," and not "really learning," so why have classes?

School is not a glorified babysitting service, and, frankly, it is nice to have some quality time with the kids - that is not during a religious holiday - over the summer, when I can also take some time off.

Sure, I wish there was more music and drama and sports that did not take the kids away from their "serious" studies so they could have fun at school. School is not just about the three R's, and religious studies, it is about learning to get along with one's peers and respect one's elders; it's about time management and personal growth. Students need to feel good about themselves and this country before they go off into the army or national service.

Let's work with the teachers so that our kids actually learn what is important in life, and not just how to pass a test that will allow them entrance to college ("Education in the sewer? Tamir, Tirosh talk trash at Knesset hearing," July 9.)

DEBBY DUITCH

Jerusalem

This stone-thrower

merits our praise

Sir, - Re "Supernatural stone" (Letters, July 10): I too was amazed by the skill of the haredi stone-thrower. We must give credit to this courageous, unarmed passerby, who took the initiative to try to stop the terrorist with whatever weapon was at hand, at risk to his own life! How could he have known that the terrorist was unconscious?

It is incredible that he - presumably standing on the street below the level of what has been unanimously described as a massive bulldozer - was able to throw a rock with such accuracy and at the correct trajectory as to hit the terrorist, slumped over above him. As it transpired, the blow roused the unconscious and pulseless man, enabling him to continue on his rampage; but that was clearly not the intention of the stone-thrower.

It behooves us to give him credit for his efforts to stop the terrorism.

GERTI KORNFELD

Jerusalem

Rewarding these

terrorists is insane

Sir, - I am stunned. It is totally beyond comprehension that Israel should even consider, let alone carry out, a release of hundreds of murderous villains in return for dead Israeli captives ("Homecoming for a child-killer," July

## Letters

10). These released prisoners will assuredly and immediately again take up the business of murdering Israelis and others. Has no one in Israel heard the axiom "What you reward, you get more of; what you punish, diminishes"?

I have always admired Israel for its steadfastness against the purveyors of death, the enemies of all mankind. But how can Israel expect our continued support if it, suicidally, goes ahead and ensures more violence against itself by rewarding previous violence?

ARTHUR HIPPLER

Wasilla, Alaska

League of Jewish Women turns 65

Sir, - On July 29, the League of Jewish Women will be celebrating its 65th anniversary in Britain. There are many ex-League members living in Israel, and it would be wonderful if we could hold a small celebration here with some of the many women we have met over the years at international League seminars, especially those held in Israel.

Any former League member interested in the idea is invited to phone or fax (02) 6525-763.

RITA NEWMAN, Jerusalem

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Images of bloodshed obscure truth of Gaza*

The Australian

January 22, 2009 Thursday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 18

**Length:** 1066 words

**Byline:** Albert Dadon

### **Body**

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Hamas's refusal to accept Israel's existence and its deliberate attempt to increase civilian casualties on both sides is to blame for the destruction in Gaza but few condemn it, writes Albert Dadon

MANY friends have berated me about Israel's ``crimes" in Gaza during the conflict between Hamas and Israel. I understand how they felt. When I saw the images of women and children, victims of that war, I couldn't help, still can't, but feel a profound sense of loss.

At the same time, however, my friends only saw the international media hysteria against Israel, which was predictably exactly the same as in past conflicts. But consider this: it was Hamas that formally declared all peace agreements with Israel null and void, which formally ended the ceasefire on December 19, 2008, after having violated it with the firing of thousands of rockets on the southern Israeli populations prior to Israel's invasion of Gaza.

I did not notice any media hysteria about these attacks on southern Israel, in fact, barely a mention. What country in the world would allow 3500 missiles to be fired during a 12-month period on its civilian populated areas and not retaliate?

Some commentators have said that the rockets fired by Hamas claimed only a few Israeli victims, as if this somehow justified the attacks.

I was in the southern Israeli town of Sderot last June when the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange screened the opening film of our annual Australian Film Festival there as a mark of solidarity with the local population.

Given its proximity to Gaza, Sderot had until recently been the main target for Hamas's rockets. The reality on the ground there is this: the population had stopped breathing for over a year. In order to protect civilian life from the Hamas rockets, extraordinary measures are taken. Shopping is planned like a military operation and taking kids to school becomes an operational nightmare.

The siren alarm system gives people less than 30 seconds to reach the nearest shelter. The people of Sderot, and now Ashkelon, Ashdod and Be'er Sheva, observe this rule with great discipline. This duty of care to protect civilian life by the Israeli state and their local civic leaders explains why there are so few casualties on the Israeli side.

## Images of bloodshed obscure truth of Gaza

The psychological trauma of living with the anticipation of the next rocket attack and the threat of danger, day in day out, is the real definition of the word "terror" for these people.

What is so galling and paradoxical to average Israelis, is the consistent call for Israel to be apologetic for the fact that it puts the welfare of its citizens first and seeks to minimise civilian casualties on both sides, despite the thousands of rockets hurled at its towns by Hamas. In contrast, Hamas's stated aim is to kill Israeli civilians, yet they are virtually exempt from criticism in regards to these acts. Some media outlets even go so far as to justify Hamas's targeting of civilians as a legitimate form of resistance.

Sure enough, some television programs did invite a token Israeli guest who tried to explain Israel's case. But the answers given seemed to be presented as propaganda, and the implication was that the only story to be believed was the Hamas narrative.

If Israel has learned the lessons of the 2006 war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas has learned from that war too. Hezbollah was able to use the southern Lebanese population as human shields, and get away with it.

You would think that such a crime would be denounced by humanitarian groups, by the UN and by Western media.

Alas, the strategy has worked for Hamas: it produced the images that screamed from the front pages of newspapers and TV screens, pushing the buttons of people across the world.

Emotions cloud the context; the result is a circus. It is mind-boggling that barely any media outlet outside Israel has consistently denounced Hamas for using Palestinian women and children as human shields.

By forgetting the context, voluntarily or not, much of the Western commentators have implied this: it is permissible for terror groups to use civilians as human shields, but not for a legitimate country to mistakenly kill civilians in the course of battling an enemy.

The latter is being portrayed as a crime against humanity. However harsh it is to lose civilians, this logic is absurd.

French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy said recently that you must not confuse the intentional act of shooting rockets on civilian populations with the clear intention of killing them (a crime against humanity) and the fire that is aimed at the enemy combatant that mistakenly kills civilians (however unacceptable and heartbreaking the loss of civilians always is).

After all, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that Hamas has built an infrastructure of bunkers and tunnels that were located under the most populated areas of Gaza. These were not for the benefit of the civilian population, but for Hamas's own leaders to smuggle arms and hide.

The Hamas leadership had even taken refuge at the Shifa Hospital, the largest in Gaza, and at the UN Relief and Works Agency, which normally provides humanitarian and health services. There has been a lot of ranting by the UN regarding the attacks on UNRWA. It is interesting to note how the UN places the blame on Israel but does not place any responsibility on Hamas.

The rocket shootings against southern Israel take place from the buildings where civilians live. Mosques and schools are used as ammunition caches and arms depots. Hamas combatants had taken off their military fatigues from the start of the Israeli invasion and were wearing civilian clothes, surprising Israeli soldiers by mixing with civilians.

In such an environment, it is no wonder civilians were caught in the crossfire. The only surprise is the low number of civilian casualties in an area where 1.4 million Palestinians live. This is a result of the care with which Israel has operated.

Israel says 12 per cent of casualties are civilians, Hamas say 40 per cent. Whatever the percentage, it is a tragedy. But citing numbers and showing images while forgetting the context creates one more casualty: the truth.

## Images of bloodshed obscure truth of Gaza

Immediately after Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert unilaterally declared a ceasefire on Sunday, accepting the Egyptian plan, Hamas fired eight rockets on southern Israel.

Albert Dadon AM is the founder and chairman of the Australia Israel Cultural Exchange.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2009

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End of Document

## ATTACKS

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 17, 2008 Sunday

4 State / Suncoast Edition

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 5A; LAST WEEK IN IRAQ

**Length:** 449 words

### **Body**

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-A suicide bomber struck in Tarmiyah, 30 miles north of Baghdad, on Aug. 10, killing an American soldier and four Iraqi civilians. Two American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were among 24 people wounded.

-A **female** suicide bomber struck a market checkpoint in the Diyala province capital of Baqubah on Monday, killing at least one police officer and wounding 14 other people, including nine officers, officials said. Another bomb in the Wijaihiyah area nearby killed five **women** and wounded three others, while a bomb in eastern Baghdad killed the driver and wounded two other people.

-A **female** suicide bomber struck Shiite pilgrims south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 18 people and wounding scores of others after the government announced new measures to protect worshipers ahead of a major religious festival.

#### Military

-The U.S. military announced Thursday that six Navy guards face trial for allegedly assaulting prisoners and releasing pepper spray into a cell block after a disturbance at the main U.S. prison in Iraq.

-Iraqi Shiite assassination teams are being trained in at least four locations in Iran by Tehran's elite Quds force, and Lebanese **Hezbollah** and are planning to return to Iraq in the next few months to kill specific Iraqi officials as well as U.S. and Iraqi troops, according to intelligence gleaned from captured militia fighters and other sources in Iraq.

#### Rebuilding

-Iraq's foreign minister insisted Aug. 11 that any security deal with the United States must contain a "very clear time line" for the departure of U.S. troops.

-Jordan's King Abdullah II held talks Monday with Iraq's prime minister after arriving in Baghdad on an unannounced visit, the first by an Arab head of state since the U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

-Several hundred Iraqi refugees flew home from Egypt on Monday on the Iraqi prime minister's plane, the first government-organized flight aimed at accelerating the return of Iraqis now that violence has waned.

#### Deaths

## ATTACKS

As of Saturday, 4,143 U.S. troops have died in Iraq. Identifications as reported by the U.S. military and not previously published:

- Marine Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke Jr., 22, Maryville, Tenn.; combat Aug. 10; Salahuddin province.
- Army Sgt. Kenneth B. Gibson, 25, Christiansburg, Va.; explosion Aug. 10; Tarmiyah.
- Army Cpl. James M. Hale, 23, Naperville, Ill.; explosion Wednesday; Baghdad.
- Marine Pfc. Daniel A.C. McGuire, 19, Mashpee, Mass.; combat Thursday; Anbar province.
- Marine Cpl. Adam T. McKiski, 21, Cherry Valley, Ill.; combat Aug. 7, Anbar province.
- Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, 25, Whitefish, Mont.; combat Aug. 7, Anbar province.
- Army Sgt. Jose E. Ulloa, 23, New York; explosion Aug. 8; Baghdad.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Ferschke

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2008

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**Bush takes anti-Iran push to Saudis; Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi**

USA TODAY

January 14, 2008 Monday

FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 432 words

**Byline:** Richard Wolf

## **Body**

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ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- President Bush is set to arrive in Saudi Arabia today to continue his push for Arab countries to confront Iran, which he described as "the world's leading state sponsor of terror."

Like many of the region's Sunni regimes, Saudi Arabia has expressed concerns over Iran's growing influence and its support for militant Shiite groups amid a growing rift between the two Islamic sects. During the signature speech of his eight-day trip to the Middle East, Bush declared Sunday that "Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere."

The Bush administration has announced plans to sell \$20 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia and its other Arab allies amid a growing arms race in the region.

However, Saudi King Abdullah also has made diplomatic overtures to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, inviting him to the hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, and walking with him arm in arm at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Saudis' pragmatic approach may reflect a broader reluctance in the region to confront Iran directly, despite Bush's pleas. Iran's neighbors realize "they have to live there in the long run," says Trita Parsi, author of a soon-to-be-released book on relations among Iran, Israel and the United States.

Along with efforts to broker a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, Iran has been a major focus of Bush's trip. He accuses the Islamic regime of seeking to build nuclear arms, a charge Iran denies.

In his speech Sunday, Bush said Iran's government was sending hundreds of millions of dollars to extremists -- including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite militants in Iraq.

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino stood by the Pentagon's contention that Iranian boats threatened three U.S. Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz a week ago, nearly prompting a battle. Iran has questioned the U.S. description of the incident.

Bush also is using the trip to re-energize his long-stated goal of promoting democracy in a part of the world run largely by authoritarian regimes.

Bush takes anti- Iran push to Saudis Today's visit follows key speech in Abu Dhabi

He's prodding emirs and kings to moderate their governments and modernize their societies. He's heralding nations that expand **women's** rights, such as Kuwait, where Bush met Saturday with **female** academics and government officials.

Bush's speech met with a polite but cool reception. The audience in Abu Dhabi -- a mix of Muslims in robes and headdresses and business-attired leaders of academia and the media -- applauded only twice, upon his introduction and conclusion.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, Color, Mandel Ngan, AFP/Getty Images

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2008

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## *Islamists Win 24 of 50 Seats In Parliament Of Kuwait*

The New York Times

May 19, 2008 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 7

**Length:** 455 words

**Byline:** By ROBERT F. WORTH

**Dateline:** BEIRUT, Lebanon

### **Body**

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Islamist candidates won 24 of 50 seats in Kuwait's parliamentary elections on Saturday, a gain of two seats over their total in the last round of elections there two years ago, according to official results released Sunday.

Liberal candidates and their allies won seven seats, one fewer than in the last round. None of the 27 women who ran won in what was the second election since women were granted the right to vote and run for office in 2005.

Economic issues dominated the monthlong election campaign, and it was not clear how the Islamists' greater share of power would affect the Kuwaiti Parliament, one of the most powerful and active legislatures in the Arab world. There are no legally recognized political parties in Kuwait, and affiliation is flexible.

"It's a sign of a more conservative mood in the society," said Nasser al-Sane, an Islamist candidate who won a seat. "But to have a conservative color does not mean that we are against economic reform."

Tribally oriented candidates, who, like Islamists, tend to be conservative on social issues, also did well, Mr. Sane added.

Kuwait's emir, Sheik Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, dissolved the Parliament in March after cabinet ministers resigned, saying they were frustrated by repeated confrontations with lawmakers.

The election campaign itself was a striking departure from the past because of a new election law that reduced the number of districts to 5 from 25, forcing candidates to take their messages to many more constituents. Lawmakers fought for the change in 2006, arguing that the smaller districts allowed candidates to buy votes more easily. Voters chose up to four candidates in their respective districts.

The campaign relied heavily on the media, with new newspapers and satellite TV stations carrying election coverage intensively. In the past, candidates depended mostly on personal ties with voters at diwanis, traditional evening social gatherings.

Candidates from Kuwait's minority Shiite community won five seats, one more than the last round. They were energized by a dispute in February when the authorities questioned former Shiite members of the Kuwaiti Parliament who had sent condolences to the militant Shiite group Hezbollah after the assassination of Imad Mugnyah, one of its top commanders.

## Islamists Win 24 of 50 Seats In Parliament Of Kuwait

Economic reform was an important issue for many voters. Despite its vast oil wealth, Kuwait has let hospitals, schools and roads crumble, and some citizens would like to emulate the more vibrant private sectors of Persian Gulf neighbors like the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

About 360,000 people were eligible to vote of a population of 2.6 million. Foreigners -- more than a third of the population -- cannot vote.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2008

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**Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 229 in Gaza territory**

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

December 28, 2008 Sunday

Early Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1043 words

**Byline:** New York Times; With files from Agence France-Presse

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Waves of Israeli air strikes destroyed Hamas security facilities in Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 229 people -- the highest one-day toll in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in decades.

The air strikes, which went on into the night, were the start of what Israeli military officials said could be days or even months of an effort to force Hamas to end its rocket barrages into southern Israel.

The operation could include ground forces, a senior Israeli security official said.

Palestinian officials said that most of the dead were security officers for Hamas, including two senior commanders, and that at least 600 people were wounded in the attacks.

After the initial air strikes, dozens of rockets were fired into southern Israel, where an emergency was declared. Thousands of Israelis hurried to bomb shelters amid the hail of rockets, including some longer-range models that reached farther north than ever before. One man was killed in the town of Netivot and four were wounded.

A number of governments and international officials, including leaders of Russia, Egypt, the European Union and the United Nations, condemned Israel's use of force and also called on Hamas to end the rocket fire.

But in strong terms, the outgoing U.S. administration of George W. Bush blamed Hamas for the violence and demanded that it stop firing rockets.

"These people are nothing but thugs, and so Israel is going to defend its people against terrorists like Hamas," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said at Bush's Texas ranch.

"If Hamas stops firing rockets into Israel, then Israel would not have a need for strikes in Gaza." The Israeli military operation had been expected after a rocky ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed a week ago, leading again to rocket attacks in large numbers against Israel.

Still, there was a shocking quality to Saturday's attacks, which began in broad daylight as police cadets were graduating, women were shopping at an outdoor market and children were emerging from school.

## Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 229 in Gaza territory

The centre of Gaza City was a scene of chaotic horror, with rubble everywhere, sirens wailing, and women shrieking as dozens of mutilated bodies were laid out on the pavement and in the lobby of Shifa Hospital so that family members could identify them.

The dead included civilians, among them several construction workers and at least two children in school uniforms.

By afternoon, shops were shuttered, funerals began and mourning tents were visible on nearly every major street of this densely populated city.

The leader of the Hamas government in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, said in a statement that "Palestine has never witnessed an uglier massacre." Later, in a televised speech, he vowed to fight Israel.

"We say in all confidence that even if we are hung on the gallows or they make our blood flow in the streets or they tear our bodies apart, we will bow only before God and we will not abandon Palestine."

In Damascus, Syria, Hamas' supreme leader, Khaled Meshal, told Al-Jazeera television that he was calling for a new Palestinian uprising against Israel, including the resumption of suicide attacks in Israel for the first time since 2005.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli defence minister, said the military operation in Gaza would expand and deepen as necessary, adding, "There is a time for calm and a time for fighting, and this is the time for fighting."

Barak said he was withdrawing from campaigning for Israel's February elections to focus on the operation.

"We wanted to attack military targets while the terrorists were inside the facilities and before Hamas was able to get its rockets out that were stored in some of the targets," said the top Israeli security official, briefing reporters by telephone on condition of anonymity.

Israeli officials said that anyone linked to the Hamas security structure or government was fair game, since Hamas was a terrorist group that sought Israel's destruction. But with work here increasingly scarce because of an international embargo on Hamas, young men are tempted by the steady work of the police force without necessarily fully accepting the Hamas ideology.

Spokesmen for Hamas officials, who have mostly gone underground, called on militants to seek revenge and fight to the last drop of blood. Several compared what was happening to the 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, when Israel reacted to the capture and killing of soldiers along its northern border with air raids, followed by a ground attack. Hezbollah is viewed as having withstood those assaults and emerged stronger politically.

The air strikes put Arab governments that dislike Hamas, like Egypt's, Jordan's and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, in a delicate position. They blame Hamas for having taken over Gaza by force 18 months ago in the aftermath of its election victory in the Palestinian parliament, and oppose its rocket fire on Israeli communities.

But the sight of scores of Palestinians killed by Israeli warplanes outraged their citizens, and anti-Israel demonstrations broke out across the region.

President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority angrily condemned the Israeli air strikes. Egypt, worried about possible efforts by Palestinians to enter the country, has set up machine-guns along the Gaza border. But on Saturday it temporarily opened the Rafah border crossing in order to allow the wounded to be brought to Egyptian hospitals for treatment.

Israel, backed by the United States, Europe, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, has sought to isolate Hamas by squeezing Gaza economically, a policy that human rights groups condemn as collective punishment. Israel and Egypt, which control routes into and out of Gaza, have blocked nearly all but humanitarian aid from going in.

## Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 229 in Gaza territory

The result has been the near death of the Gaza economy. While enough food has gone in to avoid starvation, the level of suffering is very high and getting worse each week, especially in recent weeks as Israel closed the routes entirely for about 10 days in reaction to daily rocket fire.

The EU called for all crossing points out of Gaza to be reopened and deliveries of aid and fuel to resume, along with free access for international humanitarian groups, journalists and diplomats, which Israel has blocked.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2008

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**'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest**

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 28, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 857 words

**Byline:** Daily Star Staff

## **Body**

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The head of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) vowed Saturday to confront those who "terrorize this nation" at a memorial service for an ISF intelligence officer killed in a car bomb attack the previous day. Captain Wissam Eid, who helped investigate assassinations in Lebanon, and his bodyguard were killed when a car bomb ripped through a suburb of Beirut on Friday.

The head of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) vowed Saturday to confront those who "terrorize this nation" at a memorial service for an ISF intelligence officer killed in a car bomb attack the previous day. Captain Wissam Eid, who helped investigate assassinations in Lebanon, and his bodyguard were killed when a car bomb ripped through a suburb of Beirut on Friday.

Police said the death toll in the attack had risen to five and 42 people were wounded.

Eid's assassination was the latest in a series of bombings and political killings over the past three years. The turmoil has fueled the worst political crisis since Lebanon's 1975-1990 Civil War.

"They thought that with their crime, they can affect our commitment and will, but they are really delusional," Brigadier General Ashraf Rifi, head of the ISF, told a memorial service at the force's headquarters in Beirut.

"We pledge to you that the Internal Security Forces will continue to confront those who wanted to terrorize this nation with their crimes ... Our decision is to ... confront the empire of death and terrorism," Rifi said.

US President George W. Bush offered his condolences.

"This bombing, the latest in a series of terrorist attacks targeting those who are working to secure Lebanon's independence and sovereignty, is a part of the continuing assault on Lebanon's institutions," Bush said in a statement. "We will not falter in our support for the democratically elected Lebanese government."

Eid, 31, who was posthumously promoted to major, worked for an intelligence unit that is considered close to anti-Syrian ruling majority leader MP Saad Hariri. The unit was frequently criticized by the Syrian-backed opposition.



'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest

He was a communications engineer who security sources said was responsible for tracking mobile phone communications made by attackers in previous killings and of Islamist militant cells.

The unit had also been closely involved in the UN-led investigation into the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri and in a crackdown on Al-Qaeda-inspired militants whom the army fought last year.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora declared Saturday a national day of mourning for Eid and the other victims.

He pledged Saturday to pursue "the criminals who planned and carried out this crime which is aimed at destroying the state security institutions."

"The road to independence is fraught with dangers and filled with sacrifices," Siniora said.

On Saturday, Lebanese police sifted through debris and burned cars, searching for clues at the site of the car bomb that killed one of the country's top terrorism investigators.

Investigators were also trying to determine if the latest bombing was part of a string of attacks that have targeted leading anti-Syrian politicians in the past three years, a security official told the Associated Press.

"Security and judicial police investigators are probing a possible link between Captain Eid's killing and a series of assassinations that have rocked Lebanon in the last three years," the official told AP.

He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations.

Mourners, many of whom waved the banner of Hariri's Future Movement, carried Eid's coffin to his family home in the Northern town of Deir Ammar. Women threw rice and flowers at the coffin, which his weeping mother kissed repeatedly.

"This is the third time that they tried to kill him. He was very kind, he had an important position, but to me he will always be a child," Eid's mother said earlier.

Mourners cheered as Eid's coffin was carried to a municipality building in his home town, amid a flurry of gunshots fired in the air. Others cried as Koranic verses were read out from loudspeakers.

Fellow police officers raised their swords and saluted the coffin before Eid was buried in a nearby cemetery.

Thousands of Lebanese had earlier greeted the convoy as it inched its way from nearby Tripoli, where funeral prayers were held. Some chanted anti-Syrian slogans.

Last month, a car bomb killed the army's chief of operations, Francois Hajj, in Beirut.

The ruling majority says Syria is behind Hariri's slaying and many of the more than 30 bombings that have hit Lebanon in the past three years, often targeting anti-Syrian figures. Damascus has repeatedly denied involvement in any of the killings.

Hariri on Friday indirectly accused Syria of involvement in the murder. Damascus, in turn, blamed it on "the enemies of Lebanon."

Eid's killing comes at a time of a deepening political crisis in which the Western-backed ruling coalition and Hizbullah-led opposition have been at odds for over a year.

The political crisis has paralyzed government and its institutions and has left Lebanon with no head of state for the first time since the 1975-1990 Civil War. - **Agencies**

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest

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## *Night of a lifetime for Koppel*

The Hollywood Reporter  
September 25, 2007 Tuesday

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**Length:** 429 words

**Byline:** Paul J. Gough

### **Body**

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Ted Koppel came up to New York to accept a lifetime achievement award -- and sing a song he wrote for his wife -- from the News & Documentary Emmys but instead walked away with two prizes.

Koppel's Discovery Channel special "Iran: The Most Dangerous Nation" won as the year's outstanding longform informational program. It was Koppel's fortysomethingth Emmy for a long career at ABC News and Discovery, a career that led luminaries from Jon Stewart to Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel to CBS' Rick Kaplan to extol him.

International coverage won heavily Monday night in the 28th annual awards outing that honored the best in the business during the past year. PBS led all networks with 10 awards, including four for "Frontline" (including a broadband Emmy) that also was honored with fellow PBS documentary series "POV" with a special achievement award. CBS News won five Emmys, including four for "60 Minutes." Discovery Channel and NBC News each won three awards and Cinemax won two awards. Ann Curry's reporting from Darfur on the "NBC Nightly News" won one of the top awards, best story in a newscast. "NBC Nightly News" won two awards.

The late Ed Bradley was honored for one of his last reports, a "60 Minutes" investigation on the unraveling Duke University rape case. "60 Minutes" correspondent emeritus Mike Wallace won in the interview category for his interview last summer with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The top docu awards, the final of the night, went to Cinemax Reel Life for "God Sleeps in Rwanda" and "Shake Hands With the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire" from the Documentary Channel. Both winning docus dealt with the Rwandan genocide of the 1990s, one through the eyes of women affected and the other following Canadian peacekeeper Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire.

"NBC Nightly News" won for breaking news story in a regularly scheduled newscast and its coverage of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, as well as Curry's "Crisis in Darfur." "The CBS Evening News" and correspondent Lara Logan won for her coverage of Marines trying to clean up Ramadi, Iraq, that appeared on the "CBS Evening News."

CNN won for longform coverage of a breaking-news story for its coverage of Election Night 2006.

## Night of a lifetime for Koppel

This year's ceremony also included the winners for the news categories of the International Emmys. BBC News won the news award for "Lebanon Crisis" and Guardian Films for BBC Two won the current affairs award for "Baghdad: A Doctor's Story," a docu shot by an Iraq doctor in a Baghdad emergency room.

A complete list of winners can be found at [hollywoodreporter.com](http://hollywoodreporter.com).

**Load-Date:** September 30, 2007

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January 28, 2008 Monday

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Thousands of Lebanese had earlier greeted the convoy as it inched its way from nearby Tripoli, where funeral prayers were held. Some chanted anti-Syrian slogans.

Last month, a car bomb killed the army's chief of operations, Francois Hajj, in Beirut.

The ruling majority says Syria is behind Hariri's slaying and many of the more than 30 bombings that have hit Lebanon in the past three years, often targeting anti-Syrian figures. Damascus has repeatedly denied involvement in any of the killings.

Hariri on Friday indirectly accused Syria of involvement in the murder. Damascus, in turn, blamed it on "the enemies of Lebanon."

Eid's killing comes at a time of a deepening political crisis in which the Western-backed ruling coalition and Hizbullah-led opposition have been at odds for over a year.

The political crisis has paralyzed government and its institutions and has left Lebanon with no head of state for the first time since the 1975-1990 Civil War. - **Agencies**

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2008

'He was very kind:' slain ISF investigator laid to rest

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End of Document

## *Druze wives hope to reclaim old ties*

Christian Science Monitor

October 12, 2007, Friday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** Joshua Mitnick Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** Majdal Shams, Golan Heights

### **Body**

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In her wedding dress, Lamice Ayoub walked about 50 yards to pass through a military crossing, dividing the Syrian side of the Golan Heights from the Israeli-controlled part of this highly contentious and remote plateau.

From the Syrian side, her parents could probably see their daughter as she left behind her life in Damascus 12 years ago to marry a Druze man living on the Israeli side.

While Ms. Ayoub committed to her husband that day, she also knew that she could not return to her family in Syria, as the Druze women who cross from one side to the other are not permitted to return. She is like dozens of Syrian Druze women for whom marriage has meant a one-way ticket across the 40-year-old Syrian-Israeli divide over the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Now, at time of recent tension between the two countries, women like Ayoub are pressing for family visits, a move they say might even encourage a thaw in the choppy relations between the old enemies.

"What was unexpected was the level of longing for my family," Ayoub says. "Sometimes you see someone who reminds you of a person you knew back home and you begin to cry."

Numbering about 19,000, the Druze of the Golan Heights are unique in the landscape of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They are a potential bridge between Syria, which they consider their homeland, and Israel, which has given them residency and social benefits. At the same time that many work and study inside Israel, others get permission to cross the border for university studies in Damascus.

On Monday, about 40 Druze women from Golan demonstrated outside the Red Cross headquarters in Jerusalem to demand that Israeli authorities give them the same crossing rights as students and Druze religious men.

Ayoub says she's submitted at least 10 requests to travel into Syria that have been rejected. Instead, she's had make do with meeting her parents in Amman, Jordan. "Israel opposes that I visit Damascus. This is discrimination," she said. "If I visited my family in spite of the state of war, it can only contribute to a reduction of tensions, and peace."

Friction between Israel and Syria escalated in after Israel's war with Hizbullah in Lebanon last year. Talk of peace negotiations by both sides was mixed with threats of violence. A tense summer on the Golan Heights was punctuated by Israel's attack on an unknown military installation in Syria last month.



## Druze wives hope to reclaim old ties

This week, the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force that monitors the demilitarized zone between Israeli and Syrian forces on Golan said there's been a relaxation of tensions in recent weeks, though an animal caught in Israel's electronic border at night is enough to prompt the air force to scramble helicopters.

There has been a glimmer of hope for the divided Druze. Two women originally from Syria were granted authorization to return to their home to pay condolences to deceased parents. On Tuesday, Nabih Faherdin stood with three sobbing young children on the Israeli side of the Quneitra military crossing point after watching his wife, Hanan, walk back into Syria for the first time in nine years.

"The simple person isn't interested in politics, he explained. "It's humanitarian issues like this that will make their lives better."

According to the International Red Cross, which helps facilitate civilian crossings across the Syrian-Israel border, there have been 67 Syrian brides that have crossed into the Golan Heights since 1993 and 11 brides from Golan that have crossed into Syria.

A Red Cross spokesperson in Tel Aviv said that prior to 1992, the international humanitarian organization helped coordinate regular family visits. But she cautioned that the recent crossings were not necessarily a sign of a changed policy. "I'm not sure that it's a door that's been opened, it was probably a one-time thing," says Sharon Yeheskel-Oron. "I don't think we should read too much into [the fact] that family visits will start."

A spokeswoman for Israel's Interior Ministry, which handles the requests to cross into Syria, said the Quneitra crossing is a military passage but exceptions are made for Druze priests and students.

"The fact that they aren't allowed to pass through a military crossing doesn't mean that they can't visit their relatives," said the ministry spokesperson in an e-mail. "In no place is it written that you have to pass through the Queneitra crossing to pay a family visit."

For those who travel to third countries to visit relatives, Israel issues special blue identification "laissez passer" cards with "undefined" written in the space for nationality.

Druze women hope that by lobbying Israeli Arab parliament members and holding additional demonstrations they'll be able to change the Israeli policy. "I want to visit my mom when she is still alive," says Ayoub.

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**Load-Date:** October 11, 2007

**Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 230 in Gaza territory**

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

December 28, 2008 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1046 words

**Byline:** New York Times; With files from Agence France-Presse

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Waves of Israeli air strikes destroyed Hamas security facilities in Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 230 people -- the highest one-day toll in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in decades.

The air strikes, which went on into the night and continued early today, were the start of what Israeli military officials said could be days or even months of an effort to force Hamas to end its rocket barrages into southern Israel.

The operation could include ground forces, a senior Israeli security official said.

Palestinian officials said that most of the dead were security officers for Hamas, including two senior commanders, and that at least 600 people were wounded in the attacks.

After the initial air strikes, dozens of rockets were fired into southern Israel, where an emergency was declared. Thousands of Israelis hurried to bomb shelters amid the hail of rockets,

including some longer-range models that reached farther north than ever before. One man was killed in the town of Netivot and four were wounded.

A number of governments and international officials, including leaders of Russia, Egypt, the European Union and the United Nations, condemned Israel's use of force and also called on Hamas to end the rocket fire.

But in strong terms, the outgoing U.S. administration of George W. Bush blamed Hamas for the violence and demanded that it stop firing rockets.

"These people are nothing but thugs, and so Israel is going to defend its people against terrorists like Hamas," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said at Bush's Texas ranch.

"If Hamas stops firing rockets into Israel, then Israel would not have a need for strikes in Gaza."

The Israeli military operation had

## Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 230 in Gaza territory

been expected after a rocky ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed a week ago, leading again to rocket attacks in large numbers against Israel.

Still, there was a shocking quality to Saturday's attacks, which began in broad daylight as police cadets were graduating, women were shopping at an outdoor market and children were emerging from school.

The centre of Gaza City was a scene of chaotic horror, with rubble everywhere, sirens wailing, and women shrieking as dozens of mutilated bodies were laid out on the pavement and in the lobby of Shifa Hospital so that family members could identify them.

The dead included civilians, among them several construction workers and at least two children in school uniforms.

By afternoon, shops were shuttered, funerals began and mourning tents were visible on nearly every major street of this densely populated city.

The leader of the Hamas government in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, said in a statement that "Palestine has never witnessed an uglier massacre."

Later, in a televised speech, he vowed to fight Israel.

"We say in all confidence that even if we are hung on the gallows or they make our blood flow in the streets or they tear our bodies apart, we will bow only before God and we will not abandon Palestine."

In Damascus, Syria, Hamas' supreme leader, Khaled Meshal, told Al-Jazeera television that he was calling for a new Palestinian uprising against Israel, including the resumption of suicide attacks in Israel for the first time since 2005.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli defence minister, said the military operation in Gaza would expand and deepen as necessary, adding, "There is a time for calm and a time for fighting, and this is the time for fighting."

Barak said he was withdrawing from campaigning for Israel's February elections to focus on the operation.

"We wanted to attack military targets while the terrorists were inside the facilities and before Hamas was able to get its rockets out that were stored in some of the targets," said the top Israeli security official, briefing reporters by telephone on condition of anonymity.

Israeli officials said that anyone linked to the Hamas security structure or government was fair game, since Hamas was a terrorist group that sought Israel's destruction. But with work here increasingly scarce because of an international embargo on Hamas, young men are tempted by the steady work of the police force without necessarily fully accepting the Hamas ideology.

Spokesmen for Hamas officials, who have mostly gone underground, called on militants to seek revenge and fight to the last drop of blood. Several compared what was happening to the 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, when Israel reacted to the capture and killing of soldiers along its northern border with air raids, followed by a ground attack. Hezbollah is viewed as having withstood those assaults and emerged stronger politically.

The air strikes put Arab governments that dislike Hamas, like Egypt's, Jordan's and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, in a delicate position. They blame Hamas for having taken over Gaza by force 18 months ago in the aftermath of its election victory in the Palestinian parliament, and oppose its rocket fire on Israeli communities.

But the sight of scores of Palestinians killed by Israeli warplanes outraged their citizens, and anti-Israel demonstrations broke out across the region.

President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority angrily condemned the Israeli air strikes. Egypt, worried about possible efforts by Palestinians to enter the country, has set up machine-guns along the Gaza border. But on

## Israel hammers Hamas; Air strikes in response to rocket attacks kill 230 in Gaza territory

Saturday it temporarily opened the Rafah border crossing in order to allow the wounded to be brought to Egyptian hospitals for treatment.

Israel, backed by the United States, Europe, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, has sought to isolate Hamas by squeezing Gaza economically, a policy that human rights groups condemn as collective punishment. Israel and Egypt, which control routes into and out of Gaza, have blocked nearly all but humanitarian aid from going in.

The result has been the near death of the Gaza economy. While enough food has gone in to avoid starvation, the level of suffering is very high and getting worse each week, especially in recent weeks as Israel closed the routes entirely for about 10 days in reaction to daily rocket fire.

The EU called for all crossing points out of Gaza to be reopened and deliveries of aid and fuel to resume, along with free access for international humanitarian groups, journalists and diplomats, which Israel has blocked.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2008

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## *Sarkozy reaches wide, but where's the depth?; Politicus*

The International Herald Tribune

July 17, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 1051 words

**Byline:** John Vinocur - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** PARIS

### **Body**

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A newspaper in the American South once claimed readership and reporting that covered Dixie like the dew. In the league of cynical response, that line linked up with a put-down which lives on with real universality: yeah, a mile wide, and an inch deep.

France, since May 17, has a new leader who could well be called the omnipresident. With a breadth of reach that is extraordinary, and a burst of an energy that makes his predecessors over the last quarter century look paralytic, Nicolas Sarkozy has leapt into French life as the man who will change everything.

He has made clear that he will run every aspect of government, turning the prime minister's office into a kind of chief-of-staff position instead of the baffle it provided previous presidents from the drudgery and mess of daily, incremental politics.

He has widened the political affiliations of his cabinet members and appointees to include Socialists, women and minorities, casting himself as the open-minded gatherer of the nation and tolerant symbol of all of France (while devastating the mainstream-left opposition in the process).

He has presented a catalogue of wall-to-wall change and ambition: leadership in Europe; new leverage for France in the world; an economy that trashes the traditional rigidities of French capitalism; an institutional makeover that would streamline government in the name of modernity - and, obviously, facilitate Sarkozy's will to put his mark on all things.

The goals stretch enormously wide. For now, according to a poll last week, 52 percent of the French say they aren't shocked by Sarkozy's omnipresence.

You could call it a running, leaping, remarkably successful start that has blanketed France in a mood of hopeful expectation it hasn't known in years.

The hitch is that on inspection the depth of Sarkozy's convictions - or in many cases their definition - has not become clear.

The mile-wide, inch-deep label would be cruel and hasty. Still, for early days, the contradictions are already there. Examples:

## Sarkozy reaches wide, but where's the depth? Politicus

A university reorganization bill that won approval turned out to be a relatively business-as-usual undertaking that abandoned the student-selection and tuition provisions which reformers said were needed to lift the French higher education system from growing mediocrity to modernity.

Friends of Sarkozy privately rationalized away the bill's innocuousness with the thought that he could not risk student protests in the Paris streets this fall and winter when he's likely to confront labor unions with the job-market liberalization central to structural change in the economy.

Last week, when a whiff of renewal concerning French Middle East policy was in the air - Sarkozy quite reasonably referred to Hezbollah as "terrorist" - the presidential bureaucracy reverted to form 24 hours later, reaffirming France's opposition to including Hezbollah on the EU's list of terrorist organizations.

A day or two later, the president, who as the campaigning Sarkozy openly expressed his unwillingness to let Russia strengthen its strategic influence over Europe, was on the phone with Vladimir Putin. Gazprom had just picked Total, the French energy concern, to assist in the development of its vast Stokman gas reserves.

The deal limited Total's involvement to that of a hired hand, with Gazprom controlling 100 percent ownership of the gas the new field will produce. Much of France's requirement happily comes from non-Russian sources and nuclear power, yet the now presidential Sarkozy passed up on the occasion to express concern about a regime that uses gas and oil as a means of pressure on other EU members.

This was not a new France speaking out on what its new leader, two months earlier, said was on his mind.

Concerning the EU itself, Sarkozy's voice, rather than solely that of a nation embodying change and cooperation as its new European creed, alternately has been one of the old self-interested France, comfortable with slipping around its obligations as a team player.

Sarkozy has talked up both a European industrial policy, which decoded comes out as reflexive French protectionism, and greater political involvement in policy making at the European Central Bank, which basically boils down to a desire to bolster French competitiveness through a cheaper euro.

At the same time - French exceptionalism redux - Sarkozy has temporarily (read: but maybe until his term ends in 2012) turned France's back on meeting the debt and deficit requirements of the EU Stability Pact.

Again, friends of the president say this has to be understood in the domestic political context as the kind of position that would play to French reflex and soothe public opinion while the deep reforms bringing France in line with the European Union's public spending guidelines are put to work.

By stealth?

Perhaps, because in addressing the country last week, Sarkozy talked about the necessity of a "strong state." This falls on French ears as a promise of a free-spending, all-protective one.

Psychologically, at least, it's in total contradiction with the need to reduce the massive number of public sector jobs, and end the civil service anachronisms, like lifetime employment and retirement at 50-something, which have become the notional standards for all employment. Not for nothing do polls continue to show a risk-averse majority of French young people want to work for the state.

So, where and when do the breadth of Sarkozy's presidential presence, his considerable double-edged language, and - based on performance so far - the legitimate questions about the variable level of his commitment to change run into political reality, and/or trouble?

One of his friends, who spoke recently to the president, had an indirect answer. He said:

Sarkozy reaches wide, but where's the depth? Politicus

"Mitterrand and Chirac, in their way, shared the same analysis: nothing should be changed in France. 'You can't touch the country or it will break.' That was their analysis. Sarkozy believes the people are saying, 'It's got to be now. Do what's necessary.' "

Pushed to name an hour for the hard, deep stuff to begin, another ally just laughed.

October, November? he was asked.

There was a long, nonargumentative pause. "Nicolas has been terrific," the man said. "It's a very impressive start."

\*

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Tomorrow: Daniel Williams on the Iraqi diaspora in Syria.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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## TALKING POINT

The Courier Mail (Australia)

January 8, 2009 Thursday

1 - First with the news Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 28

**Length:** 1726 words

### **Body**

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Blame toll on stupid driving

JOE Moore is incorrect in claiming that speed is the most frequent cause of accidents (Letters, Jan 6).

In the 2007-08 financial year, speed was the primary cause of 22 per cent of road fatalities, placing it behind driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and nowhere near a majority.

It also is recognised that speeding accident rates are inflated. For example, a car is found having left the road and hit a tree. There is no evidence that the driver attempted to brake.

While the crash is usually written up to speeding, it could have been caused by a spider falling out of the sunshade or any number of other causes.

Fast driving, in and of itself, doesn't cause many accidents. Stupid driving -- which can include speeding but also can include driving under speed, not obeying traffic signs, performing unexpected manoeuvres which endanger other motorists -- is what causes most accidents.

Sam Morrison, New Farm

DAVID Leatherbarrow (Letters, Jan 7) argues in the same vein as Rudyard Kipling in his poem If.

If we all obeyed the law, the world would be a better place. Indeed, the road toll would tumble. However, it won't happen because we don't all obey the law all of the time. Even though our compliance may be close to 100 per cent, none of us will achieve perfection.

We will break the law on purpose or inadvertently, and face the punishment. The trouble is that the punishment at level crossings is immediate execution. The extreme outcome does not stop the practice despite the fact there are no repeat offenders.

Knowing this, the Queensland Government continues to dither. Transport Minister John Mickel wants to run an education campaign for 4 million Queenslanders and visitors. Everyone in Queensland, except for the Government, can see that this will change nothing.

Because of the severity of outcomes, level crossings must be eliminated. They remain today because governments continue to place a low value on the lives of citizens and visitors.



## TALKING POINT

The Government is so far out of touch that it plans to build more level crossings for southeast Queensland infrastructure. I refer to the scores of intersections becoming level crossings along the proposed Gold Coast light rail route from Southport to Broadbeach. That's no backwater where an occasional truck crosses a lightly used rail line.

Bill Hauff, Surfers Paradise

Law rules on compensation

I FEEL compassion for anyone who is blind but why should Anita Dawson (C-M, Jan 7) consider herself different from anyone else who has sufficient funds (a six-figure compensation payout for a work injury) on which to live.

The government pension, in whichever form it is received, is to financially help those who are in no position to help themselves survive. Others are not so fortunate to have the funds Dawson now possesses.

She should be thankful she was fortunate enough to receive a pension and associated benefits in the past when perhaps she could not afford to look after herself.

Glenda Wickman, Kuraby

I HAVE looked into Anita Dawson's case and assured myself it was handled correctly, but her experience highlights an important message for anyone about to receive compensation payments for personal injury.

Australian law means people who can't work because they have a compensatable injury cannot receive income from both the social security system and compensation system for the same period. This includes those on a Disability Support Pension because they are blind.

Centrelink offers a free service to advise individuals or their legal representatives how compensation payments affect benefits. Hank Jongen, Centrelink general manager, Greenway, ACT

Mixed message

ON Sunday Treasurer Andrew Fraser was reported as saying Queenslanders were living in a lucky place and his treasury department had forecast the generation of 50,000 jobs this year.

On Monday, he warned of the loss of 13,000 jobs and said the economic climate was changing so rapidly that anyone who claimed to be able to give a guaranteed forecast was "being heroic and courageous and doesn't have a good grasp of what they are talking about". It is obvious that the Treasurer doesn't know what he is talking about.

Rosemary Scott, Robertson

Co-exist with caution

MANY more people are killed at road intersections than at rail-road intersections, and no one is howling for boom gates or lights on every road junction.

Every rail-road crossing will never get boom gates or lights. The cost to install and maintain them is more than we can afford, so a reasonable solution must be developed or the expansion of our rail system will never happen.

We, the public, have to accept that driving safely is our own responsibility and that static signs, such as "caution -- rail crossing" or similar, mean "slow up, have a good look up and down the track before crossing the lines".

If we are honest, we know that each of us has crossed a railway line while preoccupied with something else.

The fact that a train is seldom on a particular crossing can lead us to lapse and be inattentive but with traffic increasing, both road and rail, we must be more careful.

## TALKING POINT

Train drivers cannot be blamed. They cannot pull up even with the best intent, neither can they take evasive action, so they have the trauma of watching helplessly as the train and vehicle collide. Think of others and think of yourselves. Treat every rail crossing as very dangerous.

Ken Nicholson, Gladstone

## Maintaining optimism

I READ with interest the article "Gone but not forgotten" by Suzanna Clarke (C-M, Jan 3-4). It is fitting that lost icons of Brisbane be represented and remembered in the Optimism exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art.

We need to ensure that the remaining places that are so important in the lives and memories of the people of Brisbane do not follow the same fate. The sale of the 121-year-old Yungaba immigration centre for development is a tragedy, as is the proposed redevelopment of the Regent Theatre as the back entrance for a huge office tower.

Last February, the Government issued a directive to save the cinemas. This directive is no longer in place, and the application made to Brisbane City Council is for small token cinemas which will be accessible to the public only on weekends. It also will mean the destruction of historical aspects not listed on the Heritage Register.

If this is allowed to go ahead, it will be a tragic outcome for the Regent, which gives people the last glimpse of the magnificent picture palaces that once illuminated our city streets.

I urge the Government to save the Regent and the council to reject the development.

Vicki Bridgstock, Coopers Plains

## Casualties of war

LIKE most apologists for Hamas and Hezbollah, Joseph Wakim (Viewpoint, Jan 7) refuses to acknowledge these organisations continue to attack Israel with the aim of its total destruction. He complains when Israel hits back.

Hamas and Hezbollah site their weapons among the civilian population. When they're attacked, there are civilian casualties. While complaining about the casualties, they continue to fire rockets at the civilian population of Israel.

If Wakim wants the violence to cease, he should acknowledge Israel's right to exist and defend itself from these cowardly attacks, and urge the people of Palestine and Lebanon to stop Hamas and Hezbollah from attacking Israel.

Tony Miles, Wooloowin

IT IS easy to forget that through the generosity of other nations Israel was established after World War II, giving the persecuted Jewish people a home by pushing the residents of hundreds of years aside, claiming Palestinian territory as their own. That they can be so brutal, deliberately killing women, children and non-combatants, reflects poorly on a people who were shockingly treated in World War II, along with others, including Christians.

Admittedly, this has always been a tit-for-tat war but the origins of the Israeli state must not be forgotten. If I was a Palestinian living in the confines of the Gaza Strip, I might send the odd rocket to Israel.

John Morris, Aspley

BARACK Obama is saying nothing about the Middle East until he takes over as president. He is concentrating on the US economy. Have any of his advisers suggested that he allocate the billions given to Israel to fixing the US economy? Such a decision might solve two problems.

F. Waddington, Wooloowin

## Contracts skip holidays

## TALKING POINT

ROSEANNE Schneider (Letters, Jan 6) refers to the large number of teachers employed on short-term contracts. She says if teachers are not valued enough to be given fully tenured positions, how can they be expected to provide the quality teaching they were trained to deliver?

The answer is they can't -- and why should they when, at the end of the school year, the Education Department allows a system that is legally able to deliver another contract to the same contract teacher to begin the following year, after pupil-free days and public holidays?

This flawed system not only voids any legal responsibilities to pay holiday pay but also deprives contract teachers from making any valuable contribution in regard to their involvement and responsibilities in class planning during the pupil-free days.

Lyn O'Brien, Rochedale South

'It is fitting that lost icons of Brisbane be represented and remembered in the exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art' -

Vicki Bridgstock, of Coopers Plains, wants to ensure the Regent Theatre does not suffer the same fate as other historic buildings

'Have any of Barack Obama's advisers suggested that he allocate the billions given to Israel to fixing the US economy?' -

F. Waddington, of Woolloowin, says such a decision might solve two problems simultaneously

Letters

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The winner of Letter of the Month wins a zippered A4 leather compendium, valued at \$80, courtesy of The Courier-Mail.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2009

## *The myth of Palestinian moderation*

The Jerusalem Post

April 30, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 13

**Length:** 853 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL FREUND

**Highlight:** Let's stop fooling ourselves. Giving the Palestinians a state when a majority of them want us dead is both reckless and irresponsible. **FUNDAMENTALLY FREUND**

### **Body**

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Even for a president prone to misusing the English language, George W. Bush outdid himself last week.

Sitting next to Mahmoud Abbas at the White House, Bush gushed and swooned over the visiting Palestinian leader, describing him in terms usually reserved for heroes and saints.

"The president is a man of peace," Bush assured the gaggle of reporters who were present. "He's a man of vision. He rejects the idea of using violence to achieve objectives, which distinguishes him from other people in the region."

While Bush's grammar may have been uncommonly accurate that day, his description of Abbas was anything but. For even a cursory glance at some of the Palestinian president's outbursts in recent months reveal a man wholly undeserving of such praise.

On March 1, Abbas had the gall to insult the memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis when he declared that Israel's counter-terror operations in Gaza were "worse than the Holocaust" (Jerusalem Post, March 2).

And in an interview with the Jordanian newspaper Al-Dustur on February 28, Abbas boasted that he had been the first Palestinian to fire a bullet at Israel after the birth of the PLO in 1965.

This ostensible "man of peace" then took pride in the fact that his Fatah movement had trained Hizbullah terrorists, and he did not rule out a return to the "armed struggle" against Israel in the future. And just two weeks ago, Abbas was planning to confer the Al-Quds Mark of Honor, the PLO's highest award, to two female Palestinian terrorists who took part in the killing of Israelis (Israel Radio, April 16). The event was cancelled only after it was publicized widely in the media. Need we also mention the Palestinian president's refusal late last year to recognize Israel as a "Jewish state"?

THIS OF course puts the lie to Bush's stubborn embrace of Abbas as a reasonable and judicious leader that can be counted on to forge a peace deal. If anything, the Palestinian president has repeatedly shown himself to be an intemperate hot-head. Nonetheless, that doesn't seem to stop Washington and much of the media from bestowing upon him the coveted title of a "moderate" leader that Israel can do business with.

## The myth of Palestinian moderation

\* "Abbas's moderate and Western-backed government rules the West Bank," the Associated Press (April 25) helpfully explained in a recent report.

\* According to Reuters (April 24), Abbas is "a pro- Western moderate," while Agence France-Presse referred to him on Monday as "moderate Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas," as though the appellation "moderate" was an integral part of his title.

All of this shameful fawning on the Palestinian thug- in-chief raises a simple, yet rarely-asked, question: why is there such a widespread insistence on deluding the public into thinking that Abbas is a "moderate" leader who epitomizes the majority of Palestinians?

The issue is more than academic. In fact, it goes directly to the core of current US and Israeli government policy.

After all, the entire intellectual basis for the notion of granting the Palestinians a state rests on the dubious assumption that a majority of them are actually reasonable, peace-loving people. Too bad that all the available evidence appears to indicate otherwise.

Last week, for example, the Palestinian-run Jerusalem Media and Communications Center published the results of a survey revealing that a majority of Palestinians (50.7%) support suicide-bombing attacks against Israeli civilians.

This was in line with previous polls, which have consistently shown overwhelming Palestinian backing for anti-Israel terror. Indeed, just last month, the Ramallah- based Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found that an astonishing 84% of Palestinians supported the gruesome execution-style murder of 8 Israeli teens by a Palestinian terrorist at the Mercaz HaRav Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

And by a margin of 64% to 33%, or nearly two to one, Palestinians were in favor of continued rocket attacks against Israeli towns and cities.

THESE COLD, hard facts present supporters of the peace process with a major problem, if only because they confirm that the very idea of Palestinian moderation is a myth. It is a figment of the imagination, a flight of fantasy that bears little resemblance to reality. After all, it is not as if a tiny minority of Palestinians support the murder of Jews. The bulk of them do. And wishing it were otherwise simply doesn't make it so.

So let's stop fooling ourselves. Giving the Palestinians a state when a majority of them want us dead is both reckless and irresponsible.

It is a recipe for disaster, and will only serve to create yet another radical, terror-sponsoring state in the region.

And let's cease calling Mahmoud Abbas a "moderate." Anyone who refuses to recognize Israel as a "Jewish state," makes a mockery of the Holocaust, and threatens a return to violence, is certainly not deserving of such a characterization. Instead, let's call Abbas what he really is. For if he looks like an extremist, sounds like an extremist, and acts like an extremist, chances are that he is one.

And more importantly, let's start treating him as such.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

July 20, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

**Length:** 1679 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Star News Services

### **Body**

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#### AFRICA

##### MAURITANIA TERRORISM TRIAL TO HEAR TORTURE CLAIM

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania - The trial in this West African nation of 14 suspects facing terrorism-related charges will swing to the defence Monday after three weeks.

The defence claims authorities obtained confessions through the use of torture and that there was no other evidence against the defendants.

The prosecution is seeking the death penalty against two of the defendants accused of participating in an attack on a Mauritanian military base in which 15 soldiers were killed.

##### EX-PARLIAMENT CHIEF ARRESTED IN LIBERIA 'COUP'

MONROVIA, Liberia - A former speaker of the Liberian parliament is among at least six suspects arrested this week in a probe into an alleged coup plot by a former army general in this West African country.

Investigators in neighbouring Ivory Coast, where the plot is alleged to have been hatched, were co-operating in the case.

Charles Julu, who was army chief of staff in the regime of ex-president Samuel Doe in the late 1980s, has already been named as one of those arrested for "subversive activities."

##### 5TH NIGERIAN STATE LEADER CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION

ABUJA, Nigeria - A fifth former Nigerian state governor has been charged with looting public funds, as the anti-graft police widen their net in one of the world's most corrupt countries.

Jolly Nyame, who stepped down as governor of remote northeastern Taraba on May 29, stands accused of stealing more than US\$10 million in state funds in the last two years of his tenure.

He joins four other indicted ex-governors, one of whom is accused of stealing US\$225 million.

## World Report

## MIDEAST

IRAN'S AHMADINEJAD MEETS HEZBOLLAH CHIEF

TEHRAN - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday met Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Damascus, telling him that Israel was "becoming weaker every day," the state news agency IRNA reported.

"Ahmadinejad on Thursday evening met with Hassan Nasrallah," IRNA said.

Iran is a vocal supporter of the Lebanese Shiite militant group and rejoiced over its resistance to the Israeli army in last summer's war.

However Tehran denies Western charges that it ships arms to Hezbollah.

"Today, the inner calm in Lebanese society is something that gives hope while the Zionist regime is becoming weaker every day," Ahmadinejad was quoted as telling Nasrallah.

## NORTH AMERICA

## BUSH VOWS NO SOLO MISSION FOR U.S. TROOPS IN DARFUR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - President George W. Bush, who has been pushing for the United Nations to take stronger action in Darfur, on Thursday said he would not unilaterally send U.S. troops to that region of Sudan.

The United States, which calls the situation in Darfur "genocide," in May tightened sanctions against Sudan to press the Sudanese government to end the bloodshed.

"I made the decision not to send U.S. troops unilaterally into Darfur," Bush said in Tennessee where he made a speech and responded to an audience question on Sudan.

"I made the decision in consultation with allies as well as consultations with members of Congress and activists and I came to the conclusion that it just wasn't the right decision," he said.

## COLOMBIAN RELATIVES SUE CHIQUITA OVER INSURGENTS

NEW YORK - A group of Colombian families launched a class-action lawsuit against banana giant Chiquita Thursday, accusing the company of paying armed militant groups who allegedly killed their relatives.

The complaint accuses Chiquita Brands International of funding and arming known terrorist organizations in order to maintain control of Colombia's banana growing regions from the mid 1990s.

The suit seeks unspecified damages but as a class-action lawsuit could result in damages being awarded to each victim of any paramilitary groups paid by Chiquita, potentially meaning tens of millions of dollars.

## STOWAWAY BODY FOUND INSIDE S.F. JET WHEEL WELL

SAN FRANCISCO - Maintenance staff at San Francisco International Airport on Thursday found a dead man in the wheel well of a United Airlines Boeing 747 arriving from China, an airline rep said.

The plane made an 11-hour trip that began in Shanghai. Finding bodies is not unusual. They often die from asphyxiation or exposure to sub-freezing temperatures.

## AL-QAIDA IRAQI SAFE HAVENS 'SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED'

WASHINGTON - A U.S.-led offensive has "significantly reduced" al-Qaida in Iraq's safe havens in the country, making it more difficult for the group to operate, a top U.S. commander said Thursday.

## World Report

Lt.-Gen General Raymond Odierno, the Number Two commander in Iraq, said the broader Sunni insurgency also has diminished. Sentiment has swung against al-Qaida, with ceasefires and co-operation with U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Odierno, speaking to reporters via video link from Iraq, described a split in the Sunni insurgency between groups interested in reconciliation, and others that have gravitated toward al-Qaida.

## EUROPE

## RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP HOPEFUL RELEASED AFTER ARREST

MOSCOW, Russia - The mayor of a Russian city who declared he would contest the 2008 presidential elections was released on Thursday, a day after his arrest for alleged abuse of power.

Alexander Donskoi, mayor of the port city of Arkhangelsk in northern Russia, was freed after "the judge threw out a demand for his imprisonment," his lawyer said.

Donskoi was detained for allegedly using city budget funds to pay for bodyguards for himself and family members.

## KIDNAPPED ITALIAN PRIEST RELEASED IN PHILIPPINES

ROME, Italy - Giancarlo Bossi, the Italian priest abducted last month in the Philippines, has been released, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Thursday.

Bossi, 57, is a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions. He was seized on June 10 in Zamboanga Sibugay, in the southeast Philippines.

Military officers blamed the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

## DRUG REGULATOR HIGHLIGHTS WEIGHT-LOSS PILL DANGER

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European drug regulator EMEA said Thursday it had maintained authorization of weight-loss pill Acomplia in the European Union, but had ordered it to be withheld from people suffering from depression.

A panel of experts from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration concluded in June that the dieting treatment, which can also be used to treat diabetes, was unsafe because it caused suicidal thoughts as a side-effect.

The maker of the drug, French group Sanofi-Aventis, abandoned attempts to win approval for the drug in the United States as a result.

## TIGER FEARED PROWLING GREAT FRENCH WINE REGION

BORDEAUX, France - Police in southwestern France are searching for a big cat, possibly a young tiger, that has been spotted prowling in a village near the city of Bordeaux, the village's mayor said on Thursday.

Officials from the National Hunting Office have also laid traps for the animal after a woman and her daughter saw it repeatedly in their garden.

Its tracks suggest it is a young tiger, though it could be a jaguar or a leopard.

No reports of such animals gone missing have been received.

## JORDANIAN DOCTOR CHARGED IN FAILED U.K. BOMBINGS

LONDON, Eng. - British anti-terrorism police charged a Jordanian national on Thursday with plotting to carry out failed car bomb attacks in London and Scotland at the end of last month.



## World Report

Mohammed Jamil Asha, a 26-year-old doctor, was charged with conspiring with Bilal Abdullah and Kafeel Ahmed to cause explosions "of a nature likely to endanger life."

Iraqi-trained doctor Abdullah, 27, has already been charged by British police with the same offence.

## MANY UKRAINIAN INJURIES IN PHOSPHORUS TRAIN CRASH

LVIV, Ukraine - The number of people hospitalized after a train carrying phosphorus crashed in Ukraine now numbers 152.

The train was travelling from Kazakhstan to Poland when it crashed near Lviv, in western Ukraine, on Monday. Fire burned through six carriages, and 800 people living nearby were evacuated before the fire was put out.

## SKULL SQUEEZES BRAIN BUT MAN SEEMS NORMAL

PARIS, France - French doctors are puzzling over the case of a 44-year-old civil servant who has led a quite normal life -- but with an extraordinarily tiny brain.

A Lancet medical article says the father of two was admitted to hospital with mild weakness in his left leg.

Scans by computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging showed that the man's cerebral cavities, called ventricles, had massively expanded, crushing the brain against skull.

Neuropsychological testing revealed the man had an IQ of 75, with a verbal IQ of 84 and performance IQ of 70. The bulk of people in society have a minimum IQ of 85, although the way it is measured is sometimes contested.

## SOUTH AMERICA

## BRAZIL FIRES ROCKET IN BID TO REVIVE SPACE PROGRAM

BRASILIA, Brazil - Brazil launched a sounding rocket carrying scientific experiments on Thursday in an effort to revive a space program that was set back by a deadly accident in 2003.

Brazil's main objective is to develop and then sell satellite-launching rockets, as well as to promote its Alcantara launch site near the northeastern city of Sao Luis.

The VSB-30 sounding rocket was airborne for only 20 minutes and a module carrying experiments was to be salvaged from the Atlantic Ocean, the Brazilian Space Agency said.

Officials view the launch as a key step in recovering Brazil's space program after a satellite-launching rocket exploded at the same site in 2003 and killed 21 people, including several scientists.

## 'QUEEN CRISTINA' WILL BID TO BE HUSBAND'S SUCCESSOR

Buenos Aires, Argentina - The flamboyant wife of Argentina's president, popularly known as "Queen Cristina," Thursday launched a campaign to succeed her husband.

Cristina Kirchner, whose husband, President Nestor Kirchner, has been in power since 2003, wants to be the Peronist Party candidate in her home city of La Plata.

She has won state offices and is currently a national senator, as well as playing a high-profile role in her husband's policies.

Credited with restoring Argentina's economic health after the crisis of 2001, Nestor Kirchner would almost certainly have won a second term. Now it is speculated he might return as a candidate after his wife serves for four years.

Isabel Peron was the first **female** president, but by appointment rather than election.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Mushtaq Muhammad, Reuters; BRINGING HOME THE HARVEST: In the summer heat of Iraq, the harvest has begun. This boy has loaded his donkey cart for transport to Kerbala, 110 kilometres south of Baghdad on Thursday. ;

**Load-Date:** July 20, 2007

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**The Guide: Islamic street preachers: From Boston to Lahore and beyond, the tentacles of taqwacore - aka Islamic punk rock - are spreading. And it's giving disenfranchised young Muslims a voice, says Riazat Butt**

The Guardian - Final Edition

April 28, 2007 Saturday

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**Section:** THE GUIDE; Pg. 10

**Length:** 1583 words

**Byline:** Riazat Butt

## **Body**

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There can't be that many **female** playwrights who are deaf, punk and Muslim, so Sabina England is something of a find. With a lurid Mohawk and leather jacket slathered with slogans, she looks every inch the rebel and has an attitude to match.

Sabina, who says she lives in the "shitty midwest of the United States" or the "HELL-HOLE OF BOREDOM AND YUPPIES", is part of a subculture that, until a few years ago, existed only on paper.

The Taqwacores - a novel about a fictitious Muslim punk scene in the US - has spawned an actual movement that is being driven forward by young Muslims worldwide. Some bands - such as the Kominas - have a cult following. Others, such as Sabina, are virtually unknown. In a brief email exchange, she lays out some harsh truths.

You're a playwright. What do you write about?

"I write plays about fucked up people in fucked up situations, because we're all fucked up human beings that live in a fucked up society. People need to quit whining and shut up and realise that we're all freaks, whether we admit it or not."

Where are your ideas from?

"Being a deaf woman from an Indian Muslim family growing up in both England and the US, I've never felt I fit in or belonged anywhere. So I was always forced to be an outsider, and because of this, I'd just watch people and observe their actions and words. I guess a lot of my ideas come from my alienation and anger."

How well known is the taqwacore phenomenon where you are?

"Muslims around here would rather act like a model minority and don't really want to rattle anybody's chain. I really want to move to New York City, if I can get my plays produced there. Unfortunately it seems many theatre companies are too scared to do my works, or think I only cater to Indians and Pakistanis and won't attract white people. But they're fucking wrong, and they can't see beyond racial boundaries. Fucking worthless piece of shites."

What does taqwacore mean to you?

The Guide: Islamic street preachers: From Boston to Lahore and beyond, the tentacles of taqwacore - aka Islamic punk rock - are spreading. And it's giving disen....

"It means being true to myself, having my own faith, and interpreting Islam the way I want to, without feeling guilty or being looked down at by other Muslims."

What is the future for taqwacore?

"It's gonna get bigger. A lot of Muslim kids are tired of being told what to do, how to think, what to believe in, and how to act, by their parents. There are 'the angry muslim kids' who wanna grow beards and pray five times a day, and then there are the OTHER 'angry Muslim kids' who wanna get drunk and say a huge big 'fuck you' to the Muslim population. Or maybe they just don't care and wanna sit at home and not think about Osama's video speeches about how America is the Great Satan."

How her words would fare with Michael Muhammad Knight, author of *The Taqwacores* and an unwitting idol to the young and restless, is anyone's guess. Knight, who is 29 and lives in New York with his dog Sunny - "not as in Sunni Muslim" - downplays his achievement of single-handedly inspiring this subculture that has produced artists such as the Kominas, Secret Trial Five, Vote Hezbollah, Al-Thawra, 8-Bit and Diacritical.

"There was a scene already," says Knight modestly, whose next novel will be titled *Osama Van Halen*. "I just gave it a name. There were kids out there, doing their thing. I don't think of it as a movement, though, just a group of friends supporting each other."

Knight wrote the book to deal with his own issues. He converted to Islam as a teenager and admits he "burned out" from being so religious. "I was so intense. I felt Islam was so black and white and there were no grey areas. These Muslim kids, who are punks, they are in these grey areas."

The kids he refers to have all devoured Knight's work, some taking it literally.

"One kid," he says, "thought the book was non-fiction and thought that stuff in the book actually happened. He got in touch. He said if it wasn't real, that he would make it real." He sounds worried by the suggestion that his book will be a manifesto for Muslim punks. "If the scene develops, I don't want it to be based on my book."

The words stable, door, horse and bolt spring to mind. Some Muslims are deeming his book to be nothing short of a revelation.

"When I read *The Taqwacores*," says Basim Usmani, frontman of The Kominas, "all my reservations about Islam melted away."

Usmani was born in New York and moved around the US when he was growing up. "I had this identity that stretched way further back than these disenfranchised white kids I was hanging out with, but they were the ones who showed me the most respect. I entered America where I was weird and, when I went back to Pakistan, I was weird there too. I was too Pakistani to be American and too American to be Pakistani."

His aggression was ongoing, although he freely admits his rage didn't come from social dynamics. "In Boston I was middle class. In Pakistan, where I am now, I am definitely upper class. But the poverty here is intense and that makes me angry."

Basim first played with Boston-based outfit Malice In Leatherland, supporting horror punk band the Misfits. It was during this time that he heard about Knight's book.

"I read the book and I'm amazed. I send him an email and he called. I saw a lot of myself in it. Sometimes I feel like I'm living in a story." Neither he nor his taqwacore comrades confess to embracing the more debauched antics of the novel - which has one character urinating over the Qur'an and then reading from it and a female Muslim veil-wearing punk, performing oral sex, onstage, in front of 200 people.

Understandably, Usmani was nervous approaching Shahjehan Khan, also in the Kominas, about the book. "I didn't know how he would react, he's not punk, but he was cool about it. He read it in one day. You could say it was a

The Guide: Islamic street preachers: From Boston to Lahore and beyond, the tentacles of taqwacore - aka Islamic punk rock - are spreading. And it's giving disen....

catalyst for the Kominas." Their songs are irreverent and un-PC. His favourite track, he says with a snigger, is "I Want A Handjob" - a jibe at Pakistani rockers Junoon (who launched a Muslims For Bush campaign for the 2004 elections).

Usmani left the US just as the Kominas were breaking through into mainstream culture. But he has a new band - the Dead Bhuttos, a variation on the Dead Kennedys (who released their first single through the independent record label Alternative Tentacles, the very label that picked up Knight's book for distribution).

A future project, hopes Usmani, will be a Punjabi version of the Billy Bragg song There Is Power In A Union. "I'd like it to be a song for the Pakistani workers 'cos they don't really have one," he muses.

The Kominas, currently on a gigging hiatus, will tour later this year in North America. "It seems weird to leave just when we were on the brink. If I'd stayed then I would have been playing to sympathetic white liberals. I didn't want that. In Pakistan, people want to rebel against the police and religious authority and punk is the perfect way to do that."

He's put a downpayment on a bus and decorated it with the shahadah (the Muslim declaration in the oneness of God). "I have no idea how we're going to get it through customs."

Meanwhile, Khan is in Boston mixing the Kominas debut album: "We've put some EPs out but this is our first official release. There will be remixes of our old stuff like Suicide Bomb The Gap."

Khan says he looks like a typical engineer - with glasses and a goatee - and comes from a comfortable, middle-class background. But he appreciates what taqwacore has done for him. "I was like, where has this book been all my life? None of us know where taqwacore is going or what's going to happen. It is a subculture that could influence culture in general. It's nice to be part of something at the beginning."

One of the newest recruits to the taqwacore scene is Secret Trial Five, from Vancouver. Lead vocalist Sena Hussain, 25, took her inspiration directly from the Kominas. "We saw them play and we were all into punk music anyway. We haven't had a chance to rattle some cages, we only got together last summer, but I expect we will. That's the point of punk."

Proposed title tracks include Hey, Hey, Guantanamo Bay and Emo-hurram, a pun on the first month of the Islamic calendar.

And, in a male-dominated culture, she thinks they will face challenges from all sides. "It's another thing that drives us," she says, "Muslim women are seen as helpless and oppressed. We want to prove that wrong. I used to sport a mohawk, I don't now, but we will totally play up the punk thing.

"There's so much animosity towards Muslims and we need a dissenting voice to say 'fuck you' to people who pigeonhole us."

Hussain, who is looking for a new guitarist, adds: "It's only fitting that we identify ourselves as taqwacore, that's where we got our inspiration from, and I think that's the way the genre will grow - and I hope it does."\*

Riazat Butt presents Islamophonic, [www.guardian.co.uk/islamophonic](http://www.guardian.co.uk/islamophonic)

Talking taqwa

The Taqwacores The novel about Muslim punks which inspired the scene (Telegram books).

Michael Muhammad Knight White Irish Catholic Muslim convert and author of The Taqwacores.

The Kominas Punjabi taqwacore band based in Boston. [www.myspace.com/thekominas](http://www.myspace.com/thekominas)

The Guide: Islamic street preachers: From Boston to Lahore and beyond, the tentacles of taqwacore - aka Islamic punk rock - are spreading. And it's giving disen....

The Dead Bhuttos Punjabi taqwacore band based in Lahore, founding member Basim Usmani is also in the Kominas.

Secret Trial Five All-girl taqwacore band from Vancouver named after five Muslim men who are imprisoned indefinitely without charges.

[www.myspace.com/secrettrialfive](http://www.myspace.com/secrettrialfive)

Vote **Hezbollah** Vote **Hezbollah** - taqwacore band based in Texas, also the name of a fictitious band in The Taqwacores

[www.myspace.com/votehezbollah](http://www.myspace.com/votehezbollah)

See also : [www.myspace.com/althawra](http://www.myspace.com/althawra)

[www.myspace.com/diacritical](http://www.myspace.com/diacritical)

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2007

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Australian (Australia)  
January 17, 2008 Thursday  
1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 11

**Length:** 2519 words

### **Body**

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Mighty clash of cultures in the Southern Ocean

MOST TALKED ABOUT

JAPANESE WHALING

TWO cultures are doing battle on the high seas. The crew of the Sea Shepherd are known as environmental terrorists to the Japanese whalers, particularly after an episode last year where crew members threw butyric acid canister bombs on to the deck of the Nisshin Maru. The whalers claimed that two of their crew members were injured.

As an independent Australian journalist, living in Japan, I joined world surfers, actresses and musicians in Taiji, Japan, late last year, in a peaceful paddle-out ceremony to honour the dolphins and small whales killed each year at the hands of Japanese fishermen.

On this trip, I heard the real fishermen speak for the first time. They are real people, doing their jobs, in order to provide for their families. They do not represent the majority of the Japanese population. They represent a tiny handful of families that have been fishing these animals their entire lives and know nothing other than these practices, which have kept food on their tables for hundreds of years. They are human beings, and like other humans would possibly listen to advice, suggestions and dialogue from others if it was delivered in the appropriate tone, and in a non-threatening way.

Remember, these same human beings are watching videos of American soldiers killing innocent people during reckless wars, they understand that almost the entire Western world eats animals such as cows, pigs and sheep daily, and that we are killing our planet in the process of raising these animals to kill for our own food. They are also the same people who have recently been watching a YouTube video about racist Australia and our heartless killing of dingoes and kangaroos. Perhaps the word "hypocrisy" has passed through their thoughts, just a little.

As an Australian, a surfer, and the wife of a Japanese photographer, who has loved dolphins and whales from a very, very small age, I want to end the senseless killing of all whales and dolphins, not only in Japanese waters, but all over the world. But I can see things in a different light, and I realise that these differences between cultures -- although not so different, as Australians used to be great whalers in their time -- need necessary routes of discussion.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There are many Japanese who have been recently standing up, wanting to end the killing of whales and dolphins. But they respect their culture, and they are clear when they say that the way we are trying to make the Japanese stop, through using force, aggression and slander, well, that will only ignite further tension and distrust.

Angie Takanami

Chiba, Japan

EVEN ignoring the allegation of attempting to foul the whaling ship's propeller and rudder with a rope, the conservationists admit they threw stink bombs on the deck of the Japanese ship, then forced their way on board without permission. A ship's captain is not just entitled but obligated for the safety of his own crew to arrest and restrain anyone doing that.

``Violence or the threat of violence to achieve a political objective" is the legal definition of terrorism. They're the same as the animal rights activists in Britain, and the anti-abortion activists in the US. It's not up to vigilantes to enforce the law or what they think it ought to be.

Gordon Drennan

Burton, SA

THE Japanese whaling fleet has just been declared illegal in Australian Antarctic waters by the Federal Court and yet they are now holding two Sea Shepherd activists on one of their ships for handing them a letter declaring that their activities were illegal. This was a job our Government should have done.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd now has no choice but to act on Labor's pre-election promise and enforce the court injunction. The Government has their Oceanic Viking ship in the area and its crew should hand the whalers the injunction, instruct them to return to Japan and retrieve the hostages immediately.

Dean Jefferys

Mullumbimby, NSW

I SUSPECT that many Japanese people don't actually know that a Japanese whaling fleet is ``unethically" (``Hypocrisy on the high seas", Opinion, 16/1) slaughtering whales in the Australian Antarctic Whale Sanctuary because, until fairly recently, there was very little public awareness in Japan about the commercial involvement of major Japanese pulp and paper companies in an equally unethical pursuit: the so-called ``sustainable harvesting" of old-growth native forests in Tasmania.

Many of our Japanese visitors have been genuinely shocked and distressed when exposed to the stark lunar landscapes of forestry clear-fell, and mortified to learn that our ancient trees are being processed into woodchips for the Japanese market. They've questioned how the honourable Tasmanian and Australian authorities could possibly allow this offensive barbarism to occur because, in Japan, all of the oldest and largest trees are deeply venerated, admired and protected by everyone, as they have been for time immemorial.

Dr John R. Wilson

Daisy Dell, Tas

JAPAN has shown it has scant regard for international opinion and will contemptuously dismiss the Australian Federal Court's ruling.

I sincerely trust Kevin Rudd will have a quiet word to his Japanese counterpart and mention that Australia needs to do its own scientific research into whaling and will fund it by imposing a levy on coal/iron ore exports and on Japanese imports. A change of heart is guaranteed.

Anthony Cirson



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woollahra, NSW

Teachers' views on pay scales merit closer scrutiny

READERS of The Australian deserve better than the selective reporting which claims "overwhelming support" amongst teachers for merit-based pay (16/1).

For a start, a survey of 13,000 teachers is nowhere near the claimed one-third of the profession, which numbers almost 250,000 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The error is compounded by the misapplication of the label "merit-based pay", which was advanced by the previous federal minister for education as tying teachers' pay to the performance of their students. The article itself revealed that such an initiative has the support of only one-quarter of respondents, which is hardly "overwhelming".

The notion which drew most support was to pay teachers more based on their competence and qualifications, which is not at all what previous advocates of merit-based pay had suggested. In any event, a framework to better recognise teachers' competence and qualifications has been in place in NSW since 2004, when the NSW Institute of Teachers set out standards for teachers' ongoing professional development, backed by legislation in that state.

Finally, we do not need a survey to tell us what has the overwhelming support of most Australians. That is to better remunerate all teachers, who continue to suffer real declines in income compared to previous decades.

Mercurius Goldstein

Ultimo, NSW

Truth about public hospitals

GEOFF Davies' article ("Patients risk death in our sick hospitals", Opinion, 16/1) is a rare, intellectually honest diagnosis of the root cause of our public hospital problems. We, the Australian people, have demanded that governments supply free, quality health care 24/7 without limitation, including elective health care. Despite record amounts of money being poured in, as Davies explains, "the system remains inadequate" and it always will for, according to Gammon's Law, "in any bureaucratic system as government funding increases, productivity declines".

We need our public hospital system to work properly but first politicians of all persuasions have to be honest with the Australian public as to what that system can and cannot provide. We must stop living in la-la land.

Stephen Milgate

Executive director, Australian Doctors Fund

Bush's \$22bn safeguardTHE announcement by US President George Bush in Saudi Arabia yesterday that the US will be selling \$US20 billion (\$22 billion) of armaments to the non-democratic Sunni regime of Saudi Arabia says more about the real object of his visit to the Middle East than the peace initiatives in Israel/Palestine. One of the greatest strategies of selling arms is that you have to create the environment before this is possible. The continued promoted antagonism by the US between the Sunnis and Shi'ites is a long-term strategy to help the US preserve access to Middle East oil and, in time, assist the US in doing what it does best: sell armaments.

Rob Park

Surrey Hills, Vic

Let Hezbollah broadcast

WHETHER or not al-Manar TV ("Hezbollah-backed TV channel is back", 16/1) programs actually support terrorism is yet to be tested in an Australian court. I daresay, however, that proving racial vilification by the station ought to be much easier. The station has broadcasted material which is based on century-old czarist forgery, long before the state of Israel was on anyone's maps. It was pure and simple anti-Semitism. Racial vilification ought to be

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

confronted whenever it rears its ugly head. But whether banning it is an effective method is a moot point. In practical terms it would be much wiser to follow the mainstream Israeli practice of not fearing its enemies' material. Not only was al-Manar freely broadcasting to Israel during the 2006 second Lebanon war, it was, on occasion, even being taken up and re-beamed by Israeli mainstream television stations. Israelis were not afraid to watch Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's major speeches. In fact it was reported that at one stage it reached the ridiculous situation of Israel's Channel Ten and al-Manar getting into a loop as each switched to taking the other's broadcast live.

Australia was wise to proscribe the military wing of Hezbollah, but we should not bother fearing the broadcasts that so many Israelis switched to watch.

Sol Salbe

Maidstone, Vic

When Rann went missing

SOUTH Australian Premier Mike Rann claims ``our intervention was simply about one thing: saving the lives of young Anangu" (Opinion, 15/1). The Senate's Community Affairs Committee's 2006 inquiry into petrol sniffing in remote Aboriginal communities proves that claim to a load of spin.

As for his claims about meeting in 2004 with ``community members and, in particular, the women", let's have the facts stand for themselves. After that visit, Makinti Minutjukur, a respected Anangu woman who has campaigned long and hard, and always respectfully, for her people, wrote to Mike Rann. She said: ``When you visited the Lands at the end of April we were looking forward to meeting you after we received a fax at the Pukatja Community office telling us to expect you. I got council members ready for a meeting with you and we had the kettle boiling for a cup of tea. When you didn't arrive, I drove across the creek to see where you were and found you outside the TAFE building in front of newspaper cameras. Unfortunately I didn't see you again."

Perhaps Mr Rann should have a good look at the Anangu Lands Paper Tracker at [www.papertracker.com.au](http://www.papertracker.com.au) if he wants the real story of what is -- or isn't -- happening on his watch.

Kate Reynolds

Former South Australian Democrats MLC and Aboriginal affairs spokesperson

WHAT a refreshing, positive article by Mike Rann where he has cited some excellent initiatives by his Government in helping the indigenous communities in South Australia. Perhaps the Northern Territory, especially central Australia where communities have many ties with the Pitjantjatjara people, should adopt the same initiatives. There needs to be a single, concentrated effort to achieve the same goals in central Australia. Only one school in the central desert regions has a swimming pool: Areyonga, where Hugh Jackman once worked in his early days. It does make a huge difference and the ``no school, no pool" policy certainly works as any children I have met who have come in from Amata, to cite an instance, are always way ahead of the Territory bush kids with reading. Attendance is the key to success. I hope Mr Rann does share his success with the federal intervention team.

Marie Kingsley

Alice Springs, NT

The Herd's mentality

AS a member of The Herd, I thought it was worth pointing out a couple of things about Lynden Barber's review (``Big voices of Carmody's canon", Arts, 14/1).

Fair enough, he didn't like our version of Comrade Jesus Christ. But ``murdered" suggests we killed a great song, a song he refers to as ``one of Carmody's standout songs". I find it a bit difficult to cop this criticism when he seemd

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

completely unfamiliar with the original work, which is not a song at all but in fact a poem that Kev recorded for his debut album as a spoken word piece. Even more surprising is that Kev himself, in introducing us, made this quite clear in the story he told about submitting it to a Queensland paper, rewriting it to include the ``comrade" reference, and so on.

It is beside the point, but Uncle Kev was moved to tears by our version, and it was Paul Kelly and Kev who asked us to rework the poem in the first place.

Shannon Kennedy, aka Ozi Batla

The Herd

FIRST BYTE

[letters@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:letters@theaustralian.com.au)

Why doesn't Mr Rudd reward the nurses who have stuck it out in the workforce, rather than pay \$6000 to those who would return?

Susanne Wheelahan

Malvern East, Vic

What published research papers have come out of Japanese whaling in Antarctica? How do they inform us of the value of killing whales?

Bill Forbes

Wingham, NSW

Tennis fans step over the line, police hit out: sounds like a double fault.

M. F. Horton

Alice Springs, NT

A \$57 million cut to the DFAT budget; now that's what I call settling old scores!

Neil Bradley

Audlana, SA

Did anyone else see the irony on the front page of The Australian (16/1): ``Teachers seeking merit based pay to help stem exodus", then, directly underneath (also an exodus) the business sector rewards incompetence with millions of dollars.

Malcolm Brown

Redwood Park, SA

If Centro has really vapourised \$7billion under Mark Scott's direction, his departure fee of \$3million appears totally inadequate. I thought the going rate for fleeing CEOs was about 10 per cent of the loss.

Bill Carpenter

Bowral, NSW

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We all know that the Australian cricket team is the best in the world. Thank goodness they have had the courage to act like it!

Richard Bates

Mapleton, Qld

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Load-Date:** January 16, 2008

## **Karachi police foil march on US Consulate**

The Nation (AsiaNet)

January 11, 2009 Sunday

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**Length:** 513 words

**Byline:** OUR STAFF REPORTER

### **Body**

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KARACHI - Police on Sunday used tear-gas and batons to disperse hundreds of angry protesters rallying against Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip when they tried to march on US Consulate.

About 2,000 people had answered the call of ISO and other parties to protest the Jewish state's campaign in the Palestinian territory, torching Israeli and US flags. They briefly turned violent when several hundred protesters deviated from the planned route and started heading toward the US Consulate in the city. When police tried to stop the demonstrators, they were pelted with stones. Some protesters even started fistfights with officers, prompting police to fire tear-gas shells and baton-charge the crowd.

Shia leaders used loudspeakers to urge the protesters to disperse without further incident and the situation was quickly brought under control.

Thousands of children attended the rally wearing the army dress and carrying toy guns chanting the slogans against Israel. They are carrying the flags of **Hezbollah** and Hamas and pasted the pictures of Hassan Nasarullah on their shirts. The participants of Difa-e-Gaza rally included thousands of **women** with their children and infants to show solidarity and attachment with the innocent Palestinian people.

"We have not arrested anyone," said city police chief Wasim Ahmed. All roads leading to the US Consulate were nevertheless sealed off as a security precaution.

Demonstrations to express solidarity and support for the Palestinians were staged in several major cities in Pakistan on Sunday.

, with about 2,000 turning out in Islamabad and several hundred more in Lahore.

Several small demonstrations took place in Lahore, with more than 400 people taking part in the main procession along Mall Road, chanting anti-Israel and anti-US slogans before dispersing peacefully.

Meanwhile, various political and religious organizations staged a protest rally against Israeli aggression and called for immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Pakistani Awami Tehrik (PAT) and Tehreek-e-Menhaj-ul-Quran took out a rally from Fountain Chowk to the Karachi Press Club. A large number of **women** and children too took part in the demonstration. The protestors were holding placards and banners inscribed with anti-Israeli slogans.

PAT President Dr S M Zameer, Ali Ausat Shah, Mahmood Qadri and other leaders participated in the rally.

## Karachi police foil march on US Consulate

In another protest demonstration, activists and leaders of the Awami Muslim League (AML) gathered outside the press club and chanted slogans against Israel and US.

Addressing the participants, speakers urged unity among Muslim nations and appealed to boycott Israel products. The protestors torched the effigy of US President and the Israeli flag.

"Muslim rulers must take serious note of the double standards of the West," the secretary general of Jamaat-i-Islami, Munawar Hussain, told protesters.

"The US, Britain and some other European countries raised a hue and cry over the Mumbai attacks but surprisingly the world is watching the killings of innocent women and children in Gaza as silent spectators."

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

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## *Israel strikes at Lebanon rocket site*

The Evening Standard (London)

January 14, 2009 Wednesday

B Edition

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# London Evening Standard

**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 482 words

**Byline:** MARTIN BENTHAM

## **Body**

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ISRAEL was today hit by rocket attacks from Lebanon. At least three Katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel, prompting residents to flee to bomb shelters, although there were no reported injuries.

Lebanese security officials said that three more Grad rockets about to be fired were discovered and dismantled by Lebanese troops.

Israel responded by firing at least eight artillery shells, while helicopter gunships flew along the heavily protected border. Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers sent out patrols. The clashes, which follow a similar exchange of fire last week, will raise renewed fears that the 19-day-old conflict in Gaza could spread to Israel's border with Lebanon in what would be a serious escalation of the fighting.

**Hezbollah**, the militant organisation which fought a month-long war with Israel in 2006, denied being behind last week's attacks.

It is likely that today's rockets were fired by Palestinian militants sheltering in Lebanon, which would reduce the likelihood of a serious conflagration.

In Gaza City, Hamas militants and Israeli troops fought hand to hand today. The ground offensive, which came as doctors warned of severe malnutrition across Gaza, was backed up by about 60 new air strikes by Israeli warplanes and renewed shelling from gunboats.

A cemetery in Gaza City was hit, destroying graves and scattering flesh and body parts. The Israeli military did not comment but rocket squads have used graveyards as launch-pads in the past.

Resident Ahmad Abu Jarbou said: "There was flesh on the roofs, there was small bits of intestines.

## Israel strikes at Lebanon rocket site

My neighbour found a hand of a woman who died a long time ago, we put it all into a plastic bag." Israeli officials said the strikes had hit targets including a police court in Gaza City, rocket-launching sites, weapons-production and storage facilities and about 35 weapons smuggling tunnels.

In return, at least three rockets from Gaza were reported to have hit Israel.

At least five Israeli soldiers were injured in the clashes, while the overall Palestinian death toll is now approaching 1,000, including several hundred children and a substantial number of women.

Israel says that 10 of its soldiers and three civilians have died. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is in Cairo for talks with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. Mr Ban said: "I repeat my call for an immediate and durable ceasefire," he said. "It is intolerable that civilians bear the brunt of this conflict." Mr Ban is also due to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders and senior politicians in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, but is not scheduled to meet any representatives of Hamas.

Options thought to be under discussion are the deployment of Turkish troops along Egypt's border with Gaza to prevent weapons smuggling by militants and the resolution of Israel's key demand that any peace plan must include measures that would prevent Hamas from re-arming..

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

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**Israelis are hit by new wave of rockets fired from Lebanon**

The Evening Standard (London)

January 14, 2009 Wednesday

A Edition

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London  
**Evening  
Standard**

**Section:** Pg. 6

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** MARTIN BENTHAM

**Body**

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ISRAEL was today hit by rocket attacks from Lebanon. At least three Katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel, prompting residents to flee to bomb shelters, although there were no reported injuries.

In return, Israel fired eight rockets into southern Lebanon in what it said was a "pinpointed" strike aimed at the source of the rocket fire.

The clashes, which follow a similar exchange of fire last week, will raise renewed fears that the 19-day-old conflict in Gaza could spread to Israel's border with Lebanon in what would be a serious escalation of the fighting.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for today's rocket fire, although Hezbollah, the militant organisation which fought a monthlong war with Israel in 2006, denied being behind last week's attacks. It is likely that the rockets were fired by Palestinian militants sheltering in Lebanon, which would reduce the likelihood of a serious conflagration.

In Gaza City, Hamas militants and Israeli troops fought hand to hand today. The clashes occurred in the suburbs as Israel's troops continued to push towards the city centre.

The ground offensive, which came as doctors warned of severe malnutrition across Gaza, was backed up by about 60 new air strikes by Israeli warplanes and renewed shelling from gunboats.

In return, at least three rockets were reported to have hit Israel today to add to the total of 25 which were launched by Palestinian militants yesterday.

At least five Israeli soldiers were injured in the clashes, while the overall Palestinian death toll is now approaching 1,000, including several hundred children and a substantial number of women. Israel says that 10 of its soldiers and three civilians have died.

## Israelis are hit by new wave of rockets fired from Lebanon

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire, arrived in Egypt for talks with president Hosni Mubarak in a renewed bid to win support for a Franco-Egyptian peace plan upon which hopes of an end to the violence are pinned.

Mr Ban is also due to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders and senior politicians in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, but is not scheduled to meet any representatives of Hamas.

Options thought to be under discussion are for Turkish troops to be deployed along Egypt's border with Gaza to prevent weapons smuggling by militants and the resolution of Israel's key demand that any peace plan must include measures that would prevent Hamas from rearming.

Mr Ban is also expected to press for new efforts to encourage the re-opening of border crossings into Gaza, one of Hamas's central demands, and to bolster the flow of humanitarian aid.

Incoming US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned that the new American administration will not engage in negotiations with Hamas unless it first renounces violence and recognises the right of Israel to exist..

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2009

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## *War story helps Keothavong battle back*

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

June 25, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** SPORT; Lawn Tennis; Pg. 5

**Length:** 428 words

**Byline:** Oliver Brown

### **Body**

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THE resolve of the Lawn Tennis Association to produce more battle-hardened British players has found rather too literal expression in Anne Keothavong.

The 24-year-old, just adapting to her status as a top-100 player, has assuredly been in the wars - a real war, in fact, as evidenced by the accounts of how she won a satellite tournament in deepest Lebanon last month, while fighting between Hezbollah and Shia militia was leaving 40 people dead in nearby Beirut.

Imagine, then, how yesterday's spirited

4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win over American Vania King could be spun into an extraordinary tale of courage under fire: a young girl found herself on her own in a Middle Eastern hotel room as a violent insurgency raged not 10 miles away, and yet she kept her sanity to secure the ranking points she needed to enter the main draw at Wimbledon, and to savour this satisfying first-round victory.

But let us not get too carried away. For all the mentions of "panic", "terror" and "fear of the unknown" that have attached to her this week you would think Keothavong had escaped from a kidnapping. Any danger from the sectarian violence was soon ended once she was escorted across the Syrian border and the episode turned out, as she said yesterday, "absolutely fine." What she really learned was the single-mindedness required by an ambitious tennis player, even against the bloodiest backdrop. "In those kinds of situations there's not really a lot you can do," she said. "I couldn't leave the country. I was on my own out there - you can freak yourself out by thinking about it too much. I thought, 'the only thing I can do here is play tennis'."

Keothavong manifestly does not lack ambition. As the first British woman inside the world's top 100 for nine years, she is already talking about being an "example" to her younger compatriots and is seeking to cash in on the cachet by spending her summer on the American hard courts.

Coupled with Elena Baltacha's emotional win at these Championships, her sunny outlook reflected unusually favourably upon the domestic women's game - even if that impression stands to be shattered in time-honoured fashion when she comes up against Venus Williams in the next round tomorrow.

But the lesson she imparted from her struggles on tour was salutary. Having rallied to beat King, she cautioned: "People forget what goes on the rest of the year. It's a tough life and you have to put everything into it. You can't go into tennis half-heartedly."

British No 2 Katie O'Brien proved less fortunate as she was beaten 6-3, 7-5 by Israel's Shahar Peer.

## War story helps Keothavong battle back

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2008

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