

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:43:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223362250

Documents (100)

1. Israel set to resume targeted killings following attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

2. Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

3. 3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

4. Defense chief targets militant leaders

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

5. Israel starts 'crushing' response

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

6. <u>Picking jihad over children</u>; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

7. Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

8._16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't been erected, Foreign Ministry official says

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

9. Clash between Palestinians leaves two dead and 16 injured GAZA GUNFIGHT:

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

10. The New Assassins

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

11. Israel on edge for holiday

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

12. Israeli swoop nets female bomb-maker

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

13. 4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

14. Israel leaves Gaza; hardship stays

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

15. Gun ban enforced; In a move to bring order to Gaza strip, Palestinian authority confiscates weapons

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

16. Bomber died to atone for infidelity

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

17. Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

18._SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

19. PALESTINE 'S PROGRESS; POSITIVE MOVEMENT PRECEDES A KEY ELECTION

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

20. WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

21. THE GATES OF HELL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

22. NO ONE'S SAFE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

23. Israel agrees to free 500 prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

24. PM lauds Palestinian leader

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

25. Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

26. Israel closes crossing after suicide bombing



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

27. Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

28. The Killing of the Sheikh

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

29. Abbas faced with growing Gaza violence: Rocket kills Israeli : Israel responds with most intense air raid in

months

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

30. Rice struggles to broker deal over Gaza crossing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

31. After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

32. Yasser arafat fears he's next

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

33. Madonna cancels shows in Israel due to violence in the region

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

34. U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

35. Woman suicide bomber kills four Israelis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

36. Israelis, Palestinians trade missile strikes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

37. Mother hopes to help shut off funding to terror group; Woman wants to get at terrorists she blames for the death of her son

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

38. Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

39. FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

40. Madonna embarks on world tour

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

41. Israel bus bombings kill at least 16

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

42. Cowen speaks out on barrier; NEWS BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

43. Mother's only wish was to die a martyr

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

44. Israel acts to end a road block to peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

45. Live by the sword ...

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

46. Thousands cast ballots in Palestinian elections

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

47. Israelis kill terror chief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

48. Lebanon is back on U.S. radar Divisions, threats lie beneath shiny surface of re-emerging nation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

49. Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

50. 16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

51. LETTER: YASSIN AND THE MORALITY OF KILLING

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

52. *INSIDE*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

53. Israel shuts border to Gaza Strip until Sunday: Move is a reponse to suicide bombing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

54. Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

55. Israel seals Gaza Strip following suicide attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

56. Jubilation in Gaza as last Israelis withdraw; Savoring 'victory,' Palestinians scavenge and go sightseeing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

57. Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

58. Palestinian woman slain after knife attack; Israeli guards shot her after she hurt a soldier in the West Bank.

Security was tightened.
Client/Matter: -NoneSearch Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

59. In Short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

60. Bomber's family 'could not know'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

61. Gazans Revel as They Sift Through Ex-Settlements

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

62. Israel hits back after rocket kills boys

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

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

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

64. Another 'v good' day for Zellweger's singer husband

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

65. Israel to Free 400 Prisoners; Palestinians Say 'Not Enough'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

66. On a Day Devoted to Voting, Palestinians Are All Business

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

67. Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

68. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

69. W. BANK SHOOTINGS KILL THREE ISRAELIS; SETBACK TO MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS FEARED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

70. Arafat ' fears he will be killed next';

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

71. Palestinians outlaw weapons on the streets Some guns are seized as police try to bring order to Gaza Strip.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

72. Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

73. Reformed terrorist talks at San Diego State U.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

74. Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

75. Army of roses

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

76. An Israeli town braces as rockets rain down; Anger rises against Hamas and Sharon

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

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

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

78. "She looked pregnant, otherwise she was completely normal. She looked at me. She smiled ... and then she exploded" - MOTHER, MURDERER, MARTYR



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

79. Terrorists Murder Scores In Israel, Russia, and Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

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

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

81. Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

82. Gaza amazed to find itself at crossroads

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

83. Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

84. Rice seeks more effort in Mideast; She expects progress on Palestinian state

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

85. In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

86. Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed. Some felt meeting doomed from

<u>start</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

87. This week: Fresh horror in Iraq, and old emnity in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

88. An unheralded victory over terror

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

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

89. 16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

90. Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

91. Abbas heading for Palestinian election victory, opinion polls show

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

92. MUSLIM CHARITIES MUST PAY IN SLAY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

93. Israel is firm on prisoners; No more Palestinians will be freed until militants are reined in, Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon said.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

94. MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

95._DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

96. Osama's 'spiritual' adviser convicted for financial terrorism

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

97. Israelis killed in intifada revival

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

98. ISRAELI MISSILE STRIKE ON BLOCK IN RETALIATION FOR DEATHS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

99. In Focus

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

100. Israel may restart targeted killings after blast

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005



Israel set to resume targeted killings following attack

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

January 16, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 323 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

JERUSALEM - A senior Israeli official warned that the founder of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was "marked for death," but he and other officials later said today that any decision to kill Yassin would need approval from the prime minister.

Yassin, a quadriplegic, appeared in public today and scoffed at the official's warnings. "We do not fear the threat of death," said Yassin as an assistant pushed his wheelchair to a Gaza City mosque.

Israeli security officials met earlier this week to weigh a response to Wednesday's <u>Hamas</u> bombing in Gaza, in which a <u>female</u> suicide attacker killed four Israeli soldiers. One Israeli official said targeted killings of <u>Hamas</u> members are likely to resume, after a lull of several months.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim went even further, naming Yassin as a target. But he later said no specific decision was made at the meeting to kill Yassin.

Israel has assassinated a number of <u>Hamas</u> commanders - but killing the Islamic movement's spritual leader, respected even by many Palestinians who do not support <u>Hamas</u>, would be a dramatic escalation and likely provoke revenge bombings.

Yassin spoke to reporters outside the mosque, saying, "We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

He said he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved Wednesday's bombing.

Israeli officials also said Yassin issued a religious ruling allowing <u>women</u> to become bombers, after <u>Hamas</u> initially recruited only male suicide bombers.

Late Thursday, after the security meeting at the Defense Ministry the previous day, Boim said Yassin is a key target.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death, and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him," Boim told Israel Army Radio.

Load-Date: January 17, 2004

End of Document



Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Front; Pg. a1 Length: 1277 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians chanting "Revenge! Revenge!" flooded Gaza's streets Monday to bury <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was assassinated by an Israeli missile. As ordinary Palestinians seethed with anger, militants pledged unprecedented retaliation - including threats against the United States.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many world leaders condemned Monday's killing of Yassin, the most prominent Palestinian targeted by Israel in 31/2 years of fighting. The Bush administration said it was "deeply troubled" by the attack and that it had no advance warning.

"We will get revenge for every drop of blood that spilled," said Salman Bdeiri, a <u>Hamas</u> supporter crying near the mosque where Yassin prayed shortly before being killed by an Israeli airstrike.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, banning Palestinians from Israel, and placed its security forces on high alert.

Later Monday, Palestinian militants fired several homemade rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets in and near Gaza. To the north, Hezbollah guerrillas fired an anti-tank missile at Israeli troops along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Israel quickly responded to both attacks. It struck at Hezbollah with planes and artillery fire. No casualties were reported. Israel sent tanks into northern Gaza near the town of Beit Hanoun. Israeli security officials said the purpose of the operation was to prevent further rocket fire.

The Yassin assassination was part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's effort to crush <u>Hamas</u> ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. However, the killing was seen as a major gamble that could galvanize the Palestinians behind <u>Hamas</u>. Rival Palestinian militant groups immediately pledged solidarity with <u>Hamas</u>.

The missile strike dealt what could be the final blow to the stalled U.S.-led "road map" peace plan. It also angered Egypt and Jordan, moderate Arab states whose tacit support Sharon needs for any unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

Since Yassin founded <u>Hamas</u> in 1987, the group has killed hundreds of Israelis in scores of attacks. <u>Hamas</u> wants to destroy the Jewish state and replace it with an Islamic one.

Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

For the first time Monday, <u>Hamas</u> threatened the United States and suggested it might seek outside help in carrying out revenge attacks.

"The Zionists didn't carry out their operation without getting the consent of the terrorist American administration and it (the United States) must take responsibility for this crime," <u>Hamas</u> said in a statement. "All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime."

In the past, <u>Hamas</u> has refrained from targeting U.S. citizens or interests, instead focusing on fund-raising and recruitment within the United States, according to senior U.S. law enforcement officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was heeding the *Hamas* terror warning.

"If they are threatening the United States, we have to take it quite seriously," he told reporters in Washington.

While not condemning the assassination, the State Department said it increases tensions and would make it harder to pursue peace in the Middle East. "We are troubled," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told NBC that "it is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region."

But Israel said it will press ahead with more targeted attacks and raids.

"The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," Sharon said. He called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies."

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green <u>Hamas</u> flags, poured into the streets of Gaza City for Yassin's funeral procession, the largest gathering here in recent memory. Tens of thousands of furious Palestinians rallied across the West Bank.

Mourners in Gaza jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and <u>women</u> ululated and threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tires.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was paraded through an honor guard of 400 militants armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

"Our leader has left us, but we say to him, 'Your lessons will stay within our hearts and minds and our generations," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a *Hamas* leader, said in a eulogy.

In addition to Yassin, who was in his 60s, 12 Palestinians were killed Monday, seven in the airstrike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

The attack came before daybreak, when Israeli helicopters swooped toward a Gaza street and fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left the mosque.

Blood and flesh splattered on the walls. Nearby windows shattered. Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair, and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street. Lying in tatters nearby was the brown blanket in which Yassin - a quadriplegic - was nearly always wrapped.

"Two or three people were lying next to him on the ground. One was legless," said taxi driver Yousef Haddad.

Among those killed were several of Yassin's bodyguards and his son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, including two of Yassin's sons.

After the attack, residents rubbed their hands in pieces of gravel mixed with Yassin's blood, a traditional sign of anger and a preparation for revenge.

Angry Palestinians bury slain leader; Militants threaten both Israel and the United States

The Palestinian Authority declared three days of mourning and closed schools. Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah headquarters were lowered to half-staff.

Palestinian ministers stood as Arafat recited a Muslim prayer for Yassin and then added: "May you join the martyrs and the prophets. To heaven, you martyr."

The missile strike shook Arafat in more ways than one. The massive outpouring of support for <u>Hamas</u> showed how formidable a rival the Islamic group has become to Arafat's weakened Palestinian Authority.

Arafat also fears he may be next on Israel's hit list, said a confidant, Communications Minister Azzam Ahmed.

However, an Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel's campaign focuses on *Hamas*, at least for now.

Boucher, the State Department spokesman, urged Israel to keep its promise to not harm Arafat. "We think that's an important pledge and we would expect them to stand by that."

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's killing will eventually weaken Hamas.

"If we have to balance how many more terrorists Yassin would have sent, how many terror attacks he would have approved, if we weigh this on the scales, we acted rightly," Mofaz was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee.

But Sharon's critics in Israel warned that the Yassin killing could be viewed as an attack on Islam.

"This had nothing to do with security, nothing to do with protecting Israeli citizens. It's all about politics and public opinion," said lawmaker Yossi Sarid of the dovish Yahad Party.

Yassin's killing virtually buried hopes of reviving the road map, which envisioned an end to violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by next year.

"Such actions are not only contrary to international law, but they do not do anything to help the search for a peaceful solution," Annan said of the assassination.

European and Arab leaders condemned the killing. Egypt canceled a trip by legislators and other dignitaries to Israel to mark the 25th anniversary of the peace treaty between the two countries.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the assassination "is unacceptable, it is unjustified and it is very unlikely to achieve its objectives."

Graphic

photo

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 1, 2004 Thursday City Edition

Copyright 2004 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: AREA/STATE; Pg. B-7

Length: 730 words

Byline: Michael Paul Williams/ Times-Dispatch Staff Writer, Contact Michael Paul Williams at (804) 649-6815 or

mwilliams@timesdispatch.com,

Body

The <u>women</u> - a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew - were five days into a U.S. tour to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians when the founder of *Hamas* was assassinated by Israeli missiles.

"Of all the stupid things that the government could do, this was the stupidest," said Michal Sagi, a 35-year-old Jewish Israeli. "I don't see how Israelis and Palestinians can benefit from it. I don't see how it can contribute to a peaceful solution."

Dr. Nuha Khoury, a Christian Palestinian, said the slaying of Sheik Ahmed Yassin was viewed back home not as a "targeted assassination" but "an extrajudicial killing."

And Nahla Assali, a Muslim Palestinian, noted that dozens of prominent Palestinians had purchased a newspaper ad urging their brethren not to retaliate. But the execution "does not give too much space for any talk about peace."

Assali, Khoury and Sagi are in Richmond as part of a regional tour sponsored by Partners for Peace, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization that is seeking a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

They will speak at 7 tonight at Baptist Theological Seminary. The public is welcome.

The <u>women</u> said audience reaction has been mostly positive, although some people have accused the Palestinian <u>women</u> of not condemning their own society enough. "There have been a few angry questions," said Khoury, deputy director of Dar al-Kalima Academy.

Michael F. Brown, executive director of Partners for Peace, said his organization exercises no editorial control over what the *women* say.

"We tell them, 'This is your opportunity to speak to American audiences ... to tell them what's in your hearts and in your minds,'*" he said.

The assassination of Yassin was fresh in their minds during an interview at The Times-Dispatch yesterday. Largely depicted in the aftermath as a terrorist who ordered suicide bombings, he was also a founder of an organization that filled a much-needed void in providing health clinics, schools and welfare programs to a population "among the poorest in the world," Khoury said.

3 FROM MIDEAST ASSAIL HAMAS CHIEF'S SLAYING

Assali, 65, was born in West Jerusalem. In 1948, after the Deir Yassin massacre, which involved the killing of Arab townspeople by Jewish commandos in a village near Jerusalem, her father sent the family to live in Damascus. They were never allowed to return to their original home.

The children's-rights advocate said the Israeli government could have imposed a curfew, surrounded the wheelchair-bound Yassin and arrested him, but took the easy way out by firing missiles. In the process, about a half-dozen others were killed and more were injured, she said.

"In the Israeli papers, that is reported as collateral damage," she said. "That is an insult, when you refer to human life as if it were furniture."

The United States vetoed a United Nations resolution condemning Yassin's assassination by the Israeli government because it did not include language condemning Palestinian suicide bombers.

"Why not take the act on its own merits?" Assali asked. "This balancing ... it's not there when we're talking about the Palestinians."

Sagi, a member of Checkpoint Watch, a <u>women</u>'s organization for human rights, said the veto symbolizes a larger problem: "We are paying a high price within Israel, but internationally, we just do what we want."

If Israelis are paying such a price, why do they continue to support Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his policies?

"Many, many, many Israelis are driven by fear ...," she said. "People aren't able to step outside their fear for even a moment."

But she argues that since Israel is the occupying force and stronger player in the situation, "It's our responsibility to bring it to an end. We can do it. It's up to us."

Khoury - whose father died of a heart attack in January when he was denied passage through an Israeli checkpoint because he lacked a "sickness permit" - asked that people try to understand what conditions created the refugee-turned-spiritual leader.

"Why would somebody become a Sheik Yassin?" she said. "Nobody even asks."

Still, Khoury disagrees with Yassin's ideology. "I feel we Palestinians have a just cause, a moral cause, and we don't need suicide bombings to get our rights."

But Palestinians need the U.S. government to be evenhanded, she said. "If it wants peace, it has to be just and it has to deliver for both people ... an arbitrator that is dealing with a conscience."/

Load-Date: April 3, 2004

End of Document



Defense chief targets militant leaders

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)
February 2, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 502 words

Byline: JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defense minister said Sunday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of *Hamas*, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of <u>Hamas</u> and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. <u>Hamas</u> took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Sunday was a Muslim holiday, and *Hamas* officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad often prompting a violent response. In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months. Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Zeev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

<u>Hamas</u>, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the last three years, also appeared to have scaled back its activities until a <u>Hamas</u> <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed four Israelis at a Gaza-Israel checkpoint Jan. 14.

Yassin encouraged kidnapping Israeli soldiers a day after Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners as part of an exchange with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah for a businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

Yassin said it has become extremely difficult to capture soldiers, apparently trying to explain why <u>Hamas</u> has failed to free the 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Defense chief targets militant leaders

Also Sunday, Israeli troops riding jeeps and a tank raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months, killing a Palestinian militant. The fighting forced many residents to stay inside at the start of the four-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

There were no Israeli casualties, and the army withdrew in the afternoon. Three houses were destroyed, Palestinians said.

Jericho, isolated in the Jordan River valley, has been relatively untouched by the fighting.

The dead militant was Shadi Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades member from Jenin who apparently sought refuge in Jericho.

Load-Date: February 2, 2004

End of Document



Israel starts 'crushing' response

The Toronto Star
September 25, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A03

Length: 570 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Israel launched a "crushing" retaliation yesterday against <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza with deadly air strikes, troops massed at the border and a planned ground incursion after militants fired 35 rockets at Israeli towns - their first major attack since the Gaza pullout.

Israeli aircraft struck three suspected weapons-storage facilities in Gaza and a school in a crowded Gaza City neighbourhood late yesterday and early today, wounding 19 people, Palestinian officials said. Earlier, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at cars carrying militants in Gaza City, killing two militants.

The escalation threatened to derail a shaky seven-month-old truce and quashed hopes that Israel's ceding the coastal strip to the Palestinians would boost peacemaking. Israel's reprisals drew new <u>Hamas</u> threats of revenge, while Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas came under growing Israeli pressure to confront the militants.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told security chiefs in a meeting that "the ground of Gaza should shake" and that he wanted to exact a high price from Palestinians everywhere, not just the militants, participants said.

The crisis erupted just before a major challenge to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's leadership in his hardline Likud party, and could strengthen the hand of Sharon's main rival, Benjamin Netanyahu. A Likud vote tomorrow could determine whether Sharon quits the party.

Early today, the Israeli military said it had arrested 150 wanted Palestinians overnight in the West Bank, most of them members of the <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad movements. The arrests were still underway this morning, the military said.

Yesterday evening, Sharon convened his security cabinet, a group of senior ministers, to approve a series of military operations proposed by Mofaz, culminating with a ground incursion into Gaza. Security officials said "Operation First Rain" would include artillery fire, air strikes and other targeted attacks. The operation will grow in intensity, leading up to a ground operation unless Palestinian security officials takes action to halt the rocket attacks or *Hamas* ends the attacks itself.

The ground operation would require final approval from the full cabinet, the officials added.

The officials said the army planned to create a buffer zone in northern Gaza by ordering residents to leave their homes, and said a closure barring Palestinian labourers from entering Israel would remain in effect.

Israel starts 'crushing' response

Shortly after the security cabinet's meeting, Israeli aircraft struck two suspected weapons-storage facilities in southern Gaza and a school in a crowded Gaza City neighbourhood. Medical officials said 19 people, including **women** and children, were lightly wounded.

The Gaza City attack hit the Al-Arkam school, established by *Hamas*'s founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was killed in an air strike last year.

The army said the school was used by <u>Hamas</u> to raise funds, recruit militants and assist families of suicide bombers.

Early today, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles in the northern Gaza Strip, striking a weapons-storage facility and the offices of a Palestinian militant group, the army said.

The army said it attacked a weapons-storage facility in the Jebaliya refugee camp used by the Popular Resistance Committees and struck a building in Beit Hanoun housing the offices of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Residents in Beit Hanoun said no one was believed to be inside at the time.

Graphic

Abid Katib getty images Palestinians inspect the wreckage of a car destroyed in an Israeli air strike yesterday in Gaza City. At least two *Hamas* militants were killed in the attack, launched after militants fired rockets into Israel.

Load-Date: September 25, 2005

End of Document



<u>Picking jihad over children;</u> <u>One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve</u> <u>among Palestinians.</u>

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 26, 2004 Monday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 790 words

Byline: Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Wind whipped a chilly Gaza street, kicking up dust around Um Zayad, a Palestinian mother of four, as she shivered red-cheeked beneath a billowing black robe and wrinkled her nose in disapproval.

A few days earlier, another Gaza mother had feigned a limp as she approached an Israeli army checkpoint and was escorted inside a building for a security inspection. She blew herself up, also killing three soldiers and a security quard in yet another act of self-proclaimed martyrdom.

"It's true, we should defend our country," Zayad said, reacting to the Jan. 14 attack. "But I prefer to raise my kids. **Women** can also be fighters, but not **women** who have children to raise."

The latest bombing - the seventh by a Palestinian woman since September 2000 - touched a nerve inside a society that normally celebrates the bombers as heroes. This time, as pride gave way to bitterness, many Palestinians expressed shock that <u>Hamas</u> and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which took joint responsibility for the attack, would send a mother to her death, leaving two toddlers behind.

"Did she think about her children before she did this?" asked Um Wasim, another Gaza mother, rushing home last week from a secretarial job. "People are criticizing her because there really is no excuse for this."

In a farewell videotape replete with <u>Hamas</u> banners and weapons, Reem Salah al-Raiyshi, 22, said she chose jihad - holy struggle - over motherhood, because she always wanted to turn her body into shrapnel that would kill Israelis.

"God gave me two children, and I loved them so much," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people."

Dressed in a green <u>Hamas</u> bandana and cradling an assault rifle, Raiyshi told the camera she was confident God would provide for her 3-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son.

Picking jihad over children; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.

<u>Hamas</u> staged a high-profile funeral. Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the group's spiritual leader, praised Raiyshi as the first <u>Hamas</u> woman in a coming onslaught.

But in a departure from tradition, Raiyshi's brother Ayman spoke out immediately against his sister's mission and the militants who dispatched her. "This destroys our life, our work and our future," he told a Chicago Tribune interviewer. "It never occurred to us that she would do such a thing. If she had mentioned it, I would have prevented her, because of the children."

Raiyshi's relative Yusef Awad also condemned her act, saying her suicide detracted from the Palestinian national movement.

"The greatest jihad is raising your children," he told the Tribune.

Surveys show a majority of Palestinians, especially those in the Gaza Strip, where the Islamic resistance group <u>Hamas</u> holds sway, support suicide bombings as a response to Israel's occupation of Gaza and West Bank lands. In the last three years, there have been dozens of such bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis.

In recent weeks, however, more Palestinians have publicly questioned the bombings.

In the West Bank, criticism was voiced this month after Islamic Jihad operatives sent Iyad al-Masri, 17, on a suicide mission to avenge the killing of his brother Amjad, 15, who collapsed in his arms Jan. 3 after being shot by Israeli troops in a Nablus raid.

Detonating his explosives in an attempted attack on an Israeli patrol, Iyad Masri killed only himself on Jan. 11.

"It was wrong to send him to his death at a time when we were still mourning his brother. They must reconsider their tactics," Masri's father, Bilal, told Reuters.

Even among Palestinian media not known for publishing such criticisms, the issue has come to the fore.

Citing the possibility "of a strategic change in peoples' perception of such attacks," daily al-Ayyam columnist Hassan al-Batal praised the courage of the Raiyshi and Masri families for speaking out.

The Israeli daily Haaretz last week cited unnamed <u>Hamas</u> sources as saying the use of a <u>female</u> suicide bomber, even though the group had previously said a woman had no place in such attacks, was part of a larger power struggle within the organization over the next leader of **Hamas**' political bureau, based in Damascus, Syria.

Yassin, <u>Hamas'</u> spiritual leader, wants to play a pivotal role in selecting the bureau's next chief. But in talks brokered by Egypt recently, he entertained the idea of a tactical lull in attacks on Israelis. For that reason, a <u>Hamas</u> source told Haaretz, Yassin was perceived by "external <u>Hamas</u>," those not in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as too moderate.

"Now Yassin has to prove to the external <u>Hamas</u> that he's just as tough as they are," the source said. Using a mother to mount the next wave of attacks was a chilling way to send that message.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or foreign @phillynews.com.

Graphic

PHOTO;

KHALIL HAMRA, Associated Press

Picking jihad over children; One mother's choice before killing herself and 4 others has hit a nerve among Palestinians.

A boy holds a picture of Reem Salah al-Raiyshi. She killed herself and four others this month.

Load-Date: August 21, 2005

End of Document



Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism

The Toronto Star

April 18, 2004 Sunday

Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1159 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Body

Attack kills fiery leader

Abdel Aziz Rantisi was the hard, unblinking face of Palestinian nationalism at its most extreme, a man who saw no advantage in a two-state solution. Better that Israel be destroyed, he said.

And though Rantisi, 56, led <u>Hamas</u> for less than a month, since the March 22 assassination of the militant Islamic movement's founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, he had long been the uprising's loudest, most defiant voice.

Israeli officials confirmed the assassination, saying in a statement that Rantisi was personally responsible for the killing of dozens of Israeli civilians in *Hamas*-sponsored attacks.

<u>Hamas</u> is responsible for most of the 112 suicide bombings that have killed 465 people on the Israeli side during 31/2 years of violence.

Rantisi's behaviour made him Number One on Israel's hit list.

And he knew it, only three weeks ago telling reporters: "We will all die one day. Nothing will change. If by Apache or cardiac arrest, I prefer Apache."

It was an Apache, as fate would have it.

Moments after the Israeli gunship missile struck his car in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood at 8: 30 last night, Rantisi emerged from the wreckage alive - just as he did in June, when the first such assassination attempt left him with superficial wounds.

This time the damage was fatal. Five minutes after he was rushed to nearby Shifa Hospital, Rantisi was gone.

"He was badly wounded to the head, the neck, the body. Each wound was enough to kill him. There was nothing we could do," said Dr. Goma El Saka, the hospital director.

Two of Rantisi's bodyguards were also killed. Rantisi's wife was also believed to be in the car, but her condition is not known. Several bystanders were also injured.

Attack silences most extreme voice of Palestinian nationalism

Palestinians responded in an outpouring of white-hot rage. Thousands gathered at the hospital, the crowd growing in a march of anger that coursed through Gaza's inner-city streets.

Calls for revenge were immediate.

Hamas' armed wing issued a statement vowing "100 retaliations" that will shake "the criminal entity."

Ismail Haniyeh, one of <u>Hamas</u>' last remaining political leaders, said on the steps of Shifa Hospital: "This blood will not be wasted. We are not going to give up."

The killing of Yassin, the killing of Rantisi and - 72 hours earlier - U.S. President George W. Bush's endorsement of the Israeli leadership's plans for a unilateral solution to the crisis all became one in the official Palestinian reaction.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia called the assassination a "direct result of American encouragement," while legislator Hanan Ashrawi denounced the Bush administration policy as "complicit in Israel crimes."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said in choosing to assassinate, Israeli leaders are "setting themselves up as judge, jury and executioner. They are playing God."

In Washington, U.S. officials last night denied America had given the green light for the strike, saying the administration remains opposed to targeted assassinations.

"There's been no change in our policy. We think Israel should bear in mind the consequences of what it's doing and we also think the Palestinians should get a handle on terrorism," a State Department official said.

Last night, Isabelle Savard, a spokesperson for Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham, said: "The Government of Canada condemns (the) attacks, which can only impede progress toward a peaceful solution to the complex conflict in the Middle East."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw also condemned the killing as "unlawful, unjustified and counter-productive." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced the killing, saying the assassination could lead to more violence.

A spokesperson told Reuters: "(Annan) reiterates that extra-judicial killings are violations of international law and calls on the government of Israel to immediately end this practice."

Israel's two Arab peace partners, Egypt and Jordan, joined the European Union in condemning the assassination and cautioning such killings could destroy chances for peace.

Daniel Gillerman, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, brushed aside the criticism, calling Rantisi's death "good news for the freedom-loving world."

"This is a man whose gloating face appeared on television every time there was a suicide bombing that killed **women** and children and babies in Israel."

Yesterday, hours before Rantisi was killed, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, killing an Israeli border police officer and injuring three security workers. <u>Hamas</u> and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility.

A pediatrician by training, a politician by nature, a populist among Palestinians by dint of his forceful insistence that only violent resistance will free his people, Rantisi consistently denied a role in planning attacks.

<u>Hamas</u>, he maintained, operated very much like the Irish Republican Army, with mutually exclusive military and political wings. He would be Sinn Fein.

There was a time when Israel recognized such distinctions. But last summer, with the Palestinian uprising approaching a fourth violent year, such niceties vanished.

Rantisi's assassination leaves *Hamas* with an acute leadership deficit.

Apart from Khalid Mashaal, who continues to lead the organization from exile in the Syrian capital of Damascus, nearly all of the movement's best-known leaders inside Gaza and the West Bank now are either dead or jailed.

In the wake of Yassin's killing, many Israeli analysts suggested a leaderless <u>Hamas</u> is the goal of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, to prevent the militant group from filling any political vacuum that might arise from his plan to withdraw troops and Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip.

Many Palestinian analysts warn that without strong leadership, <u>Hamas</u> threatens to devolve and fragment into uncontrollable militancy; with all bottom and no top, the movement could continue attacks heedless of pressure from the weakened Palestinian Authority or neighbouring Egypt.

In an interview last night with Al-Arabiya TV, Samir Mousharka, a senior member of the mainstream Fatah movement, underscored those fears.

"Look at me, Israelis, and do not rejoice. Sharon is creating a new generation of violence and hatred. Now revenge will be in the young hearts of thousands and thousands."

Rantisi's status as a firebrand dates back to 1982, when he was first arrested by Israeli police after he refused to pay his taxes as a gesture of defiance.

Two years later he was stripped of his medical licence by Israeli authorities because of his active role in the militant Islamic Brotherhood movement.

In 1987, Rantisi was among six men who, together with Sheikh Yassin, founded <u>Hamas</u>, shortly after the onset of the first Palestinian intifada.

He was arrested and jailed many times and was among more than 400 Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon in 1992.

Hamas' armed wing vows '100 retaliations' that will shake 'the criminal entity'

Graphic

AHMED JADALLAH reuters Angry Palestinians descend yesterday on the destroyed vehicle that was carrying <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi. He and two bodyguards were killed in a missile attack. SUHAIB SALEM reuters Mortally injured leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, arrives at Gaza hospital yesterday after his car was attacked. SUHAIB SALEM reuters Mortally injured leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, arrives at Gaza hospital yesterday after his car was attacked.

Load-Date: April 18, 2004



16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't been erected, Foreign Ministry official says

The Gazette (Montreal)
September 1, 2004 Wednesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1341 words

Byline: AP; CP; The London Daily Telegraph and The Washington Post contributed to this report

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, Israel

Body

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

The explosions, for which the *Hamas* militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm.

Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The barrier, which is about one-quarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area, where the bombers are believed to be from.

"They went into the soft belly of Israel where the fence has not been erected," said Gideon Meir, a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official. "The ultimate truth for the necessity of the fence was given today: Wherever there's no fence, it's easy to penetrate into Israel."

The first bomb went off in a single-decker bus as it neared a main intersection in the town centre. The driver of a following bus saw the explosion and immediately stopped, opened the doors and ordered his passengers off. Shortly afterwards the vehicle was rocked by a bomb blast. Passengers said the driver's actions had saved many lives.

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

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

16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

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

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

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

But Israeli officials yesterday repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the No. 1 reason for the slowdown in attacks. "Unfortunately Israel has to lose more innocent civilians to prove to the world the necessity and justice of the fence," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Sharon.

Earlier yesterday, the Israeli army caught a Palestinian man with an explosives belt strapped under his clothing as he tried to cross into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Gaza is fenced off from Israel, and militants have had trouble reaching Israel from there.

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack and called for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks.

"The Palestinian interest requires a stop to harming all civilians so as not give Israel pretext to continue its aggression against our people," Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in a statement.

Sharon refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians. Instead, he has called for a unilateral withdrawal next year from the Gaza Strip and four isolated West Bank settlements. He says the moves will improve Israel's security.

- - -

Palestinian Suicide Attacks

During four years of Palestinian-Israeli violence, 490 people have been killed in 114 bombings.

Aug. 31, 2004: Two bombers in buses in Beersheba, killing 16.

March 14, 2004: Two bombers at Ashdod port, killing 10.

Feb. 22, 2004: A bus in downtown Jerusalem, killing seven.

Jan. 29, 2004: A bus on Jerusalem's Gaza Street, killing 11 people.

Oct. 4, 2003: A seaside restaurant in Haifa, killing at least 19.

Sept. 9, 2003: Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem, killing seven.

Sept. 9, 2003: A bus stop near an army base outside Tel Aviv, killing eight Israeli soldiers.

Aug. 19, 2003: A bus in Jerusalem, killing 23.

June 11, 2003: A bus on Jerusalem's Jaffa St., killing 17.

May 18, 2003: A bus at Jerusalem's French Hill neighbourhood, killing seven.

March 5, 2003: A bus in Haifa, killing 17.

Jan. 5, 2003: Two bombers strike a pedestrian mall in

Tel Aviv, killing 23.

Nov. 21, 2002: A bus in Jerusalem, killing 11.

Oct. 21, 2002: A bus at the Karkur Junction in northern

Israel, killing 14.

Aug. 4, 2002: A bus at the Meron Junction, killing eight.

June 19, 2002: French Hill intersection in Jerusalem, killing seven.

16 killed in Israeli bus blasts: Hamas admits guilt in 2 suicide attacks. 'They went into the soft belly' where the separation barrier in the West Bank hasn't b....

June 18, 2002: Patt Junction in southern Jerusalem, killing 19.

June 5, 2002: Bus near Megiddo Junction, killing 17.

May 7, 2002: A pool hall in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion, killing 15.

April 10, 2002: A bus in Haifa, killing eight.

March 31, 2002: A restaurant in Haifa, killing 15.

March 27, 2002: A hotel dining room at the start of Passover in the city of Netanya, killing 29.

March 20, 2002: A bus near Kfar Musmus, killing seven.

March 9, 2002: Jerusalem's Moment Cafe, killing 11.

March 2, 2002: Jerusalem's Ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim neighbourhood, killing 11.

Dec. 2, 2001: A bus in the coastal city of Haifa, killing 15.

Dec. 1, 2001: Two bombers strike Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, killing 11.

Aug. 9, 2001: Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem, killing 15.

June 1, 2001: The entrance of a seaside disco in Tel Aviv, killing 21, mostly teenagers.

Associated Press

Graphic

Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic);

Color Photo: BRENNAN LINSLEY, AP; Israeli police officers and rescue and recovery volunteers gather bodies in front of a destroyed bus in Beersheba yesterday.;

Color Photo: AHMED JADALLAH, REUTERS; <u>Hamas</u> supporters celebrate the twin suicide bombings at a rally in Gaza City yesterday.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



Clash between Palestinians leaves two dead and 16 injured GAZA GUNFIGHT:

Financial Times (London, England)

July 16, 2005 Saturday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 11

Length: 465 words

Byline: By HARVEY MORRIS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Mahmoud Abbas, the Pales-tinian Authority president, was yesterday confronted with a civil conflict he has spent six months struggling to avoid, after clashes between his security forces and <u>Hamas</u> gunmen in a suburb of Gaza City left two people dead and at least 16 wounded.

Israeli forces, in an escalation of their own war against Palestinian militants, yesterday launched airborne missile strikes on Gaza and the West Bank, killing at least four <u>Hamas</u> militants in an apparent renewal of targeted assassinations, according to Palestinian sources.

Amid a deteriorating security situation one month ahead of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the PA moved to counter an upsurge in militant attacks on Israel by sending its forces into *Hamas* strongholds on Thursday night.

In clashes that followed in the Zeitoun neighbourhood, two bystanders were killed and militants set fire to three PA vehicles, including an armoured personnel carrier. The violence came after Nasser Yousef, PA interior minister, declared a state of emergency and authorised his forces to prevent militants launching mortar and rocket attacks on Israeli targets.

PA police wounded six <u>Hamas</u> militants in a car on their way to launch missile attacks. Running gun battles - the worst inter-Palestinian clashes since the start of the September 2000 uprising - continued into yesterday.

The latest escalation came after a week that in effect saw the collapse of a fragile five-month period of calm with the death of five Israelis in an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing on Israel's Mediterranean coast and that of an Israeli women killed on Thursday by a home-made rocket that landed just outside the Gaza Strip.

With <u>Hamas</u> intent on claiming victory for Israel's decision to evacuate the territory, efforts by Mr Abbas to forge an alliance with it and other militant groups appeared to be breaking down. Thursday's violence coincided with a visit by Mr Abbas to Gaza to try to persuade the militants to co-operate in maintaining calm during Israel's August evacuation.

The militants responded to his latest overtures by increasing their mortar and rocket attacks on Jewish settlements in Gaza and nearby areas of southern Israel.

Clash between Palestinians leaves two dead and 16 injured GAZA GUNFIGHT:

The PA president has been under pressure from Israel and the US to use force against the militants but had until now preferred to maintain a dialogue with them that he began when he was elected to the presidency in January.

<u>Hamas</u> and other groups turned down his offer this month that they join the government, while he in turn balked at their proposal to set up a multi-factional committee to run Gaza after the Israeli disengagement. Efforts were under way to reactivate a committee of so-called Islamic and national forces that groups the main Palestinian factions when the latest crisis erupted.

Load-Date: July 15, 2005



The New Assassins

New York Sun (Archive)
March 24, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 1145 words

Byline: DAVID TWERSKY

Body

Although Arab political and religious leaders have nearly all condemned the assassination of the <u>Hamas</u> leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the Israeli action takes a leaf out of their own book. Neither Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, nor Syria's Bashar Assad nor the youthful Hashemite king tolerate the level of Sunni Islamic political activity and violence that **Hamas** represents in the Palestinian territories.

In the Syrian case, army units led by Mr. Assad's uncle (and dominated by officers from the Alawi sect) slaughtered so many Sunni fundamentalists in a massacre two decades ago that they have not yet raised their heads again.

In Egypt and Jordan, "moderate" versions of <u>Hamas</u>, the Muslim brotherhood, rotate between stints in parliament and stays in jail.

So if Arab rulers felt compelled to denounce the attack, it wasn't because it was unfamiliar. The same can't be said of the American reaction, and certainly not of the European one.

Yesterday's New York Times reported that the killing sparked a "Wave of Anger Across [the] Arab World" and editorialized - "Death in Gaza" - that Yassin's "martyrdom will [not] make Israel any safer. <u>Hamas</u> will now redouble its efforts to send human torpedoes into Israel. The Palestinian Authority will be even less inclined to confront terrorists in its midst and less able to coax <u>Hamas</u> into observing a cease-fire." I do not think the Times knows whether or not <u>Hamas</u> was already "redoubling its efforts" to murder Jews, that is, even before Yassin's death. Every time there is a decisive Israeli attempt to punish these criminals, they bellow their threats (Ariel Sharon has opened the gates of hell) and promise to dispatch more suicide bombers. But they are always dispatching more suicide bombers.

Arguing that they will "redouble their efforts" now is like the moment in "The Sopranos" where Tony boasts of the privileges that come with his new life as a single man: He can come home whenever he wants, and share time with other **women**. "So what's the difference?" his friend asks.

As to the Palestinian Authority's alleged declining ability to woo <u>Hamas</u> into a cease-fire accord, gee whiz, this has been going on for a year and two Palestinian prime ministers al ready. What naif gives the PA any credit on this score and blames Israel for the continued failure of the so-called Palestinian moderates?

According to the Times, Yassin "was the group's spiritual leader," but Israel justified its assassination by accusing him "of responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks."

The New Assassins

Yassin was the "spiritual" leader in the way that the Shiite radical Hasan Ibn al-Sabbah was the "spiritual" leader of the sect he founded.

the Hashishin (assassins). Much rests on the assertion that Yassin was on the spiritual, not military or operational-side of *Hamas*. Perhaps Times editors should read their own copy.

In the April 4, 2002 issue, the paper ran a front-page interview in which <u>Hamas</u> "political" leaders argued, in their own words, that they ran the "military" side of the operation.

In "Mideast Turmoil: Gaza; Arabs, Grief in Bethlehem, Bombers' Gloating in Gaza,"by Joel Brinkley, <u>Hamas</u> political leaders boasted that they decide "when their followers should attack and when they should back off."

One "political" leader, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi - yesterday named as the new <u>Hamas</u> leader in Gaza - told the Times that he generates attacks by making public statements that are followed by the group's military wing, "because we are the political leaders."

According to the Times, "analysts here suggest that the leaders' roles are actually more direct. During the 45-minute interview in Sheik Yassin's compound, for example, aides twice brought him urgent news about developments in Ramallah, and he issued clear, direct orders."

The false distinction implied by designating Yassin a "spiritual" leader was not lost on the European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels, who denounced the Israeli action as contravening international law. The EU foreign ministers said the assassination was an "extrajudicial killing," a charge that is based on the assumption that Yassin was a noncombatant and therefore entitled to a trial rather than a summary execution.

While admitting that <u>Hamas</u> was guilty of "atrocities...which have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Israelis" and that Israel has the right to protect itself against terrorist attacks, an EU statement made clear that "Israel is not, however, entitled to carry out extra-judicial killings."

The British foreign secretary, Jack Straw, acknowledged "Israel's paramount need to defend itself" against terrorists, but said it would only receive "the full support of the international community," if it acts "within the boundaries set by international law."

Mr. Straw should explain why the coalition's hot pursuit of terrorist targets in Iraq, or in the Khyber Pass, is within the bounds of international law, while Israel's killing Yassin is not.

Such woolly headed thinking exists on this side of the lake, although it is, for the moment, farther from the seat of power. Howard Dean argued not long ago that America should capture Osama bin Laden alive because those in "positions of executive power" should not "prejudge jury trials."

Unlike the Arabs, who understood exactly what was going on, and the Europeans, who mistook Mr. Sharon for the criminal and Mr. Yassin for the victim, the Bush administration seems to have been confused.

Contradictory statements were issued all day, with what a senior Israeli figure told me was "sympathy for Israel's position," but also statements expressing the administration "deeply troubled."

The problem is that the administration doesn't know where Mr. Sharon is headed, and this isn't through any fault of its own. The administration appealed to both sides to let their tempers cool. If Mr. Sharon means to launch a slugfest, that's one thing, but if the tougher line on *Hamas* is meant to set the stage for the unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, well, that's a horse of a more welcome color.

A hawkish minister in Mr. Sharon's government, Uzi Landau, who opposes the prime minister's new policy, recently wrote that, "They don't understand Washington in Israel." Maybe so, but they don't understand Israel in Washington, D.C. either.

The New Assassins

The Israeli official said that Yassin was dispatched "to paradise" after the top military and intelligence brass had reached the conclusion that he would never mend his murderous ways. "Paradise" was what Yassin promised his youthful "martyrs" before sending on their suicide bombing way.

Upon visiting the Hashishin redoubt at Alamut, Syria, in 1273, Marco Polo said of the "spiritual leader" of the assassins, "And when he wished to kill someone, he would take him and say: 'Go and do this thing. I do this because I want to make you return to paradise.' And the assassins go and perform the deed willingly."

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



Israel on edge for holiday

Hobart Mercury (Australia)
October 5, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 23

Length: 301 words

Body

A PALESTINIAN woman waving a knife stabbed and wounded a <u>female</u> Israeli soldier at a checkpoint outside the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday before other soldiers shot her dead.

The attack came as Israel boosted security throughout its towns and cities to prevent attacks during Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year.

AP

. ..

Israeli troops also barred Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza during the holiday.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz warned yesterday that the <u>Hamas</u> militant group was setting itself up as a shadow government to the Palestinian Authority and needed to be dismantled.

He also demanded that the authority disqualify *Hamas* from running in elections scheduled for January.

Israel has demanded Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas dismantle militant groups, but he has refused, fearing a crackdown could spark a civil war.

<u>Hamas</u> gunmen and Palestinian police earlier this week engaged in gunbattles across Gaza City that killed three people, including a police officer, and increased fears Gaza was devolving into chaos after Israel's withdrawal last month.

Abbas has tried to bring some order to Gaza by ordering a ban on carrying weapons in public, but <u>Hamas</u> has become increasingly brazen in its defiance of the Palestinian Authority.

Abbas said yesterday the authority would not tolerate the chaos and would "use all means to prevent the public display of arms". However, Palestinian security officials say police are no match for the armed groups.

Mofaz accused Syria of encouraging Palestinian militant attacks against Israel.

He predicted that the US, angry over the infiltration of militants into Iraq through Syria and allegations that Syria was behind the killing of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, could try to force Syrian President Bashar Assad from power.

Load-Date: October 5, 2005



Israeli swoop nets female bomb-maker

The Australian

October 12, 2005 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 11

Length: 509 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich Jerusalem

Body

IN one of the largest round-ups of its kind, Israel's Shin Bet security service has arrested 117 <u>Hamas</u> members on the West Bank allegedly involved in planning and executing a series of recent terrorist actions. Among those detained is the first-ever Palestinian *female* bomb-maker.

Israeli security officials said yesterday that while <u>Hamas</u> had publicly committed itself to a ceasefire since early this year, it had in fact ordered its cells on the West Bank to step up the pressure on Israel.

MATP

The suspects arrested belonged to three separate cells allegedly responsible for the deaths of six Israelis and the wounding of more than 70 in recent months. The cells were said to be planning an extensive series of operations in the near future, including the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and civilians in the hope of exchanging them for Palestinian prisoners.

Shin Bet officials said <u>Hamas</u> leaders in the Gaza Strip had been shifting their organisation's operations to the West Bank in the wake of Israel's departure from Gaza. <u>Hamas</u> had not claimed responsibility for the recent attacks, they said, because it realised that Palestinian public opinion did not want the sense of calm induced by the Israeli withdrawal to be shattered by renewed armed confrontation. However, <u>Hamas</u> wanted to keep the heat on Israel.

"At present, we do not see any willingness on the part of the Palestinian Authority to enter into conflict with the terror organisations," said a Shin Bet official. "Therefore, we must continue with our arrests."

The official acknowledged that in recent weeks the authority had begun to take action in cases where the Shin Bet provided concrete information about planned terror operations.

Israeli officials said the woman accused of being a bomb-maker, Samar Sabih, 22, had been sent by <u>Hamas</u> from Gaza to the West Bank to train explosive experts there. She is alleged to have learned the trade in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Ms Sabih submitted a request to Israeli authorities several months ago to move to Tulkarm on the West Bank so she could marry her fiance, who lived there.

She was given permission because she had no record of security offences. She indeed married and allegedly trained her husband so he could replace her if she were caught.

Israeli swoop nets female bomb-maker

Among those arrested were two Palestinians who last month abducted the Israeli owner of a confectionery factory where they worked. They videotaped him calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners before they knifed him to death.

The head of one of the cells was identified as Yasser Saleh, son of the Palestinian police commander in Ramallah. The father is an adviser to the authority's Interior Minister, Nasser Yousef, its senior security official.

The new head of Shin Bet, Yuval Diskin, revealed this week that dozens of would-be suicide attacks had been foiled in recent years with the assistance of Shin Bet's computer operators.

"Thanks to them, we have been able to stop suicide bombers who might need only half an hour to reach Israeli territory from the time they set out," Mr Diskin said.

Load-Date: October 11, 2005



4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 604 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Body

Erez Crossing, Israel --- After expressing a final wish to turn her body into "deadly shrapnel," a Palestinian mother blew herself up Wednesday at the heavily fortified border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing four Israelis and wounding seven Israelis and Palestinians.

The suicide bomber, identified as 22-year-old Reem al-Raiyshi, was the first <u>female</u> bomber to have been married with children. She left behind a 3-year-old son and 18-month-old daughter. The militant group <u>Hamas</u> said it was a new tactic in its war against Israel.

Cox International Correspondent

<u>Hamas</u> and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the two largest Palestinian militant groups, claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was in retaliation for Israeli army violence against Palestinians despite a lull in Palestinian militant activities in recent months.

<u>Hamas</u> had never used <u>women</u> in its numerous attacks against Israeli targets, although smaller militant groups have.

In the overwhelmingly male world of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Israeli security concerns and crackdowns are often focused on Palestinian men. Al-Raiyshi, a high school graduate who had been active in *Hamas*' youth wing, took advantage of that when she approached the Israeli security checkpoint at the Gaza border crossing at around 10 a.m.

Witnesses said al-Raiyshi faked a limp as she entered Erez, a sprawling complex where thousands of poor Palestinian workers maneuver through security in hopes of getting into Israel for work each day.

When she set off a metal detector, she told the guard it was because of a metal surgical implant in her leg, according to Israeli Brig. Gen. Gad Shamni, commander of the army's Gaza division. The male guard manning the detector, who is prohibited by custom from searching a Muslim woman, summoned a *female* soldier to conduct a hand search of al-Raiyshi.

4 Israelis killed by suicide bomber

"While she was waiting for the arrival of the woman soldier, [the bomber] apparently succeeded in penetrating a meter or two into the inspection hall, and blew herself up," said Shamni.

Three Israeli army soldiers were killed, along with one private guard. Several other guards as well as some Palestinian workers were wounded in the blast.

Israel intelligence and military officials say they have stopped dozens of would-be bombers thanks to diligent intelligence and the completion of part of a controversial 150-mile-long barrier that is designed to cut off Palestinian communities in the West Bank from Israel. A similar barrier was built around Gaza in the mid-1990s.

However, <u>Hamas</u> officials said that the Erez bombing proved that no security plan was foolproof and that militants could always find ways to breech security "obstacles."

"For the first time [*Hamas*] used a *female* fighter and not a male fighter and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," *Hamas* founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Speaking in what Palestinians call a "martyr's videotape," something akin to a suicide note that is left by most bombers, al-Raiyshi's recorded message said that she loved her children but felt it was a higher calling to take part in the struggle against Israel.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists," said a smiling al-Raiyshi, who was wearing combat fatigues with a *Hamas* sash across her chest.

Israel responded to the bombing by closing the Erez crossing, meaning that Palestinian workers will not be able to reach their jobs for an undetermined number of days.

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian mother who said that she wanted to "knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists," blew herself up at this checkpoint between Israel and Gaza on Wednesday, taking four other lives. / Knight Ridder Tribune

Load-Date: January 15, 2004



Israel leaves Gaza; hardship stays

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

October 18, 2005 Tuesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A; Newspaper

Length: 1614 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN **Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

"Roots - The Club" is the place in Gaza.

As a soft Mediterranean breeze caresses the palms, every table on the moonlit terrace is taken. The sounds of laughter mingle with the clink of fine china. Waiters serve from a menu featuring chicken cordon bleu and steak au poivre.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas comes here. So does Mohammed Dahlan, the ex-Palestinian security boss who coordinated with Israel on its historic withdrawal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip.

Now that the Israelis are gone, Roots' owner, Basil Eleiwa, has a vision for Gaza:

A tourist mecca, where wealthy Arabs fly directly to Gaza International Airport. Where they dine on plump prawns caught by trawlers based at the new Gaza Seaport. Where they jump on a limited access highway for a quick trip to the West Bank and the Vegas-style casino at Jericho.

"I may be a dreamer," Eleiwa says, "but I think economic development can help the peace process."

For now his dream is just that. The airport remains shut, its runway bulldozed by Israel. The seaport is nothing but a sign on an empty stretch of beach. There is no train, no highway, no tourists in the long-closed casino.

And in a place where 77 percent live in poverty, many Gazans can't afford a 75 cent glass of tea, let alone chateaubriand for almost \$20.

After Israel withdrew two months ago, Palestinians hoped life would improve. But the pullout has been followed by scenes of violence - most recently last weekend - that renew doubts anything will truly change.

On Monday, Israel again called off peace talks and slapped new travel restrictions on Palestinians. Meanwhile Abbas, who is on a five-nation trip that will include a meeting with President Bush, struggles to control <u>Hamas</u> and other militants.

"Time is not on our side," says Salah Abdel Shafi, a Palestinian consultant to the World Bank. "Since the peace process began in 1991, nothing substantial has changed for Palestinians, a Palestinian state is as far removed as it ever was. That's why people think, "We tried negotiating, maybe resistance will bring a better solution.' "

+++

For two weeks in August, Yehya Badul Rahman Bashir had a front-row seat to history. His home in the Palestinian city of Khan Younis is near what used to be Neve Dekalim, the largest of 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza.

As Israeli soldiers dragged fellow Jews from their homes, Bashir watched with satisfaction. "They are the occupiers - why feel sorry for them?"

Now a lean, graying 55, Bashir was in his teens when Israel captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt during the 1967 Mideast War. Israeli troops, he says, seized much of his family's land and blocked it off with barbed wire.

Discouraged, Bashir left Gaza. He worked in Iraq for years, returning home only after Palestinians won a measure of self-rule under the 1993 Oslo peace agreement. But they continued to chafe under Israeli controls, and in 2000, *Hamas* and other militants launched an intifada that would kill more than 1,000 Israelis and terrorize the Gaza settlements.

Israel retaliated by destroying hundreds of Palestinian homes. Others were caught in the cross-fire; Bashir's house is pocked by Israeli bullets.

"This happened while they were asleep," he says, pointing to holes inches above his children's beds.

By late 2003, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had had enough. There was no future, he said, for Gaza's 8,500 Jews in an overcrowded area of 1.37-million Arabs.

The aftermath of the pullout has been tumultuous. Thousands of Palestinians poured across the border into Egypt, eager to shop, visit relatives or - on the darker side - buy weapons to smuggle back into Gaza.

At a <u>Hamas</u> rally last month celebrating the withdrawal, a truck full of explosives accidentally blew up, killing 19 Palestinians. Israel, responding to rocket attacks on Israeli targets, assassinated two top <u>Hamas</u> members.

Since then, life in Gaza has quieted. Like most Palestinians in this flat coastal strip, Bashir says he wants peace. He hopes to reclaim his family's land and replant the orange groves destroyed so long ago.

But like many Palestinians, he also thinks the Gaza withdrawal is proof Israel reacts only to force.

"I'm not supporting <u>Hamas</u>, but the situation necessitates this. Israeli citizens should feel that whenever their government uses violence, there will be violence in return. But if there's peace, there's peace in return."

+++

On Sunday, Palestinian gunmen killed three Israeli settlers in the West Bank. That came just days after Israel arrested more than 100 members of *Hamas*, including its first *female* bombmaker.

The shootings and arrests underscore what many Israelis feared would happen after the Gaza pullout: <u>Hamas</u> and other militants are moving their fight from Gaza to the more populous West Bank, where 250,000 Jews live among 2.4-million Palestinians.

Squeezed in the middle are Abbas and his Palestinian Authority.

"The PA needs a cease-fire in order to get to the next step in the road map" for peace, says Raphael Israeli, an expert on <u>Hamas</u> at Hebrew University. "But <u>Hamas</u> says the hell with that, we want to liberate all our territory and the only effective thing is armed struggle."

Israel leaves Gaza; hardship stays

Abbas commands at least 53,000 security forces - among the world's highest per capita - but they complain they lack enough weapons to control heavily armed militants. Another factor: Many in the security services have relatives who are militants, "and they are not very eager to fight against each other," Israeli says.

By cracking down on <u>Hamas</u>, he adds, Israel is doing Abbas a favor: "The less <u>Hamas</u> activity in the streets, the stronger he is."

Despite its militancy, there are signs <u>Hamas</u> is trying to become more mainstream. "It doesn't want to appear too soft, but it's going through a transformation that shows it wants to be part of a new, evolving, political process," says Shafi, the World Bank consultant.

While the notoriously corrupt Palestinian Authority squandered billions, <u>Hamas</u> won popular support by feeding and helping the poor. It did well in recent local elections in Gaza and the West Bank, and is expected to win seats in January's parliamentary contests.

Israel opposes a political role for the organization because of its terrorist activities. But "the more you integrate *Hamas* into the political process," Shafi says, "the more you lessen the chances of it pursuing the military option."

Regardless of how closely they toe the road map, many Palestinians doubt Israel will ever agree to a Palestinian state. Though Sharon gave up small settlements in Gaza, Israel continues to expand enormous ones in the West Bank, some with 30,000 or more people.

"They will take the Jews out of Gaza and throw them on us in the West Bank," says Ramia Abu Soboh, a college student.

On a recent day, she was on her way to Ramallah from a village near Jerusalem. First, she had to go through a congested Israeli checkpoint. Those with Palestinian IDs are not allowed to drive through - they must walk several hundred yards, often in 100-degree summertime heat.

Nearby, cranes hoisted huge concrete slabs for the newest segment of Israel's security fence. The fence - actually a 20-foot-high barrier in many places - now snakes like the Great Wall of China across the hilly terrain, separating Palestinians from Jews and in many cases, Palestinians from Palestinians.

Israel rerouted parts of the fence to reduce hardships. But Palestinians complain it is a challenge to move around the West Bank, let alone build their own state.

"I'm ashamed to say I've never been to Jerusalem in my life," laments Raed Khamus, owner of a cafe just 20 miles north of the city. Nor has he been to Gaza.

Palestinians have long pressed for a "safe passage" between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, about 30 miles apart. Under discussion is a sunken highway or a railroad, though it would be years before either is built.

While Palestinians in the West Bank can get to the outside world through Jordan, Gazans live in what is often called the world's biggest prison. Even after the pullout, Israel continues to control the air, the sea and most major crossing points.

"Israel say it's willing to facilitate movement, but the devil is in the details," Shafi says. "We can't stimulate local investment and attract investors if people can't move."

In its poverty and isolation, Gaza is far more conservative than the West Bank. Here, many <u>women</u> wear head scarves and figure-hiding coats. Wine is available only in a dingy U.N.-run restaurant patronized by foreigners.

In 2000, a hotel Basil Eleiwa owned was torched because of rumors guests were drinking alcohol.

Israel leaves Gaza; hardship stays

But as Israel's pullout from Gaza became a reality, Eleiwa noticed a difference. <u>Women</u> came into his new business, Roots, with uncovered hair and snug jeans. The idea of serving liquor drew "very positive comments" as a way to boost tourism and create jobs, he says.

Eleiwa is encouraging Arabs from other countries to invest in Gaza and would like to see joint ventures with Israelis. Supporting the Palestinian economy is the best antidote to Islamic extremism, he argues:

"When you have economic oppression, you naturally tend to go to the spiritual. When the economic situation is better, *Hamas* loses some of its power."

Israeli, of Hebrew University, isn't so sure.

"They say it's poverty that breeds <u>Hamas</u> - I think that's not only untrue, but also arrogant. That means ideology has no importance, throw them a few dollars and things will be resolved. Yet two of the richest countries - Iran and Saudi Arabia - are also the most fundamentalist. Men like Osama bin Laden could live like billionaires with palaces but he chose to run into caves."

Susan Martin can be contacted at <u>susan@sptimes.com</u>.

Graphic

PHOTO, JOHN PENDYGRAFT, (3); MAP; Yehya Badul Rahman Bashir, 55, lives in the Gaza Strip and raises doves.; Roots in Gaza City attracts high-level Palestinian officials with dishes like chicken cordon bleu and steak au poivre.; Palestinian Authority soldiers train in hand-to-hand; combat in Jericho.; Map locating the Gaza Strip

Load-Date: October 18, 2005



Gun ban enforced; In a move to bring order to Gaza strip, Palestinian authority confiscates weapons

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)
September 30, 2005 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; NEWS

Length: 491 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian authorities yesterday began enforcing a ban on public displays of weapons, arresting three people and confiscating the guns of off-duty police officers, in a key step toward imposing order in the chaotic Gaza Strip.

The crackdown came as dozens of Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank held municipal elections. The powerful <u>Hamas</u> movement was expected to make strong gains, despite a continuing Israeli offensive against Islamic militants.

Associated Press

Pressing forward with its military campaign, Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian gunmen during raids in the West Bank. Israel launched the wave of air strikes and arrest raids last weekend in response to Gaza militants' rocket attacks on south Israeli towns.

The offensive raised pressure on Palestinian Leader Mahmoud Abbas to act against militant groups and armed gangs, which operate openly in Gaza. Israel says there can be no peace talks until the groups are disarmed.

In a move to bring order to Gaza, Palestinian officials announced yesterday a ban on public displays of weapons, and *Hamas* said it would honour it.

The Palestinian police chief, Ala Husni, said that in the wake of Israel's recent pullout from Gaza there is no longer a reason for anyone other than security officers to carry weapons.

"The role of resistance weapons has ended in the streets. They should go back into storage and they should not show up in the streets," he told a news conference. "Any weapon now in the street is a criminal weapon." He said there were no plans to seize stored weapons.

Interior Ministry spokesperson Tawfiq Abu Khoussa said authorities arrested three men carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles yesterday and confiscated their weapons. Several security officers also were arrested for carrying guns while off duty, he said.

Abbas said the weapons ban was a first step to imposing law and order on Gaza, but the new Israeli offensive undermined those efforts.

Gun ban enforced; In a move to bring order to Gaza strip, Palestinian authority confiscates weapons

"This escalation is putting the entire peace process in real jeopardy," he said yesterday. "We call on Israel to stop these acts, especially since all our factions have committed themselves to the ceasefire and to ban all military parades and public displays of weapons."

The ban went into effect days after an explosion at a <u>Hamas</u> parade killed 21 people. <u>Hamas</u> blamed Israel, but Palestinian investigators said the blast was set off when militants mishandled explosives.

<u>Hamas</u> spokesperson Mushir al-Masri said the group would honour the ban on displays of weapons but ruled out surrendering weapons.

Meanwhile, four people were injured yesterday in the West Bank villages of Talouza and Asira when masked militants from Abbas' Fatah movement shot in the air in anger at what they believed was Fatah's poor showing in the local election.

In the meantime, Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz yesterday ordered the offensive, code-named First Rain to continue until at least next week, security officials said.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; A sign bans firearms and mobile phones as <u>women</u> line-up to vote in municipal elections at a polling station in the West Bank village of Beit Fagar near Bethlehem, yesterday. Militant group <u>Hamas</u> is expected to make a strong showing.

Load-Date: September 30, 2005



Bomber died to atone for infidelity

The Australian

January 20, 2004 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 432 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich

Body

* Jerusalem

THE use of <u>women</u> as suicide bombers is now permitted by militant Palestinian group <u>Hamas</u>, Israeli intelligence analysts say, but only as a means of purifying <u>women</u> who have "desecrated family honour" -- a euphemism for having sex outside marriage.

The analysts, who closely monitor the evolving ideology of the Islamic extremist organisation, spoke to reporters in the wake of the first attack by a woman suicide bomber affiliated with *Hamas* last week in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli newspaper Yedioth Achronot reported that the woman, Reem Raiyshi, a 22-year-old mother of two, was compelled to carry out the attack, which killed four Israelis, as atonement for betraying her husband with another man.

MATP

According to the report, based on Israeli military sources, Raiyshi's husband is a *Hamas* operative who urged her to carry out the suicide mission.

<u>Hamas</u> spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin had long opposed the use of <u>women</u> suicide bombers while most other Palestinian militant groups condone it. <u>Hamas</u> had in the past referred <u>women</u> volunteering for suicide missions to other organisations such as Islamic Jihad.

In Arab society, <u>women</u> are often killed by their closest kin for such transgressions. A suicide attack is now increasingly seen as an acceptable way in which the woman can wipe out the stain she has caused for her family by her moral waywardness. Even here, according to the Israeli analysts, some <u>Hamas</u> leaders believe such <u>women</u> should be employed only in situations where they have a significantly better chance of success than men. In last week's incident, the explosive device strapped to Raiyshi's body had set off a metal detector alarm when she tried to pass through at the Erez crossing point where Palestinian workers enter Israel from the Gaza Strip. When security guards turned her back, she began to weep and said she had a metal support rod in her leg. A guard, disregarding standing orders, took pity on her and permitted the woman to pass through. Israeli officials say that would not likely have happened with a man. Raiyshi blew herself up inside the control point.

A new theology is emerging about woman suicide bombers among some Palestinian Muslim clerics. Male martyrs who blow themselves up in suicide attacks are promised a place in paradise alongside 72 dark-eyed virgins. It would be unseemly to have any comparable reward for *female* martyrs.

Bomber died to atone for infidelity

Instead, according to Arab affairs analyst Ehud Yaari, the woman are promised to dwell forever alongside the husband or fiance they have left behind. In cases like Raiyshi's, that could be awkward.

Load-Date: January 19, 2004



Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 3, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A19; OPINION

Length: 820 words

Byline: MONA ELTAHAWY

Body

When Yasser Arafat was sealing his historic peace deal with the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on a sunny Washington afternoon in September 1993, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, now the *Hamas* leader in Gaza, was living in a makeshift camp in no man's land in south Lebanon. Rabin had deported him there for a year in December 1992, along with 414 other suspected *Hamas* supporters. Clearly a lot has changed since then.

Rabin was assassinated; the peace accords are in tatters; and Arafat is now the exile, a virtual prisoner in his shattered Ramallah compound.

Washington Post

Rantisi, the former deportee, is very much alive and free.

Named <u>Hamas'</u> Gaza leader after Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin last month, Rantisi assumes his new duties under tight security: Israel tried to kill him last year. Nevertheless, in a show of strength before thousands of **Hamas** supporters in Gaza's main soccer stadium, he promised all-out revenge on Israel.

"We will fight them everywhere. We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation," Rantisi said in his first public remarks after being named leader.

When I interviewed him in Gaza in 1997, he was equally strident.

"The world would be crazy if it thinks Palestinians, not only <u>Hamas</u>, will accept to lose a centimetre of Palestine, and by Palestine I mean from the (Mediterranean) sea to the (Jordan) river," he said.

That Rantisi and Israel's hard-line prime minister, Ariel Sharon, are the two leaders left standing in the tortuous Israeli-Palestinian conflict speaks volumes. Each man has marked the other for death: Israel has vowed to target all <u>Hamas</u> leaders, and <u>Hamas</u> has specifically threatened Sharon.

Sharon, too, has been consistent. What was his order to assassinate Yassin but the latest example in his long history of provocations? It cannot have escaped the minds of Israelis that Sharon is no Rabin, or that he has been unable to deliver security or peace.

Rantisi and Sharon are both predictably belligerent. One could argue forever over who has inflicted the most pain and who is to blame for the bloody spiral of the past 3 1/2 years, during which more than 2,700 Palestinians and nearly 1,000 Israelis have died.

Threats, assassinations can't end Mideast conflict

What more can <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad or al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades do to hurt Israel? Since September 2000, they have carried out 112 suicide bombings that have killed 474 people.

What more can Israel do to hurt Palestinians? It has rendered Arafat and the Palestinian Authority ineffectual; it has reoccupied Palestinian towns and has assassinated an old, wheelchair-bound man as he left a mosque after prayers. I understand Yassin's role in legitimizing suicide bombings, but in terms of impact and rousing rage, Israel would be hard put to top his assassination.

In the midst of a maze of violence it is but a small slight to be called a fool for urging moderates to step forward. Sixty prominent Palestinians urged their people last week not to retaliate for Israel's killing of Yassin but instead to transform the violent uprising into a peaceful protest for statehood.

I understand how difficult such a proposition sounds to many Palestinians in Gaza. A column condemning suicide bombings that I wrote recently for the London-based pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat filled my e-mail in-box with condemnations. But some wrote in support.

"We won the first battle during the first Intifada when it was a peaceful movement," a Palestinian man wrote. "We've got a piece of land and an Authority (regardless of good and bad) and now we're losing the second one. We became terrorists because we didn't understand what happened on September 11th, we didn't learn, and we don't want to."

I am not the only Arab to condemn suicide bombings or to call for nonviolent resistance, but how many in the U.S. or in the Arab world hear our voices? And, more important, who will want to hear us when Israel assassinates more Palestinian leaders?

Rantisi and Sharon -- their predictable belligerence cannot win. Suicide bombings and occupation and assassinations will not end this conflict.

The U.S. must bring Palestinians and Israelis back to the negotiating table. The world community, stung by fear and anxiety over terrorism, must exert moral pressure to guide Israelis and Palestinians out of the violence.

Shortly before I met Rantisi in 1997, he had embraced Arafat -- a controversial gesture -- during a "national unity meeting" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The two men, meeting for the first time, kissed each other on the cheek, as is common in the Arab world. Binyamin Netanyahu, who was then Israel's prime minister, told Arafat to choose whether to "embrace *Hamas* or embrace peace."

The same question is very much relevant today, but I would ask it of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Mona Eltahawy is managing editor of Arabic <u>Women</u>'s eNews and a columnist for the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat.

Graphic

Photo: Abdel Aziz Rantisi, new <u>Hamas</u> leader (left) in Gaza, must be pressured into compromise so that peace is obtained in the Mideast, Mona Eltahawy writes.

Load-Date: April 3, 2004



SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 1061 words

Byline: GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: EREZ, Gaza Strip

Body

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

The bomber, Reem al-Reyashi, 22, said in a video released after the attack, "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists." Reyashi left behind a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

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

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

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

Two soldiers, a border police officer and a civilian security guard were killed, and seven people were injured, including both Israeli security personnel and Palestinians heading to work.

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

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

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

<u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic movement, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a faction loyal to the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, claimed joint responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians.

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

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

Arafat and the Palestinian leadership usually condemn suicide bombings inside Israel, but issued no such statement following yesterday's blast.

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

<u>Hamas</u>, the group that has carried out the large number of bombings, had not carried out a suicide attack for the past four months. And senior Israeli military officials said last month they believed <u>Hamas</u> had temporarily suspended such attacks.

But Yassin said yesterday, "There is no truce, operations will continue."

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

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

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

Yesterday's bombing raised the prospect of an escalation in battles between *Hamas* and the Israeli military.

Last summer, Israel's military struck at four senior <u>Hamas</u> leaders, including Sheik Yassin, while the Islamic faction carried out several suicide bombings.

Yassin was lightly injured in an Israeli air strike on Sept. 6. Three days later, <u>Hamas</u> carried out two suicide bombings, killing 15 Israelis. The next day, another senior <u>Hamas</u> leader was wounded in an Israeli air strike.

SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 4 ISRAELIS

Since then, Israel has pressed ahead with arrest raids targeting <u>Hamas</u> members, but has not tried to kill the group's senior leaders.

<u>Hamas</u> has frequently launched mortar and rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, but had not carried out any suicide bombings until yesterday.

Meanwhile, the jobs in the industrial zone are highly prized by residents of Gaza, where unemployment is rampant. And some Palestinian workers criticized the bombing, which could keep them away from their jobs indefinitely.

"It's not the proper place for such an operation because we could get killed," said Ibrahim Hiji, who was approaching the security building when it was blown up. "This is the place where we make money to feed our children."

Graphic

PHOTO: Lefteris Pitarakis/Associated Press: An Israeli army officer looks on as Palestinian workers lift their shirts to show that they are not carrying explosives as they leave their workplace at the Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: Undated photo: Reem al-Reyashi

Load-Date: January 15, 2004



<u>PALESTINE'S PROGRESS;</u> POSITIVE MOVEMENT PRECEDES A KEY ELECTION

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 29, 2004 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 413 words

Body

Developments among the Palestinians in the past few days indicate that they have moved firmly into a post-Yasser Arafat era. If that is borne out in successful elections Jan. 9, the way should be clear for a somewhat different Palestine to negotiate with the Israelis in 2005.

The first important development was the successful holding of municipal elections Thursday, the first since 1976. More than 800 candidates ran for 360 seats in 26 different communities. Signaling the sometimes forgotten point that Palestinians as a group are modern among Arabs, one in six seats was reserved for **women**.

One surprise in the elections was that they took place free of violence. The usual picture the outside world has of Palestinians comes from their ongoing confrontation with Israeli security forces. They are generally seen throwing stones at tanks, setting off bombs, marching in angry funeral processions or weeping and tearing their hair as Israeli forces demolish their homes and other buildings in reprisal for attacks.

A second surprise was that <u>Hamas</u>, generally thought of only as the foremost among the Palestinian groups attacking the Israelis, this time presented candidates and waged an effective electoral campaign as well.

<u>Hamas</u> won a majority of seats from the 150,000-person Palestinian electorate in nine towns. The mainstream's predicted winner, Fatah, took 14 councils. The strength of first-time runner <u>Hamas</u> as a political party calls into question the presumption that Fatah and its head, Mahmoud Abbas, will win the Jan. 9 elections with a large percentage of the vote. **Hamas** has so far said it will boycott the poll.

Another sign that times are changing came Christmas Eve, when Mr. Abbas attended Mass in Bethlehem. Although Yasser Arafat did the same, he hadn't in recent years, remaining instead confined by the Israelis to his headquarters in Ramallah. Mr. Abbas' gesture, permitted by the Israelis, was important to the Palestinian Christians, and to the rest of the world, watching Bethlehem with peace on their minds.

The Jan. 9 elections are still crucial. It is probably useful that <u>Hamas</u> is now playing a political role; prospects for ultimate peace are improved by having all Palestinian elements -- even the worst -- inside the tent. It is also vital that no one derail the process by harming Mr. Abbas.

There is definite visible progress among the Palestinians, improving overall prospects for peace, but the situation and the process remain fragile.

PALESTINE 'S PROGRESS; POSITIVE MOVEMENT PRECEDES A KEY ELECTION

Load-Date: December 30, 2004



WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

January 16, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 344 words

Highlight: AMBITION: Reem Raiyshi

Body

THE young mother-of-two suicide bomber who blew herself up killing four Israelis was given a martyr's funeral in Gaza city yesterday.

Thousands marched through the streets in the funeral procession of <u>Hamas</u> bomber Reem Raiyshi, 22, who left behind a daughter, aged 18 months, and a three-year-old son.

Masked gunmen from both <u>Hamas</u> and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the <u>Hamas</u> green flag, the first time the rival Palestinian militant groups marched together.

"It is not enough to call her a hero. Calling her a hero does not give the whole truth. This woman abandoned her husband and children in order to win paradise," said *Hamas* leader Mahmoud Zahar in eulogy.

It was the first time *Hamas* had sent a woman on a suicide mission.

"She is not going to be the last attacker because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only on the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," promised Zahar.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

The military did not say why it had decided to return Raiyshi's body to the Palestinians.

Israel closed down the crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs, in response to a suicide bombing that killed four Israelis the day before.

Brigadier General Gadi Shamni, the Israeli military commander in Gaza, indicated Israel would retaliate for the attack.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing," he said.

The bomber was escorted into a room at the Erzes crossing to be checked after telling soldiers she had a metal plate in her leg that set off the metal detector.

Once inside, she blew herself up.

WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER GIVEN MARTYR'S FUNERAL IN GAZA CITY

In a video made before the attack, Raiyshi, wearing the traditional hijab covering for <u>women</u>, and holding an assault rifle. said: "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for."

Load-Date: January 16, 2004



THE GATES OF HELL

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B6; EDITORIAL

Length: 513 words

Body

MIDDLE EAST

IT'S HARD to work up much moral indignation over the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founding father of <u>Hamas</u>. Yassin was the "spiritual leader" of an organization that practices its spirituality by murdering innocent men, <u>women</u> and children in Israel.

Still, Israel should ask itself two questions: From a practical standpoint, are targeted killings effective in reducing the number of people killed by the terrorists? And, from a moral standpoint, can Israel still lay claim to moral superiority when it pursues a state-sanctioned policy of targeted assassinations?

The answer to both questions seems to be no. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's expansion of targeted killings has not provided Israelis with greater security. But it has eroded Israel's standing in the eyes of the world. On Monday, European leaders and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan joined in denouncing the killing as a violation of international law.

The United States reacted more mildly. The State Department said it was "troubled" by the bombing but didn't criticize it. Israel successfully deflected U.S. criticism by calling Yassin the Osama bin Laden of <u>Hamas</u>. It's an apt comparison. Just as the United States is justified in trying to kill bin Laden because he is an enemy combatant, Israel argues it was justified in killing Yassin.

The White House stressed Monday that the United States did not know in advance of the attack. But <u>Hamas</u>, which hasn't targeted U.S. interests in the past, said it would hold the U.S. accountable. By killing Yassin, Israel has "opened the gates of hell," <u>Hamas</u> said. In several capitals in the Middle East, demonstrators also blamed the United States.

There is no doubt that the quadriplegic minister was a murderous extremist. He rejected the right of Israel to exist and is believed to have controlled the ebb and flow of <u>Hamas'</u> terrorist attacks. Israel maintained that Yassin personally approved the June 1, 2001 suicide bombing that killed 21 young people at a Tel Aviv discotheque; the March 27, 2002 Seder bombing of a hotel dining room in Netanya that killed 30, and the June 18, 2002 bombing of a Jerusalem bus killing 19.

Yet, in the bizarre context of Palestinian extremism, Yassin was seen as something of a moderating influence. Control of *Hamas* is now likely to fall to more radical elements that favor even more indiscriminate terrorist attacks.

THE GATES OF HELL

Complicating the moral equation is speculation that Mr. Sharon sees the killing of Yassin as a step toward Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Mr. Sharon is having trouble getting approval for the plan from his hard-line cabinet and doesn't want to appear to be retreating under fire.

If killing Yassin is a step toward a Palestinian state, then fine. But Israel must avoid perpetuating a cycle of mutual degradation with the Palestinians. Nahum Barnea, an Israeli columnist, has stated the dilemma: "Israel is beginning to imitate the Palestinians," he said. "It all turns into one bloody muddle, with no good guys and no bad guys, no smart guys and no stupid guys, no terrorists and no victims."

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



NO ONE'S SAFE

The Sun March 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Length: 481 words

Byline: David Wooding, Whitehall Editor

Body

Middle East braced for more slaughter as *Hamas* AND Israelis vow to keep on killing.

A NEW wave of violence was set to hit the Middle East last night after Israel and *Hamas* pledged more tit-for-tat slaughter.

<u>Hamas</u> leaders said they would massacre thousands of Israelis in revenge for the assassination of Muslim terror boss Ahmed Yassin.

And Israel's top army chief said all Palestinian militant leaders were "in our sights", as the country's security forces were put on high alert.

Last night two Palestinian guerillas were killed in an Israeli air strike before they could fire rockets into Israel from southern Lebanon.

Fear gripped both sides of the divided region as appeals for calm from around the world fell on deaf ears.

New <u>Hamas</u> chief Abdelaziz Rantissi warned all Israelis were now targets for his supporters. And he threatened to take bloodshed to a chilling new level with a massive campaign of suicide bombings.

He said: "We say to these murderers, to the terrorists, war is opened. There will be no one revenge, it is an open war.

"We will fight them everywhere. We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation." His fanatical followers responded by chanting: "We will sacrifice our blood and souls for you."

Rantissi fired off his warning as he led thousands of mourners in a tribute to their fallen spiritual leader Yassin.

The wheelchair-bound cleric was executed in a dawn strike by an Israeli gunship in Gaza City on Monday.

Yassin -dubbed the Bin Laden of Palestine -had been blamed by Israel for sending out dozens of fanatics to kill **women** and children. But Rantissi warned that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his supporters "will never feel security or safety".

Israel responded by saying other *Hamas* leaders would be targeted.

Internal security minister Tsahi Hanegbi said: "Everyone is in our sights. There is no immunity to anyone."

NO ONE'S SAFE

He put Israeli forces on high alert with a huge presence at cafes and on buses - key targets for suicide bombs. In the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian militants fired an anti-tank rocket at an Israeli army position, triggering a gun battle.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie called the killing of Yassin an "ugly crime committed by the government of murderers, the government of Israel".

US President George Bush last night insisted Israel had the right to defend itself against <u>Hamas</u>. And he revealed he may send a delegation to the region next week to revive the peace process.

Mr Bush said: "Israel has the right to defend herself from terror. And as she does so, I hope she keeps consequences in mind as to how to make sure we stay on the path to peace."

As tension in the region reached breaking point, Britain called for calm. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "All sides need to show restraint. Violence and military action will not achieve anything."

Load-Date: March 25, 2004



Israel agrees to free 500 prisoners

The Times (London)
February 14, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 30

Length: 426 words

Byline: Ian MacKinnon in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAEL has agreed to release 500 Palestinian prisoners as part of a deal to bolster the fragile peace signalled by last week's summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

A special committee was also last night discussing arrangements for the transfer of control of the West Bank city of Jericho from Israeli troops to Palestinian security forces this week as part of the continuing efforts to build trust. The measures have come just days after Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, and Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, shook hands in Egypt and after <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad agreed to abide by a tacit ceasefire.

Mahmoud Zahar, the leader of <u>Hamas</u>, said that the Islamic movement would consider the Palestinian President's statements detailing the guarantees from Israel before deciding whether to declare a formal truce. But in a major boost for peace, <u>Hamas</u> has said that it would not retaliate to Israeli aggression without first consulting Mr Abbas.

This comes after an occasion on which a barrage of mortars fired at a Jewish settlement by <u>Hamas</u> within 36 hours of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit threatened to harm the process.

The Israeli Cabinet unanimously decided that the 500 inmates for release, the bulk of whom have served most of their sentences, will leave prison shortly. They were chosen from a list of 700 provided by Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service.

The names of the prisoners are to be posted on a government website, giving the Israeli public an opportunity to register objections to the freeing of individuals. None of the prisoners proposed for release has been involved in attacks on Israelis.

About half are said to be members of Fatah and the rest are from organisations including <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad.

An Israeli official said that at a later date inmates convicted of violence might be released. Mr Sharon has already said that several "with blood on their hands" could be set free.

Another 400 are to be freed within three months, though Qassam Barghouti, the 19-year-old son of the jailed figurehead Marwan Barghouti, will not be among them, despite an earlier Israeli pledge.

"We welcome the decision to release the 500 prisoners," said Hassan Abu Libdeh, a senior aide to Mr Abbas. "Priority should be given to **women** prisoners, teenagers and elderly prisoners."

Israel agrees to free 500 prisoners

Israel is also to allow the return of 56 Palestinians banished from the West Bank to Gaza and several European countries. Thirty-nine of those were allowed to flee the month-long siege at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002.

Load-Date: February 14, 2005



PM lauds Palestinian leader

The Toronto Star May 28, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 655 words

Byline: Graham Fraser, Toronto Star

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

Prime Minister Paul Martin issued an unequivocal condemnation of <u>Hamas</u>, the Palestinian militant organization, yesterday after his meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"<u>Hamas</u> are terrorists," he said. "You're not going to have a multi-party system that's going to function unless people are prepared to lay down their arms. Democracy and terrorism are simply incompatible."

On Thursday, U.S. President George W. Bush also condemned <u>Hamas</u> as a terrorist group, saying "it's on a terrorist list for a reason." Canada has banned <u>Hamas</u>, listing it as a terrorist organization. The militant group has decided to participate in the Palestinian elections, scheduled for July.

<u>Hamas</u> is the main Islamist group in the Palestinian territories, and is fiercely opposed to the peace process and does not recognize Israel's right to exist. However, the organization is widely considered in the region to be honest in contrast with the Palestinian Authority, which had a reputation for corruption and incompetence under the late Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who was elected four months ago, made it clear that he is trying to change that.

Asked about <u>Hamas</u>, he said firmly through a translator that there needs to be "one and only one Palestinian Authority ... one legal system and one legitimate army... We will not accept more than one military in our country."

Martin also reiterated Canada's position on Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory. "The settlements in question are simply not acceptable," he said. "They are illegal."

Saying "these initiatives are just a down payment," Martin announced Canada is increasing its aid to the Palestinians by \$12 million, doubling its present aid commitment.

He made the announcement after meeting with Abbas, who stopped briefly in Ottawa after his visit to Washington.

The initiatives include:

A four-year, \$5 million project to promote the impartiality of judges and training in human rights, involving Federal Court Justice Doug Campbell, retired Supreme Court justice Claire l'Heureux-Dube and Alberta Chief Justice Catherine Fraser.

PM lauds Palestinian leader

Sending a 50-member delegation to observe the Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

A \$5 million initiative for housing and infrastructure.

A \$500,000 fund for technical assistance in border management.

A \$500,000 contribution to an existing \$1 million scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon.

Sending another four officers to the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Peninsula, bringing Canada's contingent to 32.

Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day endorsed the initiative, but expressed concern about the size of Canada's commitment.

"These dollars - we wonder how effective that is really going to be," he said, adding that Canada's influence in the Middle East has diminished over the last few years, and that its contribution should be increased significantly. "We're concerned about the scale; we are concerned about the order of magnitude."

After his meeting with Abbas, Martin commended the Palestinian leader for his rejection of terrorism and violence, and stressed that, along with Israel's withdrawal from settlements, this is crucial for the peace process.

"Canada will help the Palestinian state," Martin vowed. "President Abbas, this is an important and growing relationship for Canada."

Abbas responded, expressing gratitude for the warm welcome he received.

"Canada has been supportive, not just with words, but with action," he said, speaking through a translator. "Undoubtedly, the government of Canada has a very special role in the region."

Abbas reiterated his administration is committed to democracy as a way of life for Palestinians, and committed to the vision of two states as indicated in the so-called "road map" to peace developed by the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia. He welcomed a further role for Canada.

Graphic

JIM YOUNG reuters Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Prime Minister Paul Martin speak to reporters on Parliament Hill yesterday following their brief meeting. Martin promised Canada would help Palestinians.

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 23

Length: 637 words

Body

Ariel Sharon may not have felt he had crossed any red lines by ordering the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. The leader of *Hamas* had already been "marked for death" in January after the worst bus bombing in three years. Four months earlier, he escaped with minor injuries after two missiles had slammed into the wrong floor of his Gaza apartment block. The month before that, his deputy, Ismail Abu Shanab, was killed by Israeli helicopter gunships. So Mr Sharon may feel that "the gates of hell" have been opened before, and Israel has survived. The same calculation looks very different from the point of view of the Palestinian militants. The response they will unleash on Israel is bound to be qualitatively different. A total of 62 Palestinians have been killed in the last month by Israeli action in the Gaza and the West Bank, many of them *Hamas*. But Sheikh Yassin was different. Firebreathing oaths of revenge and retribution are standard fare, but there was a real intensity about the scenes yesterday, when over 200,000 turned out onto the streets of Gaza City, 10,000 out on the streets in Cairo, 15,000 in Jordan, while thousands more marched in the Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen. Sheikh Yassin and the twisted remains of his wheelchair could, in death, be a far more potent symbol of Palestinian revolt than he was in life.

The question, as always is, why and why now? The dissenting voice in the Israeli cabinet, interior minister Avraham Poraz, said that Yassin had not been a "ticking bomb". Ahmed Qureia, the Palestinian prime minister, claimed Yassin was a "moderating" influence within <code>Hamas</code> and that his murder opened the door wide to chaos. If Yassin was being a "moderating" influence when he encouraged young Palestinian <code>women</code> to follow the example of a 22-year-old Palestinian mother of two who blew herself up at a checkpoint in Gaza killing four Israelis, then it would be good to know what course an immoderate <code>Hamas</code> leader would advocate. But with the death of Shanab and, to a lesser extent, Yassin, <code>Hamas</code> lost the two leaders associated with the emerging de facto Islamist acquiescence of a two-state solution: the acceptance of 22% of historical Palestine as an interim solution and the deferment of the armed struggle against Israel to "future generations". The timing of Yassin's assassination is also unclear. He lived openly in Gaza and could have been killed any time in the last five years. What does Israel gain from killing him now? Does it truly believe that beheading <code>Hamas</code> will make a pullout from Gaza easier? Or is Mr Sharon playing to a domestic audience, acting as the bulldog of Israel, when in fact he is about to make (in Israeli terms only) a large territorial concession?

Draw back from the calculus of killing in the Middle East, and the picture gets no clearer. The foreign secretary, Jack Straw, in an unusually forthright condemnation, described the targeted assassination of Yassin as, "unlawful unacceptable and unjustified". But Britain's denunciation of Israel is surely weakened by its acceptance of the same tactic of targeted assassinations, when the targets are suspected al-Qaida leaders, in Yemen, Afghanistan and Iraq. What is new about killing Islamic spiritual lead rs? That is what the post 9/11 reality allows Israel to say. Who is Bin Laden, if not, in one sense, an Islamic spiritual leader? The answer is that everything is wrong with targeted assassinations if, as Peace Now says, the effect is to pour barrels of petrol on a fire that is already out of control. In the 1980s Israel supported *Hamas*, when it was the fledgling cultural movement countering Yasser Arafat's secular

Leading article: Sheikh Yassin: The calculus of killing

Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel will one day have to negotiate with the enemy it helped create, but that day, after yesterday's killings, is further away than ever.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



Israel closes crossing after suicide bombing

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)
January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: World; Pg. D5; Crime

Length: 293 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- The first <u>female Hamas</u> suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral Thursday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip for a day to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial

Associated PressThe workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become harder following the bombing -- but few were willing to openly blame militants for their new hardship.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time that <u>Hamas</u> dispatched a **female** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," *Hamas* leader Mahmoud Zahar said Thursday.

An Israeli closure shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs would be allowed to cross.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize <u>Hamas</u>, questioned the wisdom of the target. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42, who works in a food factory near the Israeli town of Ashkelon.

Even such veiled criticism remains relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble in private about tighter travel bans or other hardships caused by the militants' actions. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Palestinian militants attend the funeral of suicide bomber Reem Raiysh in Gaza City, Thursday

Load-Date: January 16, 2004



Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) February 2, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A12; News

Length: 676 words

Byline: Josef Federman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defence minister said yesterday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of <u>Hamas</u> and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

The Associated Press

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. <u>Hamas</u> took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, and <u>Hamas</u> officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad -- often prompting a violent response. In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months. Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Zeev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

<u>Hamas</u>, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the past three years, also seemed to have scaled back its activities until a *female* suicide bomber killed four Israelis on Jan. 14.

Yassin encouraged kidnapping Israeli soldiers a day after Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners as part of an exchange with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah for a businessman and the bodies of three soldiers.

Violent Islamic groups threatened; Israeli defence minister warns leaders they are targets for assassination

Yassin said it has become extremely difficult to capture soldiers, apparently trying to explain why <u>Hamas</u> has failed to free the 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Also yesterday, Israeli troops raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months, killing a Palestinian militant. The fighting forced many residents to stay indoors on the first day of Eid.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

There were no Israeli casualties, and the army withdrew in the afternoon.

The dead militant was Shadi Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades member from Jenin who apparently sought refuge in Jericho. Israeli security officials said Jaradat, 23, was planning a bomb attack inside Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel said the United States and individual European Union states are supporting its position in the upcoming case on the West Bank barrier before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. Israel maintains the court is not the proper forum for the issue.

Israel says the barrier is needed to protect against suicide bombers, while the Palestinians say the structure, which dips deep into the West Bank in some parts, is a seizure of their land.

The United Nations General Assembly, with Palestinian backing, has sent the case to the court for an advisory opinion.

However, the EU itself has not taken a position, say officials at its headquarters in Brussels.

"If the court takes this on ... then there is no end to what political disputes could reach the court, and this could politicize the court," said Alan Baker, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

The complex of trenches, fences, walls and razor wire is one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and both sides see the Feb. 23 court hearing as an important battleground for determining the project's fate.

Load-Date: February 2, 2004



The Killing of the Sheikh

The Forward March 26, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: Editorial; Pg. 6

Length: 918 words

Body

We do not celebrate this week. Israel has escalated the Middle East conflict into unknown and dangerous new territory with its killing of the <u>Hamas</u> leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. The rules, such as they were, have been upended. All leaders are now fair game. Palestinian rage and determination to attack Israel have been scaled up to new heights, if such a thing is possible. Hopes of an early end to violence and a return to diplomacy have never seemed more dim. Threats of retaliation against American and Jewish targets around the world only increase our sense of foreboding.

And yet it was in profound disbelief that we watched the global chorus of censure raining down on Israel after the killing. As though speaking from some distant planet where up is down and black is white, seemingly sober leaders rose in one capital after another to condemn the Jewish state for successfully eliminating the leader of one of the world's most active and implacable terrorist organizations. In tones of high moral dudgeon they mocked Israel for targeting "an 80-year-old man in a wheelchair," in the words of Jack Straw, Tony Blair's foreign minister, as though they weren't speaking of a man - age 67, by the way - who had masterminded a 17-year campaign of mass murder.

What was their objection? Primarily, it seems, that Israel's action was "contrary to international law," in the words of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. *Hamas* may be guilty of "atrocities," as the foreign ministers of the European Union acknowledged in a joint statement, but Israel nonetheless is not "entitled to carry out extra-judicial killings." The U.N. convened a special meeting of the Security Council, something it had not seen fit to do when its own human rights commissioner was assassinated in Baghdad last summer. Killing Yassin was a mortal blow to the peace process, we were told. And because he was revered as a spiritual leader by broad masses in Palestine and throughout the Arab world, his death heightened tensions worldwide.

But Yassin was no cloistered savant. He founded and led an organization that elevated the mass murder of civilians - men, <u>women</u> and children - to a political and religious duty. His negotiators had spent much of the past year foiling the efforts of Egypt and the Palestinian Authority to declare a Palestinian cease-fire, so that some sort of peace process might be revived. Only a week before his death he had launched, with the bombing in Ashdod's port, a new campaign of terror to accompany Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza. It was that new campaign that sealed his death warrant.

We do not weep for him. He spent his life in a self-declared state of war with Israel. Israel fought back. Yassin brought his death upon himself. Israel did not behave immorally.

Whether Israel behaved wisely is a different question. If the purpose of the killing was to defend Israel's citizens, as their leaders said repeatedly this week, then the true test is whether Israelis have been defended - that is, whether they are less likely to be killed by terrorists.

The Killing of the Sheikh

The answer, in truth, is not self-evident. After all, Yassin was targeted once before, in a September 6 air raid. That was a response to the horrific August bus bombing in Jerusalem through which <u>Hamas</u> had torpedoed last summer's Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire. The failed raid on the sheikh caused a brief wave of outrage, and <u>Hamas</u> replied three days later with a pair of suicide bombings, killing 15. Immediately afterward, however, the field went quiet. <u>Hamas</u> didn't bomb again until late January. Israeli intelligence reported that the group's leadership had gone underground and shut down operations in hopes of avoiding assassination. It turned out that <u>Hamas</u>'s love of suicide ends at the management suite. It would be understandable if Israel were hoping to achieve the same effect this time.

It is a huge gamble, as this week's vows of spectacular revenge make clear. Nor are the stakes the same as they were last fall. What was at stake then was a U.S.-sponsored road map to peace that <u>Hamas</u> itself had savagely torpedoed, giving Israel a moral advantage. What's at stake now is Sharon's own disengagement plan, which requires some sort of Palestinian leadership to take charge after Israel leaves.

Disengagement holds out the possibility of a real separation, putting defensible barriers between Israelis and those who seek to kill them. If targeting <u>Hamas</u> forces other Palestinians to close ranks behind the extremists, Israel will be trapped in its current quagmire with no clear way out. It's the sort of high-stakes gamble Sharon has made a career out of. It's brought him and those around him to grief as often as victory.

In today's global environment, it's no longer just Israelis who stand to gain or lose from Sharon's gambles. Jews and Jewish institutions around the world have been targeted repeatedly in the past three years. If <u>Hamas</u> decides to take its fight international - something it has not done up to now - then we truly have been brought into a new stage. If that's to be the case, then American Jews need to speak up - not just about fighting terrorism, but about finding a way out of the quagmire.

If Israel's prime minister showed the same decisiveness in advancing his disengagement plan that he showed this week in striking back against the terrorists, he would enjoy more understanding and a good deal more freedom to act. But striking back is an essential part of any formula. Israel's critics must not forget that.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



Abbas faced with growing Gaza violence: Rocket kills Israeli: Israel responds with most intense air raid in months

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

July 15, 2005 Friday

All but Toronto Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. A10

Length: 709 words

Byline: Nidal al-Mughrabi, Reuters, with files from Agence France-Presse

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

GAZA CITY - Palestinian security forces waged fierce gunbattles with Palestinian militants yesterday after <u>Hamas</u> fighters fired a barrage of rockets into southern Israel, killing an Israeli woman in the first lethal rocket attack over the border from Gaza since February.

Hours later, Israeli helicopters fired missiles in four separate air raids on Gaza, the most intense in the occupied territory in months.

The first strike destroyed a pro-<u>Hamas</u> Islamic charity in Gaza City and a minute later, the helicopters fired at a cemetery in Khan Younis militants used as a launching pad to fire mortars at an adjacent Jewish settlement. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The Israeli raid and the earlier battle between Palestinian police and <u>Hamas</u> gunmen underscored the challenge facing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as he attempts to preserve a five-month truce and bring militants under control before Israel withdraws from Gaza next month.

The fighting broke out two days after a suicide bombing in the Israeli city of Netanya and hours after Mr. Abbas denounced the rise in violence before heading to Gaza for talks with armed factions aimed at rescuing the truce.

Islamic Jihad -- which planned and carried out the bombing in Israel -- said it was willing to meet Mr. Abbas, but warned that any Israeli aggression would signal the end of the truce and a return to suicide operations.

Following the Netanya bombing, which killed two teenage girls, two <u>women</u> and a soldier, Israeli forces sealed off the Palestinian territories, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered as "much harm as possible" done to Islamic Jihad's leadership.

In an early morning raid into the northern West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli troops killed one Palestinian militant and wounded another.

"This is exactly what we call the spiral of violence," Mr. Abbas told a news conference with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. "We call on all sides to restrain themselves, so the situation remains calm, so we can resume the

Abbas faced with growing Gaza violence: Rocket kills Israeli : Israel responds with most intense air raid in months

political process. The path of violence leads to nothing but destruction of peace," he added before preparing to leave for Gaza City.

Mr. Abbas has come under massive pressure from Israel, Washington and visiting European Unionoreign policy chief Javier Solana to arrest and prosecute those responsible for the Netanya bombing.

It was the latest in a series of attacks claimed by Islamic Jihad, which despite its claim to support the ceasefire have put the armed movement on an ever-deepening collision course with Mr. Abbas.

An Islamic Jihad leader said the group was prepared to talk to the Palestinian leader, but said any renewed Israeli aggression or targeted killings of its members would sound the death knell for the ceasefire.

"Any aggression from Israel or any assassination of any officer or leader of Islamic Jihad means the end of the quiet and the return to suicide operations inside Israel," Khaled al-Batsh, an Islamic Jihad leader, told Agence France-Presse.

In yesterday's attack, Israeli security sources said four rockets crashed into the Netiv Haasara collective farm in southern Israel near Gaza's fenced border. At least one struck a house, killing a young woman in her yard, the Zaka rescue service told Reuters.

Palestinian police and <u>Hamas</u> gunmen exchanged fire for hours following the attack, and gunmen torched four Palestinian police jeeps in the towns of Beit Lahiya and Jabalya, witnesses said.

Medics said seven Palestinians were wounded. <u>Hamas</u> spokesmen said five of their members were among those injured, including one listed in critical condition. The two other people wounded were passersby, witnesses said.

Interior Minister Nasser Youssef rushed out of a meeting with Mr. Abbas in Gaza and told reporters he had the authority "to deal with the situation very firmly and to prevent any action to violate the truce ... by all means including the use of force."

<u>Hamas</u>, sworn to Israel's destruction, said the rocket attack was in response to Israel's raid on Nablus.

"We will not keep silent," said <u>Hamas</u> spokesman Mushir al-Masri. "We will continue with all available means and resistance will continue as long as there is aggression against our people. All options are open including the continuation of firing rockets."

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Mladen Antonov, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; Israeli police use electronic devices to register people passing at the Kissufim crossing of the southern Gaza settlement of Gush Katif. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered Gaza sealed to non-residents in a bid to head off protests against his disengagement plan.

Load-Date: July 15, 2005



Rice struggles to broker deal over Gaza crossing

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

November 15, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Telegraph Group Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 15

Length: 392 words

Byline: Tim Butcher in Jerusalem

Body

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, the US Secretary of State, tried to salvage a trip to the Middle East by delaying her departure last night in an attempt to secure an agreement on re-opening the Gaza border.

Instead of flying to Asia she decided to spend last night in Israel pressuring both sides to agree terms to allow people to pass between Gaza and Egypt through the Rafah crossing.

"Both sides are working at maximum effort but I don't think there is going to be an announcement imminently," a senior Israeli source said.

Earlier, during a meeting with the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, a stark disagreement between Israel and America emerged over the conduct of next year's Palestinian parliamentary elections.

Mr Sharon reiterated his position that <u>Hamas</u>, the Palestinian group responsible for numerous terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians, should not be allowed to take part in the election.

Miss Rice argued that only by allowing <u>Hamas</u> to take part in the election could its militants be persuaded that power was achievable through any other means than the Kalashnikov.

Earlier Israel killed two Palestinians, one a senior <u>Hamas</u> figure in the West Bank, and the other from Gaza. Israel argues it was acting pre-emptively against Palestinian terrorists, although <u>Hamas</u> said it would retaliate, making direct peace negotiations between the two sides appear even more unlikely.

Her trip had already been overshadowed by last week's hotel bombings in Jordan, the first time al-Qa'eda managed to target the moderate Arab nation that is one of America's closest allies in the Middle East.

Last night Miss Rice used her extra night in the region to fly briefly to Amman to show solidarity with the government of King Abdullah. A total of 57 people, mostly Jordanians, died in the attacks.

The disagreements and problems that dogged Miss Rice's trip were in stark contrast to the experience of Hillary Clinton, the US Senator and wife of President Bill Clinton, who was visiting Israel at the same time.

Mrs Clinton, who is widely tipped as the next Democrat candidate for the White House, was well received at a number of events including a visit to the Western Wall, the sacred Jewish shrine in Jerusalem's Old City.

Rice struggles to broker deal over Gaza crossing

She approached the wall by herself as Jewish tradition demands <u>women</u> and men approach the wall in separate areas.

Her bodyguards stood back and watched.

Load-Date: November 15, 2005



After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

The Philadelphia Inquirer SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 624 words

Byline: Mark Lavie ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli leaders warned Syria yesterday that it bears the blame for two suicide bombings by <u>Hamas</u> operatives because it harbors the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's blasts, which killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. However, Israel was looking further afield to assign the blame.

"The fact that <u>Hamas</u> is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The overall leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria. Israel assassinated <u>Hamas'</u> founder and his successor in Gaza this year, throwing the group into temporary disarray. But major decisions are made by Mashaal, not by <u>Hamas</u> leaders in Gaza.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said yesterday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another extremist group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital. A day earlier, a <u>female</u> suicide bomber had blown up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Although Israel and Syria are bitter enemies, the air strike was a rare act of violence. Israel has held the Syrian government partly responsible for years of Hezbollah raids from southern Lebanon and has often threatened Syria. In practice, however, the Israelis hesitate to provoke a conflict with Syria, and their border has been calm for decades.

After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel would go after local <u>Hamas</u> leaders and step up military patrols in the sparsely populated, barren southern part of the West Bank. The target of Tuesday's bombings was Beersheba. 15 miles south of the West Bank.

Sharon also pledged to finish the West Bank security barrier, which is aimed at keeping Palestinian suicide bombers from getting into Israel but has drawn international criticism. Palestinians object that it cuts into their territory and separates tens of thousands from farmland, hospitals and services.

"The fence will be completed according to the cabinet decision, and we are doing all we can to speed up the process as much as possible," Sharon said.

Israel did not impose travel bans across the West Bank in response to the bombings, as it has after previous attacks. Such blanket restrictions proved relatively ineffective in preventing attacks and mostly fueled more resentment against Israel. Israeli security forces are relying increasingly on pinpoint attacks on militant leaders, mass arrests and a network of informers.

Security officials said there was concern that a rash of Palestinian attacks could sabotage Sharon's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in 2005. Hard-liners have argued a pullback would make it easier for Palestinians to attack Israel.

Also yesterday, an Israeli helicopter fired three missiles into a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Gaza, wounding at least five people, residents and hospital officials said.

The residents said the aircraft targeted militant Palestinians at the edge of the Khan Younis camp who were planting a land mine as Israeli soldiers advanced. Israeli military officials said on condition of anonymity that the army was conducting an operation to crack down on Palestinian extremists in the area.

Graphic

PHOTO;

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN, Associated Press

On the first day of school, Palestinian students and residents cross the separation barrier into Jerusalem under the gaze of Israeli guards.

Load-Date: August 31, 2005



Yasser arafat fears he's next

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

March 23, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Western Morning News

Section: News; Other; Others; Pg. 35

Length: 631 words

Body

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

An Arafat aide said: "He feels his turn is next and he is sad and worried." The death of the blind, wheelchair-bound Yassin outside a Gaza City mosque unleashed threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States. Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting. His assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world and many European countries.

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

Mourners jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and <u>women</u> threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres.

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

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

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

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass-murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies". Sharon said Israel will press ahead with its war on terror, signalling there will be more targeted attacks and raids. "The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's "hands are soaked in the blood of Israeli children".

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

Yasser arafat fears he's next

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged both sides to show restraint. "It is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region," Rice said.

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City. The dead included several bodyguards and Yassin's son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons.

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

Fearing reprisal attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities. The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt was also closed. Troops reinforcements were sent to Gaza, and security forces in Israel were placed on high alert.

The Yassin assassination was seen as a huge gamble by Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against <u>Hamas</u> ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, but risks triggering a dramatic escalation in bloodshed that could turn the public's mood in Israel against him.

Sharon's critics in Israel warned that it could be seen as an attack by Israel on Islam and unnecessarily widen the circle of conflict.

Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah were lowered to half-staff, and the Palestinian Cabinet held an emergency session. Yassin was Arafat's biggest political rival, but Arafat was always careful not to confront the *Hamas* leader openly.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



Madonna cancels shows in Israel due to violence in the region

Ottawa Citizen

May 26, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: Arts; Pg. D7; News

Length: 208 words

Dateline: LOS ANGELES

Body

LOS ANGELES - Madonna says she has cancelled three Israeli stops on her Re-Invention tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group *Hamas*.

Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour in Los Angeles on Monday, told Access Hollywood that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of <u>Hamas</u>.

The Ottawa Citizen"It's not a good idea to go there and do concerts."

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3.

Asked by Access Hollywood if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me."

Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a *female* dancer.

The 18-city tour ends Sept. 5 in Paris with stops in Las Vegas, New York, Toronto, Manchester and London.

Israel's military killed the founder of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in March and the group's Gaza leader, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, in April.

Load-Date: May 26, 2004



U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

University Wire

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Daily Utah Chronicle via U-Wire

Length: 864 words

Byline: By Steve Gehrke, Daily Utah Chronicle; SOURCE: U. Utah

Dateline: SALT LAKE CITY

Body

The founder of <u>Hamas</u> was killed in a missile strike that was authorized by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and carried out by the Israeli military in U.S. Apache helicopters Monday.

Three missiles fell on a vehicle killing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, two bodyguards, one bystander and injuring 13 others, including two of Yassin's sons.

Sheikh Yassin's 70-year-old quadriplegic figure was somewhat misleading, hiding his capability and immediacy in influencing the social and political status of the Middle East.

Israel has faced additional criticism due to Yassin's disability and frail nature, but some say it was a minor detail.

Rabbi Yossi Mandel, a program director with Chabad Lubavitch of Utah, says he believes preventing further murders should be done by any means necessary.

"[Yassin] may have been bound to a wheelchair, but the words that came out still encouraged terrorism," Mandel said. "It's unfortunate that lives have become so cheap that we can politicize taking out the master terrorist."

In the eyes of supporters, however, Yassin was a spiritual leader-a view re-enforced by the fact that he was assassinated on his way home from dawn prayers at a mosque.

University of Utah student Anwar Arafat met Sheikh Yassin a few times in the past and said that he was a holy man.

"He can barely talk, but just his presence is so spiritually uplifting," Arafat said. "He didn't have anything to do with the military aspect at all-I know that for sure. *Hamas* political leaders don't even know the military leaders. They're two separate entities."

Through the lens of onlooking outsiders, however, Yassin was one of the most severe threats to the already meager prospects of a prosperous existence on Israeli and Palestinian soil.

"It's the death of a terrorist and a cause for rejoicing to any humane person," Mandel said.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice responded to the murder of Yassin on NBC's "Today" Monday saying, "Sheikh Yassin has himself, personally we believe, been involved in terrorist planning."

U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

Israel says Yassin masterminded scores of suicide bombings that have killed a total of 377 people. Israelis and ministers have described him as the Palestinian Osama bin Laden, "his hands tainted with the blood of hundreds of Israelis, children, <u>women</u> and babies," according to the BBC.

The organization he established has become notorious for carrying out resistance attacks against Israel and has been put in the same class as organizations such as Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Jihad and the Martyrs Brigade by many.

<u>Hamas</u> literally means "zeal," but is also an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement.

Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have heightened since the incident, and prospects for peace seem to be growing even more slim.

"It's just a cycle. You never know what's going to happen," U political science professor Hakan Yavuz said.

Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi was chosen to be the new leader of *Hamas* in Gaza Tuesday.

Al-Rantisi declared to thousands of mourners, who were gathered in a Gaza soccer stadium, that Israelis "will not know security."

"We will hit them everywhere. We will chase them everywhere. We will teach them lessons in confrontation," he said.

<u>Hamas</u> supporters responded with a steady chant: "We will sacrifice our blood and souls for you."

Israel has not backed down in light of the threats, nor have they wasted any time in issuing their fair share of warnings against *Hamas*.

Israeli leaders have threatened to kill the entire <u>Hamas</u> leadership and implied that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could join the hit list in the future.

"They say when Sharon signed off on killing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, he signed off on killing hundreds of more Palestinians and Israelis," U student Anwar Arafat said. "I definitely think it will cause more death."

Mandel disagrees.

"You can't further tensions when one side desires to kill every single Jew, which <u>Hamas</u> and the PLO have called for," he said.

The Bush administration has expressed shifting views regarding the murder of Yassin.

Shortly after Rice's initial comments on the "Today" show condemning Yassin as a terrorist, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "We are deeply troubled by this morning's incident in Gaza."

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher added, "I think if you ask the Israelis, you'll find that they take these actions with full knowledge of the United States' positions, including our concern about some of these actions, our position on actions that have been taken in the past, but also knowing that we do not approve of actions like this."

Mandel says he believes the situation is an Israeli internal affair and that the United States should stay out of it.

"It is Israel's policy to hunt down terrorists," Mandel said.

"As the number of terrorists decreases, the violence will go down as well."

Anwar disagrees.

He says there is a difference between what the United States is doing and what it should be doing.

U. Utah reacts to Sheikh Yassin's death

"[Israel] had already tried to assassinate [Yassin] in September, so there's no doubt in my mind that America knew something was going on. America should take a firmer stance and not support Israeli occupation."

(C) 2003 Daily Utah Chronicle via U-WIRE

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



Woman suicide bomber kills four Israelis

The Advertiser

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 34

Length: 347 words

Body

GAZA CITY: Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> has for the first time used a woman suicide bomber to counter Israeli security precautions and vowed to escalate their attacks.

"For the first time (<u>Hamas</u>) used a <u>female</u> fighter and not a male fighter and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin said, referring to the bomber, who struck at the Erez crossing point on the Gaza Strip boundary with Israel, killing four Israelis.

<u>Hamas</u> and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, jointly claimed responsibility for the attack, identifying the bomber as a 22-year-old mother of two from Gaza City.

The Brigades and Islamic Jihad have used women bombers.

Witnesses said yesterday's bomber set off a metal detector at a terminal used to screen Palestinian workers en route to the Erez industrial zone. She told soldiers she had a metal splint in her leg and then detonated her explosives, witnesses said.

"Resistance will escalate against this enemy (Israel) until they leave our land and homeland," Yassin said.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, US forces moved a step closer to finding former vice-president Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the most wanted man in Saddam Hussein's regime, detaining four of his nephews in a pre-dawn raid in the central city of Samarra.

Hours later, a car bomb exploded in front of a police station in the central Iraqi city of Baqouba. Police said three people, including the bomber, were killed. The US military put the death toll at five and all the victims were Iraqis.

Two of al-Douri's nephews arrested yesterday are suspected of helping to hide their uncle, who is suspected of orchestrating insurgent attacks on US-led forces. The four men were detained when 40 military police raided two houses in a neighbourhood of Samarra after a tip-off.

They captured one of the targeted nephews and two of his brothers in one house. The second nephew was seized nearby.

The two "main targets" are believed to be in close touch with al-Douri, finding safe houses for him to hide in.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004



Israelis, Palestinians trade missile strikes

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
September 25, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a5

Length: 234 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

An Israeli missile strike killed one Palestinian and wounded five early Saturday, hours after militants killed an Israeli-American woman in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in Gaza in four years of fighting.

The settlement attack, which came just before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year. The militant *Hamas* group claimed responsibility for firing two mortars at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A <u>Hamas</u> video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard - apparently the Israeli return fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a 4-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the <u>Hamas</u> mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two <u>women</u> who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the <u>women</u>, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, and the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

In the early hours Saturday, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a nearby refugee camp. Hospital officials said the dead and wounded were civilians.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004



Mother hopes to help shut off funding to terror group; Woman wants to get at terrorists she blames for the death of her son

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

December 8, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Illinois; Pg. c6

Length: 647 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: CHICAGO

Body

A woman told a jury Tuesday she hopes her lawsuit against three Islamic charities and an alleged <u>Hamas</u> fundraiser will help shut off funds flowing to terrorists she blames for killing her son.

"If I could stop one nickel from reaching *Hamas*, money used to buy bullets and make bombs that kill innocent people, men, *women* and children, I would have justice," Joyce Boim said in federal court.

David Boim, 17, an aspiring doctor, was shot and killed by militants with the Palestinian group *Hamas* while waiting with three fellow students at a bus stop outside Jerusalem in March 1996.

Boim and her husband, Stanley, are suing the Texas-based charity Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, the Islamic Association for Palestine, the Quranic Literacy Institution of suburban Oak Lawn and alleged *Hamas* fund-raiser Mohammed Salah.

The Boims, Americans who moved to Israel in 1985, are suing under a U.S. law that allows victims of terrorism abroad to collect damages in American courts from organizations that furnish money to terrorist groups.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys already has ruled that Holy Land, Islamic Association for Palestine and Salah are liable for damages in the Boim shooting.

The jury is being asked to determine the amount of those damages.

Jurors are also being asked to decide if the Quranic Literacy Institute, a suburban Chicago group that translates Islamic religious texts, is also liable for damages.

In testimony Tuesday, forensic economist Stan Smith told jurors that if David Boim had fulfilled his dream of becoming a gynecologist he might have earned more than \$19 million by working until age 67 and that the total economic loss due to his death might be in the neighborhood of \$27 million, not counting pain and suffering by his family.

The lawsuit initially asked for \$600 million in damages, but Boim attorneys don't even pretend that they could ever win anything like that amount. In fact there is a question mark concerning whether they can collect much money at all.

Mother hopes to help shut off funding to terror group; Woman wants to get at terrorists she blames for the death of her son

The government already has frozen the assets of Holy Land Foundation, Quranic Literacy and Salah, saying they help to finance terrorism. Both Holy Land and Salah are currently under indictment on charges of funding *Hamas*. They have pleaded innocent.

Attorneys for most of the defendants have boycotted the trial and Quranic Literacy Institute lawyer John Beal, who has been ordered by Keys to be on hand, has declined to participate very much in the proceedings, saying he was not given time to prepare.

"Because we did not have adequate time to prepare the defendant QLI declines to present a defense," Beal told Keys Tuesday after Boim attorneys rested their case.

The victim's mother told jurors the family maintained their U.S. citizenship but moved to Jerusalem to enhance "our spiritual life."

She told jurors of her "happy, generous, very modest," son. She recounted how her potato chip-loving son once got into a tug-of-war over a bag of potato ships with a goat and the bag burst.

"The goat had a wonderful snack but David just didn't stop laughing," she said. She said that because of his killing "my life will never be the same."

In his closing argument, Boim attorney Stephen J. Landes urged jurors to make the defendants pay as a way of shutting off funds to terrorism.

"Terrorism requires money to operate," Landes said. "It's the oxygen that keeps the terrorist system going. It took money to buy the gun that killed David Boim. It took money to buy the bullets that killed David Boim."

In testimony Monday, terrorism expert Matthew Levitt said documents show Saudi financier Yasim al-Kadi, who has been designated by the government as a terrorist, funneled \$985,000 to Salah under an arrangement with the Quranic Literacy Institute.

Salah was arrested in Israel in January 1993 with a cache of money, pleaded guilty to financing <u>Hamas</u> and served five years in prison.

Load-Date: December 8, 2004



Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

The Times (London)

March 23, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 29 Length: 1605 words

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, leader of <u>Hamas</u>, was born in 1937 or 1938. He died in an Israeli missile attack on March 22, 2004.

Founder of <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic fundamentalist grouping whose ruthless methods put it at odds with the Palestinian Authority

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was the spiritual and political leader of the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u>. At the turn of the millennium this organisation gained infamy as one of the most savage organisations in the Middle East, responsible for a wave of suicide bombings that led to the death of countless civilians.

Confined to a wheelchair and speaking in small squeaks, Yassin had the demeanour of a fragile, pious sage. Yet he was possessed with an unswerving ruthlessness.

His fanaticism inspired sacrificial devotion among men willing to kill civilians in the cause of the destruction of Israel. His appeal to young Palestinians derived from his uncompromising stance and religious fervour: that no deal should be made with a state that had no right to exist.

To youths disillusioned with Yassir Arafat's more moderate -but, as they saw it, corrupt -Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yassin was an idol. Because of the adoration and loyalty he commanded, he became as much a threat to the nascent Palestinian Government as he was to the Israeli State. Yet such was the fidelity of his disciples that there was little that either government could do to remove him.

Along with several hundred thousand other Palestinians after the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, Ahmed Yassin found himself a refugee, in his case in the Gaza Strip, which had fallen under Egyptian control. Born in 1937 or 1938 in the village of Johra near the present Israeli port of Ashkelon, he spent his adolescence in the Shatti refugee camp in the Strip. As a boy he competed with other youths on the Gaza beachfront to see who could stand on his head the longest. He fell and damaged his spine, thereafter being almost paralysed and finding it hard to breathe or speak.

Yassin became a devout Muslim and moved to Egypt to study at a teacher training college. While there, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood, which had been given freedom to reorganise by the new Government of Colonel Gamal Abdel-Nasser. When the Brotherhood made an attempt on the life of Nasser, Yassin was briefly imprisoned, after which he returned to Gaza to find a job as a teacher, specialising in religious education. When the Gaza Strip was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of June 1967, the Muslim Brothers were permitted to resume their activities, as the new authorities classified them as primarily a religious network. Yassin spearheaded the organisation's revival and was elected its chairman.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

In the following years, his reputation for honesty and modest living grew, enabling him, in 1973, to set up the Islamic Centre (Mujamma al-Islami), an organisation that gathered funds from home and abroad to distribute among the needy and do other charitable work. While he was outwardly non-political, his sermons against Israel -or "the Jews", as he invariably called the country grew more shrill. He began to send emissaries into the West Bank, where the local branch of the Brotherhood was a moderate gathering, working with Jordan.

Soon, the leadership of the Brotherhood there was also his, and he began to compete for influence with the PLO under Yassir Arafat. Inevitably, clashes occurred between the supporters of the two rivals, and Yassin's followers acquired a taste for violence. At times resorting to arson and murder, they captured the leaderships of many professional associations, nominated the faculties of universities and imposed strikes.

Yassin appointed his followers as clergy in numerous mosques and ruled them all with minute attention to detail while pretending to be only their "spiritual" leader. In contrast to Arafat's Arab nationalism, which claimed that a future, recovered state of Palestine would be shared by Arabs and Jews with equal rights, Yassin advocated an Islamic state in which a small minority of Jews would be tolerated if they paid a poll tax to the Muslim power as prescribed in the Koran.

The Israeli authorities continued, however, to turn a blind eye to the Brothers' activities, treating them still as a religious network. This gave rise to speculation that Israel gave them practical help in order to sow discord among the Palestinians. No evidence of any such help has come to light. Nevertheless, Yassin's gradualist approach to the abolition of the State of Israel enabled nationalists to accuse him of collaboration.

The balance of forces inside the West Bank was crucially changed by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. When the PLO lost its virtual stranglehold over southern Lebanon and was forced to transfer its headquarters from Beirut to far-away Tunis, disillusionment set in among Arafat's supporters in the occupied territories and more young men flocked to the ranks of the Mujamma.

Thus emboldened, Yassin's followers began to amass firearms in 1983 and use them to kill suspected collaborators and impose Islamic law on the streets. When, a year later, weapons were found in Yassin's own home, he was arrested and given a prison term of 13 years, despite his claim that the weapons were for defending himself against other Palestinians, not Israel. However, his detention lasted less than a year. He was set free in an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Marxist guerrilla group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command.

The following years saw a continued deterioration in the quality of life of the Palestinians, not least due to one of the highest birthrates in the world, and so rose further the status of those who were willing to resort to arms against Israel. This resulted in the founding of a number of secret guerrilla groups, including <u>Hamas</u>, the acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Yassin.

Thus when spontaneous riots broke out in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza in December 1987 and spread to other areas, becoming known as the intifada or uprising, Yassin faced a dilemma. If he ordered open attack on the occupation forces, he risked the dismantling of all his instruments of influence, including a vast charitable network that attracted millions of dollars in donations every year from abroad. On the other hand, if he did not compete with the other armed groups, they, particularly the PLO, would use the new chaos to reorganise and expand.

He opted for the latter strategy, but told <u>Hamas</u> members to distance themselves in any interrogations from the Muslim Brotherhood and the Mujamma. Officially, however, <u>Hamas</u> proclaimed itself a wing of the Brotherhood and its charter reflected the Brothers' slogans: "Allah the goal, the Prophet the model, the Koran the constitution and jihad the path." Elsewhere in the <u>Hamas</u> charter (article 12), the traditional attitudes of the Brotherhood and their preoccupation with the minutiae of Koranic dogma reveal themselves in such exhortations as: "<u>Women</u> need no permission from their husbands to jihad against (the non-Muslim) enemy, nor slaves the permission of their masters."

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

The strategy worked only partially. In May 1989 Yassin and a number of his senior commanders were arrested and tried for the kidnapping and murder of two Israeli soldiers. He was given two consecutive life sentences plus 15 years. His removal effectively paralysed *Hamas* and practically ended his rule over the organisation.

But by then his creation was so advanced that it could survive without him. Soon, some of his agents in the United States were brought home to reorganise the subversive cells, and the campaign of violence resumed with new ferocity.

A mistake was made by Israel in December 1992, when more than 400 leaders and activists of <u>Hamas</u> were dumped in southern Lebanon. There, they were financed by Iran and taught new, deadlier techniques of killing, such as the brainwashing of recruits as suicide bombers. When Israel allowed the exiles back a year later, they came with their new expertise.

Mistakes were also made by some Western governments. Britain's lax immigration laws enabled <u>Hamas</u> to situate its entire military leadership among London's large Arab community in 1992 and 1993. This enabled some Israelis to allege that "Arabists" who predominated in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office connived with Muslim terrorists. No evidence has been provided to prove the claim.

Sheikh Yassin's second incarceration also ended prematurely. In October 1997 Israel again freed him, in an exchange of prisoners with Jordan. But by then his function as the iron-fisted single ruler of <u>Hamas</u> had ended. Younger, even tougher men had taken his place in a collective leadership, and his function was now to be an inspiration and a spokesman only. He continued to say that <u>Hamas</u> would agree to a ceasefire with Israel if it withdrew from all the territories captured in 1967, especially east Jerusalem. But he made it clear that the arrangement would be temporary to enable the Islamic state to prepare for the final assault.

In 2001 and 2002, Yassir Arafat made two half-hearted attempts to arrest Yassin to placate the United States and avert pressure to give up the leadership of the Palestinian Authority in favour of a moderate figure. But both attempts were beaten back by Yassin's supporters who were expecting them. It can certainly be argued that the rivalry between the two men made both more intransigent than they might have been, and at times *Hamas*'s resort to murder enabled Arafat to depict himself as the more reasonable of the two Palestinian leaders.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

Sunday Express April 18, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 1099 words

Byline: By Tim Shipman DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Body

MI6 COULD take charge of peacekeeping in the Gaza Strip under secret plans that would see British spies working alongside members of terrorist groups like *Hamas*.

The controversial proposals may explain Tony Blair's relaxed attitude to Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, endorsed last week by President Bush.

The Secret Intelligence Service has been in talks with <u>Hamas</u>, the Fatah Tanzim and al Aqsa Brigades and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in a bid to quash violence when Israeli troops pull out. The early stages of negotiations with <u>Hamas</u> were conducted by former MI6 man Alistair Crooke, a veteran of secret talks with the IRA in the 1990s and the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

He was forced to flee the Middle East in fear of his life last September after a previous deal he brokered with <u>Hamas</u> broke down. But since then diplomatic and security sources in the UK and Israel say a new plan has been drawn up by MI6 that would work with the fanatics.

Mr Blair supported Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement that troops and settlers will pull out of Gaza as a way of kickstarting the "road map" peace process. But for the move to be a step forward, militants in Gaza will have to be controlled. Mr Blair yesterday appeared to confirm that Britain would get involved in security issues, when he said he would tell the Palestinians: "We will now help you, economically, politically and in security terms to build the beginnings of a Palestinian Authority capable of wielding power." The 40-page MI6 plan spells out how, in return for preventing suicide bombers passing into Israel, the Palestinian groups in Gaza would get a guarantee that their heavy weapons will not be confiscated.

Palestinian security chief Mohammad Dahlan, a key figure in the plan, has just returned to the Middle East from Cambridge, where he was attending a finishing school "to improve his English". But security sources say that was a cover for secret meetings with intelligence officers, who briefed him on their proposals for Gaza.

Shmuel Bar, senior research fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy in Herzliya, said: "The UK government is considering possible British participation in peacekeeping in Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal."

Mr Bar, who has close links with Israeli security officials, added: "UK diplomats and security officials have formulated a proposal for a new security plan for Gaza. The plan was drafted by officers of Ml6 and was discussed during the meeting between Blair and the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei in London.

FOCUS: BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

"The plan is based on co-opting of all factions into a Gaza security regime.

The quid pro quo for co-opting the militant factions would be a commitment not to attempt to disarm them or to decommission their heavy weapons."

A diplomat in London confirmed:

"There is an increasing footprint of British personnel on the ground in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The idea is to neutralise the militants by involving them. British guards are already helping to run one prison in Jericho, where six militants are held."

The Sunday Express was alerted to the proposal by a member of the Jewish community in London, who is uneasy about the close relationship between MI6 and terror groups that have murdered hundreds of <u>women</u> and children in suicide bomb attacks.

A member of Labour Friends of Israel said:

"There is a lot going on that the British public are unaware of. The Government ought to come clean about exactly what we are up to out there. Previous efforts in this direction have not been conspicuously successful."

The plans, which are strongly opposed by some senior figures in the American and Israeli governments, are just the latest attempt by MI6 to match Mr Blair's rhetoric about positive engagement in the Middle East peace process with positive action behind the scenes.

They come two years after MI6 set up two security offices in Jenin and Gaza.

They were shut down for lack of serious Palestinian cooperation.

They were the brainchild of Mr Crooke, 54, who was made security adviser to the EU's special envoy to the Middle East seven years ago because of his experience during the peace talks in Northern Ireland.

But his attempts to repeat his trick with the IRA, of bringing the terrorists into the political process, collapsed in failure when the truces he negotiated collapsed after Israel assassinated *Hamas*'s military commander.

The activities of Mr Crooke, described by one Israeli newspaper as "brave to the point of madness", enraged the Israelis, since he did not try to persuade militant groups not to attack Israeli military targets or settlers. Tensions are now even higher after the killing of wheelchair-bound *Hamas* spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin last month.

Mr Crooke was also involved in negotiations to end the Israeli army's sieges of Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002.

THAT led to a British prison warder, who used to guard IRA men in the Maze, taking charge of six Palestinians in a Jericho prison. They are still there under British and US guard. Mr Crooke is understood not to be in Israel now, but the new plans follow the blueprint he left behind. They envisage joint British-Palestinian "situation rooms" and 12 task forces made up of the different Palestinian factions.

Mr Dahlan would then take charge of security. Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat's economic adviser, Mohammad Rashid, is also seen as a lynchpin, because he can "deliver Arafat". On the other side, once Israel has withdrawn from Gaza, Mr Sharon will agree not to attack members of the militant factions in the Strip.

The political wing of <u>Hamas</u> has indicated its willingness to participate in a Gaza security regime, which it hopes will lend it more international acceptability, but the plan seems certain to face fierce opposition in Washington and Tel Aviv, where leaders prefer confrontation to engagement with **Hamas**.

British diplomats are convinced that withdrawing from Gaza will not improve Israeli security unless the militant groups are dealt with.

FOCUS; BRITISH SPIES IN SECRET DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS TO BRING PEACE TO GAZA

A leaked copy of Mr Sharon's plans, seen by the Sunday Express, states:

"The Gaza Strip will be demilitarised of weapons. Israel retains the basic right to self defence, including preemptive steps and response, with the use of force, against threats emanating from this area."

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at a Gaza checkpoint, injuring four security men. *Hamas* and the Al Agsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed joint responsibility.

Load-Date: April 19, 2004



Madonna embarks on world tour

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 26, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Prince George Citizen All Rights Reserved

Section: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 17

Length: 216 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: LOS ANGELES

Body

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Madonna says she has cancelled three Israeli stops on her Re-Invention tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group *Hamas*.

Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour this week in Los Angeles, told Access Hollywood that her manager wouldn't let her travel to Israel because of the "attack on the leader of *Hamas*."

"It's not a good idea to go there and do concerts," she told the syndicated entertainment TV show in an interview.

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3.

Asked by Access Hollywood if she had been threatened, she replied: "No, if I had my way, I'd go. My manager wouldn't let me." Madonna, who practices Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah, included provocative images in the tour, such as video footage of a Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy walking arm-in-arm, and simulated sex during a tango with a *female* dancer.

The 18-city tour ends Sept. 5 in Paris with stops in Las Vegas, New York, Toronto, Manchester and London.

Israel's military killed the founder of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in March and the group's Gaza leader, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, in April.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Madonna performs at the Great Western Forum in Los Angeles.;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006



Israel bus bombings kill at least 16

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. C4

Length: 567 words

Byline: Associated Press; Canadian Press

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL

Body

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

The explosions, for which the <u>Hamas</u> militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 metres from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter, 50, a college lecturer.

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

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

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

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

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

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

Israel bus bombings kill at least 16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Israeli police officers and rescue volunteers gather bodies in front of a destroyed bus at the scene of a double-bombing Tuesday in Beersheba, Israel

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



Cowen speaks out on barrier; NEWS BRIEF

Irish News January 16, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 20

Length: 360 words

Body

THE Republic's minister for foreign affairs, Brian Cowen, yesterday criticised the separation barrier that Israel is building in the West Bank, weeks before the world court is due to look at the legality of the structure.

With the Irish government currently holding the rotating presidency of the EU, Mr Cowen said the union had not taken a position regarding the case before the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

But he said the EU was unhappy with the route of the controversial barrier.

Sections of the partially completed 400-mile long complex of razor wire, fences, concrete walls and ditches cut deep into Palestinian territory in the West Bank.

"We have a serious problem in relation to the direction of the fence inside the territories, " Mr Cowen said at a news conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, adding that he recognised Israel's "legitimate" security interests.

"The position of the European Union on that particular aspect has been made clear, " he said.

Israel says the barrier is needed to keep Palestinian suicide bombers from entering the country. But the Palestinians say the barrier will confiscate large portions of Palestinian land into Israeli control.

Meanwhile the young mother who blew herself up along with four Israelis on Wednesday was given a martyr's funeral in Gaza city yesterday.

Thousands marched through the streets in the funeral procession of <u>Hamas</u> bomber Reem Raiyshi (22) who left behind a daughter aged 18 months and a three-year-old son.

It was believed to be the first time that *Hamas* had sent a woman on a suicide mission.

Masked gunmen from both <u>Hamas</u> and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the <u>Hamas</u> green flag, the first time that the rival Palestinian militant groups have marched together.

Israel usually keeps the bodies of suicide bombers, burying them in unmarked graves, to forestall celebratory funerals.

The military did not say why it decided to return Ms Raiyshi's body to the Palestinians.

Cowen speaks out on barrier; NEWS BRIEF

Israel closed crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs. The Israelis said only humanitarian cases would qualify for crossing.

Graphic

FUNERAL PROCESSION: Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of <u>female</u> suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi through the streets of Gaza yesterday PICTURE: Hatem Moussa/AP

Load-Date: January 23, 2004



Mother's only wish was to die a martyr

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 16, 2004 Friday

Late Edition

Copyright 2004 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

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

Length: 351 words

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

Body

Palestinian militant groups use suicide bombers as political currency, and usually their faces and praises are postered all over their home towns within hours of their deaths.

Unusually, though, little is yet known about Reem Raiyshi, the 22-year-old mother who blew herself up in a Gaza industrial estate on Wednesday, killing four young Israeli guards and wounding seven other people, including four Palestinians. She is believed to be the first mother to carry out such an attack.

Immediately after the 10am attack, the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed her as the first woman suicide bomber to die on its orders although several other <u>women</u> have died for less conservative groups and set up the customary mourning tent near her home. But the traditional glossy posters of the "martyr" were absent and, even more unusually, so were her husband and much of her middle-class merchant family.

Her brother, who acted as chief mourner, refused to talk to reporters and local *Hamas* supporters warned them off approaching her home.

The dead woman's brother-in-law, Yusuf Awad, told Associated Press she and her husband had fought with the family a couple of months earlier and she had disappeared.

"We were not expecting that from her," he said, referring to the terrorist attack. "We would not have thought it possible."

Raiyshi left behind a three-year-old son, Obedia, an 18-month old daughter, Doha, and a video recorded just before her death. Cradling an assault rifle and flanked by green <u>Hamas</u> flags, the young woman said she had dreamt of martyrdom from the age of 13.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said, smiling. "That is the only wish I can ask God for."

She concluded: "God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them."

"Abu Jihad", a 22-year-old <u>Hamas</u> member attending her mourning tent, said he had not known Raiyshi but that sometimes she had come to the place where young men studied the Koran. "Really, I am jealous of her," he said. "I hope and I wish to be in her place one day."

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Israel acts to end a road block to peace

The Australian

March 24, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-TYPE- LEADER-COLUMN- LEADER; Pg. 14

Length: 798 words

Body

FOR a civilised state to use peacetime murder as an instrument of policy is deeply troubling. The ambivalence and antipathy that even friends of Israel feel over the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is understandable. While the world is long past the point where enemy leaders are off limits in wartime, using missiles fired from a helicopter gunship to kill an elderly cleric, confined to a wheelchair, looks like an exceptionally brutal act. Except when the cleric's stated goal was to destroy the state of Israel and when he had a terrorist organisation to do his bidding. MATP

Israel's action will do its cause no good with people who focus on the killing of Sheikh Yassin, rather than the circumstances that led to it. The sheikh was the founder of *Hamas*, an organisation of terrorists with a single-minded dedication to slaughtering ordinary Israelis, and anybody else who gets in the way. *Hamas* is beyond the control of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, and in the murky, murderous politics of anti-Israel terror does pretty much what it likes. And this means suicide bombings, where young people destroy themselves and their victims in restaurants, on buses, at oil refineries and industrial plants, anywhere in Israel where they can kill and maim. Israel estimates Sheikh Yassin's followers have killed 350 people, a third of the total number of victims of terror attacks there since 2000. Rather than just condemn Israel, the opponents of Sheikh Yassin's execution should ask themselves why a government should have no right to defend its people, Jews and Muslims alike, against such an implacable foe.

Any argument that the sheikh should have been left untouched, free to promote <u>Hamas</u>'s dream of the destruction of the Jewish state, is far more morally ambiguous than Israel's act. Sheikh Yassin wanted a Palestine that stretched from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, which inevitably means an end to Israel in any recognisable form. It is a fanciful goal: no combination of nations, certainly no band of terrorists in the Middle East, have the resources or skill to defeat the Israeli armed forces in a conventional conflict. But Sheikh Yassin was thinking for the long haul and did not care how many generations it took to destroy Israel. In the short term the organisation he led was happy to kill as many Israelis as it could and took apparent pride in using adolescents --told that their acts of murder and suicide would bring divine reward -- to do it. <u>Hamas</u>'s recent interest in encouraging young <u>women</u> to atone for so-called sexual infidelity by becoming suicide bombers demonstrates the medieval mind-set of this grotesque organisation.

Regardless of Israel's reasons, opponents of Sheikh Yassin's execution argue it will not stop the killing. They say violence will only beget violence and that it will sabotage the peace process. But as far as <u>Hamas</u> is concerned there is no possibility of peace because the organisation does not believe that Muslims should accept the Jewish state. Certainly <u>Hamas</u> and its confederates in terror will now likely retaliate by killing as many non-combatants as they can. While men who have built their careers on promising to destroy Israel dominate Palestinian politics there will always be dispossessed young people deluded into thinking that mass murder is God's work. And Israeli policy

Israel acts to end a road block to peace

largely accepts this. The Sharon Government wants to leave the Gaza Strip altogether and withdraw behind the anti-terror wall, being built to incorporate all of Israel plus occupied Palestinian territory. This is a defensive strategy designed to reduce the butcher's bill that suicide bombings impose on the Israeli people. But it is not a complete defence and one way or another the bombers will always get through. Which is why Israel has little option but to decapitate organisations like *Hamas* by killing their ideologues and strategists.

While there is little chance that the killing of Sheikh Yassin will end the terror, the brutal reality is that Israel has nothing to lose. While Sheikh Yassin lived there was no reason to think the suicide attacks would stop. At worst his death will mean the attacks continue as before. But at best Sheikh Yassin's death will demonstrate Israel is not an inert target and that it will do more than try to catch the suicide bombers before they strike. His execution sends a clear message to the entire Palestinian leadership, especially Yasser Arafat, they can be held accountable for their actions in either encouraging or ordering terror attacks. Despite the denunciations of Israel's action, practical Palestinian politicians who know the Jewish state cannot be destroyed will not regret the death of Sheikh Yassin. His death is one small step along the path away from perpetual war.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



Live by the sword ...

Ottawa Citizen

March 23, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A12; Editorial

Length: 516 words

Body

Whether yesterday's assassination of <u>Hamas</u> founder Ahmed Yassin was a good thing depends on the answer to two questions: 1) Is the world better off without Sheik Yassin? and 2) Was it in Israel's strategic interest to kill him? In both cases, the answer is yes.

Ahmed Yassin was among the most brazen killers that the modern Middle East has produced, which is quite an achievement when you look at the competition. His hands were stained with the blood of hundreds, and we aren't referring only to Israeli civilians who died in the Palestinian terror attacks he supervised. We're also thinking of the Palestinian children whom he taught to believe that death is preferable to life and that a good Muslim is one who immolates himself in a pizzeria or a discotheque.

The Ottawa Citizen

In interviews, you could see the old man take lascivious delight in the blood of his followers -- followers such as Reem Riyashi, a Palestinian who blew herself up in January, leaving her two children motherless. "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyrdom operation, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said in a videotaped message. Shortly after, Mr. Yassin ghoulishly confirmed that <u>Hamas</u> was now recruiting <u>female</u> bombers.

Clearly, the world is better off without Mr. Yassin. But should Israel have been the one to provide that service? The usual suspects, from Amnesty International to Canada's Foreign Minister Bill Graham, have condemned Israel for carrying out an "extra-judicial killing." Meanwhile, the Arab street is inflamed. In the best of times it's easy to find crowds chanting "Death to the Jews," but in Gaza some 200,000 took to the street. Could it be that the benefits of eliminating Mr. Yassin are outweighed by the costs, such as renewed terrorism and international criticism?

We don't think so. Killing Mr. Yassin hasn't made Israel more vulnerable to attack. For <u>Hamas</u>, the fact of Israel's existence was always sufficient motive. When Israel elects left-wing governments, <u>Hamas</u> sees it as a sign of weakness and calls for more martyrs. When Israel elects hawkish governments, <u>Hamas</u> sees it as provocation and calls for more martyrs.

The same applies to international opinion. In many quarters, dislike of Israel seems unconnected to any particular policy the Jewish state undertakes. In the 1980s, Israel was condemned for refusing to accept a two-state solution. In the 1990s, after accepting in principle a two-state solution, Israel was condemned for not acquiescing to national suicide and allowing Palestinian refugees to flood Israel proper. Israelis learned long ago that showing restraint in the face of terrorism earns them no favour, either with the United Nations or with the terrorists.

And so they decided to take the fight to Mr. Yassin directly. "Whoever is involved in the planning, orchestration, execution or leadership of terrorism must understand that Israel will not sit idly by and wait for the next suicide

Live by the sword ...

bomber to appear on the streets of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv," said the Israeli Foreign Ministry yesterday. It's hard to argue with that.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



Thousands cast ballots in Palestinian elections

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

December 24, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; NEWS

Length: 692 words

Dateline: JERICHO, WEST BANK

Body

Thousands of Palestinians crammed polling stations in scattered West Bank towns to vote in municipal elections yesterday that were a warmup for next month's presidential ballot, and the first time the ruling Fatah movement and the Islamic militant group *Hamas* competed for voter support.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who cast his ballot in the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, praised the vote in 26 West Bank municipalities as "the first step toward the establishment of the Palestinian state."

Voting in an additional 600 towns and villages was expected to be held next year.

Long lines formed at polling stations in the West Bank town of Jericho, with some voters complaining they had to wait for more than four hours and still had not been able to cast their ballots. Still, many said they were eager to vote in their first local election since 1976.

Associated Press

"It doesn't matter, one or two hours. I'm going to vote. I have been waiting for this for a long time," said farmer Nabil Abu Kattan, 48.

Over the past three decades, Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza have been run by appointed mayors, first those chosen by the Israeli military and then by the Palestinian Authority.

The late Yasser Arafat had been reluctant to allow municipal elections, fearing that <u>Hamas</u>, the largest opposition group, would make a strong showing. <u>Hamas</u> has grown in popularity during the more than four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, providing social services with its private schools and clinics.

The date for yesterday's elections was set before Arafat's death in November. The 26 communities chosen for the first round are Fatah strongholds, said Ali Jarbawi, former head of the Central Elections Commission.

Yesterday marked the first time Fatah and <u>Hamas</u> were competing at the polls. <u>Hamas</u>, which is pledged to Israel's destruction, boycotted the 1996 general election because it was a byproduct of interim peace deals with Israel.

<u>Hamas</u> is also boycotting the Jan. 9 presidential elections, but plans to field candidates in future parliamentary and local elections.

Some 150,000 Palestinians were eligible to vote in yesterday's elections. About 800 candidates are vying for 360 municipal council positions. Some seats were reserved for **women**.

Thousands cast ballots in Palestinian elections

At a Jericho girls' school that had been converted into a polling station, hundreds waited to vote, filing past a cartoon poster showing people how to vote and instructing them not to smoke or carry guns inside. "Voting is a right and that right is yours," the poster said.

The polls opened about half an hour late there -- and at other stations in town -- because the election commission was late in delivering the ballot boxes.

"Just the crush of people was totally unexpected," said Nasser Awanja, the election official in charge of the station.

"Because it has been since 1976 since we have had elections they are really fired up," he said.

Long lines snaked around polling stations in the village of Tubas in the northern West Bank, and some of the candidates handed out sandwiches and juice to waiting voters.

"I have been standing here for an hour and half with my wife who is pregnant. She can't stand for long so I took her home and now I have come back to vote," said Musharef Mahmoud, 43. He would be very angry if his wife does not get a chance to vote, he said.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat met Wednesday with Israeli officials to discuss arrangements for the presidential election. Israel has said it would withdraw troops from Palestinian cities a day before the vote, for 72 hours.

Meanwhile, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired 20 mortar shells at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, injuring an Israeli man. Most of the shells were fired from the Khan Younis refugee camp in southern Gaza, a day after the Israeli military raided the camp to stop the firing.

Later yesterday, one person was killed and four seriously wounded in an explosion in a house in Khan Younis. Palestinians said the blast was caused by a tank shell, but the army denied it had fired in the area. The army said its troops saw a massive explosion that ripped the roof of the house.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; An elderly Palestinian woman looks for her name on a voter list during municipal elections yesterday in the West Bank town of Jericho.

Load-Date: December 24, 2004



Israelis kill terror chief

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 422 words

Byline: IBRAHIM BARZAK

Body

call to war

ISRAELI troops killed <u>Hamas</u> founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque yesterday, prompting threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Sheikh Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians carrying billowing green <u>Hamas</u> flags flooded the streets of Gaza City for the funeral procession.

Mourners jostled to touch Sheikh Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and <u>women</u> ululated and threw flowers. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said <u>Hamas</u> official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Sheikh Yassin.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz pledged that "the battle against <u>Hamas</u> will continue," suggesting there will be more air strikes and raids aimed at the militant group.

The United States urged both sides to show restraint.

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as the wheelchair-bound Sheikh Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City. Sheikh Yassin and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons.

Three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later yesterday, one while handling explosives and two by Israeli army fire, during a protest against the Yassin killing, Palestinian hospital officials said.

In a West Bank refugee camp, a Palestinian radio journalist covering clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian stone throwers was killed by army fire soon after wrapping up a broadcast, residents said.

The army said it had killed a gunman after coming under fire, but had no information on a reporter being shot.

Israelis kill terror chief

Israel held Yassin responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a former general, was at his ranch in southern Israel at the time of the missile strike, and was briefed by phone throughout the operation.

"The Israeli air force this morning killed the mastermind of all evil, Ahmed Yassin, who was a preacher of death," said the army spokeswoman, Brigadier Gen Ruth Yaron. The Israeli Defence Minister said Yassin was the "Palestinian bin Laden."

Load-Date: March 22, 2004



<u>Lebanon is back on U.S. radar Divisions, threats lie beneath shiny surface of</u> <u>re-emerging nation</u>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)
September 25, 2005 Sunday
FOURTH EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc. **Section:** NEWSWATCH; Pg. B1

Length: 1422 words

Byline: By Jon Sawyer POST-DISPATCH WASHINGTON BUREAU

Dateline: BEIRUT, LEBANON

Body

The scene in New York this past week was carefully choreographed, as the United States, Europe and the United Nations joined to pledge help for Lebanon as it tries to reinvigorate its democracy and shed its quarter-century domination by Syria.

In Beirut, the scene was rather more chaotic.

The leader of the militant Hezbollah resistance group declared "open war" against foreign "hegemony."

Politicians across the board assailed the New York meetings as signs of capitulation to foreign pressure, especially on the sensitive issue of disarming Hezbollah.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora continued to press for the immediate resignation of President Emile Lahoud, the pro-Syrian leader whose top aides have been implicated in the assassination last February of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The outcome of the people-power "Cedar Revolution" that erupted after Hariri's death remains far from clear -- and so, too, the repercussions of deeper U.S. engagement in Lebanon, a country that touches volatile interests from Iran and Syria to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"They are interfering here, and they are entering again into a minefield," said Sheikh Nabil Kawook, commander of Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon. "They are getting again into the Lebanese quagmire."

The sleek new restaurants of downtown Beirut are far removed from the carnage of the 1970s and 1980s. Christian, Shiite and Sunni militias fought a savage war then that was further complicated by the presence of Palestinian refugees, an Israeli occupying army in the south and, briefly, U.S. troops, who were driven out after a Hezbollah-linked attack killing 242 Marines and sailors that marked the debut of suicide bombing as a force in international politics.

Two decades later, Lebanon is a place of promise but also paradox and peril, at once the most Western-oriented of any Middle Eastern country but also subject to its own religious divisions and the often-demonstrated aggression of

Lebanon is back on U.S. radar Divisions, threats lie beneath shiny surface of re-emerging nation

its neighbors. In the impoverished and deeply religious Shiite villages of southern Lebanon, basic government services are provided by Hezbollah, the group designated as terrorist by the U.S. government and credited with driving Israeli occupation forces out of the country in 2000.

North of Beirut, the far more prosperous suburbs hugging the hills above the Mediterranean Sea remain almost exclusively Christian.

A nation divided

In between lies Beirut itself, a welter of contradictions.

Go down to the swank new downtown, built near the no-man's-land that divided Christian and Muslim communities during the war, and you'll find rich Saudi businessmen and stylish <u>women</u> in skin-tight clothes whiling away evenings in sidewalk cafes.

Drive a couple of miles south and the scene abruptly shifts, to teeming neighborhoods of jerry-built apartments patrolled by Hezbollah guards. In the same area, sprawling beyond its initial lines, is the Sabra and Shatila camp for Palestinians. This is where at least 800 residents were slaughtered in 1982 when Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, then defense minister, unleashed an allied Christian militia. Two decades later, some 300,000 Palestinians remain, still denied basic political and civil rights.

Data on the Palestinian population are fairly accurate, thanks to the presence of U.N. relief agencies and Palestinian organizations. The same cannot be said for the country as whole. The population is believed to total some 4 million, but no census has been conducted since 1932.

The division then was roughly 50-50 between Christians and Muslims, and the country's political structure reflects that still, even though independent experts say Christians' share of the population has dropped since to only a third. Seats in the parliament are still evenly divided. Only Christians can be elected president while the job of prime minister is reserved for Sunni Muslims and that of speaker of the parliament goes to Shiites.

The murder of Hariri in February sparked public demonstrations nearly a million strong and demands for both justice and true democracy. Progress since has been substantial: the withdrawal of Syrian troops, election of a reform government, the beginning of a U.N.-backed investigation into Hariri's killing that has already produced the arrests of four senior military and security officials.

"We prefer peace"

How far the reformers would actually go remains much in question.

Listen, for example, to Ghattas Khoury, a leader of the Cedar Revolution and close associate to Saad Hariri, son of the late prime minister. Khoury, a Christian, talks with passion about creating a nonsectarian state where officials are chosen on the basis of "good citizenship" rather than religious faith.

But not anytime soon, he hastens to add.

"Not in 10 years," he says. "Maybe in 30."

Khoury also warned against pressure for faster change from U.S. or other outside interests. "The world should not look at us as an experimental field," he said. "We are not guinea pigs for democracy in the world."

Lebanese also chafe at U.S. talk of developments as part of a grander, pan-Middle East project of democratization. Representatives of most Lebanese factions were always skeptical of such rhetoric; in the wake of the U.S. war on Iraq, such sentiments are broader still.

Lebanon is back on U.S. radar Divisions, threats lie beneath shiny surface of re-emerging nation

Yusuf al-Yemeni, 42, is a Lebanese carpenter who has lived for 15 years in Sabra and Shatila, where he crafts billiard and foosball tables in an open-air shop. He has a brother in Detroit, Palestinian in-laws and a keen sense of vulnerability to events beyond this street.

"I'm involved in politics, as is everyone in this situation," al-Yemeni said. "We've experienced the era of turmoil. We prefer to live in peace."

At first, al-Yemeni offers a show of support to President George W. Bush -- "he chops the head of any tyrant in the world" -- but then adds that "Bush might be a tyrant as well."

On the wall of the shop, he has mounted a poster that shows an American GI holding a wad of Iraqi currency. Underneath, in Arabic, the slogan reads, "They stole the oil -- and the money, too."

Helping bin Laden?

A few blocks from al-Yemeni's shop is the Beirut headquarters of <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Palestinian resistance group that the State Department has designated a terrorist group since 1993.

Usamah Hamdan, the Lebanese representative of <u>Hamas</u>, noted in an interview Thursday that <u>Hamas</u> has recently sought to moderate its stance. Earlier this year, it imposed a pause in attacks on Israelis; it also announced its intent to compete in Palestinian elections for the first time.

Hamdan said that as of March, <u>Hamas</u> also had initiated "an indirect channel" with former U.S. officials aimed at softening Bush administration opposition to a greater <u>Hamas</u> role in the Palestinian government.

"I hope something positive will come of this," Hamdan said. "I believe we have to try, and we are trying hard."

But the task is much harder, he said, in the wake of the U.S.-led war on Iraq -- a war that he said has greatly increased both hostility toward the United States and support for the al-Qaida Islamist organization of Osama bin Laden.

In February 2003, just before the Iraq war, Hamdan told the Post-Dispatch in an interview in Beirut that <u>Hamas</u> renounced bin Laden and his cause. "We think that his actions were more harmful to Muslims than any action by anyone anywhere."

Last week, Hamdan said <u>Hamas'</u> view hadn't changed. The organization publicly denounced the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he noted, and every attack associated with al-Qaida since.

What has changed, he said, is the attitude of rank-and-file <u>Hamas</u> members, and of the broader Muslim public -- as evidenced, he said, in opposition to <u>Hamas</u> attempts at direct negotiation with American representatives.

"The normal people say 'No, you are talking to the government which is supporting the Israelis, who are killing our people. You are talking to the government which occupies Iraq, which killed 200,000 people. You are talking to the government which is against all the region."

Hamdan said that in his view, U.S. policies over the past three years have played into bin Laden's hands.

"They helped him a lot," he said, "in developing his support among the people and in bringing the people closer to believing that there is no way to deal with the Americans except for the Osama bin Laden way."

Reporter Jon Sawyer writes about foreign policy and is the chief of the Post-Dispatch's Washington bureau. He traveled to Lebanon on a reporting trip sponsored by the Reuters and Stanley foundations.

Notes

Middle East "minefield"?

Graphic

MAP

MAP - MIDDLE EAST MINE FIELD PHOTO BY Jon Sawyer | Post-Dispatch - Yusuf al-Yemeni, 42, puts the finishing touches on a foosball table at his carpentry shop in Sabra and Shatila, the Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut where a number of Lebanese now live as well. Al-Yemeni, like many Lebanese, has mixed view about U.S. policies in the region. PHOTO - Hamdan <u>Hamas</u> representative in Lebanon

Load-Date: September 26, 2005



Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader

Financial Times (London, England)

October 30, 2004 Saturday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2004 The Financial Times Limited

Section: MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 6

Length: 406 words

Byline: By WALID EL-GABRY and KIM GHATTAS

Dateline: SOUTH LEBANON

Body

Palestinian refugees huddled in front of the television yesterday to catch as many glimpses as possible of Yassir Arafat as he made his way to France.

<u>Women</u> shed some tears as they watched the pictures of the frail Palestinian leader being lifted into a helicopter and many of the men reminisced about the time they spent alongside Abu Amar (Arafat), during his time as a fighter in Lebanon.

"I love him, my wife loves him, we all love him deeply," said Khaled Aref, the camp commander of Fatah, Mr Arafat's faction in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I've known Abu Amar since the 1960s; we fought together. The last time I saw him was in 1990, in Baghdad, and I last spoke to him just two weeks ago. We all pray for his safe return. He is our father."

Mr Aref said that no one could replace Mr Arafat as a leader and a symbol for the Palestinian struggle but that everything was in place to take over the day-to-day business of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in his absence.

During previous visits to the camp, which houses about 70,000 refugees, people have often complained that Mr Arafat let them down; but yesterday there was no talk of the failings of the 75-year-old leader, only praise.

"What are we going to do without him, what will happen to us if he's gone?" asked Umm Mohammed, shaking her head. "The world will forget about us Palestinian refugees if Abu Amar isn't there. We all need to pray for his well-being."

Ain el-Helweh, the biggest of Lebanon's 12 Palestinian refugee camps, has representatives of all Palestinian factions, from <u>Hamas</u> to Fatah, to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the more fringe Islamist groups such as Jund el-Sham and Usbat al-Ansar.

Until a month ago, it was the scene of regular fighting between these groups, but with all eyes focused on Mr Arafat, disputes appear to have been set aside.

Factions forget disputes as they rally behind ailing leader

"All the factions here know that the real enemy is Israel, we should not be fighting each other. There are Palestinian institutions in place to take care of things in case something bad were to happen to Abu Amar," said Abu Ahmad Fadl, the local *Hamas* leader.

Political sensitivities are difficult to hide, however.

Outside the Khaled ben Walid mosque, popular with members of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, posters of the late <u>Hamas</u> leaders Ahmad Yassin and Abdelaziz Rantissi covered the walls. There were no pictures of Mr Arafat and no mention of him during Friday payers.

Load-Date: October 30, 2004



16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;

Irish News September 01, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 20

Length: 604 words

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group <u>Hamas</u> as vengence for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

"People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running, " witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer, said.

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

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

After the attacks, Mr Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Mr Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

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

They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

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

16 passengers killed in bus suicide bombs;

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

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

The attack was the deadliest since a <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

<u>Hamas</u> has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

Israeli radio reports tentatively identified one of the bombers as Ahmed Qawasmeh from the West Bank city of Hebron and soldiers later went to his home to question relatives.

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

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

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

Israeli officials yesterday repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the main reason for the slowdown in attacks.

The barrier, which is about onequarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area.

"Unfortunately Israel has to lose more innocent civilians to prove to the world the necessity and justice of the fence,

" Dore Gold, an adviser to Mr Sharon, said.

Graphic

ATTACKS: Rescue workers examine the remains of a destroyed bus in Beersheba PICTURE: AP

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



LETTER: YASSIN AND THE MORALITY OF KILLING

The Independent (London)
March 24, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 30

Length: 258 words

Byline: JACK COHEN

Body

Sir: In the wake of the killing of Sheikh Yassin many outrageous statements have been made in the media, such as that peace prospects in the Middle East will now be set back.

How absurd.

If anyone can find any statement of Yassin in favour of peace with Israel I'd like to see it; he was the most vitriolic anti-peace leader amongst the Palestinians, and was responsible for organising suicide bombings. The recent <u>Hamas</u> use of <u>women</u> bombers was personally justified by Yassin in Islamic religious terms. The removal of Yassin makes the prospects for peace better in the longer run rather than worse.

<u>Hamas</u> is responsible for the murder of about 500 Israelis and 3,000 injured in the past three years. Should we in Israel just keep taking this terrible toll while doing nothing in response?

I have heard commentators say that Israel's act will result in increased terrorism. On the contrary, <u>Hamas</u> has been fully deployed to try to carry out a successful operation in Israel, and removing its leadership will only hamper its capability to respond.

Those who hypocritically criticise Israel for doing what they would be happy to do to their own terrorist enemies will in time benefit from this act. If a US marine had Osama bin Laden in his sights would he not pull the trigger? If a Spanish guardia civil similarly had the leader of the gang that blew up 200 Spaniards in Madrid last week would he not likewise be justified in shooting him? Let the EU and UK dry their crocodile tears and be glad at the removal of Yassin.

JACK COHEN

Netanya, Israel

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



<u>INSIDE</u>

The New York Times
August 28, 2005 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 342 words

Body

Shadowy *Hamas* Leader Threatens Israel and Abbas

One of Israel's most-wanted men, the <u>Hamas</u> military leader Muhammad Deif, issued a video in which he warns the Palestinian Authority not to try to confiscate <u>Hamas</u>'s weapons and promises Israelis that "all of Palestine will become a hell" for them. PAGE 11

Base Closing Panel Finishes

A federal commission wrapped up its review of the Defense Department's plan to close and consolidate domestic military bases. If its plan is approved by President Bush and Congress, more than 20 major bases will close over the next six years and there will be a major reshuffling of Air National Guard units. PAGE 19

Tipping New Jersey's Court

For all the attention being paid to the nomination of Judge John G. Roberts Jr. on the federal level, New Jersey's next governor will have to replace two retiring Supreme Court justices on the seven-member state panel. Three others will face reappointment after their first seven years on the court. PAGE 23

Where's That Hedge Fund?

People who invested money with the Bayou Group, a hedge-fund firm in Connecticut, are dying to find out what has happened to their money. But their phone calls to the firm are going unanswered, and some are fearing the worst. SUNDAY BUSINESS

Six-String Revolutionary

Charles R. Cross has written a biography of Jimi Hendrix that puts a new focus on his childhood, revealing a lifelong psychic wound that left him seeking the love and stability he never got as a boy. BOOK REVIEW

Arguing Baseball

A theological dispute is shaking the national pastime. Is it a game of soft and fuzzy intuition, or of cold hard data? WEEK IN REVIEW

College Football Preview

The spread offense catches on, and Southern California -- led by quarterback Matt Leinart, right -- faces challenges as it seeks a third consecutive national title. With looks at other contenders and the season's top players. SPORTSSUNDAY

INSIDE

T: Women's Fashion

From dark, sexy tops and dresses with a Victorian flair to dazzling prints, The New York Times Style Magazine showcases the best for fall.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: August 28, 2005



Israel shuts border to Gaza Strip until Sunday: Move is a reponse to suicide bombing

Ottawa Citizen

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A8; News

Length: 288 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- As grieving relatives and friends buried four Israeli soldiers, a security official yesterday said the Israeli army sealed the Gaza Strip and would keep a border crossing closed through Sunday.

The move comes a day after a Palestinian woman blew herself up, killing the four Israeli border guards. The Associated Press

Top Israel army commanders met at the defence ministry yesterday to consider a response to the latest attack, the security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The army shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said only those with humanitarian needs could cross.

The closing prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become more difficult -- but few were willing to openly blame terrorists for their new hardship.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza marked the first time the Islamic terrorist group <u>Hamas</u> dispatched a <u>female</u> suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence. The <u>female</u> suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral yesterday.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," *Hamas* leader Mahmoud Zahar said.

Some workers, though unwilling to directly criticize <u>Hamas</u>, questioned the wisdom of Wednesday's attack. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42.

Load-Date: January 16, 2004



Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

The Times (London)

March 27, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 24

Length: 1079 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Gaza City

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gaza's land of despair is fertile soil for fanatics

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

Load-Date: March 27, 2004



Israel seals Gaza Strip following suicide attack

The International Herald Tribune
January 17, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 426 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

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

Load-Date: January 18, 2004



<u>Jubilation in Gaza as last Israelis withdraw;</u> Savoring 'victory,' Palestinians scavenge and go sightseeing

The International Herald Tribune September 13, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1046 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip

Body

Throughout the abandoned settlements of Gaza, Monday was a carnival of celebration, political grandstanding and widespread scavenging for a Palestinian population whose occupiers had suddenly vanished overnight, as the Israeli Army pulled its last soldier out of Gaza at 6:50 a.m.

But hours before a divisional commander, Avi Kochavi, became the last Israeli soldier to leave, thousands of Palestinians had entered the once-forbidden settlements that, together with their military infrastructure, consumed about 30 percent of the densely populated Gaza Strip.

"I was ordered to keep guard over this building," said a Palestinian Authority policeman Monday morning, as young men behind him busily stripped the window frames and metal ceiling slats from the main synagogue in this former Israeli settlement. "But the people got here first."

Some came to see the land they had worked before the 1967 war, when Israel occupied Gaza; some came to honor their friends who had died in attacks on the Israeli settlers; some came to plant their political flags on the military and religious symbols of the 38-year occupation; and many came to salvage whatever could be ripped away and sold from the large piles of rubble the Israelis had left behind.

The New York Times

Donkey carts were piled high with bathroom fixtures, pieces of metal, skeins of wiring and long pieces of wood, to feed home ovens. Men, <u>women</u> and children worked with a seriousness of purpose, to try to take home some little personal benefit from the return of lands many feel will somehow, as usual, end up in the hands of the wealthy or well-connected.

By the light of burning egg crates, Samir Abu Hattah whacked away at window glass with a pole, shouting: "Go to hell, Zionists!" and then directed a group of young men to start pulling down the electrical wiring, aluminum window frames and doors of an agricultural warehouse in Neve Dekalim.

"I feel a great sense of victory today," said Hattah, 40, who lives across the tall concrete wall in the Khan Yunis refugee camp and who used to work in this settlement before the second Palestinian uprising began in 2000.

"The Zionists built it and then they destroyed it," he said with satisfaction. "The lesson I've learned, and I will pass it on to my sons, is that no matter how long it takes, the occupiers will leave because of resistance."

Jubilation in Gaza as last Israelis withdraw; Savoring 'victory,' Palestinians scavenge and go sightseeing

Behind him, a settlement synagogue built in the shape of a huge Star of David was smoldering, and fires lit inside were sending smoke through the edges of the star. Atop the building, in the dim smoky moment before dawn, a huge green flag of the radical Islamic group *Hamas* could be seen, with a smaller flag of Palestine flying below it.

A few minutes later, a large black flag of the radical Islamic Jihad was flying just under the <u>Hamas</u> flag, above the one of Palestine.

Five minutes later, the flag of Palestine had been taken down altogether. As daylight brightened, more Palestinians poured into the former settlements, savoring what had been forbidden territory, surrounded by massive fortifications and electronic fences. Some went sightseeing, some went salvaging, some went to swim in beach areas that had been closed to them. They were joined by hundreds of schoolchildren in uniform who were given the day off as a holiday.

Ahmad el-Kurd, the new <u>Hamas</u> mayor of Deir Al Balah, cheek-by-cheek with the former settlement of Kfar Darom, said his joy was mixed, as he remembered how much he loved, as a boy, the unspoiled dunes that were fenced off for Kfar Darom. "If they could only give me back the land as it was 38 years ago," he said. "Now it's only piles of rubble."

In Kfar Darom on Monday, there was an extensive march of armed fighters, but the synagogue there was protected from burning by security forces, who made a kind of headquarters out of it. Palestinian officials said they expected to pull down the remaining synagogues themselves, and a bulldozer began the task in the settlement of Netzarim.

He was happy Monday, Kurd said, but his happiness was also tempered "because of the continuing occupation of Jenin and Nablus and Jerusalem, which are also part of Palestine," he said. And until Israel resolved the question of how to allow Palestinians and their goods to enter and exit freely from Gaza, to Egypt and to the West Bank, he said, "Israel remains an occupier," a position supported by the Palestinian Authority.

"If there is no freedom of movement, don't consider the Palestinians free," Kurd said. "We will not accept Gaza as a big prison."

The Israeli government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says that the life of Gaza is up to the Palestinians now, and that only security considerations are preventing a resolution of the issues of entry and access, especially from Egypt. The Israelis have proposed a complicated six-month provisional procedure, which the Palestinians reject, while the Israelis have so far rejected a proposal by the negotiator James Wolfensohn to allow people to pass through Rafah, with European officials supervising the process on behalf of Israel.

But along the Gaza-Egypt border, which Israeli troops left overnight, were just the kind of chaotic scenes that Israel fears. Thousands of Gazans and Egyptians crossed back and forth through the twin cities of Rafah, while Egyptian and Palestinian soldiers and officials stood by.

One Palestinian was shot and killed by the Egyptians as he celebrated just over the border into Egypt with members of <u>Hamas</u>, while dozens of young men entered the no man's land on the Egyptian side after toppling the barbed-wire fence on top of a concrete wall that marks the frontier.

The celebrations were also orchestrated in part by the rival factions within Islamic Jihad, <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah, the mainspring of the Palestinian Authority. Their flags of black, green and yellow were more numerous than the Palestinian flag and were prominent on abandoned Israeli military outposts and public buildings.

<u>Hamas</u>, which is running hard for votes in the legislative elections in January, paraded through many settlements, with armed and often masked men on loudspeaker trucks. <u>Hamas</u> posters and graffiti proclaimed the victory of resistance. Islamic Jihad, which is not running, did the same, as did armed members of Fatah's Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

Load-Date: September 13, 2005



Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

The Forward January 30, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. 4 **Length:** 1146 words

Byline: Ori Nir

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

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

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

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

Similar criticisms appear to be reverberating throughout Palestinian society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Palestinians Debate Recruitment of Suicide Bombers

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

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

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006



Palestinian woman slain after knife attack; Israeli guards shot her after she hurt a soldier in the West Bank. Security was tightened.

Philadelphia Inquirer

October 5, 2005 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A07

Length: 546 words

Byline: By Ravi Nessman; Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian woman brandishing a knife stabbed and wounded an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint outside the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday before other troops shot and killed her, the army said.

The attack came as Israel increased security throughout its towns and cities to prevent attacks during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, which began Monday night. Israeli troops also barred Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza during the holiday.

Also yesterday, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said <u>Hamas</u> was setting itself up as a shadow government to the Palestinian Authority and needed to be dismantled. He demanded that the Palestinian Authority disqualify **Hamas** from running candidates in parliamentary elections scheduled for January.

"We cannot under any circumstances, not us or any other country, support a move where a terror organization is a part of the Palestinian Authority," he told Israel Radio.

Israel has demanded that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas dismantle extremist groups. Abbas fears such a crackdown could spark a civil war.

However, <u>Hamas</u> gunmen and Palestinian police engaged in a series of gun battles across Gaza City on Sunday that killed three people, including a police officer. The fighting increased fears that Gaza was devolving into chaos after Israel's withdrawal last month.

Abbas has tried to bring some order to Gaza by banning the carrying of weapons in public, but <u>Hamas</u> has become increasingly brazen in its defiance of the Palestinian Authority.

Abbas said Monday that the authority would not tolerate the chaos and would "use all means to prevent the public display of arms." However, Palestinian security officials say police are no match for armed extremist groups.

Palestinian woman slain after knife attack; Israeli guards shot her after she hurt a soldier in the West Bank. Security was tightened.

Mofaz described the Palestinian fighting as an isolated incident that did not signal a crackdown on armed groups. "I unfortunately don't see the Palestinian Authority taking any serious steps to disarm the terror organizations," he said.

In the attack yesterday morning, a Palestinian woman wearing a long Islamic dress approached the Hawara checkpoint outside Nablus and pulled a long knife out of her handbag, said Muad Abu Siadi, a Palestinian man who witnessed the attack.

She then charged a <u>female</u> soldier, knocked her to the ground and stabbed her, Abu Siadi said. A second soldier grabbed the knife and threw it to the side and the attacker ran away, he said.

When the soldiers, thinking she might be carrying a bomb, took cover behind concrete blocks, the attacker picked up the knife and charged at them again, Abu Siadi said. They shot her in the legs, he said.

The attacker, whom relatives identified as Haifa Hendia, later died at the scene. Relatives said Hendia, a mother of five who was about 30 years old, was mentally ill. No extremist groups claimed responsibility for the attack.

The soldier who was attacked suffered moderate wounds to her face, the army said.

On Monday, Palestinian officials announced a major shake-up in their foreign representatives, replacing dozens of their officials around the world, including in Washington, London and Paris. They also announced a mandatory retirement age of 60 for foreign representatives.

When former Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat was alive, he appointed cronies as foreign envoys.

Load-Date: October 5, 2005



In Short

The Irish Times
November 4, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish Times

Section: World; Other World Stories; Pg. 14

Length: 553 words

Body

A round-up of today's other stories in brief

13 accused of bomber group membership

BRUSSELS - A trial has opened in Belgium of 13 men accused of belonging to an Islamic militant group blamed for bombings in Madrid and Casablanca.

They face charges of providing false papers, safe houses and logistical help to members of the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, which is held responsible for the 2004 Madrid attacks on four commuter trains that killed 191 people.

The combatant group has also been linked to the 2003 bombings in Casablanca, which killed 45 people, including 12 suicide attackers. None of the 13 is accused of direct involvement in the bombings. - (Reuters) 20051103230452

Hamas backs off on ceasefire threat

GAZA STRIP - <u>Hamas</u> militants who had vowed not to renew a de facto truce with Israel backed off yesterday, saying they would extend it if Israel "stops its aggression" and releases Palestinian prisoners. <u>Hamas</u> also wants the Palestinian Authority to hold parliamentary elections as scheduled in January and reform its corrupt government, said Mahmoud Zahar, a <u>Hamas</u> leader in the Gaza Strip. - (AP)

Spain to consider Catalonia plan

MADRID - The Spanish parliament has agreed to study a proposal that seeks greater autonomy for the northeastern region of Catalonia. Yesterday's early- morning vote, with 197 in favour and 146 against, followed more than 10 hours of intense debate.

Only the conservative Popular Party, led by Mariano Rajoy, voted against the proposal, arguing that it put Spain on a path to dissolution.

Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero said the wealthy region had a constitutional right to seek more self-rule. - (AP)

Catholic magazine ad prompts storm

In Short

MILAN - Leading Catholic publication Famiglia Cristiana stirred up a media storm in Italy yesterday with its first photograph of a naked woman, part of an advertisement for a bathroom ventilation system. The photograph shows only a *female* bottom shot through a misty shower door.

But it has been enough to put Famiglia Cristiana, traditionally the most popular publication with Italian families, back in the headlines.

"There is no change of position or of our line. We saw the advert and approved it," director Don Antonio Sciortino told Corriere della Sera yesterday. "We count on our readers' maturity. - (Reuters)

Schwarzenegger return unlikely

CALIFORNIA - A majority of California voters say they are unlikely to support Arnold Schwarzenegger for reelection as governor next year, mostly because of his call for a special election next week, according to a state-wide survey yesterday. - (AP)

Two more die in Ethiopia clashes

ADDIS ABABA - Two people were shot dead yesterday in clashes between police and protesters in the Ethiopian capital, bringing the death toll from three days of anti-government protests to at least 36. - (Reuters)

Marines sought over alleged rape

MANILA - Police in the Philippines say they are investigating five US marines for allegedly raping a woman in a former US naval base, officials said yesterday.

Philippine authorities briefly delayed the departure of a US warship while searching for the five marines. They were not allowed to leave the country as scheduled yesterday, said Zosimo Paredes, executive director of a government commission overseeing joint Philippine-US military exercises. - (AP)

Load-Date: November 4, 2005



Bomber's family 'could not know'

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition
May 20, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 7

Length: 441 words

Byline: Vikram Dodd

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bomber's family 'could not know'

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

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

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

The trial continues.

Load-Date: May 21, 2004



Gazans Revel as They Sift Through Ex-Settlements

The New York Times
September 13, 2005 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1353 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Michael Slackman contributed reporting from Cairo for this article.

Dateline: NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip, Sept. 12

Body

Throughout the abandoned Israeli settlements of Gaza, Monday was a carnival of celebration, political grandstanding and widespread scavenging for a Palestinian population whose occupiers vanished overnight, as the Israeli Army pulled its last soldier out of Gaza at 6:50 a.m.

But hours before the divisional commander, Aviv Kochavi, became the last Israeli soldier to leave, thousands of Palestinians had entered the once-forbidden settlements that, together with their military infrastructure, consumed about 30 percent of the densely populated Gaza Strip.

The celebrations were orchestrated in part by the rival factions within Palestinian society -- Islamic Jihad, *Hamas* and Fatah, the mainspring of the Palestinian Authority. Their flags of black, green and yellow were more numerous than the Palestinian flag, and were prominent on abandoned Israeli military outposts and public buildings.

<u>Hamas</u>, which is running hard for votes in January's legislative elections, paraded through numerous settlements, with armed and often masked men on loudspeaker trucks. <u>Hamas</u> posters and graffiti proclaimed the victory of resistance. Islamic Jihad, which is not running, did the same, as did armed members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a Fatah contingent.

Some who came did so to see the land they had worked before the 1967 war, when Israel took Gaza from Egypt; others honored friends who had died in attacks on the Israeli settlers; still others came to salvage whatever could be ripped away and sold from the large piles of rubble the Israelis had left behind.

Donkey carts were piled with bathroom fixtures, pieces of metal, skeins of wire and long pieces of wood, to feed home ovens. Men, <u>women</u> and children worked with a seriousness of purpose, trying to take home some little personal benefit from the return of lands many feel will somehow, as usual, end up in the hands of the wealthy or well connected.

By the light of burning egg crates, Samir Abu Hattah whacked away at window glass with a metal pole, shouting, "Go to hell, Zionists!"

Then he directed a group of young men to start pulling down the electrical wiring, aluminum window frames and doors of an agricultural warehouse here in Neve Dekalim.

Gazans Revel as They Sift Through Ex-Settlements

"I feel a great sense of victory today," said Mr. Hattah, 40, who lives across the tall concrete wall in the Khan Yunis refugee camp and who used to work in this settlement before the second Palestinian uprising began in 2000. "The Zionists built it and then they destroyed it," he said with satisfaction. "The lesson I've learned, and I will pass it on to my sons, is that no matter how long it takes, the occupiers will leave because of resistance."

Behind him, a settlement synagogue built in the shape of a huge Star of David was smoldering, fires inside sending smoke through the edges of the star. Atop the building, in the dim smoky moment before dawn, one could see a huge green flag of *Hamas*, with a smaller Palestinian flag flying below it.

A few minutes later, a large black flag of Islamic Jihad was flying just under the <u>Hamas</u> flag, above the Palestinian one.

Five minutes later, the Palestinian flag had been taken down altogether.

Israel had leveled all the other buildings in the settlements in an agreement with the Palestinians but chose, at the last minute, not to destroy the synagogues because a number of Israeli conservatives argued that it was wrong for Jews to destroy synagogues. As a result, settlement synagogues were standing and vulnerable to vandalism.

As daylight brightened, more Palestinians poured into the former settlements, which are still surrounded by huge fortifications and electronic fences. Some went sightseeing, some went salvaging, some went to swim from beaches that had been closed to them. They were joined by hundreds of schoolchildren in uniform who were given the day off as a holiday. Three people were reported drowned.

Ahmad el-Kurd, the new <u>Hamas</u> mayor of Deir Al Balah, cheek by jowl with the former settlement of Kfar Darom, said his joy was mixed as he remembered how much he loved, as a boy, the unspoiled dunes that were fenced off for Kfar Darom. "If they could only give me back the land as it was 38 years ago," he said. "Now, it's only piles of rubble."

In Kfar Darom, there was an extensive march of armed fighters, but the synagogue there was protected from burning by security forces who made a kind of headquarters out of it. Palestinian officials said they expected to pull down the remaining synagogues themselves, and a bulldozer began the task in Netzarim.

He was happy today, Mr. Kurd said, but his happiness was also tempered "because of the continuing occupation of Jenin and Nablus and Jerusalem, which are also part of Palestine." And until Israel resolved the question of how to allow Palestinians and their goods to enter and exit freely from Gaza, to Egypt and to the West Bank, he said, "Israel remains an occupier," a position supported by the Palestinian Authority.

"If there is no freedom of movement, don't consider the Palestinians free," Mr. Kurd said. "We will not accept Gaza as a big prison."

The Israeli government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says that the life of Gaza is up to the Palestinians now, and that only security considerations are preventing a resolution of the issue of Israel's continued control over Gaza's border with Egypt. The Israelis have proposed a complicated six-month provisional procedure, which the Palestinians reject. For their part, the Israelis have so far rejected a proposal by the Western mediator, James D. Wolfensohn, to allow Palestinians to pass through Rafah to Egypt with European officials supervising the process on behalf of Israel.

Thousands of Palestinians slipped through gaps in the border wall on Monday and crossed from Gaza to Egypt at Rafah in a scene of chaos and jubilation, with tearful family reunions and one man reportedly shot dead. Witnesses said an Egyptian soldier shot and killed a Palestinian who crossed into Rafah, but the Egyptian government denied the report, insisting the victim must have died from a stray bullet fired by those celebrating the withdrawal of Israeli border guards.

"I categorically deny this report, which is completely baseless," said Suleiman Awad, official spokesman of President Hosni Mubarak. "It's inconceivable that Egyptian soldiers should have opened fire on the Palestinians after letting 3,000 cross the border for family reunions."

Gazans Revel as They Sift Through Ex-Settlements

The leader of <u>Hamas</u>'s military wing in the sprawling Khan Yunis camp, Abu Moath, came with his armed entourage to take a look at Neve Dekalim. He had not been here in a very long time, he said, and recognized little among the piles of rubble, atop which young men dug for metal scraps, plastic chairs and an old washing machine.

Asked about Israel's last-minute decision not to destroy the last 24 synagogues in Gaza but to ask the Palestinians to protect them, Abu Moath scoffed. "They must be destroyed as symbols of Israel and the occupation," he said. "They promised to destroy them, and we are only carrying out the ruling of their own court." As he spoke, two of his entourage showed their colleagues the car batteries they had found.

On the wall of a synagogue here was a <u>Hamas</u> slogan: "Push them out as they pushed you out!" And nearby, there was another: "Yes for freedom! No for Jews! -- **Hamas**."

Fatma Abu Reziq, whose large, poor Khan Yunis family was profiled in The New York Times in June, said she was one of the first Palestinians into Neve Dekalim, arriving at about 3 a.m., even before the last Israeli tank rumbled away. "People were afraid at first, and then they saw people like me get in, and they became brave," she said.

Even she, she said blushing, had salvaged a few items from this settlement to brighten her home, a few hundred yards across the no man's land from the towering cement wall that still cuts off Khan Yunis from Neve Dekalim. "Now that the Israelis are gone, our lives will be better and quieter," she said. "I can't describe my happiness to see the flag of Palestine flying here."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Two Palestinian <u>women</u> carrying household items that they took yesterday from the abandoned settlement at Ganei Tal, in the Gaza Strip.

In a synagogue in the former settlement of Neve Dekalim, young Palestinians burned an Israeli flag yesterday hours after the army pulled out. (Photographs by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A8)

After Israeli troops left, Palestinians scoured the former Netzarim settlement yesterday for usable materials. (Photo by Marco Di Lauro/Getty Images)(pg. A1)

Load-Date: September 13, 2005



Israel hits back after rocket kills boys

The Australian

October 1, 2004 Friday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 490 words

Byline: A correspondent in Sderot, Israel

Body

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

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

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

AP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Israel hits back after rocket kills boys

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: September 30, 2004



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

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

September 3, 2004 Friday

All but Toronto Edition

Copyright 2004 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. A10

Length: 654 words

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

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

The terrorist Islamist movement <u>Hamas</u> whose senior leader, Khaled Meshaal, is based in Damascus, claimed responsibility.

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

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

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

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

Page 2 of 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

START-IO-STORY

Load-Date: September 3, 2004



Another 'v good' day for Zellweger's singer husband

The Evening Standard (London)

May 18, 2005

Copyright 2005 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: A_MERGE; Pg. 10

Length: 511 words

Body

THE American singer who married Bridget Jones actress RenEe Zellweger last week had another "v good" day at the 40th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Kenny Chesney, right, was named home entertainer of the year. Zellweger was unable to attend the ceremony at the Mandalay Bay resort as she is working on a new film.

Killing of <u>Hamas</u> gunman strains fragile truce in Israel ISRAELI forces in the Gaza Strip today shot and killed a <u>Hamas</u> gunman near the Egyptian border.

Military sources said troops opened fire after being attacked with automatic weapons and antitank missiles.

Hamas said the gunman was on an anti-Israel "jihadic mission" when he was killed.

The incident strained a de facto ceasefire agreed by <u>Hamas</u> and other militant groups after Israel and the Palestinian Authority declared a truce in February.

Murdered child is town's second victim in two days POLICE in Mexico have found the body of a 10-year-old girl who had been raped, strangled and partly burned in the notorious border city of Ciudad Juarez, just two days after a missing seven-yearold girl was found dead nearby. Anahi Orozco's body was discovered in her house. More than 100 young <u>women</u> have been kidnapped and murdered in the town since 1993.

Jane Fonda movie banned over war protest 33 years ago JANE FONDA'S new film Monster-In-Law has been banned from two Kentucky cinemas because of her Vietnam war protests.

Owner Ike Boutwell displayed pictures outside his Elizabethtown cinema of Fonda with a North Vietnamese antiaircraft crew in 1972, saying: "When people do something, they need to be held responsible for their actions." In her recent book My Life So Far, Fonda apologised for posing with the crew.

Deadlock in nuclear talks RARE talks between North and South Korea on bringing the former back to international negotiations over ending its nuclear ambitions have made no progress. Tensions have mounted in recent weeks since US officials said North Korea may be preparing for a nuclear weapon test.

Poachers cash in on tigers INDIA'S forests lost 400 tigers between 1999 and 2003 - more than half to poachers, the environment ministry said.

Conservationists believe official estimates of 3,700 tigers remaining in the wild in India are grossly exaggerated. Hunting and trading is illegal and new measures are being brought in to thwart the thriving illegal trade with China.

Another 'v good' day for Zellweger's singer husband

River ferry capsizes in storm MORE THAN 100 people are reported missing and at least one child is dead after a ferry carrying nearly 150 passengers and crew capsized in Bangladesh. Strong currents and winds hit the ML Raipura on the Jamuna river, 25 miles north-west of capital Dhaka.

And another thing...

Lovers of Jack Russell terriers in the US have won a battle they hope will help stop the breed evolving into a mere show dog. An appeals court in San Francisco ruled that the Jack Russell Terrier Club of America may expel members who join other clubs with different breed standards.

Purists fear the dog - originally bred in England for hunting - could lose its working traits.

Load-Date: May 19, 2005



Israel to Free 400 Prisoners; Palestinians Say 'Not Enough'

The New York Times
May 30, 2005 Monday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 739 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER **Dateline:** JERUSALEM, May 29

Body

The Israeli cabinet on Sunday approved the release of 400 more Palestinian prisoners, fulfilling a long-delayed promise made to the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, in February but also drawing immediate Palestinian criticism.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said in a statement that despite failures of Mr. Abbas to deal with terrorism as he had promised, Mr. Sharon recognized the need to support him and those Palestinians competing with *Hamas*, the radical Islamic faction that Israel and the United States consider a terrorist group. Mr. Sharon also cited his own promises made at the Sharm el Sheik summit meeting in February.

Mr. Sharon said critics of the proposed pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza who argue that it will strengthen terrorism also "understand the need to strengthen the principal moderate element in the P.A. and honor our commitments."

The 400 prisoners, who will be released in about a week, are likely to include some who have more than one-third of their terms to serve. But none of those to be released were convicted of killing or planning to kill Israelis, Mr. Sharon said.

That disappointed Palestinians, who have been eager to secure the release of some of the 360 longer-term prisoners who were jailed before the 1993 Oslo accords that set up the Palestinian Authority. About 7,000 Palestinians are in Israeli custody.

The Palestinian minister for prisoners, Sufian Abu Zaydeh, said: "This one-sided step does not meet the minimum of our demands. Our priority is to release young prisoners, the <u>women</u>, the elderly, the sick and political leaders like Marwan Barghouti." Mr. Barghouti was sentenced to five life terms for conspiring to kill Israelis.

Saeb Erekat, another minister, said the decision was "not enough" and called on Israel to keep another of its promises and hand over to Palestinian security forces three West Bank cities: Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Ramallah. Israel has already handed over Jericho and Tulkarm, but says the Palestinians are not keeping their commitments to disarm wanted militants in those cities.

Israel to Free 400 Prisoners; Palestinians Say 'Not Enough'

Three members of Mr. Sharon's Likud Party voted against the prisoner release: Benjamin Netanyahu, Danny Naveh and Yisrael Katz. Mr. Netanyahu said that the Palestinians had failed to take promised action against *Hamas* and militants, and that given warnings from the military about "the strengthening of *Hamas* and the ineffectuality of the Palestinian Authority, I see no reason to give them a prize."

In the last day, two Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank. One was shot about 20 yards from the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, a regular site of Israeli-Palestinian tension, after he ran toward Israeli soldiers with a knife and said he was going to kill them, the Israelis said. Soldiers fired into the air, then shot him, and he later died. An army spokesman said letters to his family that were found on him said he wanted to die a martyr.

Another Palestinian was killed and two more were wounded in a shootout near Jenin when they fired at soldiers from a car.

In Gaza, a Palestinian died when the rocket-propelled grenade he was trying to fire into a Jewish settlement exploded prematurely. Two more militants from Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, which is linked to the Fatah movement, died and three were critically wounded in a blast in an orchard in Gaza City when a Palestinian bomb exploded prematurely, a Palestinian security official told Reuters.

Also on Sunday, Palestinian election officials ordered partial reruns of votes in three sites in Gaza -- Rafah, Beit Lahiya and Bureij -- after Fatah lodged accusations of vote rigging against <u>Hamas</u>. <u>Hamas</u> narrowly won the three elections.

Israeli newspapers, meanwhile, reported Sunday that the police had arrested 20 people, including some executives from well-known Israeli companies like Cellcom, Pelephone and the satellite television company YES -- the latter two owned by the state phone company, Bezeq -- on charges of using a computer virus to spy on their competitors. The investigation has lasted at least six months, and the police called it one of Israel's "gravest scandals" in industrial espionage.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli soldier was arrested Sunday as he spray painted a slogan against the Gaza pullout plan, "Jews don't expel Jews," on the army building that contains the offices of the senior commanders.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: May 30, 2005



On a Day Devoted to Voting, Palestinians Are All Business

The New York Times

January 10, 2005 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Foreign Desk; Pg. 7; THE PALESTINIAN ELECTION: AT THE POLLS

Length: 543 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE **Dateline:** GAZA, Jan. 9

Body

For once, order and calm prevailed in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza, a place that often seems synonymous with bad news, has for the past year been the site of the heaviest Israeli-Palestinian fighting, and it appears headed for an eventful 2005 with Israel planning to withdraw all 8,000 Jewish settlers from the coastal territory.

But on Sunday, the voting here for president of the Palestinian Authority was largely free of trouble. In the West Bank, too, voting took place without major difficulties, as Palestinians chose a new leader, a rare event in the Arab world.

"The voting process has gone very smoothly," said Nasser Alawa, an official in the Palestinian Information Ministry. "I almost feel like I'm in Sweden." He said he had visited about 10 polling stations in Gaza City, the largest Palestinian city.

In addition to the Israeli-Palestinian fighting, Gaza has been plagued by Palestinian infighting, a sense of lawlessness and a lack of leadership. The former leader of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir Arafat, who died in November, was confined by Israel to his West Bank compound for the final three years of his life, and other Palestinian leaders rarely visited.

But none of that chaos was on display on Sunday.

Israel removed roadblocks before the voting, and Palestinians had no trouble reaching the polls in Gaza, election officials said, adding that <u>women</u>, too, voted in sizable numbers. In Gaza, a conservative society with a Palestinian population of 1.3 million, <u>women</u> are largely absent from public affairs.

The Islamic movement <u>Hamas</u>, which draws much of its support from Gaza, refused to field a candidate and called on its backers not to take part in the election. The group, which calls for the destruction of Israel, has so far refused to take part in the Palestinian Authority. <u>Hamas</u> supporters appeared to stay away from the polls, but they did not disrupt the voting.

<u>Hamas</u> and other Palestinian factions, which stage almost daily attacks on Israeli targets, held their fire on Sunday, apparently in deference to the election, but the quiet is expected to be only temporary.

On a Day Devoted to Voting, Palestinians Are All Business

Mahmoud Abbas, who is projected to be the landslide winner in the election based on surveys of voters leaving the polls, has called for an end to rocket attacks, saying they are counterproductive to the Palestinian goal of establishing statehood.

But Mahmoud Zahar, a senior <u>Hamas</u> leader, said Sunday in a series of interviews that the group had no intention of halting its attacks.

At the polls, Gaza's voters cited a variety of issues that concerned them. Muhammad Suleiman, 18, said he voted for Mr. Abbas and was looking for the new leadership to root out endemic corruption, impose the rule of law and create jobs.

"I'm in my last year of high school and I want to become a teacher, but it's hard to find any kind of job," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Alawa, the Information Ministry official, said he did not think peace with Israel would come soon. But he said that it would eventually happen and that the election was part of that process.

"Peace is built between democracies," Mr. Alawa said. "What we are doing here will have an impact on the Israeli street, because they will have to recognize that they have a democratic neighbor."

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 10, 2005



Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'

DAILY MAIL (London)
January 20, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST_A; Pg. 35

Length: 467 words

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suicide bomb mother 'was being punished for adultery'

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

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

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

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

END

Graphic

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

Load-Date: January 22, 2004



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
October 10, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a12

Length: 606 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: TABA, Egypt

Body

Bedouin tribesmen detained in Egypt

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

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

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

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

Israeli soldiers shoot, kill Hamas militant

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

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

Nabhan, a <u>Hamas</u> field commander, was killed when Israeli troops shot at <u>Hamas</u> militants preparing to fire an antitank missile from the Jebaliya refugee camp.

Peacekeeper wounded during battle in Haiti

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

International Briefs

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

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

Report expected on Juarez killings

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

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

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

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

Famed philosopher dies

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

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

Load-Date: October 11, 2004



W. BANK SHOOTINGS KILL THREE ISRAELIS; SETBACK TO MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS FEARED

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 17, 2005 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD, Length: 387 words

Byline: Scott Wilson, The Washington Post

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis and wounded four others yesterday in drive-by shootings in the West Bank that officials on both sides said would probably hamper efforts to begin peace negotiations.

Only days before Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to meet President Bush in Washington, the armed wing of his Fatah movement asserted responsibility for the shootings, the most severe of which occurred at a bus stop in a bloc of settlements south of Jerusalem popular with hitchhikers. The Israeli death toll -- which Israeli media reports said included two <u>women</u>, cousins aged 23 and 21, and a 15-year-old boy -- was the highest as the result of a Palestinian attack since July, when a suicide bomber killed five people in the city of Netanya.

The second militant attack took place near the settlement of Eli in the northern West Bank, relatively far from the first shooting.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah's armed wing, is a diffuse militia whose many regional commands often operate on their own. But Israeli officials sharply criticized Mr. Abbas, known commonly as Abu Mazen, for failing to disarm the group and other more radical ones, such as <u>Hamas</u>, an Islamic movement that does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

"Not only does Abu Mazen not do what he says he'll do in regards to <u>Hamas</u>, but he can't control his own people," said Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and a former ambassador to the United States.

Palestinian officials also worried that the attack could cast a shadow over Mr. Abbas' meeting with Mr. Bush, scheduled for Thursday, at a time when the Palestinian leader is hoping to enlist U.S. help in dealing with Mr. Sharon.

"I think whoever did this had in mind undermining the meeting" with Mr. Bush, Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said of yesterday's attacks. "It's undermining our efforts to revive the peace process, and it's also undermining Abu Mazen's political standing."

W. BANK SHOOTINGS KILL THREE ISRAELIS; SETBACK TO MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS FEARED

The late afternoon shootings came soon after an Israeli police patrol near the northern West Bank city of Jenin killed a military commander of the Islamic Jihad, a smaller faction that like <u>Hamas</u> is at war with Israel. Israeli military officials said a special police unit came under fire while on patrol and responded by killing the gunman.

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Load-Date: October 18, 2005



Arafat ' fears he will be killed next';

Irish News March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 18

Length: 520 words

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arafat ' fears he will be killed next';

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



Palestinians outlaw weapons on the streets Some guns are seized as police try to bring order to Gaza Strip.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 30, 2005 Friday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 364 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian authorities began enforcing a ban on public displays of weapons Thursday. Three people were arrested and the guns of off-duty police officers were confiscated.

The crackdown was a key step toward imposing order in the chaotic Gaza Strip.

Pressing forward with its military campaign, Israeli soldiers killed five Palestinian gunmen during raids in the West Bank. Israel launched the wave of airstrikes and arrest raids last weekend in response to Gaza militants' rocket attacks on southern Israeli towns.

The offensive raised pressure on Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to act against militant groups and armed gangs, which operate openly in Gaza. Israel says there can be no peace talks until the groups are disarmed.

In a move to bring order to Gaza, Palestinian officials on Thursday announced a ban on public displays of weapons. *Hamas* said it would honor the ban.

Palestinian Police Chief Ala Husni said that in the wake of Israel's recent pullout from Gaza, there is no longer a reason for anyone other than security officers to carry weapons.

"The role of resistance weapons has ended in the streets. They should go back into storage and they should not show up in the streets," he said at a news conference.

"Any weapon now in the street is a criminal weapon." He said there were no plans to seize stored weapons.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tawfiq Abu Khoussa said the three men were arrested for carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles Thursday. Their weapons were confiscated.

Several security officers also were arrested for carrying guns while off duty, he said.

Abbas said the weapons ban was a first step toward imposing law and order on Gaza. But he said the new Israeli offensive undermined those efforts.

Palestinians outlaw weapons on the streets Some guns are seized as police try to bring order to Gaza Strip.

"This escalation is putting the entire peace process in real jeopardy," he said Thursday. "We call on Israel to stop these acts, especially since all our factions have committed themselves to the cease-fire and to ban all military parades and public displays of weapons."

The ban took effect days after an explosion at a *Hamas* parade killed 21 people.

Hamas blamed Israel, but Palestinian investigators said the blast was set off when militants mishandled explosives.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO BY The Associated Press - A sign at a polling station notes that firearms and cell phones are banned as <u>women</u> line up to vote in municipal elections Thursday in the West Bank village of Beit Fagar. Elections were held in dozens of towns.

Load-Date: September 30, 2005



Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

The International Herald Tribune
January 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 849 words **Byline:** Greg Myre

Dateline: EREZ. Gaza:

Body

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

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

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

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

The New York Times

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

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

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

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

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

Young mother kills 4 Israelis in suicide blast

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: January 15, 2004



Reformed terrorist talks at San Diego State U.

University Wire
May 9, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 The Daily Aztec via U-Wire

Length: 1398 words

Byline: By Paul Escajadillo, The Daily Aztec; SOURCE: San Diego State U.

Dateline: SAN DIEGO

Body

Former PLO terrorist Walid Shoebat is in San Diego to give a presentation to San Diego State University Monday in Montezuma Hall. The Daily Aztec had an opportunity to conduct a phone interview with him on Saturday in which his views on Islam, the Palestinian Authority and Ariel Sharon's disengagement from Gaza, among other issues, were discussed.

Daily Aztec: Why have you decided to give speeches about this issue?

Walid Shoebat: Well, it's one thing to say, "OK, I guess we have done wrong toward the Israelis and Palestinians over the eons of time" and take a different route and move on. And it's another thing to do something about it and correct the errors that we made. I've learned from Jewish thinking that to do a "mid-thought" is to undo the wrong that you've done and to correct what you've done. So, it's one thing to say, "Yeah, we were wrong," but what about correcting it? It's our actions that count in life. And I feel empty without doing an action.

My life feels empty just by sitting idle and saying, "That was wrong, but I'm not going to do anything about it, I'm just going to disappear into oblivion." Then I will struggle with myself, with all my soul and say, "You know what, I have to do what's right."

DA: On your Web site, you have a phrase in which you're stating that the 1,400-year history of Islam proves that the religion is about hating Jews. Don't you find it a little harsh to label more than 1 billion people as anti-Semitic?

WS: No, I think that sentence is being misconstrued, and I think I want to take that sentence out of the Web site and rewrite it, because I think it is not correct to say that in every single period in Islamic history Jews were mistreated.

The Jewish treatment in the Muslim world was a zigzag, depending on the whims of the Sultan at that time. So there is evidence for both cases. But I think what happens is that some professors (view) the good times that the Jews survived in the Muslim world to an extreme -- that they lived all these years in relative peace and harmony. Well, that's not true, even if you look at the writings of Maimonedes. Maimonedes was a Jewish writer and he said, "No one has ever mistreated us as much as the Muslims mistreated us."

He was living in the Muslim world. He was talking about forced conversions of Jews in the Muslim area. And he says, "We'll recite the formula and live." Basically, convert to Islam and live just to recite the formula, but continue on with Jewish lives. The question is: Was Maimonedes lying when he was writing his essays? I don't think so. There was tremendous amount of persecution (in) the Muslim world, and I accept that. There was also tremendous amount of persecution in the Christian world toward Jews.

Reformed terrorist talks at San Diego State U.

But there has never been any (time) in history where Muslims and Christians lived amongst Jews when they were persecuted by Jews. There were no Jewish pogroms against Christians and Muslims. But there are pogroms against Jews in both Christendom and Islam in these eras. So, this sentence that I have in the Web site is being taken way out of proportion. The 1,400 years of Islam proves that there was persecution of Jews. Can anybody deny that?

DA: Also on the Web site, you refer to the current situation in the Middle East as the "so-called Israeli occupation." Why did you decide to label it as such?

WS: Well, I don't look at the Israeli occupation as any other occupation that you see in history, (such as) aggressive occupation when the Nazis aggressively tried to conquer Europe. Not all occupations are bad. The word "occupation" became coined as something that's bad and as something that's evil. We have an occupation of Iraq, and we have occupied Afghanistan. Those are not bad occupations.

I think that in Afghanistan, the occupation has been good, because all the Afghans I talk to in America seem to be happy about the Americans occupying Afghanistan and making corrections in Afghanistan -- getting rid of the Taliban. I see the occupation of Israelis (in Palestine) as a good thing. The Palestinians complain about the wall, the fence. Well, the Israelis removed that fence when they occupied the Holy Land. There was a fence dividing Jerusalem; they took it away. The Israelis didn't want this. The Israelis developed several universities in the West Bank. The Israelis brought up a great era of tourism in that land, which is now diminished as a result of the pullout of Israelis and putting in the PA (Palestinian Authority). I think the PA is an occupation; the PA doesn't give freedom or liberty to the people to think.

Under the Israeli occupation, people were allowed to express their fears. A person was allowed to go to drink a beer in a bar. The freedom of thinking is gone, after the occupation is gone -- the Israelis brought liberty to that land: liberty of thinking, democracy. The Israelis brought for the first time the freedom for **women** to vote.

Now, <u>women</u> are able to vote for the first time in the history of that country. So how is it that this is an oppressive occupation when the Palestinians, on the other side, with the PA system, think that Sharia law must be the state religion? Where are <u>women</u>'s rights? Where is anybody's rights? There are no rights. You are not supposed to condemn terrorism; you are supposed to say that you condemn terrorism, but in reality, support it at the same time.

DA: What are your hopes for Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and the coming elections this summer?

WS: I think we need a clean house. I think the PA needs to be removed. The Palestinian Authority is the PLO and has to be removed totally. I think the problem is that we have a huge influx of <u>Hamas</u> activism in the area. Gaza is predominantly <u>Hamas</u>. So, I don't think Mahmoud Abbas is really going to do anything about dismantling <u>Hamas</u>. Mahmoud Abbas made a clear statement. He said, "I dedicate this peace process to the soul of Yasser Arafat, to the Palestinian prisoners and to the Palestinian martyrs."

What does that say? This sentence in itself is loaded. It's saying that we dedicate this peace process where we're going to get land to the martyrs, to the suicide bombers and to the Palestinian prisoners -- to the terrorists. So nothing has changed, really. It is an era of silence, keep it down; keep it quiet. We will get concessions: We will get Gaza, first, and when Gaza is obtained, guess who is going to be the victor? <u>Hamas</u>, because Gaza is <u>Hamas</u> territory. You see, <u>Hamas</u> is the one that won getting land from Israel. We have had this happen in Oslo before. We have not learned.

My issue with this peace process is that, first, we must insist on the good. We must see the good plain side proved to the whole world. Here it is: No more terrorism; we're firing these Islamist preachers from the mosques, and we're putting moderate Muslims to teach in the mosques. Then we will see some results. But we're not seeing that. Nothing has changed. The news media is still the same, the sermons in the mosques are still the same. Even the most extreme in <u>Hamas</u> would approve of a peace negotiation because, when you are the weaker element, you would negotiate even in the Islamist view. <u>Hamas</u> now has a hard time buying bullets, it used to be five cents per bullet, now it's \$3 per bullet, because Israel has been successful in eliminating the smuggling process to <u>Hamas</u>

Reformed terrorist talks at San Diego State U.

factions. So, since they have the noose around their necks, they're willing to negotiate. So, I think that we should be very careful. I don't think we have learned from Oslo.

DA: What do you hope to accomplish with your speech? What would you like to see in the students and individuals who come hear your speech?

WS: What I hope to accomplish is to reach out to my fellow Palestinians in my writings, etc. I finally realized you couldn't to plant a seed on stone. You've got to take it to soft soil. The Palestinians have not, in maturity, have not gotten the "crip" that Israel has that right to exist. They say it, but they don't mean it. It's still a call for the destruction of the state of Israel. My hope is to make the American people, who understand the nature of terrorism because they have experienced it, understand the plight of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. My hope is to make those who come out really understand the true nature of terrorism and what it's about, because I experienced it myself.

(C) 2005 The Daily Aztec via U-WIRE

Load-Date: May 9, 2005



Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing

The New York Times

January 16, 2004 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 497 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 15

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Israel Seals Off Gaza Strip in Response to Suicide Bombing

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

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

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

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

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

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

Load-Date: January 16, 2004



Army of roses

Western Daily Press

June 11, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Bristol United Press

Section: Features; Books; Reviews; Pg. 12

Length: 208 words

Body

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: June 12, 2004



An Israeli town braces as rockets rain down; Anger rises against Hamas and Sharon

The International Herald Tribune
January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 878 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: SEDEROT, Israel:

Body

The residents of this little town a few miles from the Gaza Strip went on strike on Monday, closing schools and shops and raising black mourning flags, but it was hard to find anyone who thought it would do any good. When Sederot was established in 1951, as a town to house immigrants from Morocco and Tunisia, the Gaza Strip was administered by Egypt. Today, Sederot is being used as target practice for the homemade Qassam rockets that *Hamas* and other Palestinian militants fire regularly from the northern Gaza Strip. The people here are furious with the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, for allowing terrorist rockets to fall on their heads. They are not settlers, they do not live in occupied territory and they have great nostalgia for the days when they went shopping for vegetables and tooth care in Gaza, which was famous then for its excellent, inexpensive dentistry. Now they want Sharon to order the army to sweep into Gaza in force and stop the Qassams once and for all. Nearly every day, and sometimes five times a day, the warning signal, "Shachar Adom!" or Red Dawn, is broadcast through the town's loudspeakers warning of a Qassam launch. In the beginning the voice was *female*; now it is male. Usually the rockets fall on nothing, in empty fields, like the two this Monday morning. But not always. On Saturday, a Qassam whistled down on a street near Ella Abuksis, 17, and her younger brother, who is 10.

The New York TimesAbuksis threw herself on her brother and is now in critical condition with shrapnel in her brain; he had only minor injuries. Eli Moyal, the mayor of Sederot, knows the family well. They are neighbors. His mother prays at the same synagogue with the Abuksis family. Moyal has visited the family twice. "We pray with her," he said. "That's the best we can do." The doctors are not optimistic about saving Ella Abuksis, Moyal said, his face pained. "That's the problem with very small places."

Four people have died from the Qassams since June 2004. Three of those were under 5 years of age. Last Thursday night, Sederot lost three more of its citizens to the fighting when Palestinians attacked the Karni checkpoint.

Gedalya Fendel, 17, went to the same youth group as Ella Abuksis; they were both counselors. He and his friends have organized to visit her.

A skinny, freckled young man, he goes into the army soon, trading in today's "Find Your Wave" T-shirt for fatigues, and possibly duty in Gaza. He wants to be in an elite fighting unit, he said.

"Gaza is Israel's territory and I don't understand why Jews should be pulled out of there," he said. Was he scared? "A little," he said, then looked at his mother, Mechi Fendel, 38, and asked her: "Are you scared?" She smiled and

said: "When he was born I prayed the messiah would come and we wouldn't have an army then," she said, and sighed a little. "But now we're here."

Mrs. Fendel came to Sederot from New York state 11 years ago with her husband, David, 43, a rabbi. He founded a yeshiva here that now has 400 students and combines study of the Torah with service in the army. Like many here, Mrs. Fendel, who has five younger children, says that the Qassams will not drive her and her family away from Sederot. "We don't run away from terrorism, we stop it," she said. "Our army doesn't retreat. I expect Sharon to stop terrorism. We expect Sharon to go into Gaza and Beit Hanoun and clear out anyone involved with terrorism."

Palestinians are not the problem, she said. "Every life for us is a whole world. Every Palestinian life, too. But now we're losing too much."

In 1990, Sederot had about 11,000 people. But now the North Africans, like Moyal himself, who came here at the age of five from Morocco, nearly 50 years ago, are the aristocracy. More than half the city's population now, some 24,000 people, are immigrants from the former Soviet Union, mostly Jews from the Islamic republics like Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Caucasus. With the rockets, property values are down, unemployment is about 17 percent, and some who say they want to leave also say they can't afford to.

But these former Soviet citizens believe in strength. "We want to give our enemies the sense that we are a strong people," said Aleksandr Riman, 45. "We have the strongest army in the region, and we don't use it."

There are about 500 Ethiopians here, too, like Gematu Baynesagn, 47, who came here 13 years ago and calls himself Gabi. Four months ago his 2-year-old daughter, Dorit died along with a friend, 4, when a Qassam hit the street where they were playing. "She was a daughter of joy," he said, speaking softly, in good Hebrew, his eyes moist. "She had the wisdom of an adult. It's very difficult for us to cope with this disaster. Every day and every night I have to calm my kids and convince them not to be afraid.

"It's very hard on my wife. When I return from work I find her crying. She tries to hide her grief from other people, but inside, she's very hurt."

The Ethiopian community here give him solace, he said. And he believes in Israel, and will gladly support his son, 17, when he goes into the army.

"The people of Israeli have only one country," he said. "It's part of our obligation as the people of Israel to help guard our country. But it doesn't mean it doesn't worry me."

Load-Date: January 18, 2005



The Times (London)
October 23, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; Times Magazine 40

Length: 4049 words **Byline:** Kevin Toolis

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: October 23, 2004



Weekend Australian

November 13, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: MAGAZINE; Pg. 1

Length: 3983 words **Byline:** Kevin Toolis

Body

How a young mother became a suicide bomber

What led a young mother to choose a murderous fate as a suicide bomber? Kevin Toolis meets her Palestinian family and uncovers a shocking secret.

A COLD JANUARY RAIN WAS drumming on the corrugated iron roof as she stood in line with the Palestinian <u>women</u> at the checkpoint. It was all very routine: the litter of cigarette butts and lolly wrappers on the concrete floor, the metal detectors, the heavy turnstiles, the misery of the corralled, and the slow, dreary progress toward the Israeli soldiers checking documents in the terminal building.

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

MATP

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

Reem, already a mother of two, was next to the X-ray counter when Eli Mazka, the 21-year-old soldier in charge of the shift, first spotted her. "There was nothing. I looked at her. She looked pregnant, two or three months, but otherwise she was completely normal. She looked at me. She was three metres away. She smiled, just a little, and then I turned round. And then she exploded."

An explosion is pure energy, but the killing mechanism is the blast wave of superheated gases, moving at 20,000 metres a second in a space no bigger than a small school classroom, that shred human flesh and turn every metal or plastic object they encounter into lethal shrapnel. In the instant circle of death around her, four soldiers, including Shapira, were killed. Nine others, including Mazka, were seriously injured. Reem's own body, a human bomb padded with six kilograms of high explosive, disintegrated; her head, with the brown headscarf still attached, was found on the other side of the room.

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

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

IN A CATALOGUE OF INFAMY, Reem's "martyrdom" was another grim first. Reem was <u>Hamas</u>'s first and only <u>female</u> suicide bomber, a revolutionary step for the deeply conservative Islamic militant organisation, which rigidly enforces the veil and the subjugation of **women**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reem never left the prison strip of Gaza - a patch of territory 40 kilometres long and 6km wide, hemmed in on all sides by the Israeli defence forces - which is crammed with 1.3 million Palestinian refugees. Once, she put her name down for haj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, but such a journey was just a dream. Reem lived in a world of suffocating closeness - a few dusty streets in the sprawling misery of Gaza City. Any other contact with the outside world came through television. She read the Koran but, according to Iman, there was no personal motivation for revenge. No-one in the family had ever been injured or killed by the Israeli Army. Reem never met or spoke to a "son of Zion" until the hour of her death.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Palestinian observers are profoundly sceptical about <u>Hamas</u>'s claims. "For centuries Arab culture has been clear about the role of <u>women</u> and men," says Dr Eyad Sarraj, who chairs the Gaza Community Mental Health Project and has studied extensively the motivations of suicide bombers. "<u>Women</u> have responsibility for internal security, the family, the house and children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BEFORE REEM, <u>HAMAS</u> WAS ALWAYS religiously opposed to the use of <u>women</u> as suicide bombers because of the danger of breaking this strict honour code. By necessity, a potential suicide bomber needs to have a secret relationship with his recruiter and attend clandestine training sessions. If the bomber is a woman, such a relationship will always be potentially an affront to the honour of the men in the family. Against the will of her male relatives, a woman could be seduced into becoming a martyr, or worse.

In <u>Hamas</u>'s view, the recruitment of <u>women</u> for suicide bombing was an assault on Islamic values. Other Palestinian factions, such as the more secular Fatah and its al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade or the fanatical Islamic Jihad, disagreed. Reem, after all, was not the first but the seventh Palestinian woman to blow herself up. But even these organisations had been careful to recruit <u>women</u> who were no longer part of mainstream society. All previous **female** suicide bombers had been either unmarried or divorced.

Wafa Idris, the first woman to die, had been divorced because of her infertility and was back living with her father. As "damaged goods", Wafa, old at 26, was deemed a burden on the family; her life was expendable. "With <u>female</u> suicide bombers the same pattern repeats itself," says Arnon Regular, an Israeli expert who has studied the suicide bomber war. "There are always some family problems - divorce, infertility, or the male authority figures around them are weakened by sickness or death. There is always something about <u>female</u> suicide bombers that is a rupture from the usual social pattern."

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

"It's true. She was an adulteress," says Professor Ariel Merari, a terrorism expert and psychology professor at Tel Aviv University. "I have spoken to the intelligence sources and they firmly believe it. The situation was not a menage a trois, but the lover was the husband's boss in *Hamas*. They both colluded in her death. This was a woman caught in an impossible situation. She did what she was told to do. What is also unusual is that the lover avoided punishment. Normally he, too, would be punished by death."

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

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

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

And he also denied the claims about Reem's adultery. "It's all lies. She was my wife and I knew her well. She was not an adulteress." But when I asked him about Reem's martyrdom pictures, the <u>Hamas</u> headbands, the mortar rounds and the guns, his answers began to unravel. "She was always taking pictures with the children. I never thought she was going to go on a martyrdom operation."

It was hard to believe him. The most terrible thing about Reem's martyrdom pictures is their family intimacy. As they pose in the headbands, Doha still holds her favourite teddy bear; Mohammed stands just centimetres away from a stack of cuddly toys. Far from being family snapshots, the pictures are statements of the crime to come. Whoever took them knew that within days Reem would be dead, the children motherless.

But even these pictures were not enough. The following day, Reem was conscripted for another photo session. Dressed up in military fatigues, she poses awkwardly on her knees, propping up a Kalashnikov rifle and holding a copy of the Koran. At her feet are Doha and Mohammed. One of Reem's fingers rests on the cover of the book as if she were pedantically instructing the children to follow the word of God. But Mohammed, 18 months, has grown bored with the antics of the adults around him and has taken off his headband and is looking up at whoever is

holding the camera. Doha, wearing the <u>Hamas</u> bandanna like a hairband, is still turned toward her mother. Clearly the picture is a set-up, another ritual for <u>Hamas</u>'s forthcoming propaganda album. But its clumsiness betrays the truth. Reem's face is drained of the exultancy of martyrdom. She is a portrait of abject misery and fear, and looks longingly toward the children from whom she will soon be torn.

In death, suicide bombers rise up and become blessed shahid who dwell with the prophets in heaven, and their families rise up the Palestinian social ladder with them. But Ziyad seemed keener on obliterating Reem's memory. Forty days after her death, the exact term of the traditional mourning period, he remarried. "I removed all of Reem's pictures and changed the furniture. I am trying not to remind the children of Reem. I want them to consider my new wife as their mother and Reem as an angel. I think it's working. At first they kept on asking for mummy. But recently I asked Doha, 'Where is your mum?' And she said: 'She is in paradise.'"

THERE IS NO REAL PLACE IN ARAB society for the husband of a martyr. Regardless of his possible role in his wife's death, Ziyad seems shamed by Reem's martyrdom. Her death in battle mocks his passivity in the face of the Jewish enemy. Perhaps Ziyad was always weak, malleable in the hands of other men, and that flaw broke his marriage and led to Reem's recruitment for death. Whoever it was, it was not her husband who recruited Reem for martyrdom and drove her to the Erez checkpoint. But Ziyad, despite his thin alibi of beachguard duty on a cold, rainy day, almost certainly had to collude in the crime.

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: November 12, 2004



Terrorists Murder Scores In Israel, Russia, and Iraq

New York Sun (Archive) September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 206 words

Byline: Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: September 2, 2004



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

The Independent (London)

March 9, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

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

Length: 861 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN JERUSALEM Omar Khan Sharif, left, and Asif Hanif in the video. They said they

were offering their souls for the sake of Allah

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: March 9, 2004



Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb

The Evening Standard (London)
September 1, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: A_MERGE; Pg. 22

Length: 383 words

Byline: PATRICK SAWER

Body

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

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

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

Israeli military sources said soldiers were searching the city.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sharon vows to strike back over double bus bomb

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

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

Graphic

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

Load-Date: September 2, 2004



The International Herald Tribune
July 16, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 2861 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Second of two parts

*

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

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

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

The New York Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued.

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

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

It was time, he said, to choose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yazji is Arafat's former chief of protocol.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"And the sickness is occupation."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: July 16, 2004



Suicide bus bombings kill 18 people in Israel

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 772 words

Byline: Steven Gutkin, Associated Press; Canadian Press

Dateline: BEERSHEBA, Israel

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic

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

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

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



Rice seeks more effort in Mideast; She expects progress on Palestinian state

The International Herald Tribune

August 19, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 662 words

Byline: Joel Brinkley And Steven R. Weisman

Dateline: WASHINGTON:

Body

The U.S. secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, has offered sympathy to the Israeli settlers being removed from their homes in the Gaza Strip, but also made it clear that she expected Israelis and Palestinians to take further steps toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Everyone empathizes with what the Israelis are facing," Rice said in an interview Wednesday. But, she added, "it cannot be Gaza only."

Israel began the forcible eviction of thousands of Gaza settlers on Wednesday, and Rice called it "really quite a dramatic moment in the history of the Middle East." Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel, she added, had shown himself to be "enormously courageous."

The New York Times

Rice has visited the region twice in recent weeks in an effort to ensure that the Gaza withdrawal proceeds smoothly. While she noted that the withdrawal would take several weeks to play out, she said that Israel must take further steps soon after, including loosening travel restrictions in the West Bank and withdrawing from more Palestinian cities.

At the same time, she said, the Palestinian military must quickly disarm factions intent on breaking the current cease-fire.

Her remarks came during an interview with reporters and an editor of The New York Times at the U.S. State Department. She discussed major issues in Iran, North Korea and elsewhere, but she also talked about what she considered her major accomplishments in her seven months in office.

"This is a very remarkable time," she said, noting that this autumn there would be "the Iraqi referendum followed by Iraqi elections, Afghan elections for the Parliament, Egyptian contested elections for the first time."

"You've also had the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon and the elections in Lebanon," she said. "We've got reform efforts that we are tracking in Jordan. And of course *women* have the right to vote for the first time in Kuwait.

"Something very dramatic is changing in the Middle East."

Rice seeks more effort in Mideast; She expects progress on Palestinian state

In Israel, officials expressed anxiety over what they said was a determination by <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Islamic organization, to exploit the Gaza withdrawal to commit further violence against Israelis. They said they had evidence that <u>Hamas</u> was using the lull in violence to build up its own army, preparing for more suicide bombings in Israel and stockpiling rockets to be fired into Israel.

Rice said she did not know "how extensive" such a buildup had been. "But I know there has been some," she said. "I don't doubt that *Hamas* is training and increasing its capacity to cause trouble as a terrorist organization."

Israeli officials have said they will not make further concessions unless the Palestinian Authority makes parallel moves and begins dismantling and disarming Palestinian militant groups. Rice agreed, saying confidence-building steps needed to be taken by both sides simultaneously. She said she expected the Palestinian Authority to take responsibility for disarming *Hamas*.

"That is their obligation under the road map," she said, referring to the Middle East peace plan that the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations revised in 2003.

Rice touched on other contentious issues, notably Iran and North Korea. The United States is involved in negotiations to persuade both countries to give up their nuclear programs. Rice said the United States was determined to persuade Iran to change its mind after it recently resumed nuclear activity.

"There seems to be very strong international consensus that an Iran that has behaved the way that it has over the last couple of years really should not have a fuel cycle," she said.

On North Korea, the United States faces a similar problem. In six-nation talks that entered a recess earlier in August, the North Koreans insisted that they had the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear power program. Rice disagreed.

"I don't think anyone is arguing that the North Koreans can be trusted with so-called peaceful uses of nuclear power," she said.

Load-Date: August 19, 2005



In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

The International Herald Tribune
July 17, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 **Length:** 1909 words

Byline: James Bennet

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Second of two parts

*

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

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

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

The New York Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

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

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

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

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

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

Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued.

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

In an interview in his office this month, Dahlan described Fatah's leaders without naming Arafat. "They are against the intifada -- at the same time, they are with the intifada," he said. "They are against the terror, and they are with the terror." It was time to choose. "We are in the junction," he said, "either to get to Palestinian independence, or to get back to Somalia."

It is something of a historical paradox that Gaza, poorer and sharper-edged than the West Bank, would emerge as the proving ground of a Palestinian state. But Dahlan and other Palestinian politicians sense beneath the militancy an exhaustion with death and despair and a hunger for change. "Enough is enough," he said.

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

In one such painting, Hamdi Mohsin appears vivid and proud, wearing fatigues and holding a rifle in a ferocious battle, against a sky burning red and gold. Yet Hamdi was not a militant, but a boy of 14 shot to death while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When his parents commissioned Fayez al-Hasani, 52, to paint their son, they asked him to show him as a fighter. Hasani worries about his own young son, who rushes out to watch whenever the Israeli soldiers raid Gaza City. "I call it watching death," he said. "It scares me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At 43, he is part of a generation of Fatah men who grew up under the Israeli occupation, then commanded the first uprising against Israel in the late 1980s. They became legislators or security chiefs when Arafat and other revolutionaries returned from exile. These men watched in dismay as <u>Hamas</u> gained popularity during the second uprising, that began in September 2000.

Dahlan has successfully pressed Arafat to permit the elections within Fatah in Gaza that are underway. Dahlan is hoping that they will result in a new governing body for Fatah by early next year.

Some of Dahlan's allies say it is time for Arafat to go, but Dahlan is careful not to challenge Arafat directly. He said he wanted Arafat "to bless the results."

<u>Hamas</u> refused to play a role in the Palestinian Authority, because it was created under the Oslo agreement, which <u>Hamas</u> opposed but its leaders say they now feel free now to participate in talks about how to govern Gaza after the Israelis leave.

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

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

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

In 1996, on Arafat's orders, Dahlan cracked down on <u>Hamas</u>, earning a reputation for ruthlessness. That was during the Oslo peace process. During this uprising he, like other Fatah leaders, contended that they could not take such action, in part because the Palestinian Authority is far weaker.

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

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

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

In Gaza, hunger for a fresh vision

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

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

There was a time when Elias Khoury thought of himself as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians. His family lost its land to Israel in the 1948 war, but his father, Daoud, took citizenship in Israel and believed he could work patiently through Israeli law to get the land back. He was killed by a Palestinian bomb in 1975.

Khoury, who trained as a lawyer at Hebrew University, sent his children to a Jerusalem school that blended the city's Jewish, Muslim and Christian children.

Then, this March, his son George was shot dead while jogging in Jerusalem by members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the Fatah militant group. The group boasted that it had killed a settler. George, fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, friends with Arabs and Jews, was studying at Hebrew University. Dead at 20, he embodied the mighthave-beens of what was known, a few years ago, as the New Middle East.

In a conversation after George was killed, Elias Khoury said the occupation was coarsening both societies. Israel did not have the same values it held 20 years ago, he said, yet it was now "mature" enough to accept a Palestinian state. But he said that the Palestinians needed outside help to run their affairs

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

Al Aksa Martyrs later expressed regret for killing George Khoury and declared him a "shahid," or martyr. "It harmed me more," Khoury said. "Let's say Yitzhak had been running that evening. It would have been O.K. if he had been killed? This is how we are going to build our state?

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

Load-Date: July 20, 2004



Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed. Some felt meeting doomed from start

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 29, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A17

Length: 359 words

Byline: DANIEL WILLIAMS

Dateline: TUNIS, Tunisia

Body

Foreign ministers were hammering out a list of political reforms in advance of an Arab League summit when their Tunisian counterpart, Habib Ben Yahya, left the room and took a phone call from the host president. He returned, participants said, and told everyone to go to dinner.

"It's over," Yahya told the gathering late Saturday night. "There is no summit." Washington Post

The surprise cancellation of the long-awaited meeting on reform and Middle East peace set off a round of recrimination and finger-pointing. Yesterday, delegates expressed embarrassment and shock at the collapse, which took place two days before the summit was set to begin in the Tunisian capital.

"This was not our finest moment," said Arab League General-Secretary Amr Moussa.

Several participants complained the host president, Zine Abidine Ben Ali, had single-handedly sunk the effort in a fit of pique. He was angry, they said, because his own reform proposals had been rejected and because several countries had decided not to send their heads of state to the summit.

Other participants said the exercise was already doomed - the countries were far from agreeing on the scope of reforms, not to mention ways to implement them.

"Many were hesitant in the first place, so things were always delicate," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian representative. "Weighty reform proposals were just going to be used as doorstops anyway."

The Arab League, a 22-member organization dedicated to unity but which frequently exhibits divisiveness, is in a race against time. The Bush administration hopes to gain support for a democratic reform initiative for the Middle East at a meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations this summer. Arab leaders had expressly set out to pre-empt the proposal with plans of their own in areas including civil rights, <u>women</u>'s rights and economic modernization.

In Cairo, Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, quickly offered to host a new summit, but no date was set. In a statement, Mubarak, who is scheduled to visit Washington next month, expressed "astonishment and regret" at the cancellation of summit.

Arab League summit shutdown short-circuits Mideast reform: Host blamed. Some felt meeting doomed from start

Jordan also offered to host a retry.

Graphic

Photo: SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS; New <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel Aziz al Rantissi (left) during a rally at the Islamic University in Gaza City yesterday. Thousands of <u>Hamas</u> supporters attended a memorial service of <u>Hamas</u> leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, assassinated last week in Gaza.

Load-Date: March 29, 2004



This week: Fresh horror in Iraq, and old emnity in Gaza - Correction Appended

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

Correction Appended

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian International Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 236 words

Body

Two weeks after the Israeli pullout, a familiar sound returned to haunt Gaza and its Israeli neighbours - the crump of mortar bombs and helicopter missile strikes. <u>Hamas</u>'s political leader Mahmoud al-Zahar declared an end to attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip, but Israel continued to target activists, killing seven <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad leaders.

The Palestinians claimed the strikes had less to do with retribution than with influencing local elections.

The horror in Iraq broke new ground when insurgents deployed their first <u>female</u> suicide bomber, killing six and wounding 35. This is a new tactic, possibly because <u>women</u> can pass through checkpoints more easily. The violence in the run-up to the October 15 constitution referendum has claimed 194 lives, including 13 US servicemen, in five days.

The secrets of France 's ex-president Francois Mitterrand keep tumbling out. A new book revealed how the Socialist leader, aged 45, used a friendship with a Catholic couple to seduce their 18-year-old daughter. The French are not shocked. It's the fact that the taxpayer funded his liaison that they object to.

Increasingly irritated by the EU 's vacillations over membership talks, Turkish ministers threatened to stay at home on Monday when negotiations are due to begin in Luxembourg. Having been kept waiting for at least 40 years, it is not surprising that Turkey's pro-European mood is starting to turn.

Correction

* The "old emnity in Gaza", a headline, page 16, October 1, is unsurprisingly an old "enmity".

Correction-Date: October 5, 2005

Load-Date: October 1, 2005



An unheralded victory over terror

University Wire
March 29, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Cavalier Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 785 words

Byline: By Dan Bagley, Cavalier Daily; SOURCE: U. Virginia

Dateline: CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

Body

The leader of a vicious terrorist organization was killed, and the world didn't even stop to say "thank you." Last week's killing of <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin represented a important step in the global war on terrorism, but the worldwide reaction has been mixed at best. In exchange for ridding the world of a man who has ordered the killings of many innocent men, **women** and children, Israel has received a raw deal in the court of world opinion.

<u>Hamas</u>, founded in 1987, has been recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States. Their purpose, according to the U. S. State Department, is "to pursue the goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel." One will note that this goal inherently includes the destruction of the modern state of Israel. These are not rational people who are willing to negotiate peace. The only acceptable "peace" to this terrorist organization is complete and total victory over Israel.

Most rational people can realize that Israel is not planning on keeling over and dying any time soon, but <u>Hamas</u> is far from rational. Under the direction of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the organization has conducted terrorist operations throughout the Middle East. Utilizing suicide bombers to maim, injure and kill innocent Palestinians and Israelis alike, **Hamas** has made significant strides into the hearts and minds of young Palestinians.

There is no question that this organization exists only to polarize this already heated conflict, ensuring that some Palestinians become so radical that a peace with the modern state of Israel can never be reached. The existence of <u>Hamas</u> as an organization is a direct threat to the peace process in the Middle East. It is only logical that the assassination of its founder can hinder the organizational capacity of this organization to conduct terrorist strikes.

Unfortunately, the media has not given fair treatment to Israel during this entire ordeal and especially not since this killing. The mainstream media have done many features on the frail Sheik, being careful each time to point out to the world that he was killed on his way back from morning prayers, in his wheelchair. It is easy to paint a sympathetic picture of such a man killed by a modern missile, but this gentle, sympathetic picture is definitively one-sided. Where are the CNN slideshows detailing the young men this terrorist leader has sent to their death? Personally, I have a hard time understanding how this man could be going to morning prayers at all, knowing full well the blood of the innocents on his hands.

To its credit, the White House has publicly gone forth with the best reaction of the major Western powers. While noting that the United States did not give Israel the go-ahead to carry out such an attack, a spokesman for the White House affirmed that Israel had a right to defend itself. Considering the scope of the violence against civilians

An unheralded victory over terror

that the Sheik has ordered over the years, one would hope that Israel had a right to defend herself. If the U.S. government had an opportunity to take out Osama Bin Laden via a missile strike, even on his way to a mosque, I would hope that the opportunity was taken. Both men certainly have caused undue suffering of innocents.

I have argued against the death penalty in the United States, and thus it is a little tough to rationalize the killing of someone, even a terrorist, in such a capacity. However, the one situation in which the death penalty is acceptable is when it is used to prevent further violence. By removing the "spiritual leader" of this terrorist organization, it is clear that Israel has taken a step to prevent further violence in the long term.

There will be an immediate backlash from the Palestinians, and world opinion will waver slightly, especially in light of the biased reporting by the international media outlets. However, it is important to keep in mind the greater picture. While this attack may, in the short term, cause one or two more young men to strap explosives to their chest and blow themselves up in a hopeless attempt to kill innocents, the damage to this particular terrorist organization and all such organizations will be worth the price. For too long the leaders of these groups have feigned legitimacy; somehow, claiming that their methods of terrorism are a legitimate way to bring about change.

Israel has taken the gloves off, and rightly so. We all must make it our goal to show the world that being a terrorist is not a healthy occupation. No longer may the leaders of terrorist organizations feel safe in issuing press releases and sending misinformed suicide bombers to kill innocent **women** and children.

(C) 2003 Cavalier Daily via U-WIRE

Load-Date: March 29, 2004



16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES

Daily Post (North Wales)
September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: North Wales Edition; NEWS; Pg. 23; Newspaper

Length: 425 words

Byline: SARA THOMAS

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group <u>Hamas</u> as vengence for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

Witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer, said: "People were screaming and yelling.

"Everybody was running." Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby.

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

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

After the attacks, Sharon met top security officials to plan a response.

Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies, and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

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

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

16 DIE IN ATTACKS ON ISRAELI BUSES

The attack was the deadliest since a <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants had not carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

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

Graphic

A rescue worker helps a victim of the explosion in Israel

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)
September 25, 2004 Saturday
Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 388 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinian guerrillas killed an Israeli-American woman Friday in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The attack, which came just hours before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Palestinian resistance group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for firing two mortar bombs at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A <u>Hamas</u> video showed three masked fighters setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently Israeli return fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a four-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the <u>Hamas</u> mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two <u>women</u> who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the <u>women</u>, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, and the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since the latest uprising against the occupation began in 2000. But Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a Gaza settlement had been killed. In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israel town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

"We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. The three attackers also died in the battle.

Mortar attack hits Jewish settlement

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tensions and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Graphic

Photo: Brennan Linsley, Associated Press; A woman cries at the funeral for Tiferet Tratner, a resident of a Gaza Strip Jewish settlement, who was killed earlier Friday in a mortar attack.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004



Abbas heading for Palestinian election victory, opinion polls show

Financial Times (London, England)

January 8, 2005 Saturday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 654 words

Byline: By SHARMILA DEVI and HARVEY MORRIS

Dateline: RAMALLAH and JERUSALEM

Body

Although Mustafa Barghouti, the main independent challenger, claimed yesterday he had enough support to secure the Palestinian Authority presidency, opinion polls point to a clear victory for Mahmoud Abbas, candidate of the dominant Fatah movement in tomorrow's election.

Latest polls gave him 59-65 per cent of the vote, with a maximum of 28 per cent for Mr Barghouti.

Whoever is declared the winner, in what will be one of the most intensively monitored votes in electoral history, will have the task of trying to revive direct negotiations with Israel.

Also tomorrow, Ariel Sharon, Israeli prime minister, will present parliament with a new coalition government that will implement his controversial plan to withdraw Jewish settlements from Gaza, a move seen internationally as a first step to reviving the peace process.

During his campaign, Mr Abbas vowed not to abandon the legacy of the late Yassir Arafat, whom he succeeded as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and whom he now hopes to replace as president of the Palestinian Authority.

He told a rally of 1,000 <u>women</u> supporters in Ramallah yesterday: "We will stay faithful to the spirit of our martyrs. We will not accept anything less than a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

He also said that any agreement with Israel that dealt with "the destiny of the people" would be put to a national referendum.

Election officials predicted a high turnout for the first national election in the authority since 1996.

Mr Barghouti, who runs a medical charity and has the backing of much of the secular left, said yesterday he would be prepared to serve in a national unity government after the election. He would press for an international conference to resolve the conflict.

"Sunday will be a great day in convincing the world that the Palestinians deserve what other people have achieved - a state," he said.

Abbas heading for Palestinian election victory, opinion polls show

<u>Hamas</u>, a militant Islamic opposition group, denied speculation it would give last-minute endorsement to Mr Barghouti. "We will not participate in the election or endorse anyone," said Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a West Bank <u>Hamas</u> spokesman. "But we don't ask the Palestine people to boycott and we will respect the people's choice."

A spokesman for the Fatah-linked Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed group that has been at odds with Mr Abbas because of his criticism of the militarisation of the intifada, urged voters to support him.

"The coming (electoral) struggle will be with <u>Hamas</u> and this election will be an indication of our success in parliamentary elections where the main opposition will be <u>Hamas</u>, not Barghouti," said Abu Ibrahim, an underground al-Agsa leader.

Mr Abbas yesterday failed to make an expected campaign visit to east Jerusalem, which Israel regards as part of its undivided capital. Aides said he wanted to avoid campaigning under a heavy security presence.

When Mr Barghouti went yesterday to pray at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque, he was briefly detained by Israeli police, the second time he has been arrested during the campaign.

His detention highlighted the sensitive issue of Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, which Palestinians demand as the capital of a future state. The Palestinian Central Elections Committee claimed many of the 120,000 Jerusalem Palestinians were afraid to vote, fearful Israel would take away their residency rights.

Jimmy Carter, the former US president who is leading a team of monitors from the National Democratic Institute, said he hoped for a peaceful vote. He also observed the last Palestinian presidential elections in 1996, when he accused Israel of trying to intimidate voters by filming them in East Jerusalem.

Around 800 foreign observers and 20,000 Palestinian monitors will on hand as up to 1.8m Palestinians cast their ballots. In addition to Mr Abbas and Mr Barghouti, there are five other candidates, including two Islamists, who are expected to garner only a small percentage of votes.

Load-Date: January 7, 2005



MUSLIM CHARITIES MUST PAY IN SLAY

Daily News (New York)

December 9, 2004 Thursday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Daily News, L.P.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 41

Length: 229 words

Byline: BY DEREK ROSE

Body

THREE U.S. Muslim charities were ordered yesterday to pay \$156 million to the parents of a teenager from New York gunned down in a terror attack in the West Bank.

The federal jury in Chicago awarded the damages to Stanley and Joyce Boim, who now live in Israel, for the 1996 murder of their 17-year-old son, David.

Earlier this month, the jury had found the Holy Land Foundation, the Islamic Association for Palestine and Islamic fund-raiser Mohammed Salah liable for Boim's death by funding the terror group *Hamas*.

Yesterday, the jury awarded \$52 million in damages - which were automatically tripled under federal law - and also found a third group liable, the Quranic Literacy Institute.

It's doubtful the couple will recover anywhere near that amount from the defendants, but Joyce Boim said the lawsuit was not about money.

"If I can stop one nickel from reaching <u>Hamas</u> to buy bullets, to produce bombs that kill innocent men, <u>women</u> and children, I will have justice for David," she said. "It could be billions of dollars. It's not going to bring David back."

The Quaranic Institute refused to defend itself during the trial, and spokesman Amer Haleem claimed religious persecution after the damages were announced.

"They had not one bit of evidence, not one shred of evidence against us," he said. "All they had was the fact that we were Muslims and they used the word terror."

Load-Date: December 9, 2004



Israel is firm on prisoners; No more Palestinians will be freed until militants are reined in, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said.

The Philadelphia Inquirer
MAY 9, 2005 Monday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A05

Length: 470 words

Byline: Mark Lavie ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday that Israel would not release more Palestinian prisoners until the Palestinian Authority took tougher action against militant groups - the latest sign of trouble for a strained cease-fire.

Israeli and Palestinian officials discussed the prisoner issue yesterday, but the meeting ended in disagreement. Palestinians said Israel was breaking a truce that had drastically reduced violence, endangering its continuation, and weakening Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

The Israelis repeated Sharon's statement from a cabinet meeting a few hours earlier, in which he said he would instruct his negotiators to make it clear to the Palestinians that no more prisoners would be released until the Palestinians rein in militants, meeting participants said.

"We won't strengthen Abbas at the expense of [Israeli] lives," Sharon was quoted as saying.

Abbas served briefly as Palestinian prime minister in 2003 but resigned after failing to make progress with the Israelis while being undermined by then-Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat. Critics of Sharon charged then that his tough policy on prisoners helped bring down Abbas.

Abbas and Sharon declared a truce to end more than four years of bloodshed on Feb. 8 at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheik. Abbas persuaded militant Palestinian groups to honor the cease-fire.

For its part, Israel pledged to hand over five West Bank towns to Palestinian control and free 900 prisoners. However, Israel stopped the process after two towns and 500 prisoners, contending that the Palestinians were not fulfilling their obligations to stop all violence and disarm militants in towns under their control.

Israel is firm on prisoners; No more Palestinians will be freed until militants are reined in, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said.

Although violence is still down considerably from the pre-truce period, rocket and mortar attacks on Jewish settlements in Gaza and towns just outside have picked up in recent weeks, along with gunfire attacks in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel always insists it will not release prisoners who took an active part in killing Israelis.

It holds about 8,000 Palestinian prisoners.

At yesterday's meeting, Palestinian representative Kadoura Fares said he asked for release of "the longest-serving prisoners and <u>women</u> and children." Israeli officials said they would consider freeing prisoners who had served two-thirds of their sentences as well as administrative detainees, held without charges or trials - but only after the Palestinians took stronger steps against militants.

Abbas is in dire need of a boost to his prestige after the Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> made inroads in local elections on Thursday, ahead of parliamentary elections in July when <u>Hamas</u> fields candidates for the first time.

While Abbas' Fatah movement fared better than expected in last Thursday's local elections, <u>Hamas</u> captured the three largest districts, according to unofficial results.

Load-Date: September 13, 2005



MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF

Birmingham Post

September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 445 words

Body

Palestinian suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

It was the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and was claimed by militant group <u>Hamas</u> as vengence for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

'People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running,' said witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer.

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

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

After the attacks, Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings. 'Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might,' Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pullout.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

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

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

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

MILITANTS AVENGE MURDERED TERROR CHIEF

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

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

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

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia) October 3, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 281 words

Body

SOLDIER KILLS THREE COLLEAGUES

AN Indian soldier killed three of his colleagues and then fatally shot himself today in India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

The army has ordered an inquiry into the killings by Santosh Kumar in an army barracks in Rajouri, 160km northwest of Jammu, the state's winter capital.

AFRICANS DROWN OFF SPAIN

AT LEAST four would-be immigrants drowned while trying to reach Spain from north Africa and rescue crews were today still searching for 14 others, a Civil Guard spokesman said.

Their boat sank yesterday off the coast of the Canary island of Fuerteventura.

TWO AFGHANS DIE IN REBEL ATTACK

SUSPECTED Taliban rebels attacked a police checkpoint in southern Afghanistan, killing a policeman and a bystander, police said today.

Four other police were wounded in the assault yesterday near Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand province.

HAMAS, POLICE WAGE GUN BATTLES

PALESTINIAN police and <u>Hamas</u> militants waged gun battles across Gaza City last night that killed a police officer and wounded 30 other people, including 10 police officers.

The gunfights came just three days after Palestinian armed groups agreed to stop carrying weapons in public to help bring order to Gaza's chaotic streets.

MAN SHOT IN ATTACK ON LEADER

A MAN was shot during a scuffle with bodyguards escorting Poland's *female* Deputy Prime Minister home from a night club early today, police said.

The man was treated in hospital before he was questioned about the incident in the Baltic port of Gdynia. Deputy Prime Minister Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka was not hurt.

KILLER TYPHOON HITS CHINA

DOOM & GLOOM

TYPHOON Longwang struck China's southeastern coast yesterday after churning across Taiwan, leaving one dead and dozens injured.

Load-Date: October 3, 2005



Osama's `spiritual' adviser convicted for financial terrorism

Hindustan Times

March 12, 2005 Saturday 11:32 AM EST

Copyright 2005 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 226 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: New York

Body

New York, March 12 -- A sheik who boasted that he was Osama bin Laden's spiritual adviser has been convicted in the United States on charges of scheming to finance terrorism. Yemeni cleric Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad, 56, according to a New York Times report, faces up to 75 years behind bars after a Brooklyn federal jury declared him guilty of five charges stemming from a conspiracy to support the Al Qaeda and the *Hamas* on Friday.

Al-Moayad's assistant, Mohammed Yahya Zayed, 31, was also convicted and faces up to 35 years behind bars. The two men were arrested in January 2003 after three days of meetings with a pair of FBI informants in which they discussed funneling 2.5 million dollars to the Al Qaeda and the *Hamas*.

These sessions were secretly taped in a German hotel that had been wired for video and sound as part of a sting operation, reports the paper. Al-Moayad and Zayed flashed smiles as the verdict was returned, but then erupted into angry protests after the jury left. Five anonymous jurors told reporters after the verdict that surveillance tapes were powerful evidence.

"Not once did they say, 'We're not going to do this,' " one <u>female</u> juror said. "Without the people that finance it, it wouldn't be possible to have terrorist acts," a male juror said.

Published by HT Media Ltd. with permission from Asian News International.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at httsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: March 12, 2005



Israelis killed in intifada revival

The Australian

October 18, 2005 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 500 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich

Body

Jerusalem

THREE Israelis were shot dead and four others wounded in two drive-by shootings on the West Bank at the weekend as the Palestinian intifada, which had been tapering off over the past year, appeared to spring back to life in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Israel reimposed restrictions on Palestinian movements and blockaded West Bank cities following the shootings.

Israeli officials said there would be no renewal of peace talks unless Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas suppressed militant groups, including <u>Hamas</u>.

MATP

Restrictions on the Palestinian population had been eased in recent months, particularly in the past week because of the Islamic holiday of Ramadan.

The commander of Israeli forces on the West Bank, Yair Golan, said: "This has taken us two years backwards."

<u>Hamas</u> and other militants, who believe it was their armed resistance that forced Israel out of the Gaza Strip, have shifted the focus of their activities to the West Bank in order to achieve the same results there.

In anticipation, Israeli security forces have in the past six weeks rounded up 700 activists on the West Bank, many of them suspected terrorists.

Although responsibility for the shootings was claimed by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Israeli military officials said <u>Hamas</u> was responsible despite publicly committing itself to a ceasefire.

In Sunday's most serious incident, a group of Israeli settlers was waiting at a hitchhiking station at Gush Etzion, north of Hebron, when they were shot at from a passing car.

Three people were killed: two 21-year-old <u>female</u> cousins, who had been settlers in the Gaza Strip before evacuation, and a 15-year-old youth. Three others were wounded. Less than an hour later, gunmen in a car opened fire on a group of Israeli youths walking at the roadside north of Ramallah. One of the youths was seriously wounded.

Israelis killed in intifada revival

Israeli troops immediately remanned West Bank roadblocks that had been abandoned in recent months as part of the easing of restrictions imposed on the Palestinians when the intifada broke out five years ago.

Military authorities announced yesterday that certain roads were now barred to Palestinian vehicles.

"Our immediate reaction is defensive," a security official said, "but our continuing, long-range policy is to aggressively root out the terrorists."

Deputy Defence Minister Ze'ev Boim said the Palestinian leadership had to finally come to grips with the militants if there was to be any hope of political dialogue with Israel.

"There is no leadership in the Palestinian Authority," he said. "Without security (for Israelis) there will be no progress."

The attacks are an embarrassment for Mr Abbas, who is to meet President George W. Bush in Washington in two days.

Mr Abbas, who wants the US to push to renew peace talks, had hoped to argue that his administration was beginning to assert its authority and impose order.

A significant resurgence of violence would jeopardise the Palestinian legislative elections scheduled for January.

Load-Date: October 17, 2005



ISRAELI MISSILE STRIKE ON BLOCK IN RETALIATION FOR DEATHS

Birmingham Post May 3, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 249 words

Body

Israeli helicopters fired four missiles yesterday at a high-rise building housing a <u>Hamas</u> radio station, slightly injuring seven Palestinians.

The air strike took place just hours after Palestinian gunmen ambushed and killed a pregnant Jewish settler and her four young daughters as they were travelling out of Gaza.

The missiles, which hit the top of the 14-storey building near the radio station's offices, caved in part of the roof and cut off electricity to the building.

Screaming <u>women</u> stood on the balconies. The building, filled with apartments and businesses, in the Rimal area is also home to the two main Palestiniannewspapers, Al Ayyam and Al Quds.

Military sources said the army had attacked a *Hamas* radio station that had been broadcasting 'incitement'.

After the first missile hit, the building shook and glass started flying everywhere, said Fathi Sabbah, an editor at Al Ayyam.

'Everybody was trying to get out... but then they hit the building again. Glass flew everywhere, and the building shook,' he said.

Seven people were hurt by shrapnel and glass shards.

The first and second missile were fired about 50 seconds apart, giving people time to flee.

The air strike followed an attack by Palestinian gunmen on a vehicle as it was driving out of Gaza. The attack -in which the two gunmen were also killed -killed a pregnant woman and her four daughters, outraging Israelis. The militant Islamic Jihad and Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group, claimed responsibility.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004



In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 18, 2005 Monday
Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 676 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Zines on the scene

As zine aficionados in a zine-happy city, four Montrealers decided to open a zine library. And so the bilingual Bibliograph was born in Mile End, and is now home to about 500 independently produced booklets and magazines from Montreal and around the world. Details, Page A6

Blood scandal doctor too sick for trial: lawyer

Background: Thousands of Canadians were infected with HIV or hepatitis C after receiving tainted blood in 1980s and early 1990s.

New: Roger Perrault, the former head of the Canadian Red Cross, is too ill to stand trial for his role in the tragedy, his lawyer is expected to argue today.

Next: The Toronto trial could take up to a year, while another trial in Hamilton, which is dealing with allegations against the Red Cross itself, could take 10 months, Perrault's lawyer said.

Details, Page A10

An apology ends a decade of pain

Background: Ten years ago, a 20-year-old Halifax man killed two sisters when his speeding sports car jumped a curb.

New: The man, who was later convicted of dangerous driving causing death, appeared at a church service marking the 10-year anniversary of the incident and apologized to the girls' family and friends. They in turn forgave him.

Details, Page A9

Peace deal in Indonesia ends decades-old strife

Background: Last year's south Asian tsunami gave new momentum to talks to end the 30-year insurgency in the Indonesian province of Aceh.

In Focus

New: A peace deal to end the rebellion is struck after the Acehnese are allowed to form political parties.

Next: The agreement is due to be signed next month, when a ceasefire will go into effect. Details, Page A16

New **Hamas** attacks as Israeli troops assemble

Background: Israel has killed eight

<u>Hamas</u> members since Friday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, drawing threats the extremists might abandon a unilateral truce.

New: <u>Hamas</u> strikes Jewish settlements with new rounds of rocket and mortar attacks. Israeli troops are massed on the border with Gaza.

Next: Despite tensions, Israel plans to withdraw from Gaza settlements next month. Settler leaders are trying to mobilize tens of thousands for a march today from the Negev Desert to the Gaza Strip. Details, Page A17

Business

An unbooming trade

The president of a Chambly company that makes bomb disrupters for police forces around the world found her way into the business via a quest for a fake gun. Lesley Rust was hunting for the prop weapon while working for a theatre company; her company, Proparms, now employs 28 people and has technicians in 70 countries.

Details, Page B1

Older, wiser, and not ready to stop working

Baby boomers are nearing retirement age, which has many of them preparing not for retirement but for more work. Retirement age is seen not as a time to slow down, but rather another chance at creative fulfillment or a way to try something new.

Details, Page B3

Sports

Armstrong keeps lead, teammate wins stage

Lance Armstrong holds onto the Tour de France lead on the toughest day of climbing in the Pyrenees. Armstrong's teammate, George Hincapie, wins the day, becoming only the eighth U.S. rider to win a tour stage in the history of the race.

Details, Page C7

Rookie Lee wins

Canadian Women's Open

Twenty-three-year-old LPGA rookie Meena Lee of South Korea shoots a 3-under 69 to win the BMO Financial Group

Canadian **Women**'s Open, overtaking

Scotland's Janice Moodie, who led after each of the first three rounds.

Details, Page C4

In Focus

Arts & Life

67-year-old trains hard to age actively

The key to enjoyable older age is "getting up off your butt and doing something," says Ray Cardinal. He should know.

At 67, Cardinal is a former kayaking champion who's competing next week at the World Masters Games in Edmonton with a training regimen that would punish a man half his age.

Details, Page D6

A brave new world of mind-shaping drugs

Mind-altering drugs could be as common as coffee within a couple of decades to boost performance at school and at work, to "unlearn" addiction and to erase memories of distressing events like a terrorist attack, according to a British government think tank.

Details, Page D7

Graphic

Photo: (Lance Armstrong);

Photo: (New *Hamas* attacks as Israeli troops assemble)

Load-Date: July 18, 2005



Israel may restart targeted killings after blast

The Australian

July 14, 2005 Thursday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 510 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich

Body

Jerusalem

ISRAEL has hinted it will resume targeted assassinations of militant leaders after an 18-year-old Palestinian detonated an explosive belt in the coastal resort of Netanya, killing four **women** and wounding scores of others.

In response to the first suicide bombing on its soil in five months, Israel reoccupied the West Bank town of Tulkarm, shooting dead a Palestinian policeman and arresting five Islamic Jihad activists it said were connected to the blast.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered a "root canal" operation against Islamic Jihad, which has ignored a ceasefire that has been honoured by <u>Hamas</u> and most other Palestinian militant groups since February.

MATP

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld said Iran could be behind the attack.

"I wouldn't want to suggest that I know about the attack today, but clearly that's been one of the stated and continuous purposes of Iran, to harm Israel," Mr Rumsfeld said.

Israeli officials indicated the policy of targeted assassinations of militant leaders, suspended for the past few months, may be resumed towards Islamic Jihad throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials said that the organisation had repeatedly attempted in the past few months to carry out attacks but that their efforts were thwarted, with 300 of its members arrested. Islamic Jihad was responsible for the last suicide bombing which took place at a Tel Aviv nightclub on February 25, killing five people.

Although sharing the same Islamic ideology as <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad is smaller and more radical and does not share <u>Hamas</u>'s aim of becoming part of the political process.

The bomber, a high school student from a village near Tulkarm, detonated his 10kg explosive belt on a pedestrian crossing near a major shopping centre.

Two 16-year-old girls and tow <u>women</u>, aged 31 and 50, were killed and 90 people were wounded, with several in a critical condition. In an apparently related incident, a car bomb blew up in the Israeli West Bank settlement of Shavei Shomron, causing no injuries except to the Palestinian driver -- who was found with one hand tied to the steering wheel.

Israel may restart targeted killings after blast

The suicide bombing was termed "idiotic" by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"There is no rational Palestinian who can conduct such an act at a time when Israel is beginning its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," he said. "This was a crime against the Palestinian people and those behind it must be punished."

But Israeli officials said while Mr Abbas may have good intentions, he had done nothing to crack down on the militants since his election six months ago and was becoming increasingly irrelevant.

A defence source said Israel had passed a message to the Palestinian Authority through US intermediaries that Israel would undertake the crackdown against Islamic Jihad in the absence of a response from the palestinian leadership.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered relative restraint in the past few months in the hope of being able to carry out the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with a minimum of friction with the Palestinians.

Load-Date: July 13, 2005