

Bombing

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said without elaboration that a number of people had been detained for questioning; it was not clear whether any were suspects.

The State Department issued a worldwide alert, saying it was extremely concerned about the possibility of violence against U.S. citizens and interests. Americans were urged to maintain "a high level of vigilance."

In a parallel travel warning, Americans were advised to defer all travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and those already there were told to stay at home or get to a safe location. Americans were warned not to go to Yemen.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh talked with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, pledged his cooperation in the investigation and visited some of the injured who were hospitalized locally. He insisted in a CNN interview that his country did not harbor "terrorist elements."

It was the first attack targeting the U.S. military in Yemen since the Pentagon pulled out all 100 American military personnel based there in January 1993 after bombings out-

side the U.S. Embassy and at hotels where some Americans were staying. U.S. intelligence has blamed Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida organization for some of those bombings.

The USS Cole is a \$1 billion guided missile destroyer home-ported at Norfolk, Va. It had sailed through the Red Sea and was en route to the Persian Gulf where it was to perform maritime intercept operations in support of the U.N. embargo against Iraq. The ship has a crew of about 350 people.

Navy medical teams were en route to the scene Thursday to treat those injured in the 5:15 a.m. EDT explosion, Pentagon officials said. U.S. aircraft capable of evacuating the injured were also scheduled to fly to Aden.

The incident was all the more stunning given that U.S. forces in the Middle East have been on a heightened state of alert in recent days and security plans for a port visit like the USS Cole's are drawn in advance.

The Cole had just arrived in the harbor and was scheduled to leave in about four hours, officials said, suggesting the attackers may have known the ship's schedule and the procedures for a refueling stop.

Adm. Vern Clark, the chief of

naval operations, said he could not fault the Cole's crew for not preventing the midday attack that apparently was carried out by two men in a small harbor craft that was helping tie up the ship's mooring lines at a fueling facility in the middle of the Aden harbor.

As a participant in normal harbor operations, the small boat's presence did not raise suspicions, Clark said.

"I have no reason to think this was anything but a senseless act of terrorism," Clark said.

After helping the Cole moor, the small boat came alongside the warship and its occupants apparently detonated a high-explosive bomb, killing themselves in the process. Some reports said the two men in the boat stood at attention as the bomb exploded, although Clark said he could not verify such details based on early information.

Clark displayed a Navy photograph of the damaged ship. The jagged edges of the hole in the hull protruded inward, suggesting the explosive force came from outside the ship at roughly the water level.

Women sailors were among the casualties, Clark said, although identities of the dead and injured were not released pending notification of relatives.

Reaction

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daiwi, a sophomore journalism major originally from Kuwait.

In the past 48 hours, a violent conflict has been heightening in the Middle East, with three Israeli soldiers killed by a Palestinian mob and retaliations underway on both sides.

Agreeing with Al-Budawai, undeclared freshman Nadia Hasan added that Islam is "about peace and harmony."

While many are disheartened by the violence, few are surprised. Some have even said that many in the Middle East have never realistically believed peace would come about.

"I was expecting trouble over there," Al-Budawai said.

Undeclared sophomore Michael Robertson said that while he is "very sad" about the situation, he is not surprised.

Rabbi Tal Shachar of the Ahavas Torah synagogue, Eugene's Orthodox Jewish congregation, used to live in Israel and just recently moved to Oregon. From his experience, he said people in Israel are not

shocked by the explosion in violence because it arises from pressures that have been building for a long time.

"One of the reasons that people are taking to the streets right now is because of things that have happened for years," he said.

Graduate student Orlee Jacobi, who is studying public policy and

"In general, there are a lot more things going on than what is reported because people wanted the whole process to work," Shachar said.

Even so, he said, there was never a strong belief that peace would occur.

"In Israel today, there's a national consensus ... that the peace process is basically over," Shachar said.

While the situation is complicated, Al-Budawai raised another issue. He said he thinks the U.S. government is very much on Israel's side.

On the other side of the coin, Robertson said he thought the government has done a good job of remaining neutral, especially in the past few weeks.

Some members of the Jewish student community on campus have decided to hold off on declaring formal reactions to the entire situation. Senior Judaic studies and political science major Jessica Elkan said that because everything is currently evolving, it is difficult to give an informed opinion at this point in time.

"As a Jewish student, I do not feel that I can make an accurate response to what is going on over there until more information is released," she said.

“In Israel today, there’s a national consensus... that the peace process is basically over.”

**Rabbi Tal Shachar
Ahavas Torah synagogue**

management, spent six weeks in Israel. She said the media there underplayed the violence.

The violence continued even through the peace process. A year ago, Shachar said, one of his neighbors was kidnapped and beaten by a Palestinian policeman. The incident garnered only a one-time short spot on the news.

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