

# Tel Aviv suicide attacks leave 22 dead

Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

TEL AVIV, Israel — Two suicide bombers blew themselves up within seconds of each other Sunday evening, killing themselves and at least 22 people, and injuring more than 100 others in a neighborhood packed with foreign workers.

The al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attacks. It identified the suicide bombers as two of its members: Murad Abdul Rahman Khulafa, 21, and Smaer Immad Nori, 19, both of Nablus.

Only hours after the Tel Aviv explosions, Israeli Apache helicopters bombed sites in Gaza City, hitting two Palestinian Authority offices and a building in the market, Israel State Radio reported. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had assembled his security cab-

inet before the Gaza strike, and they continued to meet late into the night.

Sunday's suicide bombings were the worst attacks since a June bus bombing in Jerusalem killed 19 passengers and triggered Israel's reoccupation of most West Bank towns in an attempt to prevent such suicide bombings.

The Palestinian Authority strongly denounced the attacks and condemned the killing of all civilians, whether Israelis or Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority promised to punish those involved.

Cabinet Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said those responsible are "serving the Sharon electoral campaign." Israeli elections are scheduled later this month, and political observers say suicide bombings boost the popularity of hard-line candidates who advocate strong military action against the Palestinians.

Israeli officials insisted that regardless of which Palestinian faction carried out the attack, Arafat is to blame.

"Terrorists have the infrastructure to commit these attacks because the Palestinian Authority gives it to them," said David Saranga, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman. "These terrorists have documents; these terrorists have explosives; these terrorists have monetary support."

President Bush quickly condemned Sunday's attacks "in the strongest possible terms," White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said. "There are those who want to derail the peace process. But the president will not be deterred. Innocent people have a right to live in safety."

In the neighborhood of the Old Central Bus Station, onlookers watched in quiet disbelief as rescue workers and police dogs searched for victims late into Sunday night.

According to Israeli police, one bomber blew himself up in front of a Chinese restaurant on a street lined with cafes and shops; the other did so seconds later in front of a bus stop 200 yards away. Survivors fled the neighborhood that was streaked with blood and littered with glass.

The blasts were so strong that people inside houses and shops were injured. The bombers, who blew up about 200 yards apart, each were wearing 33 pounds of explosives, according to Israel State Radio.

Police were searching Sunday night for a black Honda Civic that was seen speeding away from the scene of the attack toward the West Bank.

© 2003, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services. Correspondents Cliff Churgin in Tel Aviv and Mohammed Najib in Ramallah contributed to this report.

## News briefs

### Water diversion caused fish die-off, report says

The dramatic die-off of 33,000 salmon last fall along the Klamath River in Northern California was directly caused by the Bush administration's decision to pump extra water from the river to farmers, biologists from the California Department of Fish and Game have concluded.

The environmental disaster in September left one of the state's major rivers stacked with rotting salmon, some up to three feet long, from the mouth of the Klamath River near Crescent City to 36 miles upstream. It was the largest die-off of adult salmon ever recorded in the West.

Seeking to control a political embarrassment, the Bush administration said at the time that not enough science was available to conclude what killed the fish.

The 63-page report, issued late Friday night, marks the first official documentation suggesting causes for the die-off. It concludes that fall Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and endangered coho salmon died because the U.S. Department of Interior diverted so much of the river's water to farming interests in 2002 that the fish crowded tightly as they returned to spawn from the ocean and fell prey to disease. The die-off killed 25 percent of the river's fall Chinook run, the report found.

State biologists also concluded that unless the federal government leaves more water in the river

starting in March "there is a substantial risk of future fish kills."

— Paul Rogers, Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

### California GOP official apologizes for remarks

Bill Back, a candidate in next month's election for the chairmanship of the California Republican Party, has issued a statement apologizing for distributing an article that suggested the country might be better off, in everything from race relations to international affairs to morality, had the South won the Civil War.

Excerpts of the article, e-mailed to party members in the state in a 1999 newsletter produced by Back, were printed Friday in newspaper articles, bringing the specter of the scandal that crippled U.S.

Senator Trent Lott to the California GOP.

"I just don't have any idea what Mr. Back was thinking about when it was sent out," said Assembly Republican Leader Dave Cox, referring to the article in the newsletter.

At the same time, Cox said that he does not believe Back, currently state GOP vice chairman, is a racist and that he still backs him in the race for the party chairmanship against Duf Sundheim, a Silicon Valley attorney and a more moderate Republican.

In his statement, Back, a conservative Bush ally, said the newsletter, which he distributed when he was the party's vice chairman for the northern region, was a forum for diverse political opinions. Regarding the controversial article, a reproduced essay written by

William S. Lind of the conservative Free Congress Foundation, Back said, "I believe his conclusions and analysis are fundamentally incorrect and he mentioned nothing about how repugnant slavery was and its impact on America."

But Shannon Reeves of Oakland, state party secretary and the only African-American member of the state GOP executive committee, was skeptical of Back's explanation, asking why Back didn't say he disagreed with the article in his editor's note in the newsletter.

"No one distributes their own official newsletter with materials with which he disagrees," said Reeves, "unless they refer to the article that they disagree with in the body of their direct comments."

— Elise Banducci, Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

**HEY STUDENT GROUPS!** Advertise your upcoming events in the Oregon Daily Emerald. Special student rates. Call 346-3712

# Start your year on a healthy foot.

Take advantage of the Health Education Offerings this winter

### Cholesterol Screening:

Get your blood cholesterol and glucose checked Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Health Education Office. Just drop by.

### Lending Library:

Borrow one of the terrific books from the Health Education office. Topics include sports' nutrition, cook books, meditation guides, sexual health and more.

### Peer Health Education Program:

Schedule a Peer Health Educator to speak to your group. Talks include safer sex, making sound diet choices, relaxation strategies, drug effects, and more. Call Ramah at 346-0562 to schedule.

### Health Info at the Student Rec. Center:

Stop by the Info tables Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 and talk to the Peers about healthy choices.

### Boiling Water 101, Cooking Workshop:

Wednesdays starting February 5th. Call 346-2794 to register.

### CPR:

Sign up for a CPR certification class. Call 346-2770 for class schedule and to register.

Brought to you by  
the Health Education Program  
at the University Health Center  
13th and Agate



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Health Center • 13th Ave. & Agate St.  
<http://healthcenter.uoregon.edu>