

# ISRAEL REPORT

To provide greater exposure to primary Israeli news sources and opinions in order to become better informed on the issues, and to gain a better understanding of the wide range of perspectives that exist in Israeli society and politics.

Issue 1097 • March 16, 2018 • 29 Adar 5778

## ISRAELI OFFICIALS MEET QATARI, SAUDIA AND UAE COUNTERPARTS AT WHITE HOUSE (JPost 3/13/18)

Israeli national security officials sat around the same table on Tuesday morning with their counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, discussing a dire humanitarian situation unfolding in the Gaza Strip.

The summit on Gaza, called by Jared Kushner, the US president's son-in-law and senior adviser on Middle East peace, as well as Jason Greenblatt, his special representative for international negotiations, marks an unprecedented moment for Israeli diplomacy, as their dialogue with officials from Arab states is publicly recognized for the first time.

Palestinian Authority officials did not attend the meeting.

"We regret that the Palestinian Authority is not here with us today," Greenblatt said in opening remarks to the conference. "This is not about politics. This is about the health, safety and happiness of the people of Gaza, and of all Palestinians, Israelis and Egyptians."

"As you know, we are here today to consider ideas on how to address the humanitarian challenges in Gaza – a topic that has long been at the forefront of all of our minds," Greenblatt continued. "It has certainly been on mine."

This is not the first time that Israeli and Arab officials have been in the same room together. Both were present at a peace conference in Madrid in 1991, and in UN ad hoc liaison committee hearings on the plight of the Palestinians. But the White House has never hosted an event of this kind, much less on the heels of releasing a plan designed to cement a burgeoning alliance between the Sunni Arab world and the Jewish state.

The US envoy also emphasized the need for health aid, electricity, clean water, food security and employment in the coastal strip.

"We all know that none of this will be easy," Greenblatt said. "And, everything we do must be done in a way that ensures we do not put the security of Israelis and Egyptians at risk– and that we do not inadvertently empower Hamas, which bears responsibility for Gaza's suffering."

Greenblatt asked the group to "agree to leave politics at the door."

In a tweet after the meetings concluded, Greenblatt thanked the Israeli and Arab diplomats "for putting all tensions aside to work with us."

"Everyone left politics at the door & focused on practical solutions," he wrote.

The meeting took place amid reports from Israel's Channel 10 that Egypt has been hosting a series of behind-the-scenes meetings between Israeli and Saudi officials. The report has not been independently confirmed.

## EARLY ELECTIONS AVERTED AS FEUDING COALITION BROKERS LAST-MINUTE SOLUTION (Israel Hayom, 3/14/18)

The prospect of early elections faded Tuesday after the feuding coalition partners were able to reach a compromise on the legislative proposals that had threatened to topple the government.

The coalition crisis was sparked when Ashkenazi ultra-Orthodox party United Torah Judaism threatened to stall the vote on the state budget unless its amendment to Israel's Defense Service Law was passed. The amendment aimed to legally anchor exemptions from military service to ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students.

The compromises reached include four stipulations: All factions will be able to vote freely on the conscription bill in the Ministerial Committee on Legislation; the defense minister will present the committee with his own draft of the bill by the beginning of the summer session, and his proposal will be integrated into the existing draft; no faction will present the ministerial or Knesset

legislation committees with bills concerning issues of religion and state for the remainder of the government's term; and the Knesset will vote on the nation-state bill prior to breaking for the Passover recess or, at the latest, as soon as the summer session begins.

Once the agreement was signed, the Ministerial Committee on Legislation voted in favor of the conscription bill, which later also passed its preliminary Knesset reading.

The opposition presented the Knesset with several bills urging the dissolution of the Knesset, all of which were voted down.

Addressing the Knesset plenum, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "I promised to preserve the government and I kept my word. I thank my partners in the coalition for demonstrating responsibility so that we can continue to lead Israel with determination and success in [the fields of] security, economy, society and foreign relations."

Taking aim at the coalition, Netanyahu said, "That was scary, wasn't it? I see you have some color back in your cheeks. I know that I spared you some anguish because if we held elections, I would still be standing here and you would still be sitting there. The public's support for us is tremendous."

Zionist Union leader Avi Gabbay slammed the government, saying, "The public as a whole has lost from the fact that we are not calling early elections."

"Today we have witnessed yet another illustration of the culture of government corruption, the loss of moral values and the fact that the coalition parties lack any moral backbone. Today we discovered who is really afraid of elections. The days of this bad government are numbered."

## US MARINES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS TAKE PART IN A JOINT URBAN WARFARE EXERCISE (Ha'aretz 3/14/18)

The Israeli military hosted U.S. Marines this week for an urban combat drill in

Israel Report is a Student Publication of

### Torah Academy of Bergen County

Alex Ostrin, Yoav Zolty, Editors-in-Chief

Akiva Sturm, Eli Jarashow, Ezra Sepowitz and Bentzion Rotblat, Editors

We are proud to be distributed by these institutions, though they do not necessarily support or condone any of the material published:

Anshei Chesed Cong., Boynton Beach, FL	Hillel at Brandeis University
Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies	Hillel at California State University - Long Beach
Boca Raton Synagogue, FL	Hillel at Columbia University
Carmel School, Hong Kong	Hillel at Johns Hopkins University
Cong. Agudath Achim, Bradley Beach, NJ	Hillel at Yale University
Cong. Ahavas Achim, Highland Park, NJ	Hillel High School, Deal NJ
Cong. Ahavath Achim, Fairfield, CT	Jewish Center of Teaneck, NJ
Cong. Anshe Shalom, Jamaica Estates, NY	Kehillas Bais Yehudah Tzvi, Cedarhurst, NY
Cong. Anshe Shalom, New Rochelle, NY	Kemp Mill Synagogue, Silver Spring, MD
Cong. Beth Aaron, Teaneck, NJ	Mizrachi Shul, Johannesburg, SA
Cong. Beth Shalom, Monroe Twp, NJ	North Shore Hebrew Academy HS, NY
Cong. Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, NJ	Suburban Torah Center, Livingston, NJ
Cong. Etz Ahaim, Highland Park, NJ	The Learning Shul, Columbia, SC
Cong. Ohr Torah, Edison, NJ	Woodsburgh, NY Minyan
Cong. Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ	Young Israel Bet Tefilah of Aberdeen, NJ
Cong. Shomrei Torah, Fair Lawn, NJ	Young Israel of Brookline, MA
Cong. Sons of Israel, Allentown, PA	Young Israel of East Brunswick, NJ
Cong. Zichron Mordechai, Teaneck, NJ	Young Israel of Fort Lee, NJ
Cong. Zichron R. M. Feinstein, Brooklyn, NY	Young Israel of Hancock Park, CA
Delray Orthodox Synagogue, Delray Beach, FL	Young Israel of Holliswood, NY
East Denver Orthodox Synagogue, CO	Young Israel of Houston, TX
Flatbush Park Jewish Center, Mill Basin, NY	Young Israel of New Hyde Park, NY
Harvard University Library	Young Israel of North Woodmere, NY
Hebrew Academy of Long Beach, NY	Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY
Hillel at Baruch College	Young Israel of Sharon, MA

YI Shomrai Emunah, Silver Spring, MD

We encourage our readers to subscribe to our sources on the internet. For more information or to subscribe by e-mail, reach us at [IsraelReport@tabc.org](mailto:IsraelReport@tabc.org)



a mock-up of a generic Middle East village, sharing know-how and signaling the allies' shared interests as their leaders close ranks on a host of regional issues.

"We are willing to work and train together, and if God wills it, if we ever need to be side by side, then we will," Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Mainz of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit told Reuters during the exercise at Israel's Zeelim base.

His troops joined Israeli special forces regiments to practice battle formation, helicopter deployment and medical evacuations in a mock-up village in the desert, complete with Arabic graffiti and a fake mosque.

The maneuvers were part of a wider, biennial joint air defense exercise known as Juniper Cobra, which this year took place amid heightened Israeli and U.S. concern over the missile arsenal of Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Mainz said his troops had learned from the Israelis' experiences in fighting Hamas guerrillas in Gaza, and had in turn shared tips from U.S. warfronts.

"They teach them what to see when they were either in the Gaza Strip or somewhere else on the battlefield, for us in Afghanistan and Iraq, and teach that young soldier what to look for," he said.

"And what happens is they start getting excited and they are talking about 'I learned this here', 'I learned that there'."

Under President Donald Trump, the United States has boosted its already strong support for Israel - including by recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, a move that angered many Muslims and Arabs who back the Palestinian claim on the city.

#### **COMPTROLLER: ISRAEL FOLLOWED INTERNATIONAL LAW IN GAZA** (Arutz-7 INN.com 3/14/18)

State Comptroller Yosef Shapira released on Wednesday his fourth report on Operation Protective Edge, Israel's 2014 conflict with the Hamas terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip.

The 169 page report, which, unusually, was published in English as well as Hebrew, concluded that Israel complied with the 'minimum requirements' of international humanitarian law in avoiding civilian casualties. However, the IDF received criticism for specific events or failures.

The Comptroller praised the Security Cabinet for the extent to which the Cabinet took international law and the need to avoid civilian casualties in Gaza into account during the conflict. The report noted that the Cabinet discussed civilian safety in Gaza in 18 separate meetings during the conflict. Shapira wrote that "both the political echelon and the senior military echelon explicitly considered the limitations and rules set forth in international law with regard to the conduct of the fighting in Gaza, and the Prime Minister gave explicit instruction to refrain from harming uninvolved civilians."

The report also noted the complexity of combating an enemy such as Hamas, who deliberately uses civilians as shields and attempts to maximize civilian casualties on both sides of the conflict. It detailed specific cases where the IDF canceled planned strikes due to the probability of high civilian casualties, even when the strikes would have been legal under international law.

However, the Comptroller criticized the IDF on a number of issues, including the slow pace of investigations into specific incidents.

The report took issue with the Hannibal Directive, a special order according to which the rules of engagement become less strict in order to thwart the kidnapping of soldiers in real time, shooting at the kidnappers as kidnappings are being attempted even if this might kill the soldier himself. The directive was criticized for not being clear enough for commanders to understand the legal limitations they still faced.

The Hannibal Directive was replaced with a clearer set of orders in 2016.

The report praised the IDF for providing courses to soldiers in the laws of armed conflict, but stated that sufficient hours were not provided for the

courses

The report also criticized gaps in intelligence about the locations of civilians in Gaza. The report noted that the IDF does not have enough Arabic-speaking liaisons to contact civilians in Gaza to learn their locations and ensure their safety.

The IDF responded to the report by stating: "The IDF welcomes the comptroller's report, will carefully study its findings and will act to implement the suggestions."

"The IDF attributes great importance to the rules of international law and acts accordingly. As the report states, during the conduct of the fighting in Gaza, the senior military echelon gave significant importance to the rules of international law and many steps were taken to ensure their implementation. The report shows the IDF's commitment to act in accordance with the rules of international law, in practice."

#### **STARTUP HAS SOLUTION TO DETER DANGEROUS RAILWAY HACKING** (Israel21c, 3/8/18)

Rail transport is undergoing a huge transformation thanks to automated, wireless and connected technologies that whoosh passengers down the tracks faster and more efficiently than ever before possible.

However, these same technologies have opened a door to new types of cyber-attacks that can threaten passenger safety, disrupt service and cause serious economic damage.

Now pulling into the station with a uniquely Israeli solution is Cylus, a specialized cybersecurity startup led by a former Israel Railways CEO and veterans of the Israeli Defense Forces Intelligence Corps' elite technological intelligence and security units.

Founded in 2017 and only recently out of stealth mode, Cylus has raised \$4.7 million in seed money to develop its proactive solution to protect railways and metros anywhere in the world.

"The automotive industry has woken up to the critical need for cyber protection. It's time the railway industry got on board as well," says Cylus CEO Amir Levintal. "Current approaches to cybersecurity do not fit the architecture of railway networks today."

Levintal, former director of the Cyber R&D Division of the IDF's technological unit, tells ISRAEL21c that new signaling systems are especially vulnerable to hackers.

"These systems are used to direct railway traffic and to keep trains clear of one another, and as such, are the heart of safety-critical train operations. They have also become more and more automated over the past few years – and are now operated wirelessly," he explains.

"In the worst-case scenario, hackers could send commands to the train causing them to slow down, stop completely, or even accelerate on curves so that the train would be unable to align itself with the switches on the track. All of these scenarios could lead to disaster."

It's not just theoretical. Rail companies in the US, UK, Germany, South Korea and Sweden have been hacked in recent years – often by insiders (employees, former employees, contractors or business associates working within the system). Levintal believes several train accidents also have been caused by hackers.

Boaz Zafir, president of Cylus and former CEO of Israel Railways, says railway executives are acutely aware of the dangers and are looking for answers.

He decided to fill that need by founding Cylus together with Zohar Zisapel, chairman of the RAD Group and several Israeli auto-tech related startups including Argus Cyber Security and Innoviz Technologies.

They gathered a team with expertise in the rail and cyber industries, and have attracted investment from Magma Venture Partners, Vertex Ventures and the SBI Group.

"As far as we know, we are the only startup that is currently developing a

cybersecurity solution that is specifically tailored to the industry's unique requirements, including detection of cyberattacks in a rail system's operational network, signaling systems and rolling stock," Levintal says.

Cylus' military-grade technology is built to block attackers before they can cause any damage.

Levintal explains that the company's name was fashioned from a combination of the word "cyber" and Salus, the Roman goddess of safety and well-being.

The growing team of 10 employees, based in Tel Aviv, also includes VP R&D Miki Shifman, an experienced cyber researcher from the IDF's technological unit, and CTO Gal Shmueli, former cyber CTO of the IDF's technological unit. Will Cylus be assuring safety on the soon-to-open fast rail line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem? Levintal says Cylus is currently in negotiations with several national railways but he is not at liberty to reveal details just yet.

Meanwhile, rail cybersecurity is a hot topic across the world, with meetings and summits planned throughout 2018 in various countries.

On January 29, Cylus participated in a special Cyber for Trains session at the Cybertech confab in Tel Aviv, presenting a new cybersecurity paradigm for the modern railway. Among experts on hand were Shahar Ayalon, CEO of Israel Railways; Ehud Schneerson, former commander of the IDF's Technology & Intelligence Unit 8200; and Marc Antoni, director of the Rail System Department, International Union of Railways (France).

#### **ISRAEL'S ECONOMY STRONG, GAPING INEQUALITY REMAINS (YNet 3/11/18)**

Israel's economy is registering a "remarkable performance with strong growth", while income inequality is on the decline, but economic gaps and lack of social cohesion continue to prevail in the country, according to a 2018 report published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD).

"Israel's economy continues to perform well both in terms of macroeconomic and fiscal outcomes," the Economic Survey of Israel 2018 summarizes in its conclusions.

Average growth has reached 3.3%, marking a higher progress rate than in many OECD countries—a fact which the report says can be partly attributed to strong population growth, which accounted for half of this impressive increase.

Furthermore, the country's "dynamic high-tech sector" has bolstered Israel's external standing.

The findings of the survey, presented in Jerusalem by OECD Acting Chief Economist Alvaro Pereira, Shai Babad, Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Yoel Naveh, Chief Economist, also indicate that the coming year will likely yield further healthy growth rates of around 3.5 per cent.

The report notes Israel's "prudent" financial policy and comparatively low and dropping public debt, while highlighting that the average standard of living is improving thanks to higher employment rates.

As a result, the general satisfaction among the Israeli public with their lives when compared to the other 34 OECD countries is high.

Despite the glistening report, however, not all can be presented as gold by Israel's economic leaders. Indeed, inequality—a common grievance voiced by Israelis—remains a problem in need of a remedy.

"Further reforms will be needed to drive down inequality and raise living standards for all Israelis," the report says.

Naveh extolled the fact that "The Israeli economy has grown faster and more consistently than nearly any other in the OECD for the past 15 years."

Unemployment, he said, is at historically low levels, "and the rise in people with jobs has had a significant impact on the continuing convergence of living standards in Israel with those in the most advanced economies."

However, some groups composing a significant proportion of Israel's demographics, are in serious need of governmental attention.

"Crucial" measures are required to integrate into the workforce groups who

are considered more than others to be economically marginalized such as Israeli-Arabs, ultra-Orthodox Jews and Haredim.

The groups, the report points out, contribute to Israel's high poverty rates and low productivity, a problem that demands improved social and labor market integration, particularly since by 2059 they are forecast to constitute half of the overall population.

"Enhancing training and education for Israeli-Arabs and Haredim will be essential to improve their economic opportunities and make future growth more sustainable," the report said. "Reforms and more public investment in education would develop their skills, allowing them to find well-paid jobs in high value-added sectors."

Despite the recorded rapid employment growth which has boosted income for the poor and improved the lives of disadvantaged groups, the share of working poor, notably Israeli-Arabs and Haredim, spiked because many are in low-paid jobs due to their limited skill sets.

Moreover, low social transfers—social assistance provided by public and civic bodies to those living in poverty or in danger of falling into poverty—indicate that the families, often large among these communities, face deprivations that contribute to the child poverty rates.

Other shortcomings in the Israeli economy were also noted. Frequent road congestion in Israel could be addressed, the survey suggests, by dedicating more effort and resources into the country's infrastructure deficit, especially public transport.

This, in turn, would also improve Israel's "poor air quality while improving access to the labour market, particularly for disadvantaged groups living in peripheral zones."

Reforms in education, infrastructure and product markets will strengthen the social economic and productivity, the survey predicted.

#### **NO ONE HAD ISRAEL'S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND WHEN SOLVING THE COALITION CRISIS (Sima Kadmon, YNet 3/14/18)**

On Monday evening, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mocked the opposition leaders over their fear of elections. But after one poll and less than 24 hours of hectic discussions, he stashed away his ambitions to reconquer the premiership and announced that everything was back to normal.

Who says politicians aren't influence polls? The way the political system acted Tuesday leads to the conclusion that polls may not always reflect reality, but that they have a tremendous ability to change it—and that's what happened Tuesday evening.

And don't let them tell you stories about national responsibility, and about the state's best interest, and about responsible adults working behind the scenes out of concern for the Israeli public.

None of the players in the farce known as the "IDF draft law crisis" were driven by the state's best interest when they did what they did. Neither the ones who brought about the crisis, nor those who went along with him or those who did everything in their power to solve it. We aren't dealing with altruists here. We're dealing with cynical politicians whose main concern is their seat, and when something threatens them—they charge themselves with super powers to save their skin.

The prime minister didn't change his mind about calling elections because he thought it would harm the state. He changed his mind because he realized it could backfire on him. Flattering polls with 30 Knesset seats may be empowering, but not when it comes at the expense of those who are supposed to be your partners in the next government. Even 35 Knesset seats won't help Netanyahu form a coalition if his partners are weakened or non-existent. And that's what the polls commissioned by the television channels showed Monday evening: Coalition parties which barely pass the electoral threshold or are losing Knesset seats. And when these parties have no desire whatsoever to go to elections to begin with, it certainly leads to second thoughts.

It's possible, however, that the picture was changed by something entirely different. Netanyahu was certain, based on past experience, that he would be the one to lead and decide on the election date because no one—mainly the opposition—would feel confident admitting that the date was unsuitable. After all, we would expect them to accept any date. When all Knesset members—apart from Yesh Atid and Meretz—supported the demand to hold the elections in October, it served as a main factor in thwarting the move. At one point, Netanyahu had only 46 Knesset members in favor of elections in June. The rest wanted October.

The prime minister's first priority was to hold elections in June. If not in June, then he is better off without elections. And the worst thing, as far as he's concerned, is elections in October. Half a year from now is a long time, and it's uncertain that Netanyahu will manage to escape the attorney general's decision in this timeframe. In that case, he should perhaps just stick to what he has and make the most of it rather than fight for something without knowing how it will end.

But the last push was provided by Avigdor Lieberman. The defense minister, who throughout the week gave the impression that he was willing to go all the way, making it seem as if he and Netanyahu had struck some rewarding deal, discovered on Tuesday that there was another stop on the way to the Defense portfolio in the next government. And if his number of Knesset seats following the elections would be similar to the number predicted by the polls, he might not even make it to the coalition agreement stage. Even for Lieberman, that was an overly dangerous gamble.

In the afternoon hours, he was already seen turning around and kicking the ball back into Netanyahu's court. Lieberman is no sucker. He has no intention of digging his own grave. On Tuesday, for the first time, he showed Netanyahu the way to solve the crisis so as not to go to elections.

We might never know about everything that took place between Netanyahu's two ears. Was it the poll, the date, or were there other things that changed his motivation to call elections? For example, the agreement worded by the coalition parties, which included a threat to reveal the fact that Netanyahu was dragging the state to elections simply because of his investigations. Perhaps it was their promise that they wouldn't dissolve the government before the attorney general decided on a full indictment.

It doesn't really matter. What we should know is how easy it is to drag a country to elections which would cost it billions, and how personal interests, the necessity to survive and political manipulations dictate this country's agenda—and how easy it is to turn the tables.

### **ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PALESTINIAN PM FAILED, BUT DEALT MORTAL BLOW TO RECONCILIATION** (Amos Harel, Ha'aretz 3/14/18)

Who tried to assassinate the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, Rami Hamdallah, and the head of the PA's intelligence services, General Majid Faraj, immediately after they arrived in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday morning? Was this a failed attempt on their lives or just a threatening signal to the PA's leadership?

The answers to these questions, in the first few hours after the incident, are still rather blurry, contradictory and rife with conspiracy theories that in any case had prevailed with respect to the relations between Fatah and Hamas. What is clear is that even though the two senior PA officials escaped the blast without injury, the efforts led by Egypt to effect a reconciliation between the two Palestinian factions have suffered a mortal blow.

It is unlikely that Hamdallah will come to Gaza for another visit anytime soon. And the Hamas leadership – whether they are behind the attack or just enabled it due to an act of omission – have now earned themselves an even more determined rival in Faraj, who is arguably the most powerful person in the West Bank today.

Hamdallah arrived in Gaza on Tuesday, on his first visit in months, to cut the ribbon at the launch of a new sewage-purification plant in the northern Strip,

in whose construction the PA had participated. Hovering in the background, the Egyptian attempt to broker a rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas has hit a dead end. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas sees – somewhat justifiably – Hamas' conditions for such an agreement as a dangerous honey trap for him. The Hamas leadership wants to dump the ongoing civil operation of Gaza on Abbas, without subordinating its military forces to the PA.

At the same time, Fatah fears that Hamas will try to exploit a reconciliation to carry out a hostile takeover, starting with the institutions of the Palestine Liberation Organization and then later taking over the reins of power in the West Bank.

Tuesday's explosion will exacerbate the tension between the various quarrelsome Palestinian camps. Some in the PA have already accused Hamas of being responsible for endangering the safety of those riding in the convoy. Hamdallah went on to give a speech in Gaza and announced that he will continue to visit there, but a short time later cut short his tour and quickly returned to the West Bank, via Israeli territory. The convoy packed up and turned around – taking with it a few security guards who were lightly injured by the explosion.

The assassination attempt took place just a few hundred meters south of the Erez crossing on the Gaza-Israel border, on the Strip's main north-south thoroughfare. This is an area that is ostensibly under the strict supervision of Hamas' security services. Nonetheless, someone managed to infiltrate it, and to conceal a very powerful explosive device (based on the large mushroom cloud that rose high over the scene after its detonation) under the road.

It appears that if the blast's timing had been arranged in a more professional way – and had not hit only the last vehicle in the convoy – the injuries to the senior PA officials would have been much more serious.

This leads to two possibilities: first, that the organization behind the attack is one that is operating in opposition to Hamas policy; or, alternatively, that Hamas turned a blind eye to an act that was intended to threaten senior PA officials, but not kill them.

Hamas does not have total control over the Gaza Strip. One of the heads of the security services there, Tawfiq Abu Naim, spoke shortly after the attack about an investigation of the incident. Abu Naim was wounded in October 2017 in an assassination attempt. At the time, the accusations were aimed at extremist Salafist groups, which Abu Naim had been handling with an iron fist. This time too, those responsible may be Islamic Salafist extremists, but the long list of suspects also includes Mohammed Dahlan's men. Dahlan is a former senior PA official who is at odds with Abbas, as well as with Hamas, or at least certain elements in that organization.

Hamas quickly blamed Israel for the blast, by the way.

## **Dry Bones**

