

Tel Aviv bombing kills three Israelis

DINA KRAFT

TEL AVIV – When a Palestinian teenage suicide bomber blew himself up in a Tel Aviv market known as a rare oasis of Arab-Jewish co-existence, he shattered not only victims' bodies, but the market's peaceful atmosphere.

Spattered sweet potatoes and toppled stacks of children's clothing lay strewn alongside the three dead and 32 injured on the singed pavement of the open-air Carmel Market after Monday's deadly bombing, which took place amid the bustle of mid-morning shopping.

The dead were Shmuel Levy, 65, of Jaffa; Tatiyana Akerman, 32, of Tel Aviv; and Lea Levin, 64, of Givatayim.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as 16-year-old Amar al-Far, from a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus.

Following the attack, Israeli troops

and tanks rolled into Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday, razing the family home of the teenage terrorist.

They also destroyed houses belonging to his dispatchers from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The mother of the suicide bomber has blasted the terrorists who recruited her son. Samira Abdullah, 45, told reporters that those who recruited and dispatched her son Amar made a mistake "in taking advantage of someone too young to understand the meaning of his actions".

Police on the scene at the Tel Aviv market said the bomb itself was relatively small. The sign over the Shamai Cheese Shop hung broken in two, its glass shattered on the ground below. Nearby, in one of the market's busiest sections, the bomber had detonated his explosives.

"The bomber probably knew quite well where he was," said Avi Chayo,

28, who was slicing chicken breasts at his family's store when the bomb went off, turning everything into a haze of smoke and screams.

Police detectives and forensic experts swarmed the area along with members of ZAKA, who wore white plastic gloves as they picked through the debris to collect body parts and other human remains.

Nearby shop owners shook their heads and exchanged bits of news as they emerged. In the midst of the jumbled scene, a Foreign Ministry spokesman turned to the TV cameras to condemn the attack and blame the Palestinian Authority for continuing to let terrorism thrive.

Despite the chaos, shortly after the bombing a handful of shoppers still arrived at a fruit stand north of the site.

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'Scoring points' killing Israelis



An injured Israeli is taken to hospital after a suicide bomber detonated explosives in a Tel Aviv market.

Photo: Isranet

Press Council ruling on ABC's Malki coverage 'odd', says father

PETER KOHN

FORMER Melburnian Arnold Roth, the father of Malki, who was murdered aged 15 in a terrorist bombing in a Jerusalem pizzeria in 2001, says he is baffled by a finding of the Australian Press Council relating to media coverage after the deadly blast.

The Press Council, a self-regulatory body to deal with complaints by the public against the press, last week upheld a complaint by former ABC foreign correspondent Tim Palmer about criticism of how the national broadcaster covered the aftermath of the Sbarro pizzeria bombing in Jerusalem on August 9, 2001.

Palmer objected to an opinion column that appeared in Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* on August 26 last year, shortly after the second anniversary of the suicide bomb blast that claimed Malki's life.

Malki was one of 14 Israelis who were killed when a bomber detonated explosives he was carrying in the pizzeria. She was the first and so far the only Australian-born fatality in the Palestinians' four-year-long terror campaign against Israel.

Written by *Daily Telegraph* columnist Piers Akerman, the article described how Palmer had invited Roth to be interviewed, noting that he would not participate if, as Palmer advised, his comments were to be bracketed by those of the bomber's father, Shaheel al-Nasri, who reportedly expressed pride in his son's actions.

Akerman described Palmer's idea of a composite piece as "a response which reveals either an appalling absence of any moral compass on the part of the ABC's senior staffer, or a total lack of any understanding of the conflict".

In the article, Akerman went on to state: "Can it be that this is what ABC boss Russell Balding has in mind when he babbles about 'balance' at the national broadcaster?"

"Does it believe there can be some 'balance', some symmetry, some moral equivalence in presenting the



Arnold Roth, whose daughter Malki died in a suicide bombing on August 9, 2001: "I don't think that the issue of what the interview would have said ought to have been the matter that decided how the Press Council reached its decision. I think it's a totally irrelevant question."

father of a murdered teenager who spent her school holidays providing care for severely handicapped children and the father of a young man who believed it was his religious purpose to murder innocent people?"

In its verdict, the Press Council cited Palmer's complaint that, as his plan for a composite interview involving Roth and the bomber's father was later dropped, Akerman could not have known what form the story would have taken or how the two proposed interviews would have been used.

"The Press Council believes that amid the arguments about the shades of meaning of the words 'counterpoint', 'balance' and 'symmetry', it remains clear that Piers Akerman did not contact Mr Palmer, and indeed he could not have known how the story would have been handled.

"As a result, the article was unbalanced and unfairly derogatory of Mr Palmer, characterising him in a manner not justified by the matters raised in the column. For these reasons the complaint is upheld."

The *Daily Telegraph* has lodged an appeal against the finding.

Roth, who now lives in Jerusalem, has not been a party to the proceedings, but wrote an open letter to the ABC last year complaining of how it covered Malki's murder.

He told the *AJN* from Israel this week: "The notion that an opinion piece needs to incorporate the response of the person about whom the opinion is expressed seems to me to be very odd.

"Bearing in mind the complaint was made by one of the most influential journalists in Australia – one who manages to get his views across at will – makes this even odder."

Roth said that of around 150 interviews he has given about Malki's murder, Palmer was one of only two journalists who said they planned to weld the interview to an interview with the bomber's father.

"I said I will not give a hand to a bogus comparison between my views and those of the father of the murderer."

Roth said he was affronted by Palmer's plans for the interview, regardless of what the final product might have looked like.

"I don't think that the issue of what the interview would have said ought to have been the matter that decided how the Press Council reached its decision. I think it's a totally irrelevant question."

In its statement, the Press Council made no comment about Akerman's account of how, on a visit to Melbourne in 2003, Roth was asked to appear on ABC Radio to talk about Keren Malki, a foundation which he founded to raise money for Jewish and Palestinian families with disabilities, in memory of Malki's work in this area.

But, recalled Akerman, Roth was later notified that the interview would not take place because of coverage given to another Palestinian bombing and that it would be "difficult to proceed without appearing unbalanced".



Yasser Arafat, pictured just before he was airlifted from Ramallah to Paris, where he is being treated.

Photo: Isranet

Israel: Arafat won't be buried on Temple Mount

JERUSALEM – Israel will refuse any request to bury Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

The issue came up in a meeting between Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and Israeli security personnel concerning the Palestinian Authority chairman's declining health, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Arafat has expressed his desire to be buried on the Temple Mount, but security officials fear burying him there would strengthen Palestinian claims to the area, which is the holiest site in Judaism and also is sacred to Muslims.

Burying Arafat there likely

would enrage many Jews, who consider Arafat a murderer and arch-terrorist.

Israeli officials have considered two possible locations for Arafat's grave – one in the Gaza Strip and one in Abu Dis, a Jerusalem suburb that overlooks the Temple Mount, *Ha'aretz* reported. JTA

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Not with a bang, but with a
whimper

Media in Israel freer than Australia

MICHAEL CAVANAGH

MEDIA freedom in Israel is slightly greater than Australia, although it is worse in the Palestinian territories, according to the Paris-based watchdog, Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF).

Israel comes in at 37 out of 167 nations according to the RSF's third annual press freedom index, four

spots ahead of Australia, although the Palestinian territories ranks 116th, with the Palestinian Authority at 127.

Saudi Arabia came in at 159, one spot ahead of Iran, while Syria was at 155, Libya at 154 and North Korea was rated the worst in the world at 167.

Closer to home, New Zealand was ranked at number nine while the US came in at number 23.