

A year of escalating Mid-East violence

1 Israelis killed by Palestinian suicide bombs. Responsibility has been claimed mostly by the Islamic militant groups *Hamas*, *Islamic Jihad* and *al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade*

UNITED STATES



Sep 11: More than 3,000 people killed in terrorist attacks on New York and Washington

MID-EAST

Sep 23: Gulf Arab states pledge support for impending U.S.-led war on terrorism. Saudi Arabia severs diplomatic relations with the *Taliban*

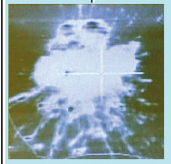
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ISRAEL



Oct 17: Palestinian militants assassinate Tourism Minister **Rehavam Zeevi** in east Jerusalem. Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon** heralds "new era" of retaliation – Israeli forces occupy six West Bank towns

Jan 27: First Palestinian woman suicide bomber



AFGHANISTAN

Oct 7: United States launches round-the-clock air raids against Afghanistan, the *Taliban* and *al-Qaeda*

Pictures: Associated Press



Dec 4: Suicide attacks kill 28 Israelis in five days. Sharon declares the Palestinian Authority an "entity that supports terror." Widescale military reprisals against Palestinian leader **Yasser Arafat** follow

Feb 21: Palestinian security forces arrest three men – including **Ahed Abu Gholmi**, military leader of the hard-line **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** – suspected of having carried out the assassination of Rehavam Zeevi



DEFENSIVE SHIELD

Mar 29: After a wave of suicide bombings, Israel launches **Operation Defensive Shield** – a military offensive in the West Bank which stretches into April



Apr 2-May 10: Siege of Bethlehem. Surrounded by a paratroop brigade, some 200 Palestinians – many heavily armed – seek refuge in the **Church of the Nativity**. Apr 3: Israeli army enters **Jenin refugee camp**. Ten days of brutal fighting claim the lives of 23 Israeli soldiers and an unknown number of Palestinians



Jun 25: U.S. President **George W. Bush** unveils his blueprint for a provisional Palestinian state within about 18 months and a final settlement in three years. **Bush calls for the replacement of Arafat**



Jun 19: Israeli government mounts new military campaign to seize parts of the West Bank and hold them as long as terror attacks continue



Jul 31: Seven people – including five Americans – killed in bomb blast in Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Aug 9: At least 1,490 Palestinians and 585 Israelis have been killed since start of *intifada* in September 2000

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