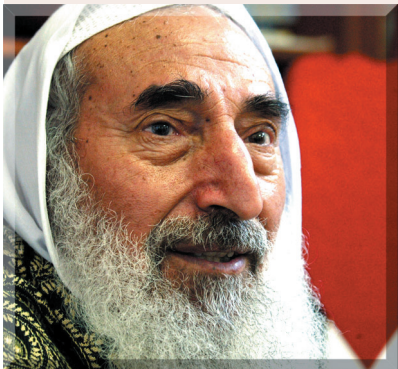


*Wednesday, March 22*

## *ON THIS DAY*



▲ **2004:** Sheikh Yassin, founder and spiritual head of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, was killed in a targeted Israeli air strike

**1599:** Prominent Flemish artist Sir Anthony Van Dyck was born

**1960:** Two U.S. inventors made technological history when they received the first patent on the laser

**1992:** Democratic elections in Albania ended 45 years of Communist rule

**1996:** The British government revealed a link between BSE, or “mad cow disease”, and a new strain of the brain-wasting Creutzfeld-Jakob disease in humans