

MID-EAST e-NEWS

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Welcome

Sometimes circumstances provide the material I include, regardless of any planning that I put into it. Both of the center-spread articles are compiled from email that arrived in my mailbox since May 31. So if you are waiting for an article on Armenia (after last issue's on Azerbaijan), or discussion on the State of Israel as being the necessary fulfillment of Scripture, then you will need to wait until issue #67 of e-NEWS.

Thanks for the comments you have sent, on 'conditional prophecies' or 'Ahmadinejad's Letter.' Both drew some interesting responses.

Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net & check the web for back issues.

New Iraqi Government

About 5 months after the 2005 elections, most of the Iraqi government positions have been allocated. The cabinet was approved on May 20th, and met for the first time on Sunday, May 21st.

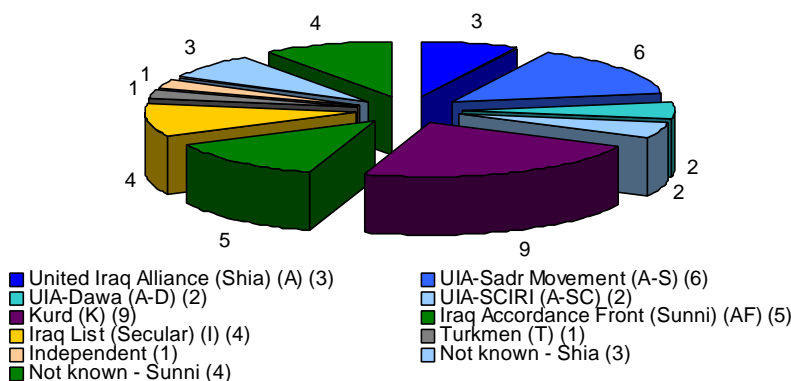
Posts for the ministers of National Security, Interior and Defense have not been filled. That these are arguably the most critical positions in the new government indicates the difficulty that Prime Minister Nuri al Maliki has had in assembling his government.

The posts that have been allocated are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Jalal **Talabani** (K) (Sworn in 7 April 2005)
CABINET: PM: Nuri al-**Maliki** (A-D) (Appointed 22 April 2006)
MINISTERS:

Agriculture	Yaroub al- Abodi (A-S)
Communications	Mohammed Allawi (I)
Culture	Asaad Kamal Hashemi (I)
Defense (Acting)	Salem al- Zobaie (AF)
Displacement & Migration	Abdul Samad Sultan (K)
Education	Khodair al- Khozaei (A-S)
Electricity	Karim Waheed (Independent)
Environment	Nermeen Othman (K)
Finance	Bayan Jabor (A-SC)
Foreign Affairs	Hoshiyar Zebari (K)
Health	Ali al- Shemari (A-S)
Higher Education	Abd Dhiab (AF)
Housing & Construction	Bayan Dezei (K)
Human Rights	Wijdan Michael (I)
Industry & Minerals	Fawzi al- Hariri (K)
Interior (Acting)	Nuri al- Maliki (A-D)
Justice	Hashem al- Shebly (I)
Labour & Social Affairs	Mahmoud al- Radi (A)
Municipalities	Riad Ghareeb
Oil	Hussain al- Shahristani (A)
Planning	Ali Baban (AF)
Science & Technology	Raed Fahmy
Trade	Abdul Falah al- Sudani (A-S)
Transport	Karim Mahdi Salid (A-S)
Water Resources	Abdul Latif Rasheed
Youth & Sports	Jasem Mohammed Jaafar (T)

Iraqi Government



Graph shows the political allegiances of the cabinet members.

Shia parties are in blue, Sunni in green.

VPs: Adel **Abdul-Mahdi** (A-SC), Tareq al-**Hashemi** (AF)
Deputies: Barham **Salih** (K), Salam al-**Zobaie** (AF)

Justice	Hashem al- Shebly (I)
Labour & Social Affairs	Mahmoud al- Radi (A)
Municipalities	Riad Ghareeb
Oil	Hussain al- Shahristani (A)
Planning	Ali Baban (AF)
Science & Technology	Raed Fahmy
Trade	Abdul Falah al- Sudani (A-S)
Transport	Karim Mahdi Salih (A-S)
Water Resources	Abdul Latif Rasheed
Youth & Sports	Jasem Mohammed Jaafar (T)
MINISTERS OF STATE:	
Civilian Community Affairs	Adel al- Assadi
National Assembly	Safaeddine al- Safi
National Security (Acting)	Barham Salih (K)
Provinces	Saad Taher al- Hashemi
Women	Faten Mahmoud
National Dialogue	Akram al- Hakim (A)
Foreign Affairs	Rafea al- Esawi
Tourism & Antiquities	Liwaa Semeism (A-S)

The three women members of the 40-person cabinet are the Ministers for Environment, for Human Rights (a Christian, as can be seen from her family name), and for Women.

Saving Children's Hearts

Dear friends,

Those who come to Israel are deeply moved to meet the doctors whom [Shevet Achim] support as they save Arab children's lives through open-heart surgery.

Dottie Powell interviewed Dr.

Akiva Tamir, chief cardiologist at Wolfson Medical Center near Tel Aviv. He is pictured here examining Salem, a ten-year-old Bedouin boy from Jordan, who will have his surgery Sunday morning.



DR. TAMIR: I am an optimistic man. I see the possibilities and not the impossibilities. I got into this work of helping children from poor countries through a very dear friend, ... His name was Amram, and everyone called him Ami. ... a pragmatic man. He ignored the details, and got to the center of the problem and found the solution. He was an American Jew, trained in the U.S. army—very Zionist. He went to Ethiopia because of the great need there—one surgeon per 55 million. Ami identified the potential, that we are highly qualified physicians here in Israel, and we could help Ethiopia by saving children's lives. ...



Then afterwards we started helping Palestinian children. We had no structure or funds, nothing for money. It was a big burden. I was the only cardiologist, and I had to be available 31 days a month... Ami had a way of creating good out of difficulty. He did very good things and got support from everybody. ... Ami was killed at the age of 47, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. This left us with no leader. Three doctors stepped up: Sion Houri, Lior Sasson, and myself. We were ready to pick up the lead after Ami died. Now we do surgeries for children from 26 or 27 countries. ...

We started accepting patients from Gaza, supported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. But after a while, they decided not to send any more funds. Then Jonathan Miles came into the picture. He became the voluntary health minister for the Palestinian children. He found solutions for them, and the children who needed heart evaluations were referred to me for evaluation. Those who could be operated on, Jonathan raised support for them. We have trained two Palestinian doctors to be pediatric cardiologists: one man from Nablus, and a woman from Bethlehem. ... Of the more than 500 we have helped, I remember only one mother who brought up political

issues in regard to the care we gave her children. We have very, very good and strong relationships.

This boy [Salem] came across from Jordan. We had the understanding that he had pulmonary stenosis and dextrocardia ... when he came we found out that the obstruction to the pulmonary artery is much more complex. Actually it's not only that his heart is on the right side, but also that the ventricles are misplaced. The chamber that has to be in the right position is the left ventricle, the chamber that would be in the left position is the right ventricle. ... What you should do is you should switch the atria, and switch the arteries, something that is called a double switch in a dextrocardiac child. Usually after this procedure he will need a pacemaker for life. In any event, this is his only chance for longevity.

Did you have any hesitation about going ahead?

We discussed this matter in the group. ... We explained to the mother, and we asked her to call the father in Jordan to explain this is a very dangerous surgery, with high mortality, and that they have to be sure they

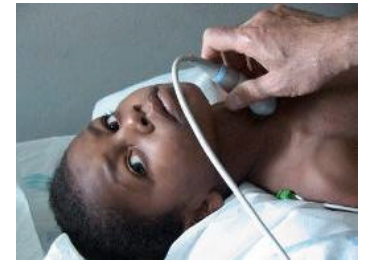
want the surgery. But the option without operating on him is he will just fall one day and not recover. You cannot wait until something bad happens to him. So far he is running around happy and doesn't feel anything. But he is a time bomb. If not treated he will die suddenly.

Please join us in praying this weekend for Salem, his family, and Dr. Tamir and the medical team that will work on him.

Salem's surgery is scheduled for 8 am Sunday morning.

"Behold how good and how pleasant for brothers to dwell together in unity"
(Psalm 133:1).

www.shevet.org



Gaza Bible Society

The following email was sent on May 24th.

Dear Friends

Two days ago there was extensive exchanging fire between a group from Hamas & people from the headquarter police station which is next to the new church building. One employee from our library [name omitted] (married & has several children) was shot in his back by a bullet, while he was inside the library (Culture & Light), his case was critical & dangerous but now he is doing much better & in stable condition, Praise the Lord . Please pray for continued healing & recovery for [him]. Please pray for safety for the staff at the library & the whole team.



For the two months from the beginning of Feb. 2006 to the beginning of April, 2006, we went through a very difficult time when unknown, masked people put explosive material at the front door of the United Bible Society Center and damaged the entrance. A week after that, they delivered a written threat, followed up by phone calls, requiring us to close the Bible Society or they would destroy the entire building, as well as the car owned by the Bible Society. We thank God that we have been able to open the Bible Society again on April 3, after it was closed for 6 weeks. Even though the threat continues, we trust God every thing will be ok.

In the midst of these trials, an old friend invited me to come to his home just to talk. When I got there, I was greatly surprised. He and his wife wanted to accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord. [My wife] and I are now meeting with this couple for lessons on discipleship. Praise the Lord, He gives joy in the midst of suffering.

For several months now I have been giving leadership training for the United Bible Society team in Gaza.

Christian Mission to Gaza continues to provide relief in the form of food and medicine for destitute people in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

As you know, more than 160,000 employees of the Palestinian Authority have not received their salaries for the last three months. As a result, many people are not able to get the food they need. And the situation is made worse, since Israel has closed the only border crossing that we use to get most of our food.

Please pray for safety for the team, and that they may have courage and peace in the face of the threats that we have received. Please pray that the police will learn who it is that is behind the threats against the Bible Society.

Please continue to pray for [my wife]'s situation. She still does not have formal Israeli permission to leave and enter Gaza. Hence, it's uncertain that she would be allowed to return if she left.

And this, written by a visitor

On one of the days, I accompanied _____ and members of the Protestant community as they responded to a call from their contact in the Deir Al-Balah Refugee Camp, requesting a delivery of food for several families that were in desperate need. The conditions of the families that we were asked to help were appalling. Let me give you just one example. We visited one four room home consisting of bare concrete block walls, dirt floors covered in part by rugs, and almost no furniture. And 17 people, comprising three families called this home. Two weeks before we arrived, a 32 year old member of one of the families had died of cancer, leaving a wife and four children.

First, when I stepped out of the taxi at the Erez border crossing to Gaza Monday evening, April 17th, I was shocked and startled by a loud explosion. I asked the driver, "What was that?" And he said, "Oh, it's just the Israeli's shelling northern Gaza; it goes on all the time. It's the Israeli response to the occasional Kassam rocket fired from the area." And during the following four days in central Gaza City, which is some 8 to 10 miles from the northern Gaza area, the sound of the shelling from tanks, loud enough to rattle the window panes of whatever building we were in, went on almost incessantly. Gazans showed no reaction whatsoever; they were quite apparently used to the constant whoosh-kerwhump. The reason for this, of course is the regular firing of Kassam rockets into Israel by Palestinian extremists. I was a bit unnerved at first, but after two days I found myself paying little attention. But then, checking my email messages, I found the following report. On April 10, at 5:30 PM, an Israeli tank shell hit the home of Muhammad Ghaban in Beit Lahiya, killing his 8-year old daughter Hadeel instantly, and wounding several other siblings and his wife.

This Month

May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W								
Africa	Japan provides \$19m for AU in Darfur		Fighting in Jonglei, S. Sudan					2002 Tunisia bombers sentenced in Spain							Militias kill 25+ in Darfur village			Medecines Sans Frontieres evacuates some S. Sudan areas				Islamists attack police in Algeria																	
	Violence increasing in South, Peace process slow in Darfur			Peace treaty signed by 1 SLA rebel faction															Darfur peace treaty deadline passes																				
Pakistan	Baluch militants destroy rail bridge			Baluch landmines kill 3			Man kills 2 sisters over their job hunting				Wazir grenade attack-3 killed				Gas pipeline bomb in Baluchistan-50 shops burn					2 Hindu pilgrims killed in Sindh																			
	3 police killed in Taliban attack						Bombs at Quetta police school kill 6																																
Afghan.	Floods in N.-16 die			Judge killed in Farah prov.			US strike kills 4 near Pakistan border				40 Taliban die in village attack, +13 police				Taliban attack convoy, 16 die inc. 2 French					Taliban kill 12 police, kidnap 40, in South																			
Iraq	2 German hostages freed		Karbala bomb, 21 die			281 detained in Salahadin				UAE diplomat abducted		Blair in Iraq		Tribes clash in south-16 killed		Baquba ambush -police col.killed		Bomb kills 2 UK troops																					
	Balad:10 insurgents killed			Baghdad-2 car bombs-9 die			2 insurgents killed in Tel Afar attack				Kurds accuse Turkey of shelling in N.Iraq		Anbar governor attacked, 10 die		Gen. held, involved in death sq		Iraq army units clash		19 Shia killed in E.Baghdad		Maliki wants militias disbanded		Bus bomb kills 11 nr Khalis		Adhamiya bomb kills 12		UAE diplomat freed												
US Deaths: 3/30: 2,317 4/28: 2,395 5/16: 2,433 5/31: 2,459	Security guards kill Iraq ambulanceman		Courthouse bomb kills 5, Baghdad			Baghdad bombs kill 19				Car bomb follows killing in Baquba, 11 die		Saddam nephew arrested in Lebanon		Baghdad morgue receives 65 shot, beheaded		Telafar suicide bomb-24 die		2 Baghdad airport bombs kills 14		Kurds claim 300 Turkish troops near Dahuk		Baghdad-2 UK newsmen killed		Abu Hanifa mosque bomb-5 die		Hilla car bomb kills 12		Baghdad bomb kills 25		Sunni Imam killed in Shula									
	100,000 or more Iraqis have fled the violence. IRAN troops enter Kurdish region twice. Baghdad morgue: 35-50 deaths per day Islamic gunmen shoot beer drinkers, men wearing shorts, etc.			Bomber kills 16 Fallujah recruits			14 bodies found in Baghdad, tortured			Yusufiya sheikh killed		2 journalists killed		5 insurgents flee prison		Mortar attack on British base		Baquba bomb kills 4		Baghdad professor shot dead		Baghdad car bomb kills 9		Sunni Imam killed in Shula		Al-Batawi captured		Baghdad: 42 bodies found		Muqdad mayor killed									
	Parliament meets for 1st time			Baghdad court bomb-9 die			Roadside bomb kills 2 US			6 oil engineers kidnapped			Roadside bomb in Babil-3 US die			UK helicopter downed, 4 dead			Tikri suicide bomber kills 3 army			Tank accident, 4 US marines drown			5 US killed in Baghdad, Anbar			KDP member killed in Kirkuk			Tariq Aziz takes stand as Saddam defense witness			Roadside bombs kill 2 in Baghdad			Mortar attack kills 9		
Civilian deaths->	1	90	43	35	1	11	39	29	32	28	12	12	2	48	31	36	23	20	6	56	23	30	41	26	15	37	13	16	47	55	26								
Iran	Bad alcohol kills 15 in S.			Ahme'adinejad writes to Pres. Bush			Jundollah (Sunni rebels) kill 12 in S.				Students protest government restrictions				Iran rejects direct talks with US																								
	Canadian/Iranian author arrested						IAEA finds Uranium traces on equipment																																
Turkey	Up to 250,000 troops in Kurdish SE			Soldier killed by Kurdish mine near Iraqi border			High Court judge killed by Islamist lawyer				Secularists protest killing of judge				Greek/Turkish fighters collide & crash in Aegean				5 soldiers killed in clash with Kurds																				
							244 Palestinians allowed into Syria				Writer Michael Kilo arrested for signing Lebanese petition				Soldier killed by Kurdish mine																								
Syria	Leaders discuss removal of pro-Syria president			Calls Israel to withdraw from Shebaa farms			Army clashes with Palestinian fighters				Islamic Jihad official dies in Sidon bomb blast				Rockets fired into N Israel-wound Israeli soldier																								
	Economic reform protests						PLO reopens office in Beirut																																
Lebanon	Minimum wage to be increased to \$150 per month						20 held in Hamas plot				Fees for foreign workers to increase																												
	Govt. arrests 2 judges who criticized 2005 elections						Sinai rebel leader killed at El Arish				100s arrested during demo in favor of jailed judges																												
Jordan																																							
Egypt																																							
Israel	A new government is formed, isolation of Hamas is enforced. Tension rises across Lebanon border.			Smuggled explosives seized from dinghy			High Court disallows Israel residency for Arab spouses				Israel bombs, shells East Lebanon camps				Israel exchange fire with Hizbollah on border																								
	Militant shot in Nablus						2 militants killed in Nablus raid				\$11m PNA taxes released as Olmert meets with Pres. Bush				Egyptian smuggling drugs shot at border																								
							7 killed in WB by Israeli troops, inc. IJ militant				Senior Hamas militant arrested in Ramallah				Ramallah arrest raid, 4 killed, 50 injured																								
WB & Gaza	WB mother of 5 killed in IDF raid			3 die in Fateh/Hamas disputes			Deliveries resume as Abbas promises to pay fuel supplier				Hamas/Fatah fight near parliament, Jordanian diplomat killed				Fateh/Hamas trade fire in Khan Younis																								
	Hamas attempts to pay workers directly from donor banks			Small fire in Parliament building			Hamas sympathizers attack Fateh funeral				Hamas activist killed by gunman in Gaza				Gaza:4 Hamas members shot, 1 dies																								
	Crisis over Hamas refusal to accept Israel, funding for PNA ceases, workers unpaid. EU attempts to negotiate an aid approach						Quartet accepts funding route for Pal. aid				Abbas orders wide deployment of PNA security																												
							Fateh/Hamas violence continues				Abbas urges Hamas & Israel to cooperate				Hamas/Abbas security forces clash																								
							Fuel cut off in Gaza				PNA border police arrest Hamas official bringing \$800,000 cash																												
							Hamas leader calls for arms from Arab nations				Assassination attempt on Abbas security chief																												