

Name: _____
Global IV

Excellent
work.

period: 4
Date: 5/6/09
90/40

Homework: 27 - part 1 (20/40 point) counts as quiz grade

The Youth of Israel: Is peace possible?

Vocabulary:

Refugee - one flees in search of safety in a time of war

Martyr - someone who dies for a good cause

1. Ayat al-Akhras, an 18-year-old Palestinian, was the daughter of refugee parents, the seventh of eleven children. She lived all her life in Dheisheh, a refugee camp with 12,000 Palestinians in Bethlehem. As she grew up she became passionately concerned with politics. Her brother Samir was jailed twice for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. In March 2002 another brother was wounded by Israeli soldiers and that same month when Israeli soldiers invaded the refugee camp she saw Samir carrying a man who had been shot through his window and killed as he had been playing with his daughter.

An excellent student and a high school senior, Ms. Akhras was studying for graduation exams and planned to enter Bethlehem University and specialize in journalism because she wanted "to communicate to the world about the Palestinian cause," says her mother. Each afternoon after school she studied, cooked, did the laundry and other household tasks. She was engaged to be married in August 2002. After school on March 29, 2002, her friends said, Ms. Akhras talked about an errand she had in Jerusalem.

Rachel Levy, a 17-year-old Israeli, was one of three children and had spent almost all of the first nine years of her life in California. After her family returned to Israel, where she had been born, her parents divorced, her older brother moved out, and she lived with her mother and younger brother in Jerusalem. She too was a high school senior preparing for final exams. Her major interest in school was photography. An exhibit of her photos of water scenes in Jerusalem was praised highly by teachers, parents and students.

Ms. Levy worried about her weight and was a strong believer in physical fitness, working out regularly to a Jane Fonda exercise video. On March 29, 2002 her mother sent her out with a shopping list to buy some items for supper, including rice crackers, which Ms. Levy preferred to high-calorie matzos.

The two young women, who had never met, arrived at the entrance to the supermarket next to each other just before 2 p.m. A security guard stopped Ms. Akhras for a security check. As he did, she set off a bomb that blew her apart, killed Ms. Levy and the guard and wounded at least 30 others.

Ms. Akhras left behind a videotape in which she announced that she was "a living martyr," a member of the Aksa Martyr Brigades, and willing to die for Palestine. Relatives said that they had known nothing about what she had decided to do.

Source: (This story is based on articles in The New York Times of 3/30/02 and 4/5/02 and in Newsweek of 4/15/02.): <http://www.teachablemoment.org/high/palestine.html>

Excerpts from a speech by President Bush, 4/4/02

"When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying, the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. We mourn the dead and we mourn the damage done to the hope of peace, the hope of Israel's and Israelis' desire for a Jewish state at peace with its neighbors, the hope of the Palestinian people to build their own independent state.

"Terror must be stopped. No nation can negotiate with terrorist, for there is no way to make peace with those whose only goal is death....

"The chairman of the Palestinian Authority has not consistently opposed or confronted terrorists. At Oslo and elsewhere, Chairman Arafat renounced terror as an instrument of his cause, and he agreed to control

it. He's not done so. The situation in which he finds himself today is largely of his own making. He's missed his opportunities and thereby betrayed the hopes of the people he is supposed to lead.

"Given this failure, the Israeli government feels it must strike at terrorist networks that are killing its citizens, yet Israel must understand that its response to these recent attacks is only a temporary measure. All parties have their own responsibilities, and all parties owe it to their own people to act."

Later in this speech, the President said of suicide bombers, "They're not martyrs. They're murderers. And they undermine the cause of the Palestinian people."

Excerpt from a news report on the recent violence in Gaza by President Obama, January 2009



Obama urges action on Gaza borders

Barack Obama, the US president, has called on Israel to open its borders with Gaza to humanitarian aid and commerce in his first public remarks on the crisis there since becoming president.

Obama, who said he was deeply concerned about the loss of life in Gaza, also reiterated the US view that Israel had a right to defend itself from Palestinian rocket attacks.

"Now we must extend a hand of opportunity to those who seek peace, as part of a lasting ceasefire, Gaza's border crossings should be open to allow the flow of aid and commerce," Obama said.

The US leader was speaking at the state department as he named George Mitchell, former peace negotiator in Northern Ireland, as US special envoy for the Middle East

Questions:

1. Ms Akhras regarded herself as a "martyr." What do you suppose she meant by that word and by saying she is willing to die for Palestine?

She is a suicide bomber and dying for a good cause. She is a fundamentalist and would do anything for her country and religion.

2. What does this story tell you about the Israeli Palestinian conflict?

It's a bad conflict which Palestinians are in charge of radical groups and killing the young generation (suicide bombers).

3. President Bush calls suicide bombers "murderers," not martyrs. Why do you suppose he disagrees with Ms. Akhras and Hamas leaders?

He doesn't share the same likes. Like he's for example, American culture is very different that's why he calls them murderers. To Palestinian government there's nothing

4. What do you think President Bush means by "the future itself is dying" and that suicide bombings "undermine the cause of the Palestinian people? Do you agree? Explain your answer.

The young generation is being killed off by becoming suicide bombers. I agree because the young generation keeps killing themselves and eventually end up with a lost generation.

5. What was Obama's response to the recent violence in Gaza? What does he hope to do to improve Israeli-Palestinian relations

He is concerned about the loss of life in Gaza and that the Israelis have the right to defend itself from attacks from Palestine, and want to single out the Israeli-Palestine people that want peace.