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Israelis capture 400 Hamas Arabs

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JERUSALEM — Secret service agents and soldiers arrested more than 400 Arabs and eized automatic weapons in a predawn sweep Tuesday against an Islamic fundamentalist group that terrified the nation with suicide omb attacks on commuter buses.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who ordered he crackdown, hinted there could be further noves if the attacks persisted, and officials said Hamas political leaders could be targeted next.

"We will fight those who continue terror with all the means that are available to us. The only limitation is the limitations of the law," he said on Israel TV.

Rabin balanced his crackdown with gestures o Yasser Arafat's PLO. He confirmed Israel would llow the return of 20,000 to 30,000 Palestinians, most relatives of the PLO police force, once agreement with the PLO was reached.

Serbs seize U.N. guns,

shell buildings in Gorazde

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Serbs stepped up their challenge to the United Nations on Tuesday, boldly seizing anti-aircraft guns from U.N. guards near Sarajevo and shelling U.N. buildings in Gorazde.

As politicians and diplomats from Washington to Moscow debated a response, the Serbs showed no signs of honoring pledges to stop their attack on Gorazde, a Muslim enclave suffering one of

the worst assaults in Bosnia's two-year war.

U.N. officials lost contact with aid workers and military observers in Gorazde late in the day when their building was hit by shells.

Earlier reports said artillery fire also hit the eastern town's main hospital, two refugee centers and a food warehouse.

On Sarajevo's southern fringe, as many as 150 Serb soldiers brushed aside 30 French peacekeepers at the Lukavica barracks and

threat of air strikes two months ago.
"They were simply overrun," said a U.N. spokesman, Maj. Eric
Chaperon. "If they had fired, it would have been a massacre."

bomb any heavy guns not pulled back at least 121/2 miles from Sarajevo or put under U.N. control.

mair power to protect the six U.N.-designated "safe areas" like

It was unclear where the weapons were taken.

was not sure of their fate.

Brussels, Belgium.

took back 18 anti-aircraft guns they had surrendered under a NATO

The seizure was a slap at NATO, which threatened in February to

NATO officials responded cautiously Tuesday to a request from U.N.

Secretary-General Boutrous Boutros-Ghali for broader authority to call

Gorarde. They said an answer might be several days away.

Aid workers reported that the heavy artillery and sniper fire was

more intense and dangerous than any suffered in Sarajevo during its siege by Serb troops.

The Geneva headquarters of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it lost communications with its Gorazde workers and

An official for the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders

said the roof of Gorazde's main hospital was blown off.

Thankfully, the patients on the second and first floors were transferred (earlier) to the basement," Dr. Renaud Tockert said in

About 65,000 people, many of them Muslim refugees, are crowded into Gorazde. U.N. commanders have said they did not have enough peacekeepers to protect all of the six "safe areas" declared by the U.N. Security Council last May.

six fugitives from Arafat's Fatah faction, who crossed from Egypt into the Gaza Strip.

'Their return is a sign that the peace process is continuing despite the obstacles,' said Sufian Abu Zayde, a PLO spokesman.

PLO officials said the roundup of Islamic activists, the largest since Israel deported nearly 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December 1992, was particularly ill-timed because it came while PLO negotiators were seeking the release of prisoners of all factions. About 3,500 Hamas activists are among the 10,500 inmates Palestinians say are held by

Palestine Liberation Organization officials said the sweep was unlikely to force a suspension in Israel-PLO talks but would undercut support for the peace process.

"These arrests are certainly not going to contribute in any positive way. On the

convictions people have that this peace process is merely a reorganization of the occupation and won't lead to real peace," said Hanan Ashrawi, a PLO spokeswoman.

She added that the arrests set back PLO efforts to persuade Islamic activists to participate in self-rule elections and the process of reconstruction.

The focus of the raids, carried out in a dozen fundamentalist strongholds in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, were young activists and a few key preachers of Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad faction. Hamas sources some key leaders had fled earlier to Egypt.

"The aim was to strike a severe blow at the operational structure of Hamas to disrupt their operations," said Col. Renaan Gissin, an army spokesman, adding Israel was sending a "clear message to Hamas that we will not let go of them and won't tolerate such activities.

Zulu leader to participate

The Associated Press

IPRETORIA, South Africa — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi broke a political deadlock Tuesday by agreeing to take part in next week's election, giving South Africa its first hope of peaceful balloting and an end to years of

Mandela, Buthelezi and President F.W. de Klerk struck a deal whereby 26-28 elections. Buthelezi had threatened to boycott the vote unless he won guarantees of autonomy for his KwaZulu black homeland

campaign time, and a security crackdown across the Zulu stronghold of eastern Natal province be lifted.

minute than boycott it and be left out of the country's first black-led

monarch of the KwaZulu-Natal region.

groups failed to satisfy Buthelezi's demands for autonomy and prompted

Inkatha to announce an election boycott. That set in motion a series of summits that seemed to only further divide the parties. After former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and a team of foreign

negotiators abandoned a mediation attempt Thursday, there appeared no

"When you have a situation where people have lost trust in each other,

demonstrating "great courage and a capacity to compromise.

"Today's bold action by Chief Buthelezi, Nelson Mandela and F.W. de

Klerk is one more act of collective statesmanship that bodes well for the prospect of free and fair elections in South Africa, and for the success of the

Printers will be going full-tilt from now to the elections spewing out tens of millions of stickers containing Inkatha's name, logo and a picture of Buthelezi.

in South African elections

"This agreement is a leap forward for peace. ... A bright future awaits our land," African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela declared after a two-day summit culminated in the announcement.

Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party will be added to the ballots for the April

He also had demanded the election be delayed to give Inkatha more

Buthelezi decided it was more prudent to enter the election at the last

The only concession made by the ANC and government was to amend the constitution to recognize Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini as traditional

This proposal means the all-white Parliament will be summoned to Cape Town a final time Monday to approve the change.

A post-apartheid constitution approved in December by black and white

hope of a breakthrough. Kenyan diplomat Washington Okumu began secret mediation efforts the

you need someone who can understand them and whom they can trust. It

happened that both of them trust me," Okumu said. In Washington, President Clinton praised the breakthrough as

future Government of National Unity."

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