

Israeli forces kill three in West Bank, Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli helicopters blasted a security guard post with missiles in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, killing a Palestinian suspected of involvement in the deaths of seven Israeli soldiers.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, Israeli troops searching caves for members of the militant Islamic Jihad group came under fire and shot dead two suspected militants.

The man killed in the Gaza Strip helicopter attack was identified as uniformed guard Mustafa Sabah, 35. The army said Sabah was involved in three powerful roadside bomb attacks against Israeli tanks in Gaza that killed seven soldiers from February to September.

In the attack Wednesday, two helicopters fired several missiles at a cinderblock hut used by security guards at a Palestinian government complex.

After the first missile struck, Palestinian driver Muhammad Abu Assi said he hit the ground. "Then I saw another three missiles coming at the same time. They hit the small room from two directions," he said.

Israeli helicopters have hovered over Gaza City on several occasions in the past two days, apparently looking for an opportunity to strike. Israel has carried out dozens of targeted killings against suspected Palestinian militants during the past two years of Mideast fighting.

The Israelis say the operations are self-defense, but Palestinians and human rights groups object to the practice. Palestinians charge the Israelis are killing their leaders, and human rights groups complain the operations are sum-



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

Crescent and the University of Missouri Trauma Center to train Palestinian social workers, said Farek Hussein, director for the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Diab was detained at Ben-Gurion International Airport by Israeli officials, held for two weeks, and then released last week and deported to Jordan, Hussein said.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Paul Patin said embassy officials sought to see Diab but were denied access.

"We have no evidence that he was involved in terrorist activity," said Patin. "He's a qualified doctor. He's been in and out of the (Palestinian) territories doing humanitarian work with children."

Patin said he did not know Diab's hometown or where he lived in the United States.

Israel's government press office released a statement Wednesday saying Diab was suspected of funneling money to al-Qaida and other unidentified terror groups.

It said Diab worked with an Islamic charity group, al-Najda, which has been investigated and shut down in the United States, and had lived in Afghanistan and was in close contact with groups that identify with the Taliban. The statement also said Diab had contacts with activists connected to the militant Hamas.

Israel did not provide evidence to support the claims.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Anne Marks said a U.S. consular official from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv met with Diab prior to his deportation and that Diab did not complain of any mistreatment.

Genetic makeup of mouse may give new knowledge of human diseases

Scientists in six countries have published nearly the entire genetic makeup of the mouse — an accomplishment that demonstrates the lab animal's startling biological similarity to people and could yield new insights into human diseases.

The draft code of the mouse, 2.5 billion DNA letters long, is about 95 percent completed. Its release comes nearly two years after the human genetic makeup, or genome, was deciphered.

Scientists are already making side-by-side comparisons of the two genomes in hopes of better understanding human evolution and how genes function.

Among other things, scientists are already looking how human reproduction concentrated on long pregnancies and fewer offspring, and how the immune system constantly changes in a biological "arms race" against invading viruses and bacteria.

Details of the analysis appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Scientists initially chose the mouse for sequencing because of its fundamental role in medical research over the past century. An estimated 25 million mice are used in research each year on such ills as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

Initial comparison of the mouse and human genomes shows the species are closely related at a genetic level, even though the two last shared a

common mammal ancestor 75 million years ago, when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth.

A full 99 percent of a mouse's genes have counterparts in humans, including genes that cause mice to have tails. In fact, researchers said they have identified only 300 genes that are unique to either creature.

Researchers said more than 90 percent of genes associated with disease are identical in humans and mice, underscoring the tremendous value of the mouse in laboratory experiments.

An additional 2.5 percent of each genome, previously discounted as junk, is shared between mouse and human but does not contain the codes for genes. These sections may somehow be important in regulating the function of genes, scientists said.

Comparing the two genomes allows for the quick identification of important regions, because the important regions are the ones most likely to have been preserved in the millions of years since the species diverged.

"These things stand out in high relief. It's like a red flag to scientists that says, 'Look at me, come find out what I do,'" said Barbara Wold, a biologist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, who was not connected with the sequencing effort.

"It's like a red flag to scientists that says, 'look at me, come find out what I do.'"

— Barbara Wold biologist

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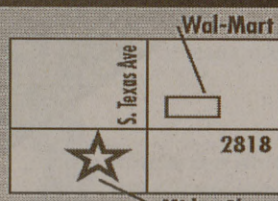
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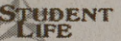
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1 gathering of family and friends
1 dash of common sense
1 mug under the mistletoe
0 drinks are needed if you are a minor or intending to drive
3 cups holiday spirit (optional)
3 cups of water (more to taste)



Directions:
Assemble your ingredients.
Before going out to celebrate, make a plan about your drinking behavior and how to get home safely.

Guarantee the quality of your ingredients.
Never leave your drink unattended.

Add 1 cup holiday spirit, alternating with as much water to taste.
Drinking no more than 1 drink per hour while alternating alcohol free drinks, like water, and setting a limit at 3 drinks will maintain a lower blood alcohol concentration.

CAUTION: More than 3 cups holiday spirit per recipe may spoil your holiday cheer.

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