



### Top Stories

#### Israel storms Gaza Strip

Israel has stormed the Gaza Strip in order to free the Israeli soldier taken captive.

#### Hamas strikes deal with Fatah

Hamas appears to have broken the silence between them and Fatah with an agreement of the implicit recognition of Israel and the ability of the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, to negotiate with the Israelis. This comes at a time when a capture of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants and Israel launching ground and air strikes against the militants in Gaza.

### Featured story

#### Film project aims to raise £1 million to make a Creative Commons-licenced film

Matt Hanson aims to raise £1 million to fund the production of a feature-length film which would be distributed freely via the internet under a Creative Commons licence, all funded through 50,000 people each donating £25 to the project, which he's called 'A Swarm of Angels'.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Gaza militants have stated that they have fired a rocket, with an attached chemical warhead at Israel. The Israeli Army has no immediate comment.
- Israeli soldiers arrest Palestinian Labour Minister Mohammed

### Wikipedia Current Events

Barghouthi.

- Up to 200,000 people in the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania area are ordered to evacuate their homes due to the rising level of the Susquehanna River. 46 of 67 of PA's counties are under a state of emergency. Flooding is also occurring in surrounding states, including New York, where Governor George Pataki states "This is the worst flooding by far I've seen in my 12 years as governor."
- Angry mob in Dili, East Timor attacks refugee camp as the 2006 East Timor crisis continues.
- Israel launches an offensive into the southern Gaza Strip, following aerial strikes on bridges and electric power installations. Meanwhile, four Israeli war planes fly over the palace of Syria's president Bashar Assad in Latakia, reportedly while he was at the palace. Israeli ambassador to the US says the offensive will cease once the kidnapped soldier (Cpl. Gilad Shalit) is released in good health. Israeli cabinet member Shimon Peres explicitly blames Hamas leader Khaled Mashal in war crimes, following repeated threats to target Hamas leaders hosted in Damascus.

#### Israel Defence Force storms Gaza Strip

The Israeli Defence Force has stormed the Gaza Strip in an attempt to free the kidnapped 19-year-old Israeli tank gunner Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

Three bridges in the Gaza Strip have been bombed to restrict the movement of the hostage takers and the hostage.

In other operations a helicopter attack on a power station in Gaza plunged large portions of the Gaza Strip into darkness. While Israeli troops and armored vehicles, lead by Bulldozers, also moved into Gaza near a disused international airport.

"Fight your enemies, who came to their deaths. Grab your rifles and resist," said Nizar Rayan in a radio message to Palestinian militants. Despite this exhortation, there were no immediate reports of casualties or conflicts.

"We have no desire to remain in the Gaza Strip," said Israeli National Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, on Israel Radio, although he did not give a timetable for the operation. "We want to bring our boy home, that's all."

The Popular Resistance Committees threatened to kill an Israeli settler, kidnapped in the West Bank. Police are investigating the disappearance of an 18-year-old settler, but as yet have not confirmed this claim.

#### Anarchists clash with police during students' rallies in Athens

Anarchists and a left-wing mob clashed with Greek police in the centre of Athens during a demonstration organized by

university students against new laws which have been proposed by the Greek Minister of Education, Marietta Yiannakou.

Around 300 masked youths of left-wing and anarchist ideology caused heavy damage to cars, shops and private properties in central Athens. A fight between police special forces and a left-wing mob took place around the area of the Athens' Polytechnic and outside the Law School of Athens. Police used tear gas while anarchists attacked the police with stones, molotov cocktail bombs and flares. This is the third clash between police forces and anarchists in the center of Athens, during the last month.

Clashes also took place between left-wing activist organizations and police forces outside the holiday resort of Lagonissi, around 45 kilometers south-east of central Athens. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had been in debate in an organized congress about Education. Outside the resort of Lagonissi and in the streets of downtown Athens, student unions accompanied by the PAME leftist working union, which want to preserve the monopoly of state universities, clashed with police as they tried to approach the congress.

Greek university students currently occupy more than 400 faculties across the country, including the two biggest universities of Greece, to protest the government's reform proposals that have to do with foundation of private universities-institutions.

**Montenegro becomes 192nd UN Member State**  
Republic of Montenegro became

192nd member state of the United Nations, following a vote in the General Assembly.

After the protocol officers had escorted the Montenegrin delegation to their seats in the Assembly, flag-raising ceremony took place in front of UN headquarters in New York City. Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the newest member by praising non-violent and democratic process that gained Montenegro its independence from state union of Serbia and Montenegro, through an independence referendum, on May 22, 2006.

Montenegro is the latest country to be admitted to the UN, following the international recognition of East Timor in 2002.

### **More than 100,000 protest against workplace reforms across Australia**

Across Australia more than 100,000 people have rallied to protest against the federal government's controversial Workchoices workplace reforms. According to estimates by police, the largest rally was held in Melbourne where more than 80,000 people were thought to be in attendance. The earlier protest in Sydney attracted some 30,000 protesters. Smaller protests were held in other cities throughout the country.

At most rallies, members of the opposition and union leaders addressed the crowd, criticising the Howard government's changes. Under the Workchoices system, centralised wage fixing was abolished and meal breaks, holidays and working hours became negotiable. Businesses with less than 100 employees were also given increased powers

to dismiss workers. Unions and the opposition claim that the system will reduce worker's rights and wages.

Australian federal opposition leader, Kim Beazley attended the Melbourne rally where he addressed the crowd. He said those who attended the rallies were patriots who were standing up to defend the Australian lifestyle. "This is a battle for ordinary Australian life," he said

"This is a battle for Australian families. It's also a battle for basic dignity in the workplace. You are the people that made this nation what it is. You are the builders of this nation. You are the true Australian patriots."

Mr Beazley again promised that a government under his leadership would abolish the reforms.

"When we get into office in 18 months time, we will rip up these laws," he said. "Then we are going to put in place laws based on true Australian values."

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), which represents a large number of employers in Australia said the total number of protesters across Australia was less than 150, 000 and labelled the protests as a day of "inaction", despite unions calling for a "day of action".

Peter Hendy, chief executive of the ACCI said the turnout figure is less than 10 per cent of the membership of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which encouraged workers to participate in a "national day of action" to "protect rights at work"

Mr Hendy said only 2 percent of Australian workers participated in

the protests.

South Australia Unions secretary, Janet Giles said the protests showed the dislike ordinary workers have for the laws.

"What today's demonstrated is that the momentum of this campaign is not waning, that union members, workers, community members are out today again to say we're still determined to campaign against these laws," she said.

**Failure for constitutional ban on flag-burning in U.S. Senate**

An amendment of the United States constitution banning the burning of the American flag failed by one vote in the Senate on Tuesday. The final tally was 66-34; two-thirds was required for the amendment to pass.

U.S. President, George W. Bush, gave a statement commending the bipartisan group of Senators for trying to pass the amendment.[1] It was sponsored by Orrin Hatch, a Republican Senator from Utah, and backed by the Republican Majority Leader Bill Frist, of Tennessee.

Even though some members of each party voted for the amendment, some on both sides strongly dissented. Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from the state of Hawaii and a World War II veteran, said - like many other Senators including Kentucky Republican Senator Mitch McConnell - the proposed amendment was against the constitutional right to free speech.

**Western Sydney rallies against government's workplace reforms**

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**Today in History**

1880 - Tahiti became a French territory.

1922 - France granted 100 hectares at Vimy Ridge "freely, and for all time, to the Government of Canada, the free use of the land exempt from all taxes".

1956 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, officially creating the U.S. Interstate Highway System.

1995 - During the STS-71 mission, the Space Shuttle Atlantis became the first space shuttle to dock with the Russian space station Mir.

1995 - The Sampoong Department Store collapsed in the Seocho-gu district of Seoul, South Korea, killing 501 and injuring 937.

**Quote of the Day**

"Grown-ups never understand

anything for themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them." ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

**Word of the Day**

fascicle; n

1. A bundle.
2. A section a book that is issued in parts.
3. (anatomy): A bundle of skeletal muscle fibers surrounded by connective tissue.
4. (botany): A cluster of flowers or leaves, or a bundle of vascular tissue.

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