Israeli attack kills 75 in south Leban

killed at least 75 Lebanese refugees sticks and chairs and accusing them of Thursday, filling a U.N. camp with being the source of Lebanon's misery. blood, horror and survivors' cries for revenge. Israel admitted an "unfortunate mistake" in the attack, which seemed certain to deepen further the hatreds of the Middle East.

The carnage, which left bodies torn apart, was the worst since Israel began its onslaught against Hezbollah guer- and a new page in "the annals of terrillas in south Lebanon eight days ago. While expressing regret for the civilians' deaths, Israel fiercely defended said, "I'm pained by every person, its Lebanon campaign and said the every woman, every child, who is beshells that hit the civilians had been aimed at Hezbollah rocket launchers.

President Clinton called for a ceasefire by all parties to the fighting and ordered Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to mediate. Israel said it would accept a cease-fire if others agreed to it, a move that would leave Israel short of its goal of shutting down the Hezbollah war ma-

The Israeli attack left the U.N. base littered with butchered and headless bodies, shredded clothing and scraps of building materials. Badly wounded angry civilians attacked three rael warned it would attack their vil- blown apart.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the 4,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, confirmed that 75 people perished in the Qana attack.

Lebanese leaders called the Israeli shelling "the mother of all atrocities"

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres ing killed," But he said Israel had "no choice but to defend its citizens," and he accused the Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hezbollah of hiding behind ci-

The United Nations said that shortly before the Israeli shells landed, Hezbollah guerrillas about 300 yards from the U.N. compound had fired two Katyusha rockets and eight mortar rounds at the Israelis. The Israeli shells apparently were in retaliation for that fire, but missed their target.

QANA, Lebanon — Israeli shells Hezbollah members, beating them with lages, the 6,000 refugees at U.N. bases had elected to stay in the south, believing they were safe among the peacekeepers. About 500 refugees were at the U.N. base in Qana.

Refugee children were playing outside, watched by their parents from a rass hut —a traditional bouri that the 70 Fijian soldiers at the base had built to remind themselves of their Pacific Island home — when the first of five 155-mm howitzer shells slammed into the U.N. base at 3 p.m. It was just after

More than a hundred people were wounded, including four soldiers from the Fijian force at Qana, 8 miles southeast of the port city of Tyre, Goksel reported.

At Jebel Amel hospital in Tyre, Kamel Nayef, 16, a high school student, moaned from the pain of his bloodstained, plastered right leg.

"I knocked on the door of doomsday," he said. "I felt I was facing a firing squad.

An exact death toll was difficult to determine because casualties were Unlike the hundreds of thousands spread around several hospitals and people were rushed to a hospital, where of Lebanese who fled north when Is-many of those killed in Qana had been

Drug companies offer to settle AIDS suits

NEW YORK -- Four drug com- mas Kerr, assistant general counsel panies accused of selling AIDS- for Bayer. tainted blood products to thousands of U.S. hemophiliacs will offer a \$600 million settlement Friday in an attempt to end a decade of litiga-

The offer was revealed Thursday night by Bayer AG, one of the defendants. It will be made in letters to be mailed Friday to lawyers for AIDS patients and their families around the country.

It comes after five months of negotiations between groups representing HIV-positive hemophiliacs and the companies, said Corey Dubin of Goleta, Calif., a national leader of HIV-positive hemophili-

If accepted, it would provide compensation to every American hemophiliac who contracted the AIDS virus by taking tainted bloodclotting products manufactured by the companies in the early 1980s.

Also covered would be the families of deceased patients and spouses or children who acquired AIDS from an infected hemophiliac.

In addition to Bayer, the companies offering the settlement are Baxter International Inc., Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc. and Alpha Therapeutics Inc.

In making the offer, the companies are not admitting legal responsibility or wrongdoing, said Tho-

Hemophiliacs have accused the companies of putting their profits over safety during the early years of the AIDS epidemic by selling HIV-

infected blood clotting products. Roughly 800 AIDS patients and their families have sued, saying the companies should have treated the clotting factors with heat to kill the AIDS virus.

The companies have steadfastly denied that they intentionally put people at risk and insist that they declined to use the heating process back then because they weren't sure at first that it was medically sound.

The process was later proved effective, but not before thousands were infected.

So far the companies have not lost a lawsuit brought by the hemophiliaes, but Dubin said new evidence has recently been gathered showing companies once knowingly took blood from people at high risk of acquiring the AIDS virus, including prisoners and intravenous drug users.

Bayer estimates the number of people covered by the settlement in the United States at 6,000. In addition to the \$600 million, the companies are offering to set up a \$40 million fund that would pay the plaintiffs' lawyers fees and ex-

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Congress approves new anti-terrorism b

WASHINGTON - Congress terrorism,' passed long-awaited legislation Thurssary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

The bill - which also would limit federal appeals by prisoners, includapproved by the Senate a day earlier,

ers he had sought.

safe and secure from the violent cowmittee Chairman Henry Hyde said af- already incarcerated.

that we can use in our efforts to combat not to general society."

Specifically, she cited provisions day that would give federal law offic- that would allow deportation of alien ers new powers to use against terror- terrorists without disclosing classified ism, sending the bill to President evidence against them and require Clinton on the eve of the first anniver- taggants, or chemical labels, in plastic explosives so they can be traced. To Republican supporters, the bill's

key provision is its limit on so-called ing death-row inmates — was passed habeas corpus appeals by prisoners, by the House 293-133. It had been primarily because it is expected to end delays in executions.

The change would tell those con-Clinton was expected to sign the sidering a terrorist act that they can no measure next week, after he returns longer "come into our country and kill from overseas, even though it lacks our citizens, and destroy our governnumerous other law enforcement pow- ment institutions and know that they will be able to spend the next 25 years "Today, Congress took an impor-laughing at us, thumbing their nose at tant step in making our country more the families of victims," he said.

On the other side, Rep. Barney ards who would tear at the fabric of Frank, D-Mass., noted that the only civilized order," House Judiciary Com- people eligible for such appeals are

"We're not talking about anybody Attorney General Janet Reno said walking around," Frank said. "We're the legislation — a compromise be- talking about people who are locked tween separate Senate and House bills up and who are a danger, presumably, -contains "some very effective tools only to other prisoners, but certainly

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The Daily Nebraskan(USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the

braska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9253, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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