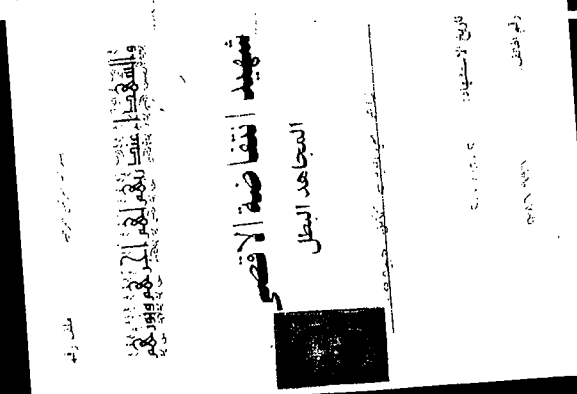
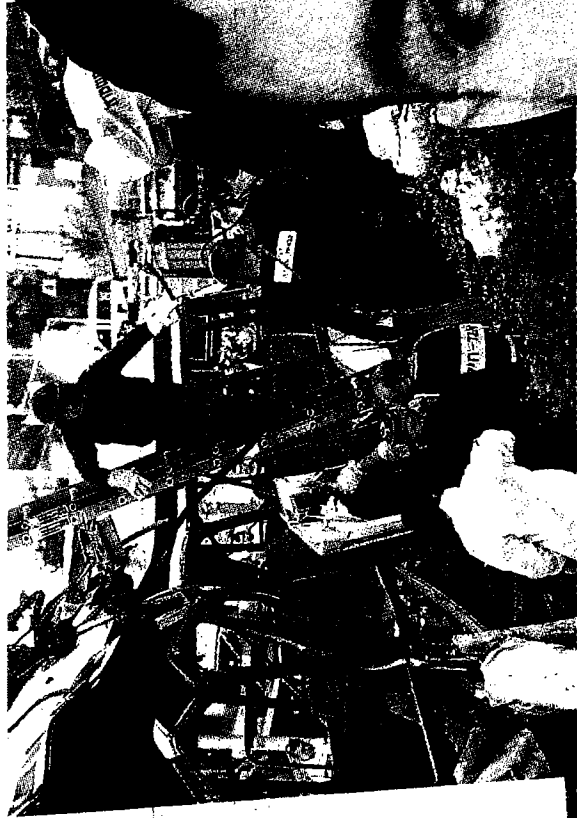


SICK 'MARTYR KITS'

Getty Images



SLAY SET: Documents (above left) link the Arab Bank to terrorists. Maher Hbeishe (right) completed such a "martyr kit" before killing 15 on a bus (above).



Secret files finger bank in Mideast terror payoffs

EXCLUSIVE

By RODDY BOYD

Secret documents known as "martyrs' kits" obtained by The Post provide a startling glimpse into the world of suicide bombers, who are recruited with promises that their families will be well taken care of financially.

These kits ensure that the families of Hamas, PLO and Palestinian Islamic Jihad killers get generous "charitable donations" from Saudi Arabia-based organizations and, while he was in power, Saddam Hussein. The documents reviewed by The Post include a martyr kit for Maher Kamel Hbeishe, a

Hamas fanatic who blew himself up on a Haifa bus Dec. 2, 2001, killing 15 Israelis and wounding 40. Much of the kit's paperwork carries the corporate logo of the Arab Bank — the Middle East's most important and influential financial institution — and the numbers of the accounts through which his family was paid.

The cover on Hbeishe's file — in the records of Saudi relief committees — proclaims: "the martyrs receive reward from their Lord, they and their light." Replete with florid Arabic tributes to dead terrorists, the paperwork explains the manner of death, making it clear that the bank knew exactly whom it was giving money to and why.

To get its money, Hbeishe's family was most likely contacted by the so-called "social welfare arm" of Hamas and instructed to open up an Arab Bank account. Then representatives of Hamas would use the information in the martyrs' kit to provide the bank with the name of the attacker and the beneficiaries getting checks.

The Saudi charities —

called relief committees — that provide the funding for the terrorists make no secret of their activities, even taking out full-page ads in newspapers. One such ad listed more than 1,000 individuals who had been wounded or captured by the Israelis during the intifada and whose families were eligible for benefits.

Every ad explicitly di-

rects the family members to go to Arab Bank.

A bank spokesman said, "Arab Bank abhors terrorism. The bank would never do business with individuals or organizations it knows to be terrorists."

It said that the documents obtained by The Post proved only that relatives of the two suicide bombers had accounts there, which is not surprising given the bank's

50 percent market share in the West Bank.

Lee Wolosky, a lawyer suing the bank on behalf of families murdered in terrorist attacks, said, "New Yorkers would be outraged if a bank on Madison Avenue was alleged to have provided financial support to the families of al Qaeda terrorists. These allegations are no different."

Bomb victims blast back at infamous Saudi money men

By RODDY BOYD

Mark Sokolow is suing the Arab Bank because it makes life "too easy" for terrorists by letting them open accounts used to pay off families of suicide bombers.

Sokolow, a lawyer who lives in Woodmere, L.I., and his family still live with the scars of the attack they survived Jan. 27, 2002, in Jerusalem. A Palestinian woman, Wafa Idris, detonated a bomb in a shoe store his wife and two daughters had just left. An elderly man was killed and 50 people were injured.

Sokolow, who escaped from the WTC's south tower during the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was wounded, as were his wife and daughters. All have undergone surgery to repair damaged eardrums, eye and nerve damage, and severe facial scarring.

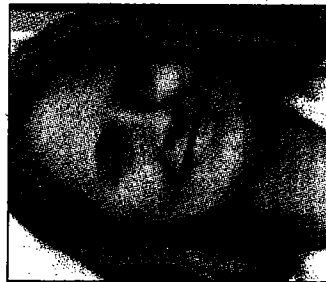
Speaking of the continued popularity of Idris, he said, "I guess it makes sense ... given that she actually managed to kill an elderly Jew. I just don't understand why it's all right for her family to be provided for."

"We want to make it harder for terrorists," he said. "Part of that is making



MARK SOKOLOW
Survived two attacks.

it harder for them to keep these mechanisms like Arab Bank in place. It's too easy for them."



JANIS COULTER
Killed in cafeteria.

Also suing the bank, which has an office on Madison Avenue, is Diane Coulter Miller.

Her sister, Janis Coulter, a New Yorker and university administrator, was killed on July 31, 2002, while eating lunch in the Hebrew University cafeteria. She was the victim of a long-planned Hamas operation executed by a Palestinian named Mohammed Odeh.

Miller learned of the attack when her dad called after seeing a clip of the aftermath of the bombing that featured a shot of her sister's head in an unsealed body bag.

Four other Americans died in that attack — they're among the 60 killed

or wounded since 2000.

"It's just weeks away from the anniversary of her death, so I'll relive it all this month," Miller said. "I turn 36 this year, which was her age when she was killed, so I'll be thinking about it all year." She is suing Arab Bank for its role in "incentivizing" terror, adding, "I just want people to know that someone made money from this."

The suit — by a dozen local terror victims or their relatives — seeks an undetermined amount in financial damages plus assurances that the bank will stop facilitating terror.