

For Israel, Sderot Symbolizes Conflict's Toll

Uncertainty, Anxiety Hang Over Town Often a Target of Palestinian Rockets

By Howard Schneider
Washington Post Foreign Service
Wednesday, March 11, 2009; A11

SDEROT, [Israel](#), March 10 -- Sderot, hard by the Gaza Strip and the frequent target of rocket attacks, has become central to Israel's telling of its conflict with the Palestinians. From a hill on the outskirts of town, one can easily see the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, the launching point for many of the rockets and mortar shells that have landed here with nerve-racking regularity in recent years.

On Tuesday, Lone Star Communications, a Jerusalem-based public relations firm, organized an event to showcase a \$5 million, rocket-proofed indoor playground and community center built by the Jewish National Fund...

It was a diverse group in the gray Mercedes minibus that Lone Star -- the company was founded by Texas native Charley J. Levine -- had assembled. Conventional news outlets like the Associated Press were joined by a Hungarian radio station, a Web site devoted to Jewish philanthropy and a correspondent from Acts News Network, a Canadian television service that focuses on news of interest to evangelical Christians...