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Friend of Rabin

assassin convicted

RAMLE, ISRAEL / Surrounded by supporters and her weeping

Wednesday
Margalit Har-Shefi, 25, a
friend of Rabin's assassin, Yiga
Amir, repeated her claim of inpocence as she entered a priso
for women in central Israel.
Har-Shefi said she thought
Amir, an ultranationalist, was
only boasting and would not
actually kill Rabin. But the Supreme Court ruled in a re-cent appeal that she knew about Amir's two previous, abortive attempts to assassinal the prime minister, and knew

Hundreds of Germans

lock to Nazi banner

BERLIN / German Nazis are increasingly prone to violence and a far-right party the government wants to ban for fuelling hate crimes gained hundreds of new members last year, Germany's interior minister said Thursday.

"We have to take especially seriously the growing violence of young offenders," Interior Minister Otto Schily said in presenting the annual report of the federal agency that tracks extremists.

King Abdullah II, host of the summit, convened the meeting by asking the leaders to stand for a moment of prayer for 'the Palestinian martyns."

At least 350 Palestinians, 67 Is raelis, and 13 Israeli-Arabs have been killed in the violence.

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Behind closed doors, Palestinian leaders pleaded for Arab nations to fulfil the promise of \$1 billion in aid pledged at an emergency summit in October in

Israeli-imposed closures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which

at times amount to a complete siege, have caused severe hardship and crippled the economy. In perhaps his toughest language against Israel's actions in the current cycle of violence, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the summit that Israel's policy amounted to "collective punishment" that has fed Palestinian

anger and despair.

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Annan urged an early return to peace talks, adding "the world has every right to criticize Israel" for occupying Arab land in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and for its "excessively olutions and for its of the uprising.

Israel 'more racist than Nazis' says
Syrian leader

Arableaders Itesday solidified their support for the bloody Palestinian uprising against Isaeli occupation, even as two combs tore through crowded erusalem streets and prompted ungry calls in Israel for a harsher rackdown on the Palestinian tertiones.

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Middle East.

The gathering of kings, prime ministers, sheiks, and presidents of the 22 Arab states was the first scheduled Arab summit since the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War, when Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and Arab participation in the American-led coalition that thwarted it, left the Arab world deeply divided.

The two-day meeting, set to conclude today, is focused on trying to build a new consensus among the often fractious states and on healing the bitter divisions that remain between Iraq and the U.S. Gulf War allies of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In a hall lined with the flags of the 22 nations, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt kicked off the summit by saying, "We are convinced it stime to start active and ministers of the conditions of the summit by saying, "We are convinced it stime to start active and

Jamel March 30