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## Finding comedy in conflict

*Jewish, Arab group pushes the boundaries of humor*

BY JOHN MURPHY  
SUN FOREIGN REPORTER

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Then Warady launched into a bit on suicide bombing.

"The last suicide bomber I just don't get. It's just not fair. The 57-year-old woman. Come on! Getting an angry, middle-aged, menopausal, hormone-imbalanced woman to strap explosives around her waist and sending her out telling her to kill as many men as possible? That's just too easy. And like what do they tell her? For the guys they say they'll get 72 virgins [in paradise]. They must tell this woman that she'll have 72 kids who will call every day and visit once in a while. I know my mom would blow herself up for that."

He won howls of laughter from all sides of the audience.

"I could feel the tension," Warady said after a recent performance. "But when they see it's fun they let go. We are not only laughing at ourselves, we are laughing at each other."

Hanania lost his rhythm momentarily when he started a joke about the struggles of getting through security as an Arab.

"They asked me for my bag and I said that's not a bag. That's my wife. She's wearing a burqa," he said.

He was met by silence.

But no feelings were bruised, according to many audience members.

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"I take comedy as comedy. I just came to laugh," says Ari Bronstein, 24, an Israeli computer technology worker from Jerusalem.

"It was good," said Sam Bahour, 42, a business consultant from Ramallah who laughed throughout the show. "It was a bit of fresh air when the reality is so bitter."

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