

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI POLICE AND TROOPS POUR INTO WEST BANK IN AFTERMATH OF TERRORIST AMBUSH IN HEBRON WHICH LEFT FIVE YESHIVA STUDENTS DEAD AND 17-WOUNDED

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) — Reinforcements of Israeli police and troops in full battle gear poured into the West Bank over the weekend in the aftermath of the terrorist ambush in Hebron Friday evening which left five Israeli youths dead — all of them yeshiva students — and 17 wounded, including six young women. (See separate story.)

The terrorists, who fired automatic weapons and hurled hand grenades in what was apparently a carefully planned attack, are believed by security authorities to be local people rather than infiltrators. A search of the ambush site yielded cigarette butts of a locally-made brand and discarded packs bearing the local excise tax stamp. The Palestine Liberation Organization in Beirut claimed responsibility for the outrage.

Israel's show of military force has several objectives: to seal off Hebron, which was placed under curfew, while a house-by-house search for the perpetrators goes on; to maintain order among the Arab population in Hebron and elsewhere on the West Bank where tension is running high; to prevent infuriated Jewish settlers, mainly Orthodox militants, from reprisal attacks on Arabs; and to prevent further terrorist attacks on Jews.

Israel's first act in response to the killings was to deport three West Bank Arab leaders who are outspoken supporters of the PLO. They are Mayor Fahed Kawasme of Hebron, Mayor Mohammed Hassan Milhim of Halhoul and Sheikh Rajeb Buyud Tamimi, the Kadi (Moslem religious judge) of Hebron. Israeli authorities did not accuse them of direct involvement in the attack but maintained that their provocative anti-Israel statements created the atmosphere for it. The three were deported into south Lebanon last night. They were flown by helicopter to Beirut where they were welcomed by the PLO leadership. (See separate story.)

### Part Of Plan To Disrupt Autonomy Talks

The assault on the Jews in Hebron, the worst incident of its kind on the West Bank since Israel's occupation began in 1967, was believed by Israeli officials to be part of a PLO plan to disrupt the autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S., currently underway in Herzliya.

The outrage was promptly condemned by Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil of Egypt, head of the Egyptian delegation who sent condolences to the families of the victims. "We do not accept violent action," he said yesterday. He said the episode would have no bearing on the autonomy negotiations.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, a member of the Israeli delegation, said the Hebron ambush was an attempt to torpedo the talks. "It was a mean massacre, one of the meanest we ever knew," he said. Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition

Labor Party, expressed horror at the attack and denounced the cowardliness of the gunmen who fired at their victims from behind. "The attack was meant to shed blood. Every effort must be made to find the perpetrators," he said, but warned Israelis not to resort to the punishment of those who are innocent.

### Anger Against Defense Establishment

An immediate repercussion of the tragedy was the demand by Orthodox militants and their ultra-nationalist supporters for the resignation or ouster of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. Weizman and the defense establishment in general were held responsible to the extent that they allegedly failed to take tough enough measures against West Bank Arabs and were lax in protecting Jewish settlers. The center of this sentiment was Kiryat Arba, the Orthodox Jewish township adjacent to Hebron where most of the victims had lived or studied.

The residents of Kiryat Arba were enraged when the Military Government barred them from entering Hebron after the killings. Gen. Moshe Levi, commanding officer of the region, angrily left a meeting with Kiryat Arba leaders last night after they accused the army of inactivity in recent weeks, claiming that this was taken as a sign of weakness by the Arabs.

Demands that Weizman resign came from members of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction and from the La'am faction of Likud. Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, head of the Kiryat Arba yeshiva whose students were among the dead, warned Weizman not to attend the funerals. Should he attend, "I cannot be responsible for the consequences," he said.

Weizman declared yesterday that "The defense establishment will take measures that will persuade the leaders and population of the administered territories that they will not achieve what they wish" by violence. "We are in the midst of a struggle for Eretz Israel. What happened in Hebron only strengthens our position as to the security issue of the autonomy talks as it will be Israel that will have to find the proper answers to the security problem," Weizman said.

### Security Is Underscored

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir also underscored security. He said yesterday that the Hebron killings would not affect the autonomy negotiations but claimed: "What has happened makes even more important and vital the issue of security and indicates that our point of view is the right one — that security should remain entirely in Israeli hands. The success of the talks depends on the Egyptians understanding the importance of the security issue for us."

Weizman recalled that the PLO has vowed to sabotage the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan and apparently seeks to undermine the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He noted that the PLO and a part of the West Bank leadership were openly opposed to Camp David and the autonomy scheme. "Some of the steps which have been taken by them have been positive, such as strikes, and some violent," Weizman said.

He observed that although he is personally against Jewish settlement in Hebron "There is a

government decision. It is the duty of the defense establishment to defend the decisions of the government."

Weizman was referring to a Cabinet decision last month to establish two Jewish religious schools in Hebron. He also noted that he has been under pressure for some time to deport Arab leaders like Kawasme who incite to violence. He said he opposed it because he believed, and still does, that "we have to find a modus vivendi with the Arabs."

He said he decided to deport Kawasme, Milhim and Tamimi now because the situation is "like an avalanche, or rather a blood-filled snowball. If it is not checked now, it might roll out of control."

Gen. Danni Matt, chief military coordinator for the West Bank, said other measures taken in addition to the deportations were the levelling of two buildings in Hebron which the attackers had used and the expropriation of a number of other buildings in the area. The Jordan River bridges were closed today to travellers and the transportation of goods. He said the curfew will remain in force in Hebron until further notice.

#### Details Of The Attack

Senior military officers supplied details of the attack and the context in which it was carried out. The victims were among a group of 24 worshippers who had attended Friday evening services at the Machpela Cave in Hebron, site of the Patriarch's Tomb, a shrine sacred to Jews and Moslems.

Many were residents of Kiryat Arba or of Bnei Brak, a religious township north of Tel Aviv. Among them were students at the Hesder yeshiva in Kiryat Arba where religious studies are combined with military training.

It had long been their habit, after Friday evening services, to celebrate the kiddush in what was at one time the Hadassah clinic in Hebron where Orthodox women and children from Kiryat Arba took possession about a year ago in order to assert a Jewish "presence" in the town where no Jewish community has existed since the Arab uprising in 1929. Although they acted in defiance of Military Government orders, the squatters were protected by Israeli soldiers and supplied with food, water and other necessities.

The weekly visits by the young worshippers after prayers were apparently noted by the terrorists who planned the ambush. They concealed themselves with their weapons on the roofs of a line of one-storey shops opposite the clinic and waited for the victims. When the group passed beneath them, they opened fire with Karl Gustav submachineguns and Kalachnikov rifles. They threw at least six hand grenades and home-made bombs. The latter failed to explode and were picked up later by Israeli sappers for investigation.

The gunmen escaped, leaving the dead, wounded and other survivors in pools of blood and grenade splinters. Israeli authorities believe that many residents of Hebron knew in advance of the planned attack but none gave warning. It followed several weeks of mounting tension on the West Bank which has followed a set pattern.

Stone throwing by Arab youths at Israeli vehicles and settlers triggered reprisal attacks by Jewish militants who vandalized Arab property. That, in turn, touched off protest demonstrations

and general strikes and disorder in a number of West Bank towns. Last Thursday, a 17-year-old Arab youth was fatally shot in a scuffle with Israeli officers in Anabta village in the Samaria district. Two other Arabs were wounded. The dead youth was identified as Najah Ahmad Ulaya.

According to Israeli accounts, he and two companions attacked the officers with stones and Ulaya, allegedly armed with a knife, tried to seize the submachinegun of one officer when the fatal shot was fired. The Military Government is investigating whether the officer's gun was fired accidentally or deliberately.

#### 3 OF THE 5 DEAD STUDENTS WERE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) — Three of the five yeshiva students murdered by terrorists in Hebron Friday night have been identified as originally coming from the United States and Canada. They were Zvi Menachem Glatt, 21, of New York; Eli Hazeev (Wolf); 32, believed to be from Chicago; and Shmuel Marmelstein, 19, of Montreal.

The other two who were killed were Yaacov Zimmerman, 19, and Gershon Klein, 21, both from Bnei Brak and both soldiers in the armored corps serving in the Yeshivat Hesder in Kiryat Arba, a special yeshiva where students study the Torah while serving in the army. Both were born in Bnei Brak and graduated from local yeshivot before joining the Yeshivat Hesder.

Glatt, who came to Israel four years ago, was a student in the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He was a guest at the Kiryat Arba yeshiva and with his friends there he was making the weekly Friday night visit to the Machpela Cave Synagogue and then to the old Hadassah building when the attack occurred. Marmelstein was in Israel for one year of study at Kerem Yavneh Yeshiva. He had also come to Kiryat Arba for the weekend.

Wolf was a Vietnam veteran who was divorced and had a daughter. He was a follower of Rabbi Meir Kahane. At Kiryat Arba, he was studying Torah and working as a locksmith. He was only recently released from a seven-month jail sentence for harassing Hebron Arabs by entering their homes and demanding they leave them and return them to the Jews who had fled the houses in the 1929 massacre of Jews in Hebron.

#### The Wounded Identified

One of the wounded, Hanan Kraitheimer, is still in critical condition. Also injured seriously were Yehuda Travitz and Aharon Pni'el. Six Yeshivat Hesder soldiers — Mordechai Shevat, Aharon Tzviel, Robert Brasovskiy, Rahamim Hodges, Allon Zimmerman and Moshe Bosna — were all reported in good condition. Three others, Aharon Wertheimer, 44, a soldier in the reserves, and two tourists from the United States, Lisa Sheman, 20, and Simha Wolman, were slightly injured.

Four injured women were released last night. They are Kineret Levinger, the 17-year-old daughter of Kiryat Arba leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who is one of the women who have been living at the old Hadassah building for more than a year; Meira Yahn-Daniela, 20, of Kiryat Arba; and Gila Mintzer, 17, and Dafna Vantura, 20, both of Bnei Brak. Also injured was Eytan Arbel.

Wertheimer was guarding the Hadassah building when the attack started. "The people were coming

back from the Machpela Synagogue via the Hadassah building," he said. "They were singing Shabat songs. There were many women and children. But by sheer luck, they were walking ahead of the last group which included 24 men and six girls. As soon as the women and children entered the building and the last group was approaching the gate," the attack broke out, Wertheimer said.

"Hell was everywhere," he continued. "Hellish fire was coming from opposite me. I had no time to return the fire. I was hit, stumbled and dragged myself into the house where I was given first aid." He said the firing was so heavy and dense that he would not have been able to do much. "Everyone outside was hit by the shower of lead and fire," he explained. "It was hell."

Another eyewitness account was given by Vantura. She said as they were walking from the Machpela Synagogue "it was quiet in the streets. They were deserted. Just as we reached the gate of the Hadassah building we heard shots from behind. We fell face down and some even found cover in the staircase of the Hadassah building."

Vantura said then there was a "second series of volleys and explosions. Then we started to treat the wounded." She said passing vehicles were stopped and those most seriously wounded were put into them to be taken to the hospital. Within a short time ambulances arrived and helicopters transferred the most seriously wounded to three hospitals in Jerusalem — Hadassah at Ein Kerem, Hadassah on Mount Scopus and Shaarei Zedek.

#### WEST BANK JEWISH SETTLERS DEMONSTRATE

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) — Jewish settlers from the West Bank, enraged by the terrorist ambush killings in Hebron Friday night, staged demonstrations last night and this morning demanding the ouster of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

One group of Kiryat Arba residents enroute to the funeral of the ambush victims in Bnei Brak today, stopped their buses outside the Prime Minister's Office where the Cabinet was holding its weekly session and sounded their horns for several minutes. The horn blasts signalled their anger at the defense establishment for failure to prevent the attack. The mourners held placards calling on Weizman to resign.

At the Cabinet meeting, some ministers also accused Weizman of allowing security on the West Bank to become too lax. Government sources said that Premier Menachem Begin rejected the accusations and said West Bank security was the responsibility of all ministers, not just Weizman. The sources said that no firm decisions were taken by the Cabinet on future policies in Samaria and Judea in light of the tragedy Friday night.

Picket Weizman's Home

Last night about 250 people picketed Weizman's home at Ramat Shimon. When they learned he was not there they moved to Herzliya where they tried to storm the Actadia Hotel, site of the current round of autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. The demonstrators were turned back by security guards.

One of them, Meir Veiniger, a settler from Kadumim, in the Samaria district, demanded to

see U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz to tell him to abandon the autonomy talks. "As a Jew he can do more for this nation," Veiniger said. He accused Weizman of responsibility for the deteriorating security situation on the West Bank.

Weizman replied to his critics. "The terrible tragedy in Hebron should not overshadow our desire for peace," he said. "Our policy in the territories is a long range one aimed at our staying in the region and living side-by-side with an Arab population, but not with those who are coming to kill us," he said.

#### Police Disperse Demonstrators

Police dispersed another group of demonstrators in Jerusalem today, members of Sheli and Matzpen, the latter a Trotskyist group, who called for the end to Israel's occupation of the administered territories. Several were arrested for holding an illegal gathering. Earlier today, police arrested Yossi Dayan, a leader of Rabbi Meir Kahane's "Kach" group, who is suspected of acts of vandalism against Arabs in Ramallah.

The Labor Party announced, meanwhile, that it will postpone a no-confidence motion it planned to present in the Knesset this week. Labor Party circles said the Hebron killings created a new situation and the motion would be presented at a later date.

#### THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERALS OF TWO VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST OUTRAGE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) — Several thousand mourners attended the funerals here today of two of the five yeshiva students gunned down in a terrorist ambush in Hebron Friday night. The victims, Yaacov Zimfeman and Gershon Klein, both of Bnei Brak, were buried in the military section of the Givat Shaul Cemetery.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, representing the government, declared over the open graves: "We shall not abandon the land of our forefathers. We shall not yield to superpower pressure. We shall not be deterred by murderers."

Rabbi Chaim Druckman of the National Religious Party, a leading supporter of the Gush Emunim, called for "revenge of the blood." In a voice shaking with tears, he declared, "Those who perpetrated the Hebron massacre are planning the same for all of us here. Those who want to throw us out of Hebron actually mean to throw us out of the entire Israel. At the open grave we promise we shall not give them that. We shall remain in Hebron and we shall remain in all Eretz Israel."

Army Chief Chaplain Gen. Gad Navon officiated at the funeral services which were held with full military honors.

#### THE THREE DEPORTED ARAB LEADERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) — Each of the three deported Arab leaders reflects a slightly different shade of Palestinian nationalism. But all three have adopted recently the more extreme line of the Palestine Liberation Organization, that is, rejection of any negotiations with Israel at this stage.

The most interesting figure is certainly Hebron Mayor Fahed Kowasme, once considered a moderate,

but recently the champion of the most extreme attacks on the Israeli occupation of the territories. Kawasme was an unknown figure in the territories until 1976, when he succeeded the influential Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al Jaabari as the Mayor of Hebron. Until then he served as an agricultural engineer in the civilian administration, which is part of the Israeli Military Government.

He was elected as Mayor in April, 1976, due to an unexpected political change. Jaabari, who was the Mayor of Hebron for 40 years — and was noted for his close cooperation with the Military Government — resigned due to old age. The most likely person to succeed him was Dr. Ahmad Natshe, who was deported by the authorities a few days before the elections.

Kawasme, who was number two on the Natshe list, suddenly found himself at the head of the list — and he won all 10 seats of the local council. In the beginning, the authorities believed that the calm which characterized the Jaabari period would continue — for Kawasme, with his civil service background and his moderate appearance, certainly gave the impression that he would continue this way.

#### Transformation Of Kawasme

In fact, Kawasme lived up to these expectations, at the beginning of his term. He knew how to maneuver between the pressures of the extremists and the Israelis. Military Government officials often complimented him for this, and praised his municipal achievements.

But last year he showed the first signs that he aspired to become a political figure on a Palestinian scale. He met for the first time with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, without prior approval by the Military Government. The government refrained from taking any action against him following the meeting.

Ever since the signing of the Camp David accords in 1978, Kawasme became a member of the National Guidance Committee — which was set up as the leading body of the Arabs in the administered territories. For months he continued to adopt a moderate line, facing criticism by other mayors such as Karim Khalaf of Ramallah and Bassam Shaka of Nablus.

He became one of the more influential leaders in the Committee — which gradually became politically independent from the PLO. Contrary to the past, the leaders no longer followed blindly the dictations from the PLO. This became apparent when the National Guidance Committee recommended a mass resignation by all mayors to protest the intended deportation of Shaka last year — contrary to the advice given by Arafat, who feared the Israelis might use the opportunity to get rid of all PLO supporters in the West Bank municipalities.

Only two months ago did Kawasme adopt the most extreme line. Following the government decision to settle Jews in Hebron, Kawasme presided over a protest rally in Hebron in which he made strong, anti-Israeli comments. He said at that rally that he would rather be deported than see Jews settle Hebron.

He said he would support resettlement of Jews in Jewish properties in Hebron only after Arabs are allowed to return to their homes in Jaffa, Haifa and other previous Arab-populated places in Israel. In a recent newspaper interview

he explained: "The policy of the Begin government has made me into an extremist."

Mohammad Hassan Milhim, the second deportee, was the Mayor of Halhoul, a town near Hebron, since 1976. Milhim, with a European appearance, fluent in English, was often interviewed by the foreign media here — always adopting a rejectionist view toward Israel. He came from an educated family, known for extremist views. His brother, Dr. Mustapha Milhim, was deported eight years ago for incitement and anti-Israel propaganda.

Milhim, too, was a member of the National Guidance Committee, but was always considered one of the more extremists there, together with Khalaf and Shaka.

#### Tamimi Was Known As Religious Leader

The third deportee was Sheikh Rajeb Buyud Tamimi, the Kadi (religious judge) of Hebron. Tamimi was considered a leading religious figure, but he was not known as a political figure. However, he was involved in several clashes with the authorities. He involved himself mainly with internal activities, such as debates with the local leftist groups in Hebron and drives calling for the return to Islam.

Tamimi made the strongest speech in the Hebron rally when he called, in an emotional address, for freeing the country from the Zionists, specifically mentioning Haifa, Acre and Jaffa.

With the deportation of the three, the leadership of the West Bank is more than ever in the past in the hands of Shaka and Khalaf.

#### BLUM: HEBRON KILLINGS WAS AN OUTRAGE

UNITED NATIONS, May 4 (JTA) — Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, charged today that the ambush killings in Hebron represented an attempt to "interfere" with the autonomy negotiations now in progress and "illustrate once again the true character of the PLO and its violent aims." In a message to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim describing the outrage, Blum declared:

"Beyond indiscriminate murder, the object of this unconscionable exercise was to inflame religious sentiments among local Arabs and to foment incitement in an attempt to interfere with the stepped-up negotiations on full autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district. Cowardliness and callousness characterized PLO terror since its inception and this criminal incident illustrates once again the true character of the PLO and its violent aims."

#### SILENT PROCESSION PROTESTS KILLINGS

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) — Delegates to the American Jewish Congress biennial convention here marched yesterday in silent protest from the convention hotel site to the local headquarters of the Palestine Information Office two miles away where they recited Kaddish in memory of the five victims of the terrorist attack in Hebron Friday and the three Israelis who were killed by terrorists in Kibbutz Misgav Am April 7. They were led by Leonore Sigelman, president of the Washington chapter of the AJCongress.

Howard Squadron, who was reelected president of the AJCongress, charged in an address to the convention last night that there was "a direct link between western Europe's growing acceptance of the PLO and the upsurge of the Arab terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians."