

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ITALY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY MOURNS VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACK

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig (Rome) and David Landau (Jerusalem)

Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Italy's stunned and angered Jewish community mourned the victims of Saturday's terrorist attack on worshippers outside of Rome's main synagogue today as a police dragnet sought the perpetrators who killed a two-year-old child and wounded 37 other persons, many of them critically.

The synagogue, where thousands of Jews gathered for a prayer vigil last night, remained under heavy guard and security was tightened around synagogues and other Jewish institutions in Italy. Messages of condolence and condemnation poured in from all over the world, including statements from the Vatican and the top Italian leadership.

But Italy's Jews would not be mollified. They blamed the outrage directly on the audience granted by Pope John Paul II last month to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat.

They also denounced President Sandro Pertini and Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo who received Arafat and the harsh criticism of Israel by the Italian media following the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut. Many Jews saw this as an ill-disguised campaign of anti-Semitism which created a climate for violence against Jews. Statements by Israel's two chief rabbis and by the Cabinet in Jerusalem seemed to confirm that view.

### Terrorists Fired Into Crowd

The terrorists struck at noon, Rome time, Saturday, hurling hand grenades and firing machineguns into a crowd of some 500 people attending Sabbath and Simchat Torah services at the main synagogue, an historical landmark in the old Roman ghetto.

Among the 50 children in the crowd, two-year-old Stefano Tache was killed instantly and his sister was seriously wounded. Eyewitnesses described the terrorists as five to seven men of "Mediterranean" type. Descriptions such as "dark skinned" and "swarthy" were given.

Police set up road-blocks throughout the city. According to unconfirmed reports Saturday, three suspects -- two men and a woman -- were arrested for questioning. But the search continued.

### Shock And Anger By Political Leaders

Italy's Premier Giovanni Spadolini and several ministers rushed to the scene of the attack. By then, most of the victims had been taken to nearby hospitals. But blood still spotted the sidewalk outside the synagogue which was littered with prayer books, prayer shawls, eye glasses and other personal belongings of the victims.

Pertini and Spadolini expressed shock and anger over the attack and sent messages of sympathy to the Jewish community and Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff. They promised the police would do all in their power to track down and arrest the

killers. The Pope sent a telegram to the Papal Vicar of Rome asking him to relay to the Chief Rabbi, the leaders of the Jewish community, the victims and their families his "firm condemnation for this criminal act, all the more serious because it took place in the house of worship of the Jewish community."

### 'Words Serve Little Purpose'

But the messages of sympathy were met with stoney anger by the 15,000 Jews of Rome who have pulled invisible shutters around them and preferred to remain isolated in their grief. "Words serve little purpose and the facts of the utmost gravity are unfortunately what they are," Rabbi Toaff declared yesterday.

He accused the Interior Ministry of ignoring his pleas for more police protection for Jewish institutions, especially after the September 30 attack on the Jewish community center in Milan. Both Pertini and Spadolini had warned after that incident against allowing anger over the Beirut massacre to lead to acts of anti-Semitism. But Toaff said his requests for more protections were treated as "inopportune" by the Italian authorities.

The Jewish community politely but firmly turned down a visit by Pertini after the tragedy and a government offer to hold an official funeral for the dead child. No Italian authorities were represented at the burial rites.

### Jews In Self-Imposed Isolation

The self-imposed isolation of Rome's Jews from the rest of the city was a form of bitter reproach for what they perceived to be the use of actions by the Israeli government in Lebanon -- which most Jews fully supported -- as an excuse for anti-Semitic onslaughts. Posters with messages of sympathy and solidarity from Rome's City Hall were ripped down and almost as soon as they were put up near the synagogue.

This was a response to Rome's Communist Mayor, Ugo Vetere, who led several pro-PLO, anti-Israel marches through Rome in recent weeks. Those demonstrations were seen as incitement not only against the government of Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon but against Jews in general.

Similarly, Jews rejected messages of sympathy from Italian trade unions, several branches of which had demonstratively refused to service El Al planes at Rome's airport and Israeli ships at Italian ports after the Beirut massacre.

They treated with contempt messages of sympathy from the PLO representative in Rome, Nemmer Hammad; a message from Arafat to Pertini expressing condolences to the Italian people and the families of the victims in the name of the PLO; and a message from the Rev. Hilarion Capucci, the Melchite archbishop who served a prison term in Israel for smuggling arms to Palestinian terrorists while he was serving as head of his church in Jerusalem a decade ago.

But the most serious repercussions of the latest tragedy may be in the realm of relations between Jews and the Vatican. The audience the Pope

granted Arafat September 14 was viewed as a legitimization of an international terrorist and arch-enemy of Israel by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. The Israeli government and Jews the world over had tried strenuously to prevent it, but to no avail.

#### Israeli Condemns The Attack

The Israeli Cabinet made oblique references to it in a statement issued yesterday condemning the Rome synagogue attack. The statement deplored "encouragement (given terrorism) in words and deeds by (Italian) governmental and other circles." Asked to identify those "circles," Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor told reporters, "Take a look at Arafat's itinerary these past few weeks." He was clearly hinting at the PLO leader's meetings with the Pope, President Pertini and other Italian statesmen.

#### Israel's Chief Rabbis Blame Media, Pope

Israel's two Chief Rabbis, Shlomo Goren and Ovadia Yosef, were more direct. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Goren, in a statement Saturday night, called the Rome synagogue attack "the result of incitement by the media, begun by the Pope's granting an audience to the master-butcher, the head of the PLO ... He (the Pope) welcomed him with a right royal arm." According to Goren, the Papal audience was "intended to influence public opinion against the Jews."

Yosef, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, charged that "The (Italian) leaders are responsible. The Pope gave a reception for the chief assassin and so did the President of the country."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement Saturday saying all Israelis shared the grief of the bereaved families. "The criminal act perpetrated by terrorists ... demonstrates once again the base nature of those who plot against Jewish worshippers on their festivals. It is time for the enlightened world to unite against terror and no longer surrender to it," the Foreign Ministry said.

#### Cardinal Cooke Angered By Statements

There was a reaction to the Chief Rabbis' condemnations yesterday from Terrence Cardinal Cooke, head of the Archdiocese of New York, who termed the attack on the Pope "absurd" and "slanderous." Expressing "outrage over the Rome attack, Cooke declared:

"We call upon religious leaders in our own community not to be engulfed by vengeful and absurd words of slanderous recrimination. Now is the time for words and works of peace not violence." He exalted the Pope as "a solitary symbol of peace."

#### Christians, Jews Denounce Massacre

In Rome, the recently formed Christian-Jewish Friendship Association sent telegrams to the Jewish community and the families of the victims offering cooperation for any eventuality. "With profound sadness and anger we participate in your indescribable pain for this massacre," the message said.

"We wish to solicit the churches, the politicians, the press, the Interior Ministry, Town Hall and unions to give forth less rhetoric and instead examine their consciences; All of the aforementioned are responsible for having created a climate of resentment among citizens, permissiveness toward terrorism."

The European branch of the World Jewish Congress made a similar declaration to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Rome yesterday. "In solidarity with the Jewish community of Rome and with the families of the victims to whom it extends its heartfelt sympathies, the World Jewish Congress European Branch expresses its determination, together with the Union of Italian Jewish Communities to press instantly for immediate and effective measures by governments to combat international terrorism whose racist and clearly anti-Semitic nature threatens democratic society itself.

"It solemnly warns all general and religious authorities of the danger of appeasing terrorist action and of the risks inherent in giving any form of political recognition to those whose language is that of hatred and violence against Jews and other minority groups," the WJC statement said.

In New York, United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today expressed "shock and revulsion" at the attack in Rome. In the statement, issued by his spokesman, the Secretary General extended his sympathy to the families of the victims.

#### Jewish Leaders Denounce The Attack

In New York, Maynard Wishner, president of the American Jewish Committee, sent a cable to the president of the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy, Otto Lenghi, expressing grief for the synagogue tragedy. "Let us hope, pray and work that the world draw from this tragedy the determination to seek an end at last to terrorism and to the anti-Semitism that feeds it," Wishner said.

Hyman Bookbinder, the AJCommittee's Washington representative, and Rabbi Joshua Haberman, president of the Washington, D.C. Board of Rabbis, signed a message hand delivered to the Italian Ambassador, Rinaldo Petrigiani, yesterday. It said, in part:

"With due regard for the precious principle of withholding judgment about who is guilty of this heinous crime until the criminals are identified and apprehended, we feel compelled to express our conviction that contributing to this crime has been the hostile, intemperate reporting by the Italian media of recent Middle East developments -- and the extraordinarily friendly hospitality extended recently to the acknowledged leader of anti-Jewish terrorism, PLO chairman Yasir Arafat."

Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also condemned the Rome attack as "an explosion of hate without a trace of humanity. But spare us expressions of sympathy from governments and religious leaders who only a few weeks ago applauded and comforted in this very same city (Rome) terrorism's personification, Yasir Arafat. He would appreciate such hypocrisy: for Jews it is sore solace."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, also denounced the Pope for receiving Arafat. "Those who capitulate to terrorism, be they spiritual leaders, officials of Italy or world powers, must assume their share of guilt for giving acceptability to terrorism in contradiction of all that is holy and humane," Novick said.

Emanuel Muravchik, executive director of the Jewish Labor Committee, in a telegram to President Pertini, said Saturday's act of terrorism came "on the heels of your own embrace of terrorism's arch architect (Arafat), in addition to the anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli actions of the Communist-dominated trade unions (that) helped create the climate, the climate which has brought Italy to this moment of deep sorrow."

Shirley Leviton, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, deplored the attack and noted that since 1979 the Council has called "for the establishment of an international code of punishment for such crimes and sanctions on those countries which actively aid and abet terrorists." Mrs. Leviton urged the U.S. "to lead such an effort."

### 1,000 Jews Stage March

Yesterday, an estimated 1,000 Manhattan Jews interrupted their Simchat Torah holiday services to march on the Italian consulate and the PLO offices nearby. The worshippers began their march from the Lincoln Square Synagogue, whose spiritual leader, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, said the march was "to show our solidarity with the Jews of Italy and to show the world that the Torah and all that it stands for can and will stand up against the anti-Semitic murderous attacks against innocent Jews praying in their synagogues."

### ISRAEL SPECIFIES BASIS FOR IDF'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday spelled out the conditions for the withdrawal of Israel's forces from Lebanon. In a six-point resolution it adopted after a four-hour meeting, the Cabinet declared:

"Israel continues to strive for a peace treaty with Lebanon. The government of Israel proposes to open negotiations immediately for the evacuation of all foreign forces from all Lebanese territory. The first to leave Lebanon will be the terrorists, who, even after the evacuation of their organizations and headquarters from Beirut, are still concentrated in the Bekaa and in the northern part of the country.

"The Syrian army and the IDF will leave Lebanon simultaneously. All Israeli prisoners, the missing, and the bodies of the fallen will be handed over to the IDF before the evacuation. Prior to the evacuation, security arrangements will be established which will guarantee that Lebanon will not again revert to becoming a base and launching ground for aggressive acts of hostile forces against Israel."

Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that a peace agreement with Lebanon was not a precondition for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. However, during the Cabinet meeting Defense Minister Ariel Sharon insisted that a peace agreement should not be viewed as a gift given by Lebanon to Israel but as a mutual defense pact needed by both countries to assure their security.

He charged that the United States was hampering Israel's effort to achieve a peace treaty by trying to prevent direct contacts between the governments of Israel and Lebanon. Sharon had made a similar charge three days earlier when he told a meeting of former members of the Irgun: "If there is an element which today is hindering the move towards an Israel-Lebanon peace agreement, it is the United States."

He charged that the U.S. was thus acting in its own interests, adding: "I do not want to elaborate at the moment." Sharon's attack on the U.S. was seen as the sharpest yet by a government official.

However, Sharon's view of the U.S. and the need to reach a peace accord with Lebanon was not unanimously accepted by the Cabinet. Deputy Premier David Levy and Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori said arrangements with Lebanon should be made in coordination with the U.S.

Levy said that he, too, would like to reach an immediate peace accord with Lebanon, but the question is whether this goal is feasible. Other ministers also expressed doubt about reaching an agreement with Lebanon, especially at this time when the government of President Amin Gemayel is still trying to consolidate its power.

According to Cabinet sources, Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich told Sharon to present evidence to prove his charge that the U.S. was seeking to hamper Israel's effort to obtain a peace accord with Lebanon "or desist from further attacks on our closest friend and ally, the U.S." Zipori accused Sharon of making "reckless charges and further endangering Israel's position," the sources said.

### Seeking 45-50 Kilometer Security Zone

Meanwhile, it was reported by The Jerusalem Post that Sharon would like to retain a 45-50 kilometer security zone in southern Lebanon. The area, according to the Post, covers almost completely the total region presently held by Israeli forces. But it is somewhat unclear where the distance is to be measured from.

If the point of departure is the coastal area of Rosh Hanikra north of Nahariya, the line could be between Tyre and Sidon. But if the line is drawn from Metulla, Israel's most northerly point at the tip of the Galilee panhandle, the line would reach to Damour, just south of Beirut.

### ARABS PUSHING TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM UN ASSEMBLY'S DELIBERATIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats said today that they are taking "very seriously" the decision reached last Friday by members of the Arab League here to seek Israel's suspension from the deliberations of the General Assembly. The Israeli diplomats stressed that the Arabs are not presently trying to expel Israel from the UN, a move that can be taken only by the Security Council, but are trying to deny Israel its credentials for the current Assembly session.

The credentials of Israel and other nations will be presented for approval by the General Assembly October 18. The Assembly can deny credentials by a simple majority.

The Arabs at the UN have already begun lobbying for the suspension of Israel, especially among Third World nations which usually support Arab anti-Israel moves. But many Third World nations have joined West European countries here in opposing such a move, asserting that the suspension of Israel could damage the UN because of American retaliation.

The U.S. has warned that it would not participate in the Assembly if Israel is suspended. Sources said today that American diplomats are holding meetings with UN delegates to convince them not to join the Arabs in their suspension effort and to make it clear that the U.S. will react strongly if Israel's credentials are denied.

The Arabs succeeded last month in denying Israel's credentials to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The Arabs, however, failed to obtain the two-third majority needed to expel a member-state.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES ISRAEL IN EGYPT'S MEDIA

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- If an assessment of the current state of Egyptian-Israeli relations was to be made on the basis of attitudes reflected in the media here, there would be little indication that the peace treaty has weathered Egypt's furor over Israeli actions in Lebanon.

Although celebrations marking last week's anniversary of the Yom Kippur War lacked the fanfare of last year's military parade, at which President Anwar Sadat was assassinated, Egypt appeared to commemorate its 1973 crossing of the Suez Canal with an enthusiasm that overshadowed any homage to the late President Sadat for his legacy of peace.

The eulogies that appeared in nearly every paper, and even the address delivered by President Hosni Mubarak to mark the anniversary of Sadat's death, bore the tone of apologies to the Egyptian people rather than a collective acclamation of the late President's achievements.

In his nationally televised address before Egypt's ruling political party, Mubarak warned that "whatever the attempts to try and blur the accomplishments of Sadat ... the great achievements, of course, can never be dissipated against the background of certain marginal matters ..."

### Prevailing Attitude Toward Sadat

Egypt's largest circulation daily, Al Akhbar, published a front page editorial entitled "Sadat - A Dictator," which attempted to answer charges that the late President was an autocrat-ruler by demonstrating how his style of autocracy was unique and positive in many respects.

A similar trend surfaced in the major Egyptian journals. Anis Mansour, editor of the widely-respected October magazine, observed that the prevailing attitude toward Sadat in Egypt today has pointed to an Egyptian trend of rallying behind the country's leaders with a fervor, only to malign them after death. Mansour suggested that the present generation of Egyptians has reverted to a kind of blind worship of the late Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Government officials, as well as the news media, have gone to great lengths to remind Egyptians of Sadat's domestic and foreign policy achievements, including the peace treaty with Israel.

At the same time, however, the dual anniversary of the October 1973 war and Sadat's assassination last year has provided an opportunity, in light of Egypt's failure to influence the course of events in Lebanon, to do some muscle flexing of its own, and remind Israel that it views peace between the two countries as the fruit of an Egyptian initiative undertaken from the position of strength which it demonstrated in the surprise attack of 1973.

President Mubarak, in his address last week, as well as several editorials in the press, have warned Israel that it would do well to bear in mind the "lessons of the October War."

Although the attitude of the Egyptian media has reflected the extent of the strain in Egyptian-Israeli relations which reached its peak following the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut and the subsequent recall of Egypt's Ambassador in Israel, Egypt's official stance on relations between the two countries has remained firm.

The blistering verbal attacks against Israel by Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Mubarak himself have consistently been accompanied by re-affirmation of Egypt's commitment to the peace treaty and to the Camp David peace process, most recently in Ali's statement to Yedioth Aharanot, reported in the Egyptian papers Saturday, that the Egyptian Ambassador will return to Israel.

### BEN BELLA SAYS ARABS WILL NEVER ACCEPT THE STATE OF ISRAEL

By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Ahmed Ben Bella, the former president of Algeria who was imprisoned for many years under the regime of Houari Boumediene, said in a recent interview with the French periodical "Politique Internationale" that the Arabs will never accept the Zionist fact.

"I am an Arab and Palestine does not only concern Palestinians; it concerns all Arabs. Even if the Palestinians are forced to accept some kind of solution, the Arabs in general will never accept the State of Israel," he said.

Asked if some territorial compromise was possible, Ben Bella replied that acceptance of the Zionist being would imply a legitimacy to a non-Arab entity in the Mideast.

"The Zionist State by its internal logic," said Ben Bella, "presupposes economic, political and cultural control over the entire region. For us this is synonymous with sterilization and a loss of identity that no self-respecting Arab could accept."

Ben Bella, released from an Algerian form of house arrest only a year-and-a-half ago, said that while individual Arab leaders might go to Jerusalem to conclude some form of peace with Israel there would always be a Moslem who would arise "to liquidate traitors."

Using the terms "stranger" and "cancer" to describe Israel, Ben Bella predicted that the Israel problem would be solved in about 20 years.

### Says Israel Doesn't Have A Chance

Quoting Israeli statistics regarding immigration and emigration, Ben Bella noted that in 1981, 22,000 Jews had left Israel while only 11,000 had entered the country. The Arab population was already 750,000 and growing faster than the Jewish one.

The former Algerian President pointed also to the technological gap which once separated Jews and Arabs. "The Arabs are beginning to have their own technicians, scholars, their own brains," said Ben Bella.

"Sooner or later they will have the atomic bomb; this is inevitable. At that point we will weigh down so heavily on the Israelis that they will be unable to resist us. They don't have a chance."

Asked whether this line of thinking did not justify an Israeli pre-emptive strike against the Arabs, Ben Bella said: "That's the classical threat. We are constantly told, Watch out the Israelis have nuclear weapons, they will blow up everything. They have a Massada complex ... Well, I'll tell you what I really think; if there is no other solution, let the nuclear war take place and let us be finished with it once and for all."

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Histadrut has given the government and the El Al management two days to get the airline flying again and start negotiations on the airline's future. Negotiations, however, appear unlikely and the country may be seriously affected by strikes beginning Wednesday.