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MASKED GUNMEN KILL THREE ARAB STUDENTS AND INJURE 30 IN HEBRON

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Three Arab students were killed and 30 injured today in Hebron, the largest Arab city on the West Bank, by masked gunmen who jumped out of a stationwagon and opened fire with automatic weapons on a crowd of the students in what was described as the worst act of violence in the West Bank in several years. The incident was followed by riots, according to reports from Hebron.

Eyewitnesses said that four men drove up to a spot across from the Islamic College in Hebron in midday and began shooting. The gunmen then jumped back in the vehicle and raced away, leaving a heap of tangled bodies on the ground. Israeli security sources said the four attackers fired Kalashnikov rifles and also threw a hand grenade at the students who were taking a noon break in classes.

City Sealed Off By Israeli Troops

Several hundred Israeli troops immediately sealed Hebron off with roadblocks and imposed a curfew on the city, scene of repeated clashes between Jewish settlers and Arab residents. Reporters trying to enter Hebron were turned back at Kiryat Arba, a Jewish settlement on the outskirts of Hebron. Israeli army helicopters patrolled the area. Regional commander Ori Orr came to Hebron to take charge of the search for the killers. Military vehicles dispatched to Hebron clogged the road from Jerusalem.

The wounded students, including a number of girls, were taken to a local hospital. Distressed families rushed to the hospital for information on the identity of the wounded and their condition, military authorities said.

Tension has been at a high level for months in Hebron, which is sacred to Jews and Moslems. On July 7, a yeshiva student, Aharon Gross, 19, was stabbed to death in the Hebron vegetable market, touching off a rampage by Jewish settlers against Arab residents.

Investigating Two Theories

Israeli security sources declared they were investigating two theories, one that the attack was carried out by Jewish settlers in the spiraling violence and counter-violence, and the other that the attackers were Palestinian terrorists. Students at the Islamic College are bitterly divided between rival factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Moslem Brotherhood.

One of the main reasons for the rise in Jewish-Arab tensions has been the influx of thousands of ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers, led by Rabbi Moshe Levinger. The settlers have built a modern township in Kiryat Arba. They have also moved a few families into Hebron's old Jewish quarter, living under Israeli guard. Hebron had a substantial Jewish presence until 1929 when Arab rioters murdered 67 of the Jews.

Officials said the hit-and-run attack today was the worst single incident on the West Bank since May, 1980 when six Jews were ambushed and shot

dead as they were returning to their homes from a synagogue in Hebron.

Moshe Nissim, Israel's Justice Minister, told the Knesset that Israel deplored the killings and had ordered a major investigation to find the perpetrators.

U.S. SAYS HEBRON ATTACK WAS A 'CRIMINAL ACT'

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- The United States today called the attack on the Islamic College in Hebron, in which three persons were killed and at least 30 injured, a "criminal act" and urged Israel to arrest those responsible.

"The United States deplores this criminal act and condemns terrorism from any corner," State Department spokesman John Hughes said. "We extend our sympathy to the victims and their families. We fervently hope those guilty will be apprehended by the responsible authorities. We urge all in the area to be calm and refrain from further acts of violence."

EYEWITNESS REPORT

A MURDEROUS ATTACK IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, July 26 (JTA) -- The place was too calm to convey to any onlooker that this was the scene -- only a few hours earlier -- of a murderous attack against Arab students.

The Islamic College in Hebron, a four-story building, stood deserted, with only a handful of soldiers patrolling the area. Outside there were hardly any remains of the assault -- two empty cups of coffee left by students during the lunch-time intermission which was interrupted by sudden violence. At the entrance hall, remains of shattered windows, chairs overturned, and total quiet.

At the olive trees grove of the university, one could spot a large stain of blood, with the drops of blood leading all the way to the square in front of the university. This is apparently where it all started.

Around midday two persons -- perhaps more -- entered the campus from a road behind the olive grove. The men, whose faces were covered with the traditional Arab kafiyyas, stomed in with Soviet-made Kalashnikov machineguns, pouring fire all over the place. Two students, in their thirties, were killed immediately, and this was probably the source of the large blood spot in the yard.

The attackers ran about 50 yards toward the main square of the campus, continually shooting. As they entered the main gate of the building, they threw in a hand grenade, which apparently killed the third person, and wounded 30. According to the latest bulletins all are in good condition in Hebron and Beit Jalla hospitals.

Demonstrations Follow The Attacks

The entire attack did not last -- according to eye witnesses -- more than seven minutes. The army rushed to the scene within minutes, and began a large-scale manhunt. Major reinforcements were rushed to Hebron, partly by helicopters. A curfew was imposed on the city and the nearby town of Halhoul to prevent Arab demonstrations.

Indeed, such demonstrations did take place in the city of Nablus in Samaria. One Arab girl was re-

ported killed, and another wounded — apparently in clashes with Israeli security forces. Several soldiers were reported wounded by rock attacks.

Road blocks were placed throughout the main roads of the West Bank, with the security forces checking both Arab and Jewish vehicles.

The security forces ventured no guesses as to the identity of the assailants. The fact that the attack came two-and-a-half weeks after the murder of yeshiva student Aharon Gross in Hebron, and that it was directed against a Moslem religious institution did not immediately indicate that the attackers were Jewish, according to senior officers.

The investigation was reportedly taking all possible directions beginning with the possibility of Jewish vigilantes, through Arab provocation, all the way to the possibility that this was an internal Arab struggle.

The attack was condemned by various Israeli personalities, led by Premier Menachem Begin. It came three days after the curfew was lifted in downtown Hebron, and life was returning to normal following two weeks of tension after the Gross murder. One voice that was not heard until late this evening was that of the Jewish settlers of Hebron. They scheduled a meeting for late tonight, after which they intend to issue a statement.

MIDNIGHT VOTE ON CONTROVERSIAL BILL CAUSES UPROAR IN THE KNESSET

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) — The Knesset was in an uproar today, following the sudden and unexpected introduction and passage of the controversial archaeology bill at midnight last night. There was a den and by some Knesset members that the midnight vote be declared illegal and null and void.

The introduction and passage of the bill, which is intended to curb the right of archaeologists to excavate because of the possible presence of ancient Jewish graves, took place after the Knesset was about to end its session after eight hours of debate on several bills. Most MKs had left the building, believing that the agenda had been completed.

Suddenly, Deputy Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov of Herut, who was chairing the session, announced that Menachem Porush of Agudat Israel would introduce his private member's bill, "The Law to Protect Gravesites." While Porush said he would forego a long speech to explain his proposal, Herut Whip Ronnie Milo rounded up party members still in the building and the draft proposal was accepted and sent to committee for debate.

Defense And Attack

But Liberal Party members of the government coalition, who oppose the bill, said its presentation at the time it was introduced was a "trap." But Cohen-Avidov persisted that the bill was among "other private members bills" which are always on the agenda.

However, Menachem Savidor, the Liberal faction Speaker, said that Cohen-Avidov, as his deputy, knew full well that Porush's bill had been placed on today's agenda, not last night's, and that he had no right to change the agenda by moving the bill up a day ahead.

Savidor added that if Cohen-Avidov's reason for changing the agenda was that he did not know that it was on today's agenda, "he is not telling the truth." Cohen-Avidov immediately announced his resignation as Deputy Speaker, claiming he had been grossly insulted by Savidor.

Parliamentary and legal experts are divided on the Deputy Speaker's right to change the agenda and the Speaker's right to declare a previous vote null and void. Many experts feel the issue should be referred to the Supreme Court for a constitutional ruling.

Some observers feel that the midnight vote might have averted a coalition crisis with the Aguda Israel by satisfying the Aguda that an attempt had been made to have the controversial bill accepted.

But the vote has created a new coalition crisis with other factions, including Tami and Tehiya, which claim that the sudden vote was a cheap trick which brought no credit to the Knesset.

The Archaeological Council, which met today to discuss Porush's bill, said its passage would be a black day for Israel. Prof. Yigael Yadin, Israel's leading archaeologist, whose father's grave was desecrated last week, apparently by ultra-religious elements, called the midnight vote a trick to ensure the passage of a bill which would hamstring archaeology. He said that if this trick works, "something must be wrong in the State of Israel."

ADL OFFICIAL RAPS UN-SPONSORED CONCLAVE ON ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) — A leading official of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has denounced a United Nations-sponsored conference on "the Racist-Fascist Alliance between South Africa and Israel" as another of the UN's "periodic exercises in hypocrisy and disinformation directed at Israel."

Abraham Foxman, the ADL's associate director, noted, in his denunciation, that the conclave in Vienna was supported by the UN Committee on Apartheid, using UN facilities, documentation and financing, even through "technically it was a conference of Non-Governmental Organizations accredited to the UN."

He added that "two well-known Soviet front groups," the World Peace Council and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, took leading roles in the July 11-13 conference.

Asserting that "the agenda and the outcome" of the conclave "were a foregone conclusion," Foxman declared that "Israel was pilloried for diplomatic, trade and military ties with South Africa" and that, in its final declaration, the conference declared its purpose was to "analyze relations between Israel and South Africa and consider necessary actions to ensure that the authorities in Israel desist forthwith in such collaboration."

Foxman added that the delegates did not specify what actions the conference had in mind except to make "a vague reference" to UN machinery for dealing with such issues.

"To appreciate the magnitude of hypocrisy involved, one should examine Israeli-South African trade, which amounts to a minuscule .4 percent of South Africa's external trade," Foxman said. "Sizeably involved in the remaining 99.6 percent of South Africa's trade are none other than the Soviet bloc, Arab states and Black African nations."

REPORT PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWRY APPEARS TO HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- The plight of Ethiopian Jewry appears to have demonstrated some improvement in recent months as an "unprecedented number" of Falashas have succeeded in illegally leaving Ethiopia to go to Israel, according to an activist familiar with Ethiopian Jewry.

But at the same time, while there has been an improvement as a result of the efforts of the Israeli government, the severe drought in North Africa, said to be the worst in over a decade, has created new hardships. The drought has triggered a famine which the activist said is resulting in the deaths of some 50-100 children each day in the northern Ethiopian province of Tigray, a heavily populated Falasha region.

The activist, Barbara Ribakove, president of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ), provided this assessment to the more than 300 persons who gathered here last night at the Lincoln Square Synagogue. Ribakove, who last visited Ethiopia in 1981, was one of several speakers addressing the issue of Ethiopian Jewry.

When asked specifically for the number of Falashas who have successfully made it to Israel, Ribakove declined, saying that the figures were provided in confidence. But her claims were supported by Rep. Bill Green (D. N.Y.) who also said there appeared to have been some success by the Israelis to make it easier for certain groups to leave Ethiopia.

Efforts By Israel, U.S. Are Hindered

The tone of the meeting, despite the information of the drought and its hardships, was markedly different than past rallies for Ethiopian Jews. The Israeli government has been sharply criticized by many groups working with Falashas for failing to take appropriate action to secure the release of the Falashas.

But as Green noted, the efforts by Israel and the United States are hindered because the Reagan Administration has little ability to influence the actions of the Ethiopian government. Since the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, the Falashas, who reside in the northwest of Ethiopia, have been geographically located in the center of a civil war.

The Falashas number about 20,000 today and have reportedly been subjected to cruel and harsh treatment, such as torture and slavery, by the present Communist government. In 1972, Israel's two chief rabbis recognized the Falashas as Jews. But today, relatively little is known about how the Falashas reach Israel. For practical and political reasons, it is not a widely publicized subject.

Nevertheless, the Ethiopian government has just recently opened its doors to visitors to view first-hand the status of the Falashas. Dr. Jay Luger, a member of the steering committee of the NACOEJ last night presented a brief slide presentation of his trip to three Falasha villages last May. He, along with 11 others, made a 12-day visit to Ethiopia.

Situation Of The Falashas

Luger's slides presented a view of the hardships and primitive life-style of the Falashas. One slide, showing the Falashas in prayer in the syna-

gogue in the village of Wolleca, outside the city of Gondar in the province of Gondar, indicated the Western influence on the Falashas in the past years.

The huts in the town of Wolleca are constructed of wood and mud. But the Western influence was demonstrated, according to Luger, by the Western-style prayer-shawls which the Falashas wore in the synagogue and by the mezuzah on the entrance to some homes.

In Amober, the village referred to as the "show-case village," the slides depicted some of the structures remaining from the combined ORT-American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee relief program which began in 1976. In 1981, the governor of the Gondar province, Maj. Malaku, revoked the permission for the operation of the program.

In the third village visited, Abbas Antonias, the small synagogue used by the Falashas did not have a Torah. Luger said the visit was sponsored by the NACOEJ and was primarily a fact finding mission.

Rep. Ted Weiss (D. N.Y.), who also addressed the meeting, said that the Subcommittee on Africa, of which he is a member, has urged the Reagan Administration to help provide aid to Ethiopia. He said members of the subcommittee will be going to several African nations in August and will, during the course of a stopover in Ethiopia, underscore the concern for the fate and future of the Falashas.

TALKS BETWEEN ISRAELIS, U.S. OFFICIALS AIMED AT FINDING EARLY SOLUTION OF LEBANON PROBLEM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens arrived here today and immediately stressed that the redeployment of troops planned by Israel is in "the context of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel" for the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Shamir, who along with Arens met with Secretary of State George Shultz this afternoon, made a brief statement at National Airport in which he noted "we are here on the invitation of" President Reagan. The two are expected to meet with Reagan either tomorrow or Thursday.

Shamir said that the three days of meetings with Reagan Administration officials, beginning today, are aimed at finding "the ways and means for an early solution" to the problem of Lebanon "based upon our common objective. We want to implement the Lebanese-Israeli agreement concluded the 17th of May which is designed to secure the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty over all of its territory, to secure the northern border of Israel, and to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces."

The Israeli Foreign Minister stressed that "it is clear now that the main roadblock for the implementation of this common objective is the refusal of Syria and the constant efforts (by Syria) to undermine Lebanese sovereignty."

10 PRISON INMATES WOUNDED BY BLAST

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- Ten inmates of the Beersheba prison were wounded last night, two of them seriously, when a hand-made grenade exploded in a corridor of the prison's criminal wing. Security prisoners are held in another wing and were not affected by the blast. Prison authorities attributed the incident to a settling of old scores in the overcrowded jail.

There have been several cases of stabbings with home-made knives but this was the first case of the use of explosives. The grenade was made of nails, bits of glass and metal scraps packed into a tin, with explosives smuggled in from outside.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICE FOR ISRAEL

By Rifka Rosenwein

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- A women's group that has managed to raise millions of dollars for its institutions in Israel while maintaining a low profile, has decided to go public.

"In some ways we have been a well-kept secret in the Jewish community," said Sally Schaman, president of the Women's Social Service for Israel (WSS), in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The 35-year-old organization, which serves the elderly and infirmed in Israel, maintains 20 subsidized apartment complexes for the elderly in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, two senior citizen homes in Tel Aviv, and a hospital for the chronically ill, the Lichtenstadter Hospital for Chronic Diseases in Tel Aviv.

WSS is the American fundraising arm of Sheruth Nashim Sociali in Israel, which was founded by Paula Barth in the mid 1930's. Mrs. Barth, a German immigrant whose husband was the first president of Bank Leumi, began by organizing soup kitchens, "meals on wheels," and subsidized housing for the waves of immigrants arriving in Palestine before World War II, according to Edith Jellin, vice president of WSS.

A Tradition of Care With Dignity

Mrs. Barth began the tradition of working without much fanfare. She "never wanted publicity so that relatives in the United States didn't have to see that their relatives (in Israel) needed food," Mrs. Jellin said. Mrs. Barth emphasized care with dignity. Even today, residents at the homes in Israel are encouraged to bring their own furniture and belongings in order to personalize their rooms, Mrs. Schaman explained.

WSS is the only (organization) here that supports very important and high caliber support for elderly people in Israel, (and) focuses only on that," Mrs. Schaman said. The institutions it maintains stress "individual needs and personal attention," she added. "They are each small, not institutional. When you visit (one), you have the feeling that it started small and stayed small."

The organization currently has around 250 members, though it used to have more than 800, according to Mrs. Schaman. It now receives "the bulk of its funds" from legacies plus annual fund-raising dinners, she said.

"The ladies are getting older," Mrs. Schaman explained. Many of the members are survivors of the Holocaust and almost all currently live in New York.

This, plus the group's "insularity" and the fact that the members "stayed within themselves, mean that the organization is losing members and not gaining any, said Dena Mendez. Mrs. Mendez is one of the leaders of the Young Associates organization, which was founded three years ago to help attract younger and newer members to WSS.

The younger group, which calls itself Gila, after one of WSS's senior citizen homes in Israel, has provided a lot of the impetus behind the nationwide campaign that WSS launched for the first time recently.

"The organization is run very individually, which is its strength and its weakness," said Mrs. Mendez. She noted that the American organization has had only two presidents in its history -- the founder, Rosi Michael, and Mrs. Schaman. "When these figures leave, there's a gap," Mrs. Mendez said.

The parent group is anxious to promote and work with the younger organization, Mrs. Schaman said. She said members were concerned about who would carry on their work.

Mrs. Mendez, like some of the other members of her group, first found out about WSS when her grandmother moved into one of its homes in Israel and she saw its work "first-hand," she said. She thinks the attraction of Gila to people like herself, in their 20's or 30's, is that it gives them the chance to help and establish a link with older people in Israel.

Another appeal for some members of the younger group, which includes men, is that they can "work for a small organization, without the bureaucracy," Mrs. Mendez added. The money raised goes directly to Israel to be administered by the Israeli group. The American branch maintains a small office at 240 W. 98th St. in New York, but there are "next to no expenses here," Mrs. Mendez explained.

Both Mrs. Schaman and Mrs. Mendez, the older and the younger leaders, emphasized the sense of "friendship" among the members of the organization and the "personal touch" stressed at the institutions it supports.

JULIUS DRESNER DEAD AT 72

ROME, July 26 (JTA) -- Julius Dresner, a lifetime Zionist, Jewish journalist and former Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, died here today in a Rome clinic at the age of 72. Funeral services will be held Thursday in the Jewish section of Rome's municipal cemetery.

Born on March 26, 1911, in Podvoloshiska, a town on the Russian-Polish border, Dresner migrated with his family to Germany and then to Yugoslavia from which he fled, during World War II, to Italy. There he was placed in internment at Asti. During the war, he led a clandestine existence in Rome under a false name.

After the Allies liberated Italy, Dresner emigrated to Israel but later returned to Italy where he worked as a director of the American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Rome before becoming a full-time correspondent, first for the JTA, and later for Davar, the Israeli daily; the Swiss News Agency SPK-Beme; and for Aufbau, a Jewish newspaper printed in German in New York City.

Dresner was an active and respected member of the Associazione Della Stampa Estera (Foreign Press Association). He was elected repeatedly to the association's executive board throughout his 21 years of membership. Friends said his warmth, intelligence and old world wisdom made him a beloved figure on the Rome correspondents' scene.

LONDON (JTA) -- Concern that the partial Israel withdrawal in Lebanon will cause Lebanon's de facto partition has been voiced by the British government. A statement issued by the Foreign Office says that if the Israeli decision to make a partial withdrawal is intended as a first stage in a complete withdrawal it would be welcomed by Britain. But if it amounted to a de facto partition of Lebanon, then it would undermine the stability of the region and should be avoided at all costs.