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# **JEWISH TERRORIST UNDERGROUND SUSPECT SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS FOR CARRYING EXPLOSIVES, 26 STILL FACE TRIAL**

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) —** A Jerusalem district court judge today imposed an 18 month prison sentence on Noam Yinnon of Moshav Keshet on the Golan Heights, plus a second 18 month sentence which was suspended.

Yinnon is the first of the 27 alleged members of a Jewish terrorist underground who were indicted last month to go on trial. His case was tried separately from the others after the State prosecutor agreed to a request by the defense attorney to drop charges of attempted murder. The underground, based on the West Bank, has been implicated in a series of violent crimes against Arab civilians during the past four years and the planned bombing of five Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem which was foiled by Israeli security forces on April 27.

Yinnon was convicted of unlawful possession of explosives and transporting explosives, offenses which carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. But the presiding judge accepted the defense contention that Yinnon did not know and did not imagine that the explosives he carried would be used to take lives. According to the charge sheet, the explosives were used to manufacture powerful bombs which were planted in the Arab buses and timed to detonate at the peak of rush hour on April 27. The judge said he was convinced that Yinnon sincerely regretted his actions.

But he denied a defense motion to postpone sentencing for a week so that Yinnon could see his family. According to the defense attorney, Yaacov Hagler, the State Attorney's office is negotiating reduced charges against two other suspects. None of them has been identified.

## **JEWISH WAR VETS AT NORMANDY**

By Edwin Eytan

**PARIS, June 7 (JTA) —** Jewish war veterans from a half dozen countries and former resistance fighters marked the 40th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy yesterday. Hundreds strolled along Utah Beach where some of the fiercest fighting occurred and hundreds more placed wreaths at military cemeteries.

Most of the Jewish, and non-Jewish veterans came on their own. A few were members of the official delegations of the Western allied nations commemorating the opening phase of the battle to liberate Europe and destroy the Third Reich.

Attention was focussed inevitably on the heads of state and heads of government: Queen Elizabeth II of Britain; King Baudouin of Belgium; King Olaf of Norway; President Francois Mitterrand, President Reagan and others. They attended special memorial services at a military cemetery studded with rows of white crosses interspersed with Stars of David.

The ceremonies were ecumenical and inter-faith. As ships of eight of the World War II allied powers cruised close to the Normandy beaches, Christian and Jewish military chaplains chanted prayers for the fallen soldiers. Jewish chaplains were part of the official American, British and

French delegations. A French spokesman said no one could estimate the percentage of Jewish war dead.

A special Jewish service was held however at Caen, the Normandy town where Allied forces first broke through the lines of the Wehrmacht. At the synagogue there last Sunday, France's Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat dedicated a plaque to the memory of Jewish soldiers who died in battle. The military attaches of the U.S., Canadian and British governments attended as did a representative of the Minister for Veterans Affairs. A French guard of honor stood at attention outside the synagogue.

The envoys of many countries which did not participate in the landings in Normandy but nevertheless fought the Nazis, attended yesterday's memorial services. Among them was Israel's Ambassador to France, Ovadia Soffer. He was joined by several Israelis who saw combat in World War II in the British army or the Jewish Brigade. They made the trip to France on their own to re-live, as one of them told a reporter, "the unforgettable day which marked the beginning of the end."

## **REFERENDUM AIMED AT CUTTING AID TO ISRAEL DEFEATED IN BERKELEY**

**BERKELEY, Cal., June 7 (JTA) —** A referendum on a Berkeley ballot, voted on in conjunction with the California Presidential primary, calling for cuts in United States aid to Israel, was defeated by a nearly three-to-one vote, a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Middle East Peace and Justice reported today.

She said the vote was 29,279 against and 12,407 for in the voting on Measure E, the title for the referendum. Berkeley has 68,000 registered voters.

The proposal, placed on the ballot by an ad hoc group called Taxpayers for Peace in the Middle East (TAPME), declared that "the people of the City of Berkeley call on the United States government to reduce its yearly aid to Israel by an amount equal to what it determines to be the most accurate approximation of what Israel spends annually on its settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights."

TAPME was created by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which has headquarters in Washington.

Passage of the amendment would have required the major of Berkeley to write letters to President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, California's two Senators and Congressional representatives announcing the vote for the aid cut.

A newsletter of the American-Arab University Graduates claimed that an almost identical resolution was adopted at a February 20 Iowa precinct caucus. In New Orleans, the proposal failed for lack of petition signatures. In Ann Arbor, the City Council rejected such a measure.

## **ARSON DAMAGES FRENCH SYNAGOGUE**

By Edwin Eytan

**PARIS, June 7 (JTA) —** Police and fire-fighters have described as "a clear case of arson" a blaze that severely damaged a synagogue in the Paris suburb of Drancy early Tuesday morning. Cans of petrol were set on fire and thrown against the building which also serves as a community center in the heavily Jewish populated suburb.

The Drancy synagogue was partially destroyed by a similar attack in 1978. A police investigation of that incident yielded no clues and no arrests were ever made. Police officials said today that the latest arson probably was the work of an individual which makes it difficult to track down the culprit.

#### BEHIND THE HEADLINES EUROPE'S OLDEST JEWISH COMMUNITY INHABITS GREEK ISLE By Sheldon Kirshner

CHALKIS, Greece, June 7 (JTA) -- Sixty miles northeast of Athens, on the island of Evia (or Euboea), is a Jewish community that is the oldest continuously inhabited one in all of Europe.

It is quite a distinction for the 100 Jews of Chalkis, the capital of this green, pleasant island which has been ruled by the Persians, Thebians, Romans, Crusaders, Venetians, Turks and Nazis.

But Leon Levy, the 48-year-old president of Chalkis Jewry, takes it all in his stride. By now, he is accustomed to the Jewish visitors from abroad who come here to be at one with history.

A merchant, Levy has no idea how long his family has lived in Chalkis, (which is also known as Halkida and has a population of 60,000.) But Levy says the Jews here can trace their roots back at least 2,250 years. Local records indicate that Jews were brought to Chalkis as captives of Antiochus, but some scholars believe they arrived as followers of the returning soldiers of Alexander the Great.

Levy, whose family survived the German occupation by going into hiding with Christians, directs a traveler to the town's museum. And there, in an ancient tomb, is a record of a conversation between Caius, a Roman emperor, and Philo of Alexandria.

#### Little Safad

Philo, in reply to a question from Caius, observes that Jews can be found on "the celebrated islands of Evia, Cyprus and Crete..." Caius' exchange with Philo occurred around the time of Christ.

In 1165, Benjamin of Tudela, a noted Jewish traveller, passed through Chalkis and encountered Jews. From the Middle Ages to the 19th century, Chalkis was often called Little Safad because of the rabbinical sages who studied there.

Chalkis' white-washed synagogue, the foundations of which go back some 1,500 years, has been rebuilt six times. On Good Friday, 1845, a Christian fanatic set fire to the building and it was not reconstructed until 1849.

Strangely enough, the walls of the synagogue, on Kotsou St., are embedded with ancient Jewish gravestones. During the Venetian era, the Italian overlords used the Jewish cemetery as a quarry to build castle walls.

And when the ruined walls were demolished 23 years ago, the stones were returned to the Jews. They, in turn, placed them into the synagogue walls.

In the cool courtyard of the synagogue is a 12th century mikva, a very tiny one, and on the far side of the walled enclosure are fragrant lemon and mandarin trees. With Levy's permission, I pluck two bright orange mandarins and eat them. On major holidays, when the citrus is blooming, congregants pick them off the boughs and nibble on them.

Chalkis' Jewish communal center, adjacent to the mini orchard, is small, and replete with framed photographs of Theodor Herzl, the Viennese founder of modern political Zionism; David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, and three Israeli Presidents.

There are also WIZO posters and a glassed-in map of Israel on the wall. Inside the synagogue, on a white marble slab, are etched three names: Ferdinand de Rothschild, Damaskinos and Gregorios.

#### Rothschild's Yacht

Rothschild, of the famous European banking dynasty, berthed his yacht in Chalkis' harbor in the late 19th century. So impressed was he by the durability and unity of the Jews here that he donated money towards the construction of a protective wall around the Jewish cemetery.

Rustic in appearance, the cemetery is filled with tombstones, some of which are extremely old. Beautiful red, yellow and blue wildflowers grow in the high grass, and graceful pines and cypresses abound throughout, forming shady pathways.

Damaskinos, the Greek archbishop during World War II, is honored because he tried -- but failed -- to stop the deportation of Jews to Poland's death camps. Gregorios, Chalkis' Monsignor when the Germans marched in, is remembered because he hid the Torah scrolls and other religious artifacts in the crypt of a church. In 1939, two years before the Nazi invasion, Chalkis was home to approximately 250 Jews.

Unlike the majority of their fellow Jews in Greece, they spoke no Ladino, but only Greek. Having settled in Chalkis centuries in advance of the Inquisition in Spain, the so-called Romaniot Jews of Evia had no knowledge of Ladino, a jargon of Sephardic Yiddish which arose in the Iberian Peninsula.

When the war broke out, Elias Levy, Leon's aged father, owned a dry goods shop which Leon runs today with his brother, Menos (Menachem), who is 40.

Leon Levy was barely out of diapers when Italy invaded Greece, but he knows that the first Greek army officer to fall in battle was Col. Mordechai Frizis, a Jew whose family has lived on Evia reportedly for 13 generations. A marble bust of Frizis stands today in Chalkis' Military Square.

The war was a terrible time for the Jews, yet the Levys were lucky. At first, Evia and environs were under Italian occupation -- a fortuitous stroke because Italy did not harass the Jews, nor attempt to ship them off to concentration camps. Later, the Germans replaced the Italians, and the tragedy began.

"When we learned that the Germans had deported the Jews of Salonika, we escaped to the mountains and found shelter with a priest," recalls Levy. By war's end, the Levys -- parents, brothers and sister -- were in Athens, under the assumed name of Papadimitriou. A sympathetic policeman, Levy explains, provided false papers.

All told, the Germans managed to kill two Jews from Chalkis and about 25 from the vicinity, Levy says.

In the wake of the war, 120 Jews emigrated to Israel and the U.S. The Levys remained because they were not as destitute as some of their fellow Jews. Today, the Jews of Chalkis are "strong economically." Leon Levy himself seems quite prosperous, and his shop at 42 Kriezotou stocks men's and women's garments and rolls of cloth.

Intermarriage is still an unknown phenomenon, A hazzan conducts regular services. On the major holidays, a rabbi from Athens leads the congregation in prayer. A butcher in Athens supplies Chalkis with kosher meat.

Levy, the father of two, says that 10 Jewish students from Chalkis study at universities -- six in Greece and four in Israel. Asked if they'll return after their graduation, Levy shrugs his shoulders.

However, he is confident that the community's continuity will not be affected by their decisions. The Jews of Chalkis, he declares, do not intend to disappear -- not after 2,250 years.

# STUDENTS TESTIFY TEACHER TAUGHT IN CANADIAN H.S. JEWS WERE GUILTY OF CRIMES AND MUST BE REMOVED

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, June 7 (JTA) -- Former students of James Keegstra testified in a packed courthouse this week that their high school teacher in Eckville, Alberta had taught them that Jews were guilty of the most heinous crimes in history and must be eradicated.

Keegstra, a former mayor of Eckville who was ousted from the Alberta school system for preaching anti-Semitism, went on trial in Red Deer, Alberta Monday for violating Canadian laws against promoting racial and religious hatred. One of his pupils, Lorene Baxter, who took the stand yesterday, read from her 12th grade notes, dictated by Keegstra, that the Jacobin reign of terror after the French Revolution was instigated by Jews and included cannibalism. Napoleon was described as "shepherd of the Jews" and Sigmund Freud as a "Marxist Jew" who participated in drug and sex orgies.

On Tuesday, 19-year-old Richard Denis read an essay he wrote in the 12th grade two years ago to the effect that Jews instigated the French and Russian revolutions and the two world wars and "we must get rid of every Jew in existence in order to live in peace and freedom." Denis maintained under cross examination by defense counsel that he wrote that essay to please Keegstra in the hope of getting higher marks.

## Student Breaks Into Tears

Fifteen-year-old Paul Maddox, the first of 25 prosecution witnesses, testified in tears Monday that Keegstra taught that Jews were "crooks", thieves and communists who were trying to enslave the world. The youth's mother, Susan Maddox, 37, who was one of the parents of Eckville high school students who first complained two years ago that Keegstra was using his classroom to present his anti-Semitic theories, also testified.

She was followed on the stand Tuesday by Dick Hoeksema, the teacher who replaced Keegstra. He said the first question students confronted him with was did he believe in the Jewish conspiracy. He testified that he told the class he did not but the students discussed the subject incessantly. They told him that the red rose Canadian Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau wears in his lapel was a symbol of the communist conspiracy of which Trudeau was a part and that Trudeau was put in power by the Jews.

Keegstra was defeated last year in a bid for reelection as mayor of Eckville, a farm community of 900. Although his anti-Semitism was not an issue in the campaign -- there are no Jews living in Eckville -- the downfall of the once popular teacher and politician was attributed in part to local revulsion against his views.

## ISRAELI PATROL CAPTURES GOLAN INFILTRATORS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force patrol clashed with and captured four Arab infiltrators on the Golan Heights Tuesday, wounding one of them, a military spokesman announced today.

The intruders, who put up a short fight near Kibbutz Afik before they surrendered were described as

youths aged between 16-21, armed with Kalatchnikov rifles, ammunition, 11 hand grenades and three anti-tank rocket-propelled grenades. Israeli military authorities believed their intention was to seize hostages in exchange for Palestinian terrorists held in Israeli prisons.

The IDF was alerted to the infiltration attempt by a breach in the border fence east of Kibbutz Mevo Hama near the southern end of the Golan Heights. The location is near the point where the Israeli, Syrian and Jordanian borders converge and is believed to have been chosen to create doubt as to where the infiltrators originated.

Israeli experts are convinced they came from Syria, though possibly without the knowledge of the Syrian authorities. They pointed out that the Syrians have been trying to reduce such activity and the infiltration is regarded by Israel as an isolated incident.

## MOSCOW, LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS PLEA FOR RELEASE OF PHYSICIST HELD AFTER WRITING LETTER SEEKING EXIT VISAS

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- Scores of refuse-niks in Moscow and Leningrad have appealed to Soviet authorities for the release of Zakhar Zunshain, a Jewish physicist from Riga who was arrested there last March 6 and charged with the "circulation of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system."

The appeal and an accompanying statement, dated March 19 and April 5 respectively, were released here by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the National Lawyers Committee for Soviet Jewry. The documents point out that the charges of "circulation" and defamation against the 33 year-old Riga refusenik stemmed solely from the content of letters he addressed to the Soviet authorities in increasingly desperate efforts to obtain exit permits for himself and his wife, Tatyana, which have been denied them since 1980.

Zunshain, who is being held incommunicado in a Riga prison, faces up to three years in a Labor camp if convicted. He and his wife have suffered persistent harassment, according to the NCSJ. He has repeatedly asked to renounce his Soviet citizenship and emigrate to Israel to join relatives there.

The appeal on behalf of Zunshain was addressed to the Soviet Procurator General, Aleksandr Rekunkov and the Latvian Procurator, Janis Dzenitis. It points out that Zunshain's efforts to get permission to emigrate resulted in the charges against him. It also notes that Zunshain was ill at the time of his arrest and "according to the warrant shown him, there was no requirement that he be immediately arrested."

The appeal cited "the peculiarity of the judicial investigation at hand" inasmuch as the alleged defamation of the Soviet State was contained in his letters pressing his case for emigration under Soviet law, the addressees of which were the same authorities who ordered his arrest.

## 'ENCOUNTER WITH ISRAEL' PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- A two-week program in Israel that will explore opportunities for moving to a community village or town in one of Israel's newly developing areas is scheduled to begin August 8, according to Nir Gur, director of the Israel Aliyah Center's settlement desk.

The seminar, open to potential immigrants as well as returning Israelis, will include touring throughout the country; visits to schools and absorption centers; and meetings with community leaders and Jewish Agency officials.

# BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## E. GERMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY MADE UP MOSTLY OF ELDERLY

By David Kantor

ERFURT, East Germany, June 7 (JTA) — There is a large, well kept synagogue in this city in the province of Thuringia, rebuilt in 1952 to replace the larger, more impressive edifice destroyed by the Nazis during the notorious "Kristallnacht" of November, 1938.

But the Erfurt synagogue is not used most of the time. The local Jewish community numbers about 100 people, most of them too old and infirm to attend services regularly. The last time the congregation gathered there was to celebrate the Passover seder with kosher food supplied from Hungary along with haggadas in Hebrew. The last Jewish wedding was held here more than 10 years ago.

Herbert Ringer, chairman of the Jewish community in Thuringia, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that about 1,000 Jews lived in Erfurt before World War II. Of that number, 850 were killed by the Nazis in concentration camps and elsewhere. The survivors emigrated after the war to Israel, the United States and European countries. But 15 Jews subsequently returned to Erfurt to form the nucleus of a revived Jewish community which now accounts for almost all of the Jewish population of Thuringia.

### Ties By Young Discouraged

Most of them are old because the Communist authorities do not encourage young people to retain their ties to the Jewish community. Nevertheless, the community is treated well and receives subsidies from state and local authorities. But Jewish education is not available.

Ruth Cars, who runs the Jewish community center attached to Ringer's office recalls the last Jewish wedding here, though she cannot remember the exact date. The family has since left for Israel. The bride and groom were granted exit permits — something virtually impossible for persons under 60 — because the bride had lived in Israel after the war and returned to Erfurt only to be married.

According to Ringer, the main task of the Jewish community here is to look after the 34 Jewish cemeteries in Thuringia. The work is on a voluntary basis and sometimes church and other organizations help. The Jewish community receives outside visitors only occasionally. They come to inform themselves about the Jewish past in the region and Jewish life at present which, in this province, is largely confined to Erfurt.

### LABOR MAINTAINS HOLD ON ARGENTINE JEWRY

By Manuel Tenenbaum

BUENOS AIRES, June 7 (JTA) — The Labor party maintained its decades old pre-eminence as the Jewish community of Buenos Aires elected its leaders for the next three years.

Using a parliamentary system established 30 years ago, 7,148 voters from among the representatives of the Argentine capital's estimated 200,000 Jews turned out. The 90-members of the Council of the Kehila or "community" in Hebrew were selected last month from among six parties in a procedure mirroring Israel's elections. The Kehila represents the Jewish community and Jewish institutions in this city of close to three million people.

Labor garnered 48 percent of the votes and retained the presidency of the Kehila. Brera, a new party emerged for the election, forged by a coalition of leaders of social athletic clubs and representatives

of the Conservative and Reform congregations. The new party strongly criticized the community's policies and structures and hoped to offer what its name means in Hebrew, an "alternative." Brera came in second, drawing 17.6 percent of the vote.

Likud drew only six percent of the vote, down from the 14.3 percent they won in 1981.

The 90 seats on the Kehila's Council have been distributed as follows: Labor, 43; Brera, 16; Agudat Israel, 10; Nonparty Zionists, 10; Likud, 6; Mizrahi, 5.

### Perelmutter Elected President

According to observers, Brera drew as well as Labor in the affluent neighborhoods in the center of the city. Labor won overwhelming majorities in the old Jewish neighborhood of Villa Crespo and in the suburbs. In one district with a strong Orthodox population, Agudat Israel won at several polling places.

The election results are interpreted in circles close to Labor as a renewal of Labor's leadership of the Argentinian Jewish community. The Kehila elections greatly influence the make up of the new governing board of the DAIA, the representative body of the Jews in Argentina.

The elections also brought a new Labor president to the AMIA, as the Kehila is also known. The new leader is Luis Perelmutter, an engineer. He succeeds Alberto Crupnicoff as the choice of the new Council.

Perelmutter, who assumed office on May 31, promised to continue the Kehila's traditional support for Jewish education and to launch a campaign to draw younger elements into the community.

### ILO REPORT FINDS WEST BANK, GAZA ARAB WORKERS INCREASE IN ISRAEL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 7 (JTA) — The number of Arab workers in Israel from the occupied territories increased sharply during the final quarter of 1983. Their condition improved somewhat but problems remain, according to a report submitted by the Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) to the annual conference of the ILO here today.

The report is based on the findings of a three-man team that visited the territories. They concluded that Arab workers in the territories — West Bank and Gaza — are still largely dependent on jobs available in Israel or in Arab countries.

The number of Arabs from the territories employed in Israel stood at 85,000 in September, 1983, according to the official count. By the end of the year it was estimated at 92,000. Workmen's compensation is provided for an increasing number. Between 60 and 68 percent of the Arab population in the territories is presently covered by medical insurance.

Arab workers in Israel are free to seek any employment, the report said. But there are about 35,000 illegal workers — hired by Israeli employers outside the labor exchanges — who do not receive social benefits. About 20 percent of them are minors without secondary education.

Arab workers from the territories who are employed in Israel are obliged to contribute to the national insurance scheme. But because they are not full-time residents of Israel they are not entitled to certain benefits. On the other hand, Jewish settlers in the territories are not bound by the residence requirements.

The ILO team found serious problems in East Jerusalem where 200 Arab doctors can find no employment. The overall job situation there has been aggravated by the decline of tourism and reduced construction work. The ILO found that 85 percent of the Arab population could not survive without outside help.