

MAY 16 1989

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

© Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 330 SEVENTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10001-5010 • (212) 643-1890

VOL. 67 - 72nd YEAR

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

NO. 83

TWO KILLED IN JERUSALEM STABBING BY 'DERANGED MOSLEM EXTREMIST'

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Terror raged once again in the heart of Jerusalem on Wednesday, as two Jews were stabbed to death by an Arab who ran amok on Jaffa Road.

About seven hours later, a Jewish settler in the West Bank was stabbed by a young Arab. He was rushed to a hospital in Petach Tikva, where his wounds were described as "light to moderate."

The dead were identified as Nissim Levy, 90, and Vardi Kalman, a 60-year-old attorney.

Three Israelis were also injured in the attack. One of them, Levy's wife, was reported to be in critical condition; the other two, both men, suffered chest wounds and were said to be in serious condition.

The assailant, who was caught shortly after the attack, was saved by police officers from being lynched by an angry crowd that witnessed the incident. According to some witnesses, a second attacker fled from the scene, but this report was not confirmed.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, who arrived on the scene shortly after the incident, described the assailant as a "deranged Moslem extremist" and said it was impossible to prevent such attacks. Bystanders shouted at him to resign.

According to eyewitnesses, the attack took place around 11 a.m., when a young Arab man indiscriminately attacked a number of people who were sitting on a bench at a bus stop opposite Jerusalem's main post office on Jaffa Road.

Cries Of 'Death To The Arabs'

The assailant, approximately 25 years old, reportedly shouted "Allah akhbar" (God is great) as he was carrying out the attack.

Eyewitnesses began chasing the assailant, catching him a few yards down the road. Just as they began wrestling with him, police who rushed to the scene pushed the attacker inside a nearby florist shop and protected him from the crowd.

"We ran after him all the way to the florist shop," recounted eyewitness Ronni Shimon. "We grabbed hold of him, but the policemen caught him and pushed him inside the store. We tried to settle accounts with him, but the police wouldn't let us."

The angry crowd cried for vengeance, trying to storm into the shop, but was pushed away by the police. The crowd then gathered at the scene of the attack looking for Arabs to beat up, shouting, "Death to the Arabs!"

At some stage of the incident, shots were fired, apparently by a civilian, since police said none of their men used firearms. It was not clear whether anyone was hurt by the shots.

Police commanders said the Jewish crowd was on the verge of lynching the attacker, which they said was "unacceptable."

Police Commander David Kraus said Wednesday afternoon that the attacker "appears to have worked alone."

Kraus said that from the ongoing interrogation, it appeared that the man had attended prayers at the Dome of the Rock on Tuesday night, the 27th day of Ramadan, which is a day

of special prayers, and then slept over on the Temple Mount.

Other police sources disclosed that the man had been arrested before on suspicion of hostile activities. There was no word about the second assailant or accomplice, whom some eyewitnesses claimed they saw fleeing the site of the attack.

Tensions In Jerusalem

For hours after the episode, the city center seethed with interracial hatred, fanned by Meir Kahane, Knesset member Rehavam Ze'evi, and other, lesser known, right-wing activists, who led mobs screaming for vengeance and "death to the Arabs."

Police arrested Kahane and six followers near Jaffa Road, and another Kach activist near Mea Shearim, where one Arab passerby was beaten up.

Kraus said he had ordered in more reinforcements -- there are already 3,000 police officers deployed in the capital in connection with the close of Ramadan -- in order to beef up patrols "along the seam," as Kraus put it, between the western and eastern parts of the city.

The Jewish settler attacked later Wednesday was a resident of Etz Efraim in Samaria. He was stabbed five times.

Initial reports on the incident, which took place at 6 p.m., said the assailant was a boy of 16 or 17 who attacked the settler as he worked on building his home inside the settlement. The youth fled after the attack into the wadis nearby.

Police said the Jerusalem attacker was acting alone and that there was no immediate link between the two incidents.

ARAFAT STATEMENT ON CHARTER REJECTED BY ISRAELI LEADERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Israel has contemptuously dismissed Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat's public revocation of the Palestine National Covenant as "a lie."

But privately, government officials here do not hide their surprise at the far-reaching nature of Arafat's pronouncement, made Tuesday night over French television.

And a leading Labor Party figure on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to "expose the lie -- if you insist it is a lie."

The official Israeli response to Arafat's statement that the PLO charter was "caduque" (obsolete, or null and void) came from Avi Pazner, Shamir's spokesman. He said Arafat was an inveterate liar who was merely "continuing with the same old lies."

"Arafat was elected on the basis of the covenant, and nothing else," Pazner insisted, in response to the PLO chief's statement that he was elected instead on the basis of the Palestine National Council's endorsement in December of a two-state solution.

"Talk is cheap for Arafat," Pazner added. "He feels the need to repay Mitterrand for hosting him. In a week he will find an explanation as to why the covenant has not in fact lapsed."

In fact, Arafat lacks the legal authority to abrogate the charter. That would require a two-thirds majority of the PNC.

A Foreign Ministry official also dubbed Arafat's statement part of "the web of lies. In practice Arafat has done nothing to change a letter of the covenant."

Eban Sees Change In Arafat

In Los Angeles, however, former Knesset member Abba Eban told some 900 supporters of Friends of Peace Now that the United States and France deserve credit for stimulating a change in Arafat's thinking.

He criticized those who call PLO concessions mere rhetoric, while taking hostile Arab statements at face value. "We can't have it both ways," Eban said.

On the right of the Israeli political spectrum, some leaders sought to link Arafat to Wednesday's murderous attack in downtown Jerusalem.

Shamir himself said it was "impossible not to see a connection" between the attack and Arafat's visit. He said Mitterrand had turned "to a path that damages peace and damages the Jewish people" by pronouncing himself a friend of "that man."

"So much for Arafat's so-called moderation," said Moleket Party leader Rehavam Ze'evi, visiting the site of the crime, as a throng of incensed Jewish Jerusalemites cheered him while hissing and booing Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this story.)

FRENCH JEWS DOUBT ARAFAT'S CLAIM THAT COVENANT IS 'NULL AND VOID'

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 3 (JTA) -- Yasir Arafat's declaration that the Palestine Liberation Organization Covenant is "null and void" is "the start of the clarification of this issue," French President Francois Mitterrand was reported to comment at the weekly Cabinet session Wednesday.

But Jewish and Israeli leaders took an opposite view to the PLO leader's remarks, made during a French television interview Tuesday a few hours after his 90-minute meeting with Mitterrand.

Arafat's use of the French phrase "c'est caduque" -- null and void -- to describe the covenant is "just words," said Theo Klein, president of CRIF, the umbrella group of French Jewish Organizations.

"Can Israel trust its security to words, just words?" he asked.

Klein's comments echoed those of Ovadia Soffer, Israel's ambassador to France, who said "Israel's security should not depend on the words of a terrorist."

The PLO's 25-year-old covenant calls for the destruction of Israel through "armed struggle."

Some 10,000 Jews demonstrated Tuesday in front of the Rue Copernic Synagogue, where four people were killed in a terrorist act in October 1980.

In spite of calls for quiet and calm, police forces had to be used to repulse demonstrators who marched on the Hotel Crillon, where Arafat was staying. The PLO chief was not there at the time.

Arafat met Tuesday night with a dozen Jewish intellectuals and artists. One, the popular

singer Sapho, read a poem written in his honor at a reception attended by over 500 people.

A small group of Israelis, who would not give their names, also called on Arafat at the Hotel Crillon and later attended the reception.

Prepared To Negotiate

Meanwhile, Arafat on Wednesday continued to clarify his stand, which is considered some of the strongest and clearest language to date expressing the PLO's intention to recognize Israel.

"We want to negotiate, and obviously we are prepared to do so with our worst enemies, as long as they are elected by the Israelis," he told a French radio interviewer.

"I am even prepared to negotiate with (Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Ariel) Sharon, although he says he wants to assassinate Arafat and admitted having tried to kill me on several past occasions."

Arafat also said that Israel should stop "being afraid of peace," adding, "after 40 years of war, it is the only solution."

When told by the interviewer, who is Jewish, that "the trouble is that my mother does not trust you," Arafat retorted: "My mother does not trust (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir either, but we have no choice. We have to try peace after having tried war."

On Wednesday afternoon, Arafat met with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and was to attend a state dinner in his honor that evening given by Rocard.

U.S. SAYS PNC SHOULD RESCIND CLAUSE ON DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- If a provision in the Palestine National Council's 25-year-old charter calling for the destruction of Israel is truly "null and void," then the PNC should prove it by removing the clause from the document, both the State Department and the American Jewish leadership said Wednesday.

"Such a statement, if backed up in word and deeds, is a step in the right direction," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in response to comments made in Paris on Tuesday by Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

"We see this as a reinforcement of his prior statement acknowledging Israel's right to exist."

Tutwiler added that "a decision by the Palestine National Council formally amending or abrogating the charter would be the kind of action we would certainly applaud."

In New York, meanwhile, the chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations criticized Arafat's statement as "meaningless."

Seymour Reich said the covenant remains in force and can only be repealed by a vote of the PNC. He met Wednesday with France's consul general in New York to express the conference's "bitter disappointment" with the meeting between Mitterrand and Arafat.

"Last December in Algiers, the council had an opportunity to change the covenant, but refused to do so," Reich said he told Consul General Benoit d'Aboville.

"It is clear that Arafat's statement was designed to give President Mitterrand some comfort for embarrassing himself and France by receiving with honor the world's ranking terrorist."

**IDF DECIDES TO SEND TROOPS
BACK TO REMOTE VILLAGES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Just a few weeks after Israeli troops pulled out of remote Arab population centers in the administered territories, the Israel Defense Force has decided to redeploy soldiers in those areas.

The recent cut in the deployment of IDF forces in the territories reflected a change of policy, with soldiers staying out of villages where the intifada did not affect daily life and did not interrupt traffic on the main roads.

However, as a result of the cut in forces, those villages declared "independence" and stepped-up nationalist activities.

Activities included parades in broad daylight of the self-declared "popular army" and an increased number of murders of alleged collaborators with the authorities.

In some cases, members of the popular committees placed roadblocks at the entrances of villages, appointing security officers to check those entering the villages and setting up "interrogation cells."

Subsequently, the IDF reviewed its policy of staying out of remote villages. It decided this week to go back to the old routine of surprise raids on villages, with the purpose of arresting nationalist activists and preventing any expressions of "independence" such as nationalist wall slogans and the raising of Palestinian flags.

The security forces now believe that the "disengagement" of forces led to recent stepped-up violence. Some villages have come totally under the control of the Palestinian popular committees.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted Tuesday that "the balance of fear in the territories works in favor of leaders of the intifada," when local residents must choose between their punitive measures and those of the authorities.

As a result of the decision to redeploy troops in remote villages, the IDF will have to once again deploy reservists in the territories.

In yet another attempt to suppress the recent wave of terrorism against Arab collaborators, security forces on Wednesday demolished the houses of four members of a terrorist gang suspected of having murdered an alleged collaborator in the village of Irtas, south of Bethlehem.

Four of the members are resident of Irtas, and the fifth comes from the nearby refugee camp of Dehaishe.

Jewish settlers in Hebron decided Wednesday to use their rifles when attacked with stones -- contrary to army regulations. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central region, said that anyone who violates the law will be treated accordingly.

**STUDENTS URGE DANES TO PROTEST
CLOSURE OF WEST BANK UNIVERSITY**

By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, May 3 (JTA) -- Four visiting Palestinian students from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank are asking the Danish minister of education, Bertel Haarder, to protest the closure of their school by Israeli authorities.

The visitors are circulating a petition to that effect among Danish students at the University of Copenhagen.

They are also urging Danes to boycott Jaffa oranges and other Israeli fruit imported here.

The Palestinians had difficulty getting Danish entry visas until Justice Minister H.P. Clausen intervened on their behalf. They were given access to the Copenhagen University campus with the blessings of the rector, Ove Nathan, who is Jewish.

At a meeting with Danish students, they called the closure of Bir Zeit a human tragedy.

"We try to study secretly, but we do not have enough books," they said. They also said student organizers can be arrested and placed in administrative detention for six months without being charged or tried.

The Israeli authorities consider Bir Zeit a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism and have closed it for security reasons.

**BODY OF BAT YAM YOUTH FOUND
IN WING OF JAFFA MONASTERY**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Police have opened a murder investigation into the case of 13-year-old Oren Brahami, whose badly decomposed body was found Tuesday in an abandoned wing of the Armenian Monastery near the Jaffa harbor.

The monastery lies only some 165 yards west of the Jaffa police station.

Brahami was last seen April 24 in Jaffa Port, where he had gone fishing with a friend. Police investigators believe he was murdered on the same night, after which his body was dragged to the monastery and hidden under a pile of rags and metal bars.

The body was found by a group of yeshiva students, who had volunteered in an intensive week-long search for the Bat Yam resident.

The body was identified only after a preliminary autopsy was done at the Abu Kabir Institute for Forensic Medicine. The final identification was accomplished with the help of the boy's dentist, from X-rays in his clinic.

The body was so decomposed that at first it was believed to be that of a dead soldier, and later that of a young girl.

The unit park surrounding the monastery is known as a location for lovers' trysts. About seven months ago, a 16-year-old boy was raped in the monastery. His attackers, residents of the territories, had dragged him to the monastery after first "drinking him under the table."

Meanwhile, the mother of a 12-year-old girl found murdered seven years ago under similar circumstances expressed her shock after Brahami's body was found.

"I pity the mother, I know what she's going through," Mazal Elimelech, mother of Nava Elimelech, said Sunday.

A memorial service for Nava Elimelech, marking the anniversary of her death, was held last month, but went unmentioned in the press.

Said the mother: "Only the family remembers and hurts. Only after the next incident the press remembers us."

Also on Tuesday, in another, happier incident, Nir Seid, a 16-year-old Haifa boy who had been missing from his home since Sunday, was found alive and healthy in Eilat.

Seid disappeared from his home hours before he was to fly with a youth delegation to Poland, to attend Holocaust memorial services there.

His father, Shlomo Seid, said his son had gone through a personal "breakdown" after reading so much Holocaust literature before the trip.

VANUNU APPEAL OPENS IN ISRAEL AS ITALIANS RALLY BEHIND HIM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician who sold secrets about Israel's atomic arms capability to a British newspaper, was brought in a closed police vehicle to the High Court of Justice on Wednesday for the start of his appeal against the conviction.

Vanunu, 36, is serving an 18-year sentence for espionage and treason in time of war. In October 1986, based on Vanunu's disclosures, the Sunday Times of London published detailed information, including plans and photos, saying that Israel was manufacturing nuclear weapons at a subterranean factory underneath a civilian nuclear power plant in the Negev desert.

Just before the article appeared, Vanunu himself disappeared from London. He turned up two months later in an Israeli jail where, as an as yet unknown prisoner, he dramatically showed a message written on his palm saying he was Mordechai Vanunu and had been hijacked Sept. 30 from Rome, after arriving there the day before from London.

As it turned out, he was lured to Rome by a beautiful blonde Israeli agent and seized there by Mossad agents, who took him back to Israel.

Vanunu is appealing both his conviction and the 18-year sentence. The appeal, like the original trial at the Jerusalem District Court, is being held behind closed doors.

As the High Court was about to begin hearing the appeal, a group of Italian scientists in Rome renewed their calls for clemency in the case and said they and Vanunu supporters in other countries were trying to send independent observers to the trial.

Hundreds Of Signatures

"It is important that the Vanunu case not be forgotten," physicist Franco Dupre told a news conference Tuesday evening. "It's not just the case of one man, but of every researcher involved in military research who feels that, for the good of humanity, he must stop what he is doing and tell the world about it."

He said the Paris-based International Association of Democratic Jurists had sent three lawyers to Israel to attempt to gain access to the courtroom as observers.

Scientists in Italy and other countries have gathered hundreds of signatures on appeal petitions in support of Vanunu. Signers include a number of Nobel Prize winners and other noted scientists.

They have protested the harsh conditions Vanunu is alleged to be enduring in prison.

Dupre said that Vanunu had been kept in an isolation cell with its lights illuminated around the clock, making sleep difficult. Only because of international pressure had prison authorities agreed to turn off the lights for eight hours a day, he claimed.

"Vanunu's courageous and conscientious decision to make public what he knew about the Israeli nuclear weapons program focused our attention on another most dangerous element in the nuclear equation: that of proliferation of nuclear weaponry to an ever-widening circle of competing states," said one recent petition.

The petition also said the charges against Vanunu were "exaggerated and disproportionate";

that his sentence was unduly severe; that the trial should not have been "conducted in total secrecy"; and that Vanunu's abduction was illegal.

"The circumstances in which Vanunu was illegally removed from Italy and kidnapped by the Israeli authorities cry out for impartial judgment," the petition said.

(JTA correspondent Ruth E. Gruber in Rome contributed to this report.)

NAVY COMMEMORATES HOLOCAUST WITH TORAH SAVED FROM WAR

By Gary Rosenblatt

Baltimore Jewish Times

ANNAPOLIS, Md., May 3 (JTA) -- Memorial Hall, the most hallowed spot at the U.S. Naval Academy here, was the setting for a Holocaust memorial service on Sunday that included the dramatic presentation of a Torah saved from a Czechoslovakian town whose Jewish residents perished in the tragedy.

Longtime observers of the Navy noted the significance of such a ceremony, the second annual Yom Hashoah commemoration to be held at the academy, and the level of Navy and local dignitaries who participated.

Jewish residents of Annapolis were moved while listening to Hebrew prayers sung by the 50-voice Naval Academy Glee Club and Cantor Melvin Luteran of Baltimore in the academy halls.

Rear Adm. Virgil Hill, superintendent of the Naval Academy, said in his remarks to the audience of more than 400 people that it was fitting for the service to be held in stately Memorial Hall, where Navy men who died in U.S. wars are memorialized.

He noted, though, that the deaths of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust were "infinitely more tragic," because the Navy men chose their profession, with its risks, while the Holocaust victims died "not for what they chose but for who they were."

Hill said that many of those who have served and died in the Navy have been Jews, and he stressed the importance of remembering what took place during the Holocaust.

Torah Presented By B'nai B'rith

"Today we remember so that we may never have to ask, 'What does this have to do with me?'"

He said the Navy was proud to receive the Torah, whose history was traced by Gerald Kraft, past president of B'nai B'rith International.

The Torah, donated by B'nai B'rith, was one of 1,564 sacred scrolls brought from Czechoslovakia to London's Westminster Synagogue in 1964.

Kraft explained that the Torah came from the town of Kyjov, in Moravia, Czechoslovakia. All of the Jews from the town were sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Austria, and from there to Buchenwald and Treblinka in Germany. Only a few survived.

The one-hour ceremony also featured readings from poems written by children in concentration camps; the recitation of the Kaddish led by Lt. Cmdr. Norman Auerback, Jewish chaplain at the academy; and several hymns, in Hebrew, chanted by Cantor Luteran and the Glee Club.

At the conclusion of the service, Cantor Luteran sang the Shma Yisrael as he led the Torah procession from Memorial Hall to Mitscher Hall, where the Torah was installed in a glass case in the Jewish chapel.