

# **PALESTINIAN WHO STABBED BUS DRIVER KILLED JEWISH CO-WORKER IN TEL AVIV** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) — A Palestinian taken into custody for attempted murder aboard a passenger bus Saturday night has confessed to committing an actual murder in Tel Aviv a few days before, the police announced late Sunday.

The suspect, identified only as a 20-year-old resident of the West Bank town of Ramallah, led police to the body of the man he said he killed "because he was a Jew."

The corpse was concealed in a large pipe at a construction site on the Tel Aviv beachfront, where the Arab and his victim shared duties as night watchman.

The slain man was identified as Michael Ashtamker, 38, a divorced father of three.

Although dead since Thursday, he had not been reported missing. His murder might have gone undetected for some time were it not for the confession, the police said.

The confessed killer was arrested Saturday night after stabbing the driver of a Jerusalem-bound Egged bus, Shlomo Assor, in the stomach and chest, in an apparent attempt to wreck the vehicle.

He was foiled by Assor, who, despite his wounds, halted the bus before it left the road. Enraged passengers swiftly overpowered the Arab and held him for the police.

## **Shown No Remorse**

In a prepared statement read to reporters Sunday, the police said the suspect admitted under interrogation "that three days ago, he killed a Jew who was working with him at a construction site in Tel Aviv."

"The suspect said his motives were nationalistic," the police statement added, indicating that it was related to the Palestinian uprising.

According to the police, the suspect showed no remorse, saying he murdered Ashtamker "because he was a Jew, and I'm not sorry about it."

On Monday, Judge Moshe Ravid of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court ordered the suspect held in custody for another 15 days, while the investigation continues. The remand hearing was held at the police detention facility, rather than in court, to ensure that the suspect's identity would remain confidential.

Israel Television reported Sunday night that the suspect had been in police custody in 1985 on suspicion of security violations. The authorities are trying to find out if he was involved in other recent attacks on Jews.

Police said the knife he used in the bus stabbing was purchased Friday at the Jaffa flea market.

Those who worked with Ashtamker described him as a man of irregular habits who worked either days or nights. They said his absence for a few days aroused no suspicion.

The construction site, at the foot of Allenby Road, is a historic one. The building that formerly stood there, which has been razed, once housed the Tel Aviv Opera and in 1948, the first Knesset. Before that, in the early 1930s, it was the San Remo, Tel Aviv's first luxury hotel.

# **THREE ISRAELI PARATROOPERS INJURED IN NEW CLASH IN SOUTHERN LEBANON** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Three Israel Defense Force paratroopers were slightly wounded Monday, in a clash with Lebanese fighters in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Israeli troops captured one of the Lebanese after an exchange of fire.

The Arab-owned Radio Monte Carlo said the gunmen belonged to the Lebanon Resistance Front and claimed it was the same group responsible for the fatal ambush of an IDF patrol in the Har Dov area of southern Lebanon on Saturday night.

IDF sources identified the group as the Lebanon Liberation Front, which it described as a minuscule pro-Syrian organization composed of Lebanese of various denominations, all dedicated Communists, with no Palestinian members.

They were described as highly motivated, well-trained individuals with good knowledge of the area where they operate.

The sources said a gang of four participated in the Har Dov ambush, in which Staff Sgt. Itai Shibeck was fatally wounded. One of the fighters was killed and three apparently escaped.

George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the ambush, but IDF officers initially suspected the Shiite extremist Hezbollah.

According to Radio Monte Carlo, Monday's incident occurred near Kilah village, in the central section of the security zone, where the fighters were placing explosives at a roadside.

The IDF paratroop unit opened fire and gave chase, in the course of which three soldiers were wounded and one gunman was captured.

Radio Monte Carlo claimed a "big battle" developed in which the Israelis used tank fire and flew helicopters.

## **BEHIND THE HEADLINES: IN STREETS OF BETHLEHEM, TOURISTS BECOME 'EXTRAS' IN INTIFADA DRAMA** By Gil Sedan

BETHLEHEM, West Bank, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Manger Square in Bethlehem presents an extraordinary scene these days.

Colorfully dressed tourists, mainly from Europe, descend from their tour buses only to be surrounded by self-appointed guides, who offer (in broken English) tours of the nearby Church of the Nativity and other historic sights.

Shopkeepers rub their hands, smiling from ear to ear. "Welcome, welcome," they call from their doorways, displaying all manner of wares.

But only a few dozen yards away, Israeli soldiers and Palestinian youths race and dodge up and down the steps of the marketplace, through the narrow alleys and over the rooftops, absorbed in their duel of rocks and bottles against rubber bullets.

The 21-month-old Palestinian uprising, or intifada, continues relentlessly. In places like Bethlehem, however, tourism is down, but not out.

In fact, the tourists seem to be interested spectators and sometime players in the daily drama.

The soldiers do their job calmly, matter of factly, as if engaging in a familiar ritual.

They collar suspects, check IDs against wanted lists, make arrests or send people on their way.

The tourists watch as if the scene was staged for their amusement. They are "extras" in some Hollywood production, a biblical epic, considering the surroundings.

Sometimes they get hurt, but it seems to be all part of the act.

On one recent day, the exchange of stones and bullets began in earnest at 11 in the morning.

The streets were crowded with tourists shopping. Laden with bundles of newly purchased souvenirs, they climbed the market steps, navigated between soldiers with firearms at the ready, apparently unconcerned that a bullet might hit them.

#### Like A Soccer Match

Shopkeepers standing in front of their shops watched the scene like fans at a soccer match, weighing the odds on both sides.

Suddenly, an Austrian youth exploring the oriental market was hit in the arm by a stone.

"Do they throw stones at everyone or just at soldiers?" he asked with a mixture of innocence and sang-froid.

A group of tourists from Poland on a religious pilgrimage to the Christian holy sites was more curious than frightened when it heard shots.

Cameras in hand, they stood side by side with shopkeepers and a television crew. One of them remarked aptly, "We have seen this on TV. Now we see it for real."

"You must solve this problem, you must," another tourist exhorted. The Poles admitted that they had problems at home. "But nothing of this sort," they insisted.

There is a certain ambivalence in Bethlehem nowadays about tourists.

"Of course, we are happy to see them coming, but . . ." said one merchant as he walked away from the latest confrontation between Palestinian youths and the Israeli soldiers.

The city is full of stories about Israeli security men who pose as tourists in order to lay their hands on local troublemakers.

Two affidavits presented this week to the police and Attorney General Yosef Harish claimed that the Israelis posing as tourists exercised brutal force against local youths.

According to an affidavit submitted by 19-year-old Sharif Mousa Zuwarbar, men in civilian clothes shot at him after a stone-throwing incident in the marketplace on Aug. 19.

"I saw four men in civilian clothes, with bags and a camera," he wrote in his affidavit.

"I was sure they were tourists. One of them was about two meters away from me. He pulled a pistol out of his bag and shot at my right leg. Then, from a distance of 10 centimeters, he shot at my left leg," he said.

Similar complaints were included in the second affidavit.

The army said both complaints were by youths who were involved in stone and brick throwing attacks.

Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement asked Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week to order an inquiry into the incident. "If the affidavits are reliable, it is one of the more serious cases in the history of the intifada," Sarid said.

#### **NETANYAHU WARNS BONDS LEADERS ON THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY**

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Global detente is "taking place everywhere in the world except in our region," according to Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's deputy foreign minister and its former ambassador to the United Nations.

The combined Arab forces facing Israel today are "greater than NATO or the Warsaw Pact nations," Netanyahu told an audience of 350 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada here Saturday night.

They were attending the 1989 North American Leadership Conference of State of Israel Bonds Organization, which opened Thursday at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel and concluded Sunday.

Less than 50 miles separate Israel from its enemies, therefore Israel has "no margin for error," Netanyahu told the Bonds leaders.

"Israel's No. 1 problem is its survival and not the territories," he said, referring to the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The territories are of concern to Israel as a national minorities problem" that will eventually be solved, Netanyahu said.

#### Senator Sneaks Out On PLO Talks

Speaking at an earlier session, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) called support for Israel "very, very strong in the U.S. Senate." He urged an end to U.S. talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization "if there is no real progress."

Richard Perle, an assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration, told a special conference session that the strengthening of American armed might has improved Israel's security.

With Israel dependent on the United States for maintaining military balance in the region, Israel is more secure at the end of this decade than at any time since the state was established, Perle said.

Stuart Eizenstat, former special assistant to President Jimmy Carter, said Israel is benefiting from "a more benign external environment" than at any time in the past 40 years.

He suggested that the threats to its growth and stability come from within, such as its economic problems.

Meir Rosenne, president and chief executive officer of the Israel Bonds Organization, opened the conference Thursday on an upbeat note.

Rosenne, who was Israel's ambassador to the United States from 1983-1987, reported that bond sales reached almost \$400 million in the first eight months of this year, a 7 percent increase over sales in the same period of 1988.

#### **ISRAEL REPORTS FINDING ON ALZHEIMER'S By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Scientists at Bar-Ilan University have reported finding a medication to treat Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative condition that affects middle-age and elderly people, and is usually manifested by memory loss.

Yediot Achronot reported Monday that a team of scientists, led by Professor Shlomo Eliahu, developed a medication that reverses memory loss in patients with Alzheimer's.

The scientists said they tested it successfully on humans, but it needs further development before being approved for mass production.

# **CANCELLATION OF GLEMP'S VISIT GETS MIXED REACTION IN CHICAGO** By Todd Winer

CHICAGO, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Cardinal Jozef Glemp's decision to cancel his visit to the United States has gotten mixed reactions from the Polish community and praise from Jewish leaders here.

Chicago was to be the Polish primate's first stop on a six-city American tour later this month. Chicago has the world's largest Polish population outside of Warsaw.

Last Friday, Jewish leaders met with Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the archbishop of Chicago, who was to host Glemp.

Bernardin informed the Jewish delegation that he supports the statement recently issued by Chicago's Catholic-Jewish Scholars Dialogue, which calls for the implementation of the 1987 agreement to relocate the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

Glemp recently insisted that the agreement be renegotiated. He also angered Jews last month by criticizing those who had protested outside the convent and by suggesting that Jews had used the news media to arouse anti-Polish sentiments over the issue.

Because of these statements, Jewish leaders from several cities made it clear last week that Glemp would not be welcome in their communities.

Some Chicago Polish leaders voiced their opposition to both Bernardin's statement and Glemp's decision to cancel the trip.

## **'Couldn't Shut Their Loud Mouths'**

Edward Moskal, national president of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress, told the Chicago Sun-Times, "This only shows he (Glemp) is a victim of anti-Polishness and anti-Catholicism, and it is a campaign from within the Jewish community, in which we have many friends. Some of their people couldn't shut their loud mouths."

"Enough is enough. I have some very close Jewish friends, but they haven't been able to muzzle some of their people," the paper quoted him as saying. The cancellation "doesn't do anything for the good dialogue we've had with the Jewish community."

Helen Szymanowicz, national vice president of the Polish National Alliance, told the Sun-Times, "I'm very disappointed Cardinal Glemp isn't coming. I think he should have come anyway. I certainly hope he will come in the future."

However, another prominent Polish Chicagoan, Alderman Roman Pucinski, president of the Illinois Polish American Congress, said he felt Glemp's decision to cancel was "a very wise and courageous move. He will visit the United States when the climate is more pleasant."

Michael Kotzin, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, who attended the meeting with Bernardin, said the cancellation was a "wise decision, given the remarks Cardinal Glemp has made over the last couple of weeks."

"His not coming gives us the opportunity to work in a more positive way to bring about understanding and positive relations," Kotzin said.

Maynard Wishner, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, was quoted as saying, "I think the arrival of Cardinal Glemp at this time would have produced additional tensions. We remain committed to our efforts of cementing and improving relationships with the Polish American community."

# **DUTCH RABBI CANCELS MEETING TO PROTEST CARDINAL'S REMARKS** By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- A Dutch rabbinic leader canceled a scheduled meeting with a ranking Catholic Church official over the weekend as a result of the official's recent remarks regarding the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

At the same time, Jewish demonstrators protested outside the residence of the Vatican representative at The Hague for the second consecutive Sunday.

Rabbi Eliezer Wikler, chairman of the Netherlands Ashkenazic Congregation, had an appointment to discuss the matter with Cardinal Adrian Simonis, the archbishop of Utrecht.

But Wikler canceled their meeting out of "bitter disappointment" with the cardinal's words. Simonis recently blamed "very fanatical Jews" for creating the impasse over the convent.

He was referring to Jews from all parts of the world who have demonstrated at Auschwitz to protest the convent's continued presence there.

In Wikler's view, Simonis has confused cause and effect by positing that Jewish demonstrators are responsible for the deterioration of relations between Catholics and Jews.

Wikler pointed out that the Jews demonstrated only after the Polish Church reneged on the agreement signed in Geneva in February 1987.

Simonis, who is chairman of the Netherlands Episcopal Conference, had stated two years ago that the agreement should be upheld.

The Dutch Catholic Bishops had, in fact, allocated \$50,000 toward construction of a ecumenical prayer center off the Auschwitz grounds where Carmelite nuns would be moved.

# **AUSCHWITZ CONVENT A VIOLATION OF UNESCO RULES, WJC CHARGES** By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Representatives of the World Jewish Congress on Thursday brought the controversy of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz to the table of a United Nations body.

They were able to convince the director general of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that the convent is a violation of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage, according to WJC Vice President Kalman Sultank, who participated in the meeting in Paris.

The convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, was established to protect and preserve international sites of cultural or natural importance, which were placed on a list of protected places, the World Heritage List.

Poland ratified that convention in 1976. Auschwitz was added to the World Heritage List in 1979 by a proposal of both the World Jewish Congress and Poland.

Sultank reported that UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor Zaragoza agreed with WJC's complaint and transmitted it to the organization's World Heritage Committee, composed of the signatories to the convention.

The committee will now investigate the matter and report back to UNESCO.

Accompanying Sultank at the meeting were Serge Cwaigenbaum, director of WJC's European branch, and Jean Kahn, president of CRIF, the French umbrella body of Jewish organizations.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES: 'DAYS OF RAGE' RATINGS WERE AVERAGE, DESPITE THE HYPE AND JEWISH PROTESTS** By Andrew Silow Carroll

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Despite four months of the kind of controversy and hype that filmmakers only dream about, the Public Broadcasting Service's broadcast of the controversial film "Days of Rage: The Young Palestinians" and its wrap-around programming reached only average-sized viewing audiences, according to PBS officials.

While the ratings were not outstanding, some Jewish leaders are concerned that American Jewry's campaign against the documentary has created a notoriety that could backfire and actually serve Arab propagandists.

Although Jewish leaders said they had no choice but to protest the film, some fear it will be distributed around the country as the "film the Jews tried to stop."

"Days of Rage" aired Sept. 6 in most national markets, after months of protests by Jewish groups that the film presents a one-sided attack on Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising.

In response to the outcry, PBS "bookended" the documentary with short films showing Israeli points of view and a panel discussion with Jewish and Arab-American leaders, as well as experts on the Middle East.

PBS also aired a disclaimer before and after the broadcast, saying it could not substantiate accusations that "Days of Rage" producer Jo Franklin-Trout had accepted funding for the documentary from an Arab organization, in violation of PBS rules.

The national audience of 5.9 million viewers who watched all or part of the two-and-a-half hours of programming was "typical as far as this subject matter goes," said John Fuller, director of research for PBS.

## **High Number Of Phone Calls**

The program's projected Nielsen rating, said Fuller, was similar to that for the previously aired documentaries "Arab and Jew" and "Sword of Islam."

The ratings remained higher for introductory segments and the 90-minute documentary itself. Viewers tended to flip the channels during the 40-minute panel discussion that followed the documentary.

PBS received an unusually high number of telephone calls in response to the program, many at the prompting of "viewer response" solicitations that appeared on screen in some markets.

By far, the largest volume of such calls was received by New York's WNET, the original sponsor of the broadcast and the target of some of the most urgent appeals from Jewish groups.

The station received 378 negative calls during the broadcast, versus 106 positive, officials there reported. By Monday, the station had received 759 calls, with 505 protesting the showing.

In Philadelphia, the PBS affiliate received 49 positive and 57 negative calls, and in Miami, the local station fielded 36 complaints and six approving calls.

That ratio was reversed in other cities, however. In smaller markets, viewer response was "3-2 positive to negative," according to Mary Jane McKinven, PBS director for national press relations.

The PBS affiliate in San Diego fielded 96

positive versus 66 negative calls, for example, and of the more than 200 calls received by the Minneapolis affiliate, 95 percent were positive, McKinven said.

## **Positive Calls In Atlanta**

In Atlanta, where 75 percent of the 400 calls received were positive, local affiliate WPBA presented a half-hour panel discussion of its own on Sunday called "Atlanta Reacts to 'Days of Rage.'"

The producer of that program, Conne Ward-Cameron, said in a report that many of the positive calls were from those who felt "the Arab point of view is seldom represented on TV."

A participant in the Atlanta panel discussion, however, said the positive calls were the result of organized appeals from "people who espouse the Arab cause."

Rabbi Arnold Goodman of the Ahavath Achim Congregation in Atlanta said only die-hard Middle East watchers among his congregation saw the program, and few bothered to call in to complain.

Still, Goodman was concerned that Jewish protests turned the film into a "hot property."

"Arab groups will distribute the film to college campuses as the film the Jewish community fought to block. That's the risk we took," he said.

Martin Raffel, who coordinated meetings between Jewish leaders and PBS officials as Israel Task Force director of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said Jewish groups were faced with a "classic dilemma" over whether to protest and thereby publicize the film. But he said that it was "impossible not to respond."

"The way we handled it was appropriate. We didn't launch a campaign to censor the broadcast or encourage members of the community to punish PBS by withholding contributions," said Raffel.

## **Can't 'Hide Things Under The Rug'**

"The Jewish community can never hide things under the rug — not anti-Semitism, and not Arab propaganda," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Reich, who took part in the PBS panel discussion afterward, said the Jewish community had "no choice but to label the so-called documentary as propaganda. We told PBS that it can't get away with showing films so distorted and unbalanced."

"Certainly there was hype, but it was warranted," he said. "We haven't seen the last of 'Days of Rage.'"

Reich, who also is president of B'nai B'rith International, said he had "alerted" the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation that "Days of Rage" will be distributed on college campuses.

Tom Teepen, editorial page editor of the Atlanta Constitution and a participant in the Atlanta panel discussion, also said the documentary deserved to be challenged. Still, he wondered if protests had gone too far.

"I don't think it's ever appropriate to let a program that fundamentally misrepresents a situation slide by unchallenged," said Teepen. "But persisting often tends to have a reverse spin effect and incite interest in it."

Teepen said that PBS had "erred grievously" in airing a program that contained as many historical inaccuracies as did "Days of Rage," an opinion shared by many mainstream media critics.