

RIGHTS GROUP SAYS ISRAEL IS USING EXCESSIVE FORCE IN THE TERRITORIES**By Aliza Marcus**

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities continue to use excessive force against Palestinians in the administered territories and still detain them for long periods without trial, Amnesty International charges in its 1991 survey of human rights violations around the world.

The watchdog group's annual report, issued Tuesday, also accuses Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and other Arab countries of disregarding basic human rights and mistreating prisoners.

The report covers human rights violations in 141 countries and concludes that governments around the world are in danger of "sabotaging the world's hopes for human rights."

Last year, over 100 governments tortured or ill-treated prisoners, in 29 countries thousands of people "disappeared," and 90 countries handed down or carried out death sentences, which Amnesty opposes in all cases.

The report alleges that Israeli authorities have beaten Palestinian detainees with truncheons, deprived them of sleep and squeezed their testicles, among other actions it calls excessive.

It calls on Israel to end widespread use of administrative detention, whereby Palestinians are imprisoned without trial, and the imprisonment of soldiers who refuse to serve in the territories.

While Amnesty's criticisms of Israel echo last year's annual report, the 1991 survey also points out the increasing number of Palestinians being killed by other Palestinians. In 1990, some 150 Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians, while 120 Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces, the report says.

Amnesty also charges Israeli forces with misusing tear gas and endangering people's lives. It accuses Israel of being lax in investigating and prosecuting abuses by its own forces.

Detention Of Syrian Jews Cited

Although many Arab countries in the Middle East are accused of worse human right violations than Israel, an Amnesty official warned against a comparative approach to human rights violations.

Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast regional director for Amnesty, said, "If it's wrong to beat up a prisoner, then it's wrong for a democracy to do that, and it's wrong for a dictatorship to do that. The standards must be the same."

The Amnesty report on Syria states that some people have been detained without trial for up to 20 years, and that torture is routine.

The report notes that in 1990, four Syrian Jews were in detention. Two of them have since been sentenced in a closed trial held a few months ago, according to recent reports.

Egyptian authorities are charged with detaining without trial thousands of Islamic sympathizers, while allegations of psychological and physical torture continued through 1990.

In Jordan, Amnesty alleges that trials did not adhere to international standards, that 30 people were in jail on political grounds and that there were ongoing reports of ill-treatment or torture of detainees.

Although Lebanon's lack of a central gov-

ernment last year made it difficult to gather information, the Amnesty report says all groups have been accused of human rights violations.

This includes the South Lebanon Army, the militia financed, equipped and trained by Israel that patrols in Israel's self-declared security zone along the border between the two countries.

Syria, which now backs the new Lebanese government and has widened its control over the country, "reportedly carried out scores of extra-judicial executions," the report says.

Amnesty says it made two trips to Israel in 1990, during which representatives met with several civilian and military officials and observed administrative detention and military court trials.

Israeli officials told Amnesty that administrative detention, in which a person can be detained for up to one year without trial, is necessary, given the violent aspects of the intifada, now in its fourth year.

Rubenstein said that while Israeli officials had allowed fact-finding missions into the country and usually answered inquiries, this is insufficient.

"We do not feel that response is in and of itself enough. We want to see action," he said, meaning changes in human rights practices.

Israeli officials in New York would not comment on the report until it had been studied in Jerusalem.

SHOOTINGS IN GAZA AROUSE CONCERN INTIFADA MAY BE TAKING DEADLY TURN**By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) -- As the intifada entered its 44th month this week, Israeli officials expressed concern that the Palestinian uprising, long on the wane, may now be taking a new and potentially more deadly turn.

Whereas intifada activists had been relying on rocks and bottles to challenge Israeli security forces or attack settlers, firearms are now being used with increased frequency.

Two Israeli civilians badly wounded in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and Monday were hit by rifle fire. In both cases, the assailants got away, although the shootings occurred close to an Israel Defense Force observation post.

Of equal concern to the authorities is that for the first time, two known terrorist organizations claimed credit for the shootings: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In the earlier stages of the intifada, no group ever took responsibility.

The significance of the changes may be that the intifada is undergoing a transition from a popular mass movement of national uprising to more limited but more violent guerrilla warfare orchestrated by terrorist organizations.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday he was not sure that the entire Palestinian population favored the use of firearms in the intifada. But their very appearance constitutes a "grave danger for us," he said.

Security forces continued to search for the gunmen who seriously wounded 54-year-old Moshe Buchris in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and Amnon Yahalomi, 48, shot at the same location Monday.

The towns of Khan Yunis and nearby refugee

camps were put under curfew after the shootings. Nearby houses and orchards were searched. Residents of Khan Yunis and Rafah were detained for questioning.

The start of the 44th month of the intifada Tuesday was marked by a general strike that kept at least two-thirds of the work force in the administered territories away from their jobs in Israel.

Jews employing Arabs from the Gaza Strip did not risk driving into the territory to pick up their workers but waited for them at exit points staffed by soldiers. Only about 10,000 Arab laborers showed up for work Tuesday, about a third the usual number.

The day was also disrupted by a brutal murder. Masked Arab men broke into the Shifa government hospital in Gaza City early Tuesday morning and stabbed to death Lutfi Mas'ud Abu As, a 26-year-old Gaza resident suspected of collaborating with the Israelis.

The victim had been hospitalized as a result of an earlier attack.

NEWS ANALYSIS:
ISRAEL TO STAY IN SECURITY ZONE
UNTIL SECURITY THREAT HAS ENDED
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 9 (JTA) -- The Lebanese army's apparently successful takeover of parts of southern Lebanon, which the central government has not had under its control for more than a decade, has created a new situation for Israel and for the various other parties embroiled in the region.

Beirut is now pressing for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and allied forces from the southern Lebanon security zone Israel created in 1985 as a buffer against terrorist raids across its northern border.

The Lebanese hope U.S. pressure on Jerusalem will hasten the Israelis' departure. But Israel is by no means ready to give up the security zone and, according to Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Washington understands and appreciates its reasons.

Equally determined to stay is the South Lebanon Army commanded by Gen. Antoine Lahad, a largely Christian Lebanese force trained, equipped and financed by Israel.

The SLA patrols the security zone day by day and participates in military operations with the Israel Defense Force within and outside the zone.

But according to Lahad, the SLA's primary mission is to protect the Maronite Christian enclave in southern Lebanon surrounded by the region's much larger, often hostile Moslem population.

The Maronites are centered in the SLA-controlled town of Jezzine, located north of the security zone and considered vital to its defense. Lahad bristled recently at the Beirut government's claim that 1,000 of its soldiers entered Jezzine, implying its takeover.

He admitted there were hundreds of Lebanese regulars in town mingling with his own men. But he insisted he had invited them from Beirut five years ago and that they are under his command.

"We are fully prepared to fight for Jezzine," said Lahad, observing that if it were to fall, the lives of 20,000 Maronite Christians would be in jeopardy.

From Israel's point of view, there are two major reasons to maintain the security zone and its alliance with the SLA. One is the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose fighters are still firmly entrenched in southern Lebanon.

The other is the presence of Syria, whose armed forces occupy large areas of the Levantine nation and protect President Elias Hrawi's government in Beirut and its army.

PLO Still Heavily Armed

The Syrians are credited with finally putting an end to Lebanon's 16-year civil war by enforcing Hrawi's legitimacy with its armed might.

Israel estimates there are 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, mainly in the Bekaa Valley, in the eastern part of the country.

So far they have not overstepped the "Red Line," the imaginary boundary tacitly agreed to by the two countries separating their forces.

For Syria, the question is how far the Beirut government will go to assert its independence. Israeli observers believe Damascus regards Lebanon as another potential northern front against Israel in the event of war.

Syria and Israel share a common border on the Golan Heights.

The bottom line for the Beirut government is whether it controls all of Lebanon in fact as well as appearance. The central government has said it intends to disarm all guerrilla groups.

In addition to the PLO, they include the pro-Iranian, Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God, and the mainstream Shi'ite militia Amal, which appears to have lost ground recently.

The PLO's goal is to retain its strongholds in southern Lebanon, home to tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and its principal staging area for attacks on Israel.

After bloody but short-lived resistance, the PLO last week surrendered its positions in the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon to the Lebanese regular army. Beirut also claimed it disarmed the PLO and other factional militias.

But both Israeli and SLA observers are skeptical.

Increase In Infiltration Attempts

Lahad told reporters this week that his observations from positions in Jezzine overlooking the Mich Mich and Ein Hilweh refugee camps convinced him that the Beirut troops seized no more than a tenth of the PLO's medium and heavy weapons.

The PLO fighters in the camps also retained their personal weapons and small arms.

According to Lahad, the PLO forces still constitute a menace to the SLA, the security zone and Israel itself. His view is shared by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in southern Lebanon.

Israel has made clear that it will not dismantle the security zone as long as there are armed guerrillas and foreign armies in Lebanon.

Israel and the SLA admit the Lebanese army performed better than expected. But despite this success, the basic situation remains unchanged, the Israelis say.

"We paid a very high price for the safety of Israel's northern villages, and we are not about to give up the safety zone," Arens said.

"The fact of the matter is that during the past few weeks, we have had an increase in the number of terrorists trying to penetrate Israel from the north," the defense minister said.

AUSTRIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUILT FOR HOLOCAUST WELCOMED BY SURVIVORS
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) -- Holocaust survivors and other prominent Jewish voices are praising Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky for making a strong statement this week acknowledging Austrian collusion with the Nazis.

But those same voices are calling on Austria to translate the chancellor's words into deeds, especially in the area of education.

Vranitzky told the Austrian Parliament in Vienna on Monday: "We acknowledge all the facts of our history and the deeds of all sections of our people, the good as well as the evil. And just as we take credit for the good, we must also apologize for the evil to survivors and relatives of the dead."

He said it was his desire to make an explicit statement on the issue, in the name of the Austrian government, "as our contribution to the new political culture in Europe."

His declaration was made in the context of an uproar that ensued after a remark by a right-wing politician, Jorg Haider, who last month praised the Third Reich.

Haider, the 38-year-old leader of the right-wing populist Freedom Party, was voted out of office as governor of the Austrian province of Carinthia last month, after he told a Socialist rival in Parliament, "They had a sound employment policy in the Third Reich, which is more than your government in Vienna has managed."

When Germany invaded Austria and annexed it in March 1938, huge throngs filled the streets of Vienna to cheer the Anschluss. But in the years after the war, Austria maintained it had been a victim, not an accomplice, of the Nazis.

"Many Austrians," Vranitzky said, "greeted the Anschluss, supported the (Nazi) regime and upheld many levels of the hierarchy. Many Austrians took part in the repressive measures and persecution of the Third Reich, some of them in prominent positions."

"Even today, we cannot brush aside a moral responsibility for the deeds of our citizens," said the chancellor, who is a Social Democrat.

'Better Late Than Never'

In New York, Abraham Foxman, a Holocaust survivor and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, welcomed Vranitzky's public acknowledgement and called on him to follow up his remark "with actions, particularly in the educational sphere."

"In addition, we hope that you will take the lead in bringing to justice individuals living in Austria who participated in atrocities against Jews," Foxman wrote in a cable to the chancellor.

Michael Berenbaum, project director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington, said Vranitzky's "very strong" statement "puts to rest" Austria's traditional declaration that it "was the first of Germany's victims."

He said that while Vranitzky's statement "is to be commended," Haider's "negative statement reveals Austria's anti-Semitic problems. It is an Austrian problem, not a Jewish problem."

In New York, leaders of the American Jewish Committee observed Vranitzky's words "with great gratification."

A statement issued by Alfred Moses, the group's president, and David Harris, its executive vice president, said the chancellor's remarks show

that AJCommittee's controversial decision "to engage those forces in Austria prepared to confront their past has now been justified."

In Los Angeles, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, called Vranitzky's remarks "very important, insofar as they should lead to a public debate in Austria" over that nation's support for Adolf Hitler, who was born in that country.

In Baltimore, Rosa Marx, a Vienna native who fled her homeland in 1939, said, "I'm glad I'm still alive to see it happen. But in all honesty, it's something they should have done many years ago."

Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald but lost much of his family in the Holocaust, called the chancellor's declaration "better late than never."

"This should be a beginning and not an end -- a beginning of an educational process that would teach those people the values and necessities of remembering," said Wiesel, who was reached in Washington.

With the impending departure of President Kurt Waldheim, who announced two weeks ago that he would not seek re-election, "Austria has a new opportunity," said Wiesel. "I hope the Austrians seize it."

(Ira Rifkin of *The Baltimore Jewish Times* contributed to this report.)

BERLIN JEWRY IS ROCKED BY DISPUTE BETWEEN FORMER AND CURRENT LEADERS
By David Kantor

BONN, July 9 (JTA) -- An ongoing dispute between the mainstream leadership of Berlin Jewry and an Orthodox group that held sway in the city before the Holocaust is now degenerating into a war of words.

At stake is prestige, official recognition and state funding.

The latest flap arose when the Orthodox group, Adass Jisroel, which was re-established in December 1989, charged recently that "no Orthodox Jewish funeral has been possible in Berlin for the past 50 years."

The established Jewish community responded by accusing Adass Jisroel of insulting its religious leaders with the remark. In a statement released in Berlin, the community made note of the fact that the authority of its rabbi, David Weisz, is recognized by Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

The Jewish community charged, moreover, that Adass Jisroel activists who made that claim had no right to speak for the former community.

Heinz Galinski, longtime leader of Berlin Jewry, contends that Adass Jisroel lacks legitimacy. Mario Offenberg, leader of Adass Jisroel, accuses Galinski of trying to undermine the Orthodox group.

According to Galinski, who is also chairman of Germany's Jewish community, a majority of Jews in former East Berlin opposed Offenberg's plans to establish a separate community.

The Adass Jisroel group returned to Berlin in December 1989 when the Communist regime at that time permitted the group to sue for the building that had belonged to its predecessors.

It was also given a generous subsidy by the East Germans. The present Berlin authorities have yet to decide whether to let stand the defunct East Berlin government's official recognition of Adass Jisroel and, if so, whether the financial support should continue.

**ALBANIAN LEADERS EXPRESS INTEREST
IN TIES WITH ISRAEL, RABBI REPORTS**

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA) -- Diplomatic relations could soon be established between Israel and Albania, until recently a Communist dictatorship existing in self-imposed isolation from both East and West.

That is the opinion of Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, who led an interfaith delegation to the Albanian capital of Tirana last week, to determine the status of religious freedom there.

Schneier, who is senior rabbi of Manhattan's Park East Synagogue, said he found "good feelings toward Israel" among members of both the Albanian government and the opposition.

President Ramiz Alia, who like most Albanians is Moslem, told the delegation he is "very proud" that no Albanian Jews were handed over to the Nazis when his country was occupied during World War II.

"Anything less," Schneier quoted him as saying, "would have dishonored the Albanian people and their spirit of tolerance of all religions."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Acting Foreign Minister Sokrad Pracka and Dr. Sali Berisha, leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

They and others joined in voicing the hope that diplomatic relations between Albania and Israel would be established soon, Schneier reported.

But an official at the Israeli Consulate in New York said he knew of no discussions taking place at this time about the prospect of diplomatic relations.

Schneier's delegation included the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkofsky, president of the National Council of Churches in the United States; Rev. Spenser Kezios, representing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; and Monsignor Nicholas Di Marzio, representing the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

**WJC LOBBIES LEADERS TO REPEAL
ZIONISM IS RACISM RESOLUTION**
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 9 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress is lobbying vigorously among Western European leaders to help repeal the 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution denigrating Zionism as a form of racism.

WJC President Edgar Bronfman met here Tuesday with Prime Minister Edith Cresson, whose influence he solicited to rally the support of France and its friends to rescind the resolution.

Bronfman reportedly suggested that she approach former colonies of France, now independent member states of the United Nations.

The WJC leader thought France might also be helpful on behalf of Syrian Jews, who are denied the right to emigrate. Syria was a French mandate between the two world wars.

Bronfman, accompanied by Jean Kahn, head of the European Jewish Congress and president of CRIF, the representative council of French Jewish organizations, also raised the question of the Arab trade boycott of Israel.

Bronfman was scheduled to have a dinner meeting Tuesday evening with the Soviet ambassador to France, Yuri Dubinin, who is also a past ambassador to the United States.

Bronfman will be in Brussels on Thursday for

talks with Jacques Delors, president of the European Community's executive commission.

The WJC is taking advantage of the presence in Paris of officials of the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, who are discussing proposals to limit weapons to the Middle East and other explosive regions.

**MORE JEWISH CHILDREN ARE GETTING
A JEWISH EDUCATION, CENSUS SHOWS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA) -- A census of Jewish schools in the Diaspora has disclosed a sharp increase in recent years in the number of Jewish children getting a Jewish education.

The gains exceeded the overall increase in the school-age Jewish population, according to the second international census of Diaspora Jewish schools, conducted in 40 countries between 1987 and 1989. The results were compared with the first census, taken between 1981 and 1983.

The sharpest rise was in places with large concentrations of Orthodox Jews.

The census was conducted under the auspices of the Project for Jewish Educational Statistics at the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Judaism.

The head of the institute, Professor Sergio DellaPergola, made the results public at a conference on Diaspora Jewish education convened in Jerusalem.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Jewish Agency's Louis Pincus Fund for Diaspora Jewish Education and the Joint Program for Jewish Education of the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture. The World Zionist Organization also participated.

Gains in enrollment over the last census were as high as 25.6 percent in the United States and 23.3 percent in France.

In the United States, the increase was due almost entirely to enrollment in Jewish day schools, whereas in France the gain was about equal between day schools and supplementary schools, the census showed.

Canada, Argentina and Brazil experienced little gain in the same period.

Orthodox day schools made the strongest showing in the New York metropolitan area. About 52 percent of the enrollment is under strict Orthodox sponsorship and 42 percent under mainstream Orthodox auspices.

Outside the New York area however, strictly Orthodox schools accounted for only 1.5 percent of the total and mainstream Orthodox schools 66 percent.

Schools of the Conservative movement amounted to 15 percent and another 15 percent were community schools.

In France, 25.9 percent of the day schools are under strict Orthodox sponsorship and 30 percent are mainstream Orthodox. Community schools account for most of the rest.

DellaPergola explained the increase of Jewish education in the United States at least in part by the "echo effect" of the American "baby boom," which began after World War II and continued until the early 1960s.

Despite a high rate of intermarriage, there is a larger pool of school-age Jewish children than in previous years, he said.

DellaPergola also cited the higher birth rate in the strictly Orthodox sector and the trend away from public to private schools.