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**FUNERALS HELD FOR SIX SLAIN SOLDIERS AS ISRAEL VOWS KILLERS WILL BE CAUGHT**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Six Israeli soldiers were buried in military ceremonies in their hometowns Monday after falling victim to the terrorist action on Sunday.

News reports said Israel bombarded Lebanese targets of the pro-Iranian group Hezbollah in retaliation for a terror operation Sunday that killed five soldiers and wounded five more, four of them seriously. The killings occurred in the Israeli-controlled security zone.

A sixth soldier was shot and killed the same day by an armed Palestinian while standing guard on a rooftop outlook post in the West Bank town of Hebron, near the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The victim was 1st Sgt. Shmuel Gersh, 32, a reservist from Rishon le-Zion.

The Hebron attack resulted in the wounding of a second soldier, who was hit when a gunman fired automatic bursts from an alley and escaped in a waiting car. The army imposed a curfew on the city in a search for the killer.

No sooner had the six soldiers been buried Thursday than there were reports of another terrorist incident in the West Bank, this one involving the firebombing of a car driven by a Jewish farmer from Moshav Yarhiv.

The farmer, Binyamin Golan, 35, was seriously wounded in the attack, which occurred near the Arab village of Habla, just south of Kalkilya. Golan, who had been driving two of his workers home, was taken to Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah, where he was treated for burns to his face.

In the operation in Lebanon, terrorists detonated by remote control a bomb placed at the side of a road in the eastern sector of the buffer zone, near Kawkabeh village. It exploded near a troop-carrying truck that was bringing up the rear of a supply convoy of seven vehicles.

**Hezbollah Claims Responsibility**

The roadside bomb was set off as a so-called "safari" truck passed a curve in the road about 200 yards from a post usually protected by Norwegian troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. But the post was unoccupied Sunday for reasons that are not yet clear.

It was detonated by one or more men who slipped past the UNIFIL post after passing through areas controlled by the Lebanese army south of the Bekaa Valley.

The road had been swept for mines and bombs by a security unit in the morning, and several other convoys had traveled over it prior to the attack.

The blast impacted on an open-sided truck with two rows of seats facing outward to afford troops a clear field of any firepower that might come from either side. The vehicle gets its name because of its similarity to vehicles that carry tourists on African safaris.

Responsibility for the blast was claimed by Hezbollah, which has recently stepped up operations against Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army troops in the border security zone.

The Moslem fundamentalist terrorists have

demonstrated increasing organizational and technical skill in recent months, analysts say.

Israel carried out an intensive artillery bombardment of Hezbollah targets north of the security zone Monday afternoon and evening, while Israeli air force planes and helicopters patrolled wide areas of Lebanon, reports said.

Hezbollah leaders and many local residents earlier fled their homes to escape what they regarded as an inevitable Israeli response.

The Israeli chief of staff made a visit Monday to the scene of Sunday's attack and said that Hezbollah bore the main responsibility for the incident and would not go unpunished.

But responsibility also lay with the Lebanese and Syrian governments, said Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak.

Lebanon had failed to disarm Hezbollah, as it had other terror groups, said Barak. And Syria controls the areas where the Hezbollah is based and allows Iranian arms to reach its ranks.

The soldiers killed in the Lebanon attack have been identified as 2nd Lt. Eran Shoham, 21, of Kochav Yair; Cpl. Niv Amouyal, 19, of Hatzeva, in the Arava; Sgt. Assaf Golan, 19, of Yishai, near Bet Shemesh; Sgt. Avraham Asoulin, 20, of Acre; and Cpl. Sirhan Wassam, 20, of Rama, a Bedouin town in the Negev.

*(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem.)*

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****ARAB VIOLENCE, SADLY, IS PRICE OF PROGRESS IN THE PEACE TALKS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- When Israelis and Arabs launched a new peace process in Madrid a year ago, Jerusalem knew all too well there were plenty of minefields along the way, and that extremists would do everything in their power to blow up the talks.

And yet when that prognosis became a deadly reality Sunday, with six Israeli soldiers killed in one day, five in Lebanon and one in the West Bank, it hurt almost too much to bear.

Politicians and senior army officers made all the expected promises to find and punish the perpetrators. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed to act "with an iron fist against the violence" although adding that Israel's hand remained outstretched for peace.

These measures could provide little comfort to six bereaved families.

An imbalance is built into the situation. Israeli policy-makers are determined to pursue the peace process as if there were no escalation in the intifada. But the Israel Defense Force cannot fight the intifada as if there were no peace process.

There is much truth to claims by the right-wing opposition that the army's hands are tied in its battle against the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Only two months ago, Israel freed 800 security prisoners as a gesture of good will toward the Palestinians amid a hopeful start to renewed peace talks.

New settlement building was frozen; a sit-in at A-Najah University in Nablus and a hunger

strike by security prisoners ended with unprecedented agreements between the government and local Palestinian leaders. For a while, the army even thinned out its presence in the territories.

But that was not enough to satisfy the extremists in the territories. In fact, extremists in hard-line groups like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front oppose any degree of normalization, which could mean moving toward an accord on a transitional period of self-government in the territories.

And here, paradoxically, is the meeting point between the interests of the murderers of the soldier in Hebron and those of the Jews in Hebron whom he had guarded. Both want to halt the peace process.

#### 'Vicious Circle Has Developed'

The two attackers in Hebron were identified as members of the Izz a-Din al-Kassam terror cell, allied to the Gaza-based Hamas Moslem fundamentalist group.

Security forces believe the commander of the cell, Bashir Hamad, took part in the attack.

Several hours after the killing, hundreds of Jewish settlers drove from Hebron to Jerusalem to stage an angry demonstration outside the prime minister's residence in Rehavia and at the King David Hotel, where Rabin was entertaining visiting Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Police and security guards barely managed to hold back demonstrators from pushing into the hotel. Rabin and his guest had to leave through a back door.

At a time when extremists seem to be dictating the pace of events in the Palestinian street, it now appears a parallel development is taking place in the streets of Jewish settlements in the territories.

"A vicious circle has developed," Rabin told foreign reporters after the protest at the King David Hotel. "The extremists on the Arab side nourish those on ours, and give them a reason to demonstrate."

Since the beginning of this month, terrorists have struck nine times in Israel, the administered territories and southern Lebanon, killing six soldiers and three civilians, and wounding 19 more, seven of them seriously.

There is no clear answer to the question of why the terrorists are enjoying increasing success. A former senior army officer took a philosophical view: "There are better days and worse days," said reserve Maj. Gen. Ori Orr, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

But there is more to it than bad luck. True, the terrorists are trying harder with the goal of blocking progress in the peace talks. But they also have increased capability.

They appear to be in possession of firearms they did not have in the past and are less hesitant in going beyond civilian to military targets. In the Oct. 17 ambush of an Israeli car near the settlement of Matityahu in the Judean Hills, they used a sophisticated trip-wire road bomb of a kind often used by terrorists in southern Lebanon.

Right-wing activists this week reiterated demands for a tougher hand against the terrorists. In the wake of Sunday's attacks in Lebanon and Hebron, many demanded Rabin recall the Israeli delegation to the peace talks in Washington.

But Israeli policy-makers know the sad truth: Not much can be done to end Palestinian violence, which is woven into the fabric of a complex web of relationships.

#### **RABIN VOWS TOUGH RESPONSE TO TERROR, URGES ARABS TO SEIZE CHANCE FOR PEACE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin delivered a somber warning this week to the Arabs not to miss the opportunity for peace offered by his government.

Rabin spoke at the opening of the parliamentary winter term Monday in an atmosphere heavy with grief as the nation mourned the death of six soldiers in terrorist action the day before in Lebanon and the West Bank.

Addressing a full house, the prime minister singled out Syria and the Palestinians in projecting a scenario of wasted chances.

He said Damascus had not yet signaled acceptance of the basic terms put forward by Israel for an exchange of land for peace on the Golan Heights.

At the same time, some among the Palestinians remained trapped in the "all or nothing" mold that had proven so misguided and costly for them over the years.

Speaking amid an escalating wave of violence in the territories, Rabin warned the Palestinians he would come down hard on continued terrorism.

"Don't say you were not warned, that you did not understand," he cautioned them from the Knesset podium.

Rabin referred to the Israeli bombardment of Hezbollah bases in Lebanon on Monday when he spoke of the terror attack that killed five Israeli soldiers and wounded five more in Lebanon the day before. He told the Knesset: "Our forces at this moment are in action in Lebanon."

#### No-Confidence Vote Postponed

The opposition Likud called off a scheduled motion of no confidence protesting the appointment of a large number of deputy ministers. Party officials said the debate was not appropriate on a day when six young men were being buried in military ceremonies around the country.

The Rabin government had expected to win the vote without difficulty. Its major test is to take place next Monday, when the opposition Orthodox parties are to put forward no-confidence motions attacking controversial statements made on religious issues by Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, who heads the Meretz bloc.

But talks behind the scenes may resolve the crisis before the vote next Monday, political sources say. The Council of Torah Sages of the Shas party is scheduled to meet Sunday to decide how Rabin's ultra-Orthodox coalition partner should cast its six parliamentary votes.

Rabin told the parliament Israeli readiness to withdraw "in the Golan, not from the Golan" was predicated on Syrian readiness for full peace.

"We will not negotiate borders," he said, "unless Syria is ready to sign a full peace treaty, including open borders and diplomatic relations."

He said a peace treaty with Syria must stand "on its own two feet," separate from progress in the negotiations with other Arab delegations.

Syria as of now "has not expressed willingness to undertake these conditions," he said, adding that negotiations would continue, but "on Israel's terms."

Although Golan Heights settlers have criticized government willingness to relinquish territory on the strategic plateau, the prime minister praised them as "front-line fighters on the peace front -- there are none better."

## DUTCH GROUPS INITIATE A LAWSUIT AGAINST BELGIAN HOLOCAUST-DENIERS

By Ruben Vis

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- In what may be the first such suit to cross international borders, Dutch human rights groups have filed a civil suit here against a Belgian society that has published pamphlets denying that the Holocaust occurred.

The suit is enabled by a European Community regulation that permits a resident of one E.C. member state suing a resident of another.

Belgian law makes it difficult to prosecute someone for a printing offense and offers almost no legal recourse against Holocaust revisionists. Holocaust-deniers in the Netherlands, however, have been fined.

Two Jewish groups, B'nai B'rith and the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel, are joined in the suit by two other anti-racist organizations, the Anne Frank Foundation and the National Bureau on Combatting Racism.

The suit charges the publishing house, the Belgian Society for Free Historical Research, its publisher, L. van den Bossche, and its spokesman, Siegfried Verbeke, with disseminating pamphlets that claim the Jews were sent to the gas chambers only to be cleaned of lice.

The pamphlets, "American Expert Destroys the Gas-Chamber Legend" and "The Six-Million Holocaust," also charge that the Jews have perpetrated the Holocaust as a hoax in order to reap continual financial benefits.

They also say the Anne Frank diary is a falsification.

The pamphlets have been sent to homes in the Netherlands.

Ronnie Naftaniel, director of the Center for Information, said that "the actual senders are difficult to trace, but the Belgian publishers are not."

The plaintiffs are asking the court in The Hague to rule that the parties be stopped from further publishing and spreading denials of the Holocaust. The case is scheduled to be heard Oct. 29.

The lawsuit charges that the publications hurt Holocaust survivors and their families, falsify history and pave the way for a society in which racism once again becomes accepted.

## KOSHER MEAT FIGHT MOVES TO DENMARK

By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is fighting back an assault by an animal rights group on the practice of kosher slaughter.

Religious requirements prohibit acquiescence to a demand that animals be stunned before ritual slaughter, or shechitah, as it is called in Hebrew. The demand was put forward by the Danish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A similar battle is being fought by the Jewish community in Australia along the lines of a scenario played out in recent years in several European countries.

Jews in Sweden lost their bid for kosher meat but won a battle to continue kosher slaughter of fowl.

In Britain, the practice of shechitah was retained after a protracted battle over the type and position of pens in which animals are slaughtered under laws of kashrut.

## PERES CUTS SHORT VISIT TO SPAIN AFTER WIFE SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

By Judith Lew

MADRID, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cut short a European tour here Monday after his wife, Sonia, suffered a heart attack in Jerusalem.

Peres ended up staying here just half a day and managed only to meet with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He was having lunch with Gonzalez when he was told of his wife's attack. He left shortly afterward.

Peres had been scheduled to meet on Tuesday with his Spanish counterpart, Javier Solana, to discuss bilateral relations, the possibility of increasing Israel's ties with the European Community and, in particular, the ongoing peace negotiations, which started exactly one year ago in Madrid.

According to Spanish news sources, Solana was especially interested in discussing the negotiations because he had just returned from a trip to Tunis, where he met with Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Peres' European tour was the first he has taken since Israel's Labor Party won the Israeli elections last June. He had already been to Germany, the Vatican and France but was planning to go to England and Belgium as well.

Israeli Embassy officials, who said Sonia Peres was in stable condition at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, said they did not know what the minister's plans would be or whether he would reschedule the tour.

## ISRAELI ENERGY MINISTER ENDS A GOOD-WILL VISIT TO MOSCOW

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Amnon Rubinstein, Israel's minister of energy and science, has ended a weeklong visit to Moscow aimed at promoting scientific and technological contacts between Israel and Russia.

Like many ministerial visits, the trip was long on mutual expressions of good will and short on specifics. At a reception for Russian scientists, Rubinstein added a twist on the usual expressions by saying, "This isn't just propoganda. I mean it."

His toast was returned by two Russian deputy ministers, for science and technology and for fuel and energy, as Russian and Israeli scientists sipped local champagne and munched gefilte fish and Russian delicacies.

Regarding the situation in Russia, Rubinstein declared himself an optimist. "Things will get better, but it will take time," he said.

Rubinstein found time to meet with relatives of an immigrant family in Israel, which his family has "adopted" to help in the absorption process. He also visited ordinary shops and Moscow's biggest flea market at Izmailovo Park.

These visits, he said, helped him understand how people are coping with Russia's inflation.

Rubinstein, who ranks third on the Meretz bloc's Knesset list, nearly cut short his visit because of attacks by Israeli religious parties on the left-wing party's leader, Shulamit Aloni, who is minister of education.

By not returning home early, Rubinstein was able to squeeze in a visit to a power plant located 40 miles outside Moscow, near the historic Zagorsk monastery, which he also visited.

**ELECTION '92:****SHAKE-UP IN SENATE AND HOUSE  
POSES TOUGH CHALLENGE FOR JEWS  
[Part 1 Of A Series]**By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Next week's U.S. elections will produce a thunderous shake-up in Congress, the combined effect of redistricting, retirements, scandals, and public fury over a plodding and unresponsive government.

The upheaval could set back some items on the Jewish agenda, such as foreign aid, and advance others on the domestic front, including religious freedom and abortion rights, Jewish political activists say.

Up to 150 incumbents, including highly placed champions of Israel, are slated to leave Capitol Hill behind. They will make way for a new crop of lawmakers charged by voters to change the status-quo way of doing business that the Jewish community has come to rely upon to further its interests.

Many analysts, and not only Jews, fear the case for foreign aid will be harder to make in the reconfigured Congress. The lawmakers, they point out, will have been elected during a recession on a mandate to pay more attention -- and money from the Treasury -- to problems at home than abroad.

That mandate was driven home hard to nine-term, pro-Israel Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), whose hallmark has been his expertise and clout on foreign policy. Solarz, tainted by the House bank overdraft scandal, was ousted in his primary by a newly drawn, largely Hispanic district that cared more about domestic problems.

**'Friends Of Israel Are Leaving'**

Abba Cohen, Washington director of Agudath Israel of America, is deeply concerned about the shake-up.

"Many, many friends of Israel are leaving, while not as many antagonists are," he said. "This could be a watershed in Israel-Congress relations" at a time when the pressures of the peace process on Israel make congressional backing especially important.

In the Senate, there will be 35 contests on Nov. 3, with about a third expected to usher in new faces, including several Jews. But several pro-Israel heavy hitters are at risk of losing their seats.

Among those leaving the House are key members of the Foreign Affairs Committee that the pro-Israel lobby has counted as loyalists.

The volatility in the makeup of the Foreign Affairs Committee is not unique. Forty percent of the membership of committees in the House is likely to be new.

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said the Jewish community will need to be "vigilant" in the aftermath of the elections when it comes to filling the slots in the key committees. "Appointments made now will shape policy for years to come," he said.

But he and others point out that even if there is a congressional backlash against foreign aid, both prospective Clinton and Bush administrations stand committed to an active U.S. international role and strong support for Israel.

They also believe that the election last summer of a moderate Israeli government will

make Israel's case in Congress easier to sell than it was under the previous hard-line Likud regime.

Jason Isaacson, Washington director of the American Jewish Committee, said that while there may be "subtle shifts" in policy priorities next year, he does not envision a dramatic change in the U.S. international posture under the leadership of either Bush or Clinton.

"I don't see us turning a deaf ear to the problems of the world," said Isaacson.

**AIPAC Expresses Confidence**

Instead, his biggest concern is a fiscal crisis that could limit "the tools and flexibility available to a new administration and Congress to deal with problems," both foreign and domestic, he said.

A senior policy analyst with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, was confident the new Congress would be receptive to AIPAC's agenda. She said the lobby's staffers and activists have met with nearly 600 candidates running for the House "who have expressed support for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship."

"Almost all have established close relationships with local pro-Israel activists," she added.

And Tom Dine, AIPAC's executive director, sounded almost sanguine. "On the surface, the change may look to be of concern because many good friends will not be returning," he said. "Yet no matter what the final outcome of Nov. 3, the 103rd Congress will be filled with pro-Israel members."

"We are not going to see a house full of isolationists," said the lobby's policy analyst. "Despite the fact that foreign aid has been a political football this year, hundreds of these candidates have stated their support" for it.

But Democratic analyst Ann Lewis believes the community should brace for a sweeping change. "I would be surprised if anyone who has thought through the dynamic of doing business with a new Congress is not concerned," she said.

Even the post-Watergate 1974 class of freshmen legislators came in with a commitment to clean up the system, said Lewis. The current candidates are "coming in with no commitment to the system," elected sometimes solely on pledges to lower taxes and reduce the deficit, she said.

This poses a challenge to the Jewish community, said Lewis, which "has been able to leverage our participation as citizens and our ability to work within the system."

Thus the task that lies ahead is more than merely "substituting the new faces and the new names" for the old ones, she said.

**Challenge Is 'Not To Be Myopic'**

Diana Aviv, associate executive vice chair of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, agreed. The victors are "riding in on the coattails of an anti-incumbency mood," she said, and many of those incumbents were "tarnished with a brush of pandering to special interests."

That means any group with a specific agenda, such as the Jews, will face the task of educating new members, she said. "The old commitments aren't there."

Aviv cautioned against pushing the pro-Israel agenda at the expense of the domestic one.

"The challenge of the Jewish community is not to be myopic, but to take on domestic and foreign agendas as a partnership, to tell them we care as much about the United States as Israel," she said. "Being a one-issue community will (yield only) a short-term gain."