

**LATEST KILLINGS IN GERMANY
OUTRAGE JEWISH COMMUNITY**

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Germany has joined a chorus of outrage over a neo-Nazi attack this week that killed a Turkish woman and two girls.

The deaths resulted from an arson attack early Monday in the northern city of Moelln. It coincided with news reports that two skinheads had confessed to the murder of a German they thought was a Jew.

The Turkish woman and two young relatives died when vandals set on fire the building where the family lived shortly after midnight. Police were alerted to the fire by an anonymous caller, who ended his message with the slogan, "Heil Hitler."

Nine more people were injured in fires at two separate buildings in the town, located near the former border between East and West Germany. All the victims were Turkish nationals seeking asylum in Germany.

The caller said the attacks would continue until Germany became "pure."

The German government released a sharply worded statement denouncing the attack and saying it would take all necessary measures to protect foreigners living on German soil.

The federal state prosecutor's office has taken over investigation of the attack.

A spokesman said the government viewed the incident "with outrage, bitterness and sorrow. We condemn it with the utmost vigor."

All the major political parties joined in the condemnation. The opposition Social Democrat Party called for an urgent meeting of security agencies to deal with neo-Nazi violence. The Greens charged the government was procrastinating in dealing with the wave of extremism.

Man Murdered For Supposed Jewishness

Meanwhile, a French radio report said two skinheads have admitted to murdering a man they thought was a Jew in a bar in the German town of Wuppertal, near Dusseldorf.

The two, ages 18 and 24, beat the man up, poured liquor over him and set him afire in the incident, which took place Nov. 13. In a car provided by the owner of the pub, they drove the man across the border to the Netherlands, where he was found the next day in Venlo.

All the victim's ribs were broken, according to a forensic report. The Dutch daily *De Telegraaf* gave the man's name as Karl-Heinz Rohn and said he was not Jewish.

Reacting to the latest incidents, the Anti-Defamation League in New York urged the federal and state governments of Germany to move ahead quickly and effectively on new measures to combat neo-Nazi violence against foreigners and Jews.

Melvin Salberg, national chairman of the ADL, and Abraham Foxman, its national director, said that "what is needed is an immediate and clear stepping-up of law enforcement."

"The murder of an individual in Wuppertal who was believed to be Jewish highlights the growing danger of skinhead and neo-Nazi activity," the ADL leaders said.

**RULE BARRING OLIM WITH AIDS
STIRS CONTROVERSY IN ISRAEL**

By Michele Chablin

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- If Israel's Interior Ministry has its way, people like David Stein (not his real name) will no longer be allowed to make aliyah.

Stein, an American who immigrated to Israel a few years ago, is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Under a controversial set of regulations formulated by the Interior Ministry, HIV carriers from developed countries will be barred from settling in Israel.

In addition, visitors who stay for more than three months will be required to take a test to detect infection with HIV.

Immigrants from countries in distress, such as Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, will still enjoy free entry on the grounds that their lives could be in danger in their native countries.

The issue of whether to bar potential olim infected with HIV has been making headlines for almost two weeks now, ever since a reporter on army radio broke the story. The subject is being debated on the opinion pages of daily newspapers and in coffeehouses throughout the country.

Though the controversy is new, the regulations are not. Drafted by the Interior Ministry in August 1991, they took effect in April 1992 -- at least on paper, according to David Efrati, who heads the ministry's Population Registry.

"Back then, Interior Ministry officials, with the backing of the Health and Absorption ministries, wrote to aliyah emissaries in developed countries and advised them of the new rules.

"At the same time, we sent all aliyah personnel updated medical forms that, for the first time, included questions related to AIDS. Any person from a non-distressed country who wishes to make aliyah must declare that he is not infected with the HIV virus," Efrati said.

"If he is found to be infected, either through his own admission or from a physical examination, he will not be allowed into Israel."

'No Reason To Single Out' Olim

The controversy, which prompted a special Knesset hearing on the subject last week, has stunned Interior Ministry officials, who find themselves on the defensive.

"First of all, the regulations aren't new," said a ministry spokesman. "They were issued in August 1991, and implemented in April 1992. Where was the public outcry back then?"

"Second, the Law of Return explicitly states that any potential immigrant can be denied entry if he is deemed a health risk to the population at large," said the spokesman.

"The regulations are intended to safeguard the health of Israeli citizens -- no more, no less."

While most Israelis laud the ministry's intention of limiting the number of AIDS cases in Israel, few seem to support its method.

"The ministry is going about this all wrong," said Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan, director of Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center's AIDS Clinic.

"There is no reason to single out a relative-

ly small number of people, such as olim, and not to test the 1 million tourists who come on an annual basis, who can also spread the disease," he said.

"It also makes no sense to test visitors only after they have been here more than three months. If anything, young people who visit on a short-term basis tend to have a greater number of casual sexual encounters than those who plan to stay awhile."

'No Real Educational Program'

The ministry, said Ma'ayan, "is missing the real cause of AIDS in Israel: Israelis who travel abroad and bring the disease back with them.

"According to the Health Ministry, there are at least 2,000 HIV carriers in Israel, including 230 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and nearly 1,000 official HIV carriers. That's a large enough nucleus to serve as a continuous infection," he said.

If anything, said Ma'ayan, "the regulations will make the situation worse, not better. By linking AIDS with immigrants, young people will think that the disease isn't a problem within the Israeli community.

"And anyone who suspects he has AIDS might not want to be tested, fearing that he, like visitors, could be thrown out of the country," he said. "The bottom line, is we need better education on the subject."

That is a view shared by Serge Dajches, director of the Israel AIDS Task Force.

"There is no real educational program to teach people here about the danger of AIDS and ways to prevent it. But first, we must openly declare that there is an AIDS problem in Israel," he said.

"It's ironic," said Dajches, "but this whole Interior Ministry controversy may actually do some good toward raising AIDS awareness in this country."

APPOINTMENT OF CATHOLICS TO 2 POSTS WELCOMED BY JEWS AS A POSITIVE STEP By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Two new appointments at the top of the American Catholic hierarchy bode well for the continuation of positive Catholic-Jewish relations, say observers of the interreligious affairs scene.

The archbishop of Baltimore, William Keeler, was elected recently to a three-year term as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. And Cardinal John O'Connor was appointed to head Catholic-Jewish relations for the conference's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

O'Connor, who is the archbishop of New York, takes over the position from Keeler, who has served in the position since 1988. Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee is chairman of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee.

Both Keeler and O'Connor are regarded as friends of the Jewish community when it comes to interreligious dialogue. Their appointment to such prestigious and powerful posts is considered validation of the Jewish community's importance to the Catholic Church, say observers.

"O'Connor is the single most powerful Catholic in the U.S.," observed Rabbi Mark Winer, who is co-chair for interfaith concerns at the Synagogue Council of America.

Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, a think tank at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., was also pleased with O'Connor's appointment.

"No other person could have been designated to shepherd Catholic-Jewish relations in this country who is as well qualified, committed to Catholic-Jewish understanding and fully cognizant of Jewish concerns, especially for Israel, as Cardinal O'Connor," said Bemporad. "He is a good friend to us all."

Keeler's appointment to the most senior position in the American Catholic hierarchy was also welcomed heartily by Jewish interreligious affairs experts.

"That Keeler, who is really known for Catholic-Jewish dialogue, was appointed to this position is really positive because it puts the dialogue on the front burner," said Winer.

Keeler was instrumental in drafting the September 1991 Prague Declaration, a statement signed by Catholics and Jews in which the Catholic Church asked forgiveness for whatever acts of anti-Semitism it may have committed against the Jewish people.

The appointments "are things the Jewish world should be happy about," said Winer, "because it represents how close relations are with the Catholic world and shows that the church body we've had the most trouble with historically has come the furthest."

2 MORE BURIAL CAVES UNEARTHED, WITH POTENTIAL FOR NEW UNREST By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Archaeologists on Monday unearthed two Second Temple burial caves in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood, triggering fears of renewed unrest in the haredi, or fervently Orthodox, community over profanation of the dead.

This latest find came less than a week after an earlier controversy surrounding such graves was resolved with the reinterment of bones and coffins as demanded by the haredim and Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Kolitz.

In his eulogy at the burial ceremony last Friday at Har Hamenuhot cemetery, Kolitz asked forgiveness from "our sainted forefathers," the unknown persons whose bones and coffins were being unearthed and reinterred.

The controversy led last week to three straight nights of mass street violence in the Jerusalem haredi neighborhoods of Geula and Mea Shearim.

At issue was whether the sarcophagi would be buried with the bones within, as the rabbis insisted, or kept for scientific study, as the archaeologists demanded.

In the end, the head of the Israel Antiquities Department, reserve Lt. Amir Drori, gave in to strong political pressures. He was strongly criticized for doing so by the newspaper Ha'aretz as well as archaeologists.

Regarding the caves found Monday, the archaeologists said it is up to the municipality to decide whether an overpass planned for the area would be built over these caves.

If the construction is to go forward, the Antiquities Department is required by law to excavate the area first.

Another possibility would be to redesign the overpass, moving it away from the controversial area.

ARAFAT REMAINS BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO PEACE WITH ISRAEL, RABIN SAYS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat remains the major obstacle to progress in the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said this week.

Rabin made the comment at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday, as PLO leaders in Tunis discussed whether to attend the next round of bilateral peace talks in Washington, tentatively set for Dec. 7.

Reports from Tunis said the deliberations were divided between those counseling a boycott until the Clinton administration takes over in Washington and those favoring continued Palestinian participation in the talks.

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, Haider Abdel-Shafi, was quoted as telling reporters in Tunis on Sunday: "We are still discussing the matter, but there is a tendency to go."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed confidence Sunday that the talks would continue.

Rabin said Arafat's deleterious influence is felt and resented both by the local Palestinian leadership in the administered territories and by his own followers in Tunis.

POLICE DETAIN ANOTHER SUSPECT IN FOILED CAR-BOMBING INCIDENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Police have detained a Palestinian suspected of stealing a van and booby-trapping it in an unsuccessful attempt to explode it in a crowded area of Tel Aviv.

The arrest Sunday came a day after police stopped the van in the suburb of Ramat Efal and seized two terrorists who tried to flee. Sappers destroyed the car bomb without injuries.

Authorities are still seeking a man believed to have been the commander of the group and the driver of the van. Apparently, he jumped out of the vehicle before it came to a halt, letting it coast a short distance before stopping.

The suspect being held stole the van in a Tel Aviv suburb on Nov. 19 and found in its interior two 25-pound cylinders of cooking gas and a pistol under the seat, sources said.

He took it to his home village of Salfit, near Tulkarm, about 10 miles east of Netanya. There, he helped transform it into a car bomb by adding another three full cylinders of cooking gas and wiring the containers to delayed-action explosives.

Meanwhile, police in Jerusalem have decided to beef up stationary and mobile patrols in the Old City, following the stabbing of a yeshiva student Sunday and last week's fatal grenade attack on Arabs, both in the Moslem Quarter.

The capital's police chief, Haim Albaldes, said there would be more lookout posts in the Old City, manned around the clock, and foot patrols would be reinforced until further notice.

The victim of Sunday's attack, 23-year-old Yaron Shefi, was reported Monday to be in fair condition. He was attacked from behind by an 18-year-old Arab woman, who plunged a kitchen knife 4 to 6 inches into his neck.

A watch committee of Jewish residents in

the Old City said the stabbing brought to 196 the number of intifada-related incidents there over the past eight months.

Among the incidents were five stabbings, 86 cases of stone-throwing, 17 of arson and 16 involving Molotov cocktails.

LAWMAKERS UPSET HOW THEY LEARNED ARMY BRASS WERE PRESENT AT ACCIDENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's army, press and parliament are embroiled in a controversy over blame for a fatal army training exercise and the manner in which the news media reported it.

Knesset members charged they had learned only from the report of an army inquiry board that the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, and his deputy, Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, were present during the ill-fated exercise three weeks ago.

And on Sunday, the military censor allowed for the first time the publication of the name of another high-ranking officer present during the Nov. 5 exercise at the Tze'elim training grounds in the Negev. The accidental firing of a missile during the exercise left five members of an elite unit dead and six more wounded.

The officer is Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy, chief of military intelligence, whose name had been blue-penciled from previous media reports by the chief military censor, Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Shani, on grounds of safeguarding national security.

Saguy's name was not among those singled out for responsibility by the army inquiry board. The board named only Maj. Gen. Amiram Levin, in overall charge of the drill, and a major and captain directly responsible for implementation of the exercise.

Since then, Gens. Saguy and Levin have reportedly been engaging in attacks against each other through statements by their supporters to the press.

At the same time, Knesset member Yossi Sarid, whose Meretz bloc is a member of the ruling coalition, has charged that the army withheld material from the inquiry board.

The charges were made in the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who holds the defense portfolio, appeared Sunday to urge a lowering of temperatures in discussion of the issue.

Rabin declined to withdraw his description of the criticism leveled by the committee at the army and at military censorship as "hysterical."

In other statements, the prime minister called on Knesset members and the media to end the "circus" that has developed around the Tze'elim disaster.

He said justice should be allowed to quietly take its course by means of military inquiry.

Saguy's name was first published by Israeli papers in quoting a report taken from the London Guardian. Citation of a report in the foreign press is generally not subject to censorship.

Following its appearance, the censor lifted the official ban on publishing the general's name.

Because of the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Friday, Nov. 27.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
CONGRESS WILL BE TEST FOR YELTSIN,
BUT COUP UNLIKELY, SAYS VAA D CHAIR**
By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Along with everyone else in Russia, Jewish leaders here are waiting to see what will result from next week's session of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, which is being seen as a major test for President Boris Yeltsin.

But there are no alarm bells ringing, despite a flurry of rumors about civil unrest and even the possibility of a right-wing coup against the Yeltsin government.

The 1,042-member congress, which is the supreme legal authority in Russia under a constitution inherited from the Brezhnev era, is set to convene here beginning Dec. 1.

"My forecast is that it will be rather noisy at the outset," said Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Vaad, the main umbrella group of Jewish organizations in the former Soviet Union.

"There will be an attempt to impeach Yeltsin, which is unlikely to succeed, and an attempt to force (pro-reform Prime Minister Yegor) Gaidar out, but I think there's a good chance he'll survive," he said.

"The real question is what political baggage the government will take away from the congress," said Chlenov.

He was referring to a possible slowdown on the pace of economic reform that may be forced on Yeltsin by centrist forces, such as Civic Union, which represents the interests of large state enterprises that have yet to be privatized.

"If the congress reverses some of the key reforms that have taken place in the past year and restores state price controls and lines at the shops, and laws prohibiting making money as 'speculation,' that will prolong the country's misery," said Chlenov.

"If that happens, it may have a positive effect on aliyah, driving younger and more energetic Jews to emigrate," he said.

"Right now," he explained, "the emigration is mostly limited to Jews living in areas of the ex-USSR troubled by ethnic violence and elderly Jews in the Slavic republics, whose lives have been made more difficult by inflation."

Yeltsin Wooing Civic Union

Chlenov dismissed talk of a coup as "non-sensical fiction."

"The far right isn't strong enough to mount a coup," he said. "This is unrealistic."

According to a source close to one of Yeltsin's Cabinet ministers, Civic Union has made a secret alliance with the National Salvation Front, a coalition of nationalist groups banned by Yeltsin, to depose the Russian president.

"If that's true," said Chlenov, "the question then becomes who will hold power if they succeed. And if Civic Union takes power, they'll dump the front."

Yeltsin and Gaidar have wooed Civic Union in a number of meetings in recent weeks, but no compromise on the future of reform or the composition of the Cabinet has been publicly announced.

"If Yeltsin reaches an accommodation with Civic Union," said Chlenov, "I don't see any (anti-Jewish) accent to that."

"There may be a more pronounced Russian accent in policy, particularly vis-a-vis defending

the Russian minority in the Baltic republics and elsewhere. But I don't see any anti-Jewish content to that," he said.

Chlenov dismissed as "a mere fantasy" the possibility that Yeltsin might head off opposition in the congress by dissolving it and instituting direct presidential rule, even though Yeltsin himself has hinted several times in recent weeks that he might take such a step.

Yeltsin has been ruling with special powers granted to him by a previous congress last December, when his popularity was high in the wake of the failed Communist putsch of August 1991.

**RUSSIAN PARLIAMENTARY PANEL
HOLDS HEARING ON ANTI-SEMITISM**
By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- For the first time ever, a committee of Russia's legislature has conducted an official hearing on the problem of anti-Semitism in the country.

The Supreme Soviet's Committee on Human Rights heard five hours of testimony Monday on past and present manifestations of anti-Jewish hatred.

Among those testifying were Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Vaad, the main umbrella group of Jewish organizations in the former Soviet Union; noted Moscow lawyer Genrik Reznik; and Valery Fadeyev, chairman of the Moscow City Council's Human Rights Committee.

Testimony focused on possible amendments to Article 74 of the Russian Criminal Code, which prohibits incitement of racial and ethnic tension.

Some of those present expressed disappointment at the small turnout for the hearing.

"Only five of the committee's 12 members showed up and not many journalists. But when the far right calls a press conference, the press flocks to it," lamented Mikhail Molostvov of St. Petersburg, a one-time dissident who is now a member of the Congress of People's Deputies.

Others attributed the low turnout to the fact that attention is riveted on the upcoming Congress of People's Deputies session, set to begin Dec. 1, which is expected to be a major test of strength for President Boris Yeltsin.

Throughout the Supreme Soviet building Monday, committees were rushing to complete their work in anticipation of the congress.

Committee Chairman Sergei Kovalyov, a noted human rights campaigner, said the hearings would continue after the congress session ends.

KNEIDLACH IN KAZAKHSTAN?

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's leading food producer, Osem, is looking into possibilities of setting up a plant in the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan, formerly a republic of the Soviet Union.

The initiative, reported Monday in the Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz, was taken by Israeli billionaire financier Shaul Eisenberg, who introduced Osem's chief executive, Dan Propper, to government ministers in Kazakhstan.

Osem is known for its snacks, soups and pastas. Its latest "hit" on the Israeli market, promoted by a catchy advertising jingle, is a guaranteed-fresh bagel-shaped snack.

The plan under discussion calls for Osem to provide the know-how and technology, while the Eisenberg group, working with local companies, would actually set up the plant.